Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements

- South African shops may soon start ‘tracking’ you in-store – here’s how it works

Retail in South Africa is expected to undergo a massive boom in digital and mobile technology within the next two years, which will reshape customer behaviour and their relationships with brands. What retailers are aiming for is to offer a more personalised shopping experience by fitting bluetooth beacons in-store that will pick-up the shopper's cellphone, which allows them to identify and communicate with the shopper. Cameras can also pick up the mood of customers – whether they're happy or in a bad mood or perhaps in a hurry or relaxed – so that they can engage with the customer according to the information shared by facial recognition.

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Natural / Physical Resources

- Grapevine trunk disease – the ‘next phylloxera’

What makes GTD a particularly vexing problem is that, unlike phylloxera, there is no single cause, and there can be no single cure. It’s a family of diseases: the three most serious in their effects are esca (now regarded itself as a complex of different diseases), botryosphaeria dieback and eutypa (dead arm) dieback. Fungal pathogens are what provoke these diseases, but a recent paper showed 84 different species of pathogen from nine separate families may be implicated.

Some grape varieties are more prone to these diseases than others. Since these include both Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc, the Loire valley is in the front line; other susceptible vines include Cabernet Sauvignon, Cognac's Ugni Blanc, Grenache and Syrah/Shiraz. No vine and no variety is wholly resistant, though. Aligoté, Merlot, Sémillon and Sylvaner come closest to resistance as far as eutypa is concerned.

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What is ullage in wine and should you worry?

Ullage is generally used to describe the amount headspace between the closure and the liquid inside a wine bottle, but how important is this and what does it mean for the wine?
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