Consumer Countries/Markets

- **UK: Grocery market growth accelerates at fastest rate in 4 years**

The UK grocery market share figures grew at the fastest rate since 2013, the latest figures from Kantar Worldpanel have shown, with all ten major retailers in growth for the first time since 2013.

The overall market had accelerated its growth by 3.7% in the 12 week period ending 23 April 2017. This was partly on the back of a late Easter boost, but also the result of higher inflation, with like-for-like prices +2.6% higher than the same period last year. Together, this had helped add around £1 billion worth of additional sales to the sector.

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**Economic Environment**

- **Euro-area GDP growth outpaces America’s**

First-quarter figures probably overstate the gap between the two economies. THE enduring appeal of GDP is that it offers, or seems to, a summary statistic that tells people how well an economy is doing. On that basis, the euro-area economy is in fine fettle, indeed it is improving at a faster rate than America’s. Figures released today show that GDP in the currency zone rose by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2017, an annualised rate of around 2%. That is quite a bit faster than the annualised 0.7% rate reported in the same period for America’s GDP.

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**Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements**

- **Global Wine Consumption**
The US ranks near bottom in per capita world wine consumption even as it’s #1 overall.

### Tomorrow’s great-wine repertory—will it be composed altogether differently?

By Matt Kramer, May 2, 2017

Everyone likes pretending that they know—or at least can imagine—what the future will look like. Wine is no different.

But what is different with wine is that forecasting a future is new. Prior to the 1970s (probably it’s more like the ’80s, but let’s be generous here), you could say that fine wine actually didn’t have a forward-imagining future. It only had a sanctified past, one that was endlessly recycled: the famous Bordeaux châteaux; Burgundy’s premiers and grands crus, a handful of prestige Champagnes, a few Port houses and, for the cognoscenti, a select group of German Rieslings from the Mosel and Rheingau. And that was about it.

Since then, the boundaries of the fine-wine world have expanded with an explosive effect, both in production and demand, the force of which we continue to feel even today. You know the roster of ambitious newcomers—again, both in production and consumers—as well as I, so I won’t bother to enumerate them. No one back in the 1970s or ’80s could possibly have imagined either the extent of this change or its effect upon traditional, established producers.

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**Technology**
• Fake trends

We are living in an exciting era – but some innovations really are too good to be true. We would be forgiven to believe that anything was possible nowadays.

A great example: Jeff Bezos said in 2013 that Amazon was developing drones for delivery but that they wouldn't be in place until 2015-2016. The announcement gave him an estimated $3m in free advertising.

Where are the drones? Well, still under development.

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