BI Daagliks - BI Daily

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Major Wine Producing Countries

South Africa: Winemakers gobsmacked as Swartland opens door to sandmining

Swartland wine producers appear to have lost their legal battle to stop sand mining in Paardeberg, a move which Eben Sadie says threatens to undermine 20 years’ worth of work to establish Swartland as a prized winemaking region.

The granting of new sand mining licences opens up the possibility that mining operations will now become a common sight in the region, changing the landscape and destroying precious cultivatable land in a relatively small area.

The Swartland Municipality’s own Spatial Development Framework for the Paardeberg – an official document setting out policy guidelines for sustainable development in the area – had earmarked it as a conservation area – a fact which the municipality’s decision appears to contradict.

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Pinot Searches Hit All-Time High

While France dominates the search numbers, interest in New World Pinot Noir is showing healthy growth.

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China’s wine production drops for fourth year in a row

2017-02-14

China’s wine production dropped for the fourth year running to 11.37 million hectolitres, and down
by 1% in the past year, according to data from a Chinese market research company winesinfo.com.

Last year production peaked in December at 1.33 million hectolitres, but this was still 3% lower when compared to the same month in 2015.

Production has been hampered in China’s key winemaking regions – Ningxia, Shandong, Xinjiang and Hebei provinces – by adverse weather conditions, as well as farmers switching from grape vines to other crops.

Ningxia in northwest China was predicted to see a 5% drop in production compared to 2015 though official figures have not yet been released.

At the same time, wine imports continued to increase in both volume and value last year, with 638 million litres of wine worth US$2.3bn being shipped into the country.

Source: Vinex

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Top 10 US wine export markets

2017-02-15

1 European Union $685 million
2 Canada $431 million
3 Hong Kong $99 million
4 Japan $87 million
5 China $82 million
6 Mexico $24 million
7 South Korea $23 million
8 Switzerland $19 million
9 Singapore $14 million
10 Philippines $13.2 million

Source: California Wine Institute