Global Trends - Beverages

‘Progrigio’ - the new budget Prosecco?

Prosecco has long been regarded the low-price equivalent of Champagne for those looking for bubbles on a budget. But thanks to a bevy of pricing pressures set to sabotage low-end pricing structures, a major retailer has tried to plug the gap with an even lower-cost alternative.

Enter 'Progrigio', a new £5 white sparkler made from blending Prosecco grapes with Pinot Grigio. The blend was created by Asda to 'protect' the nation’s love of sparkling ahead of predicted price hikes.

The release is timely following the WSTA’s announcement last week that fizz coming from the EU to the UK could rise by 9% (59p a bottle).

Click here to read more

Australian team start studying grain in world’s biggest selling spirit

Research is underway to help Australian farmers better understand a key ingredient in baijiu, China’s national drink and the world’s top-selling spirit.

Click here to read more

Major Wine Producing Countries

South African Wine Exports 2016
Swartland Municipality issues statement on sandmining

The Swartland Municipality has issued a statement on the granting of two new sandmining licences on the Paardeberg, insisting that sandmining is "an important aspect of economic development in the Western Cape".

A petition launched by the Protect the Paardeberg coalition on 16 February has so far been signed by more than 2,300 people.

In a joint statement with winemakers’ representative body VinPro, WOSA CEO Siobhan Thompson said that "due consideration" must be given to the damage sandmining operations could do to wine and tourism interests in the area.

The Protect the Paardeberg coalition has been given 21 days – until 3 March – to lodge an appeal against the decision of the Swartland Municipality.

Click here to read more re the Statement from the Swartland Municipality.