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Major Wine Producing Countries

European vine rules stunt Italian winemakers’ ambitions

This year, Italy, the world's biggest wine producer, received requests to expand vineyards by 25 times the area permitted under regulations that were introduced in 2016 and capped growth in land under cultivation to just 1 percent per year. Italy still supports curbs on supply. Part of the issue is that Italy's prodigious wine output - expected to reach 40 million hectoliters this year - comes from a patchwork of relatively tiny, family-run vineyards. The average area of each holding is two hectares, compared with 10.5 hectares in its main rival France, making it harder to achieve growth by acquiring competitors, and contributing to the rush for permits.

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Natural / Physical Resources

New research uses mussel shells to control grass grubs in vineyards

Mussel shells are already used to control weeds in vineyards and now may be able to repel destructive grass grubs too, new Lincoln University research suggests. Grass grubs emerge from the ground in spring and can cause considerable damage to vines in a two-to-three hour feeding frenzy before they drop to the ground, mate and carry eggs into the soil, which develop as larvae.

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