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**Economic Environment**

- **SA economy expected to grow 1.3% in 2019 - World Bank**

The World Bank has projected that South Africa's economic growth will accelerate only modestly to 1.3 percent in 2019, held back by constraints on domestic demand and limited government spending. The Bank's forecast compares with the 1.7 percent given by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni in October, while the South African Reserve Bank kept its own prediction unchanged at 1.9 percent in November.

In its "2019 Global Economic Prospects" report released late on Tuesday, the World Bank said growth in sub-Saharan Africa was expected to accelerate to 3.4 percent, despite global expansion being expected the decline to 2.9 percent as trade and investment weaken.

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**Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements**

- **Top Wine SA News Release - 2019 SA Wine & Cellar Classifications**

Based on the best track records in over 30 local and international forums for the assessment of wine quality and interest value during the past 10 years, the South African Wine & Cellar Classifications showcase the country's leading outfits – those regularly on top form, their product judged top-notch again and again, year after year.

[2019 SA Wine & Cellar Classifications – those most fancied most often - Click here to read more](#)

[South Africa’s Top 100 Most Highly Rated Wines – 2019 Classification - Click here to read more](#)

- **Is It Cold Outside? You Might Be Drinking More**

New evidence shows that where you live could affect how much wine you consume. Like many studies that have to do with alcohol and health, this one shows a correlation, not a direct causation, and it's important to keep in mind that there are countless other factors that can determine how much an
individual drinks. It's certainly not a reason to be alarmed—nor an excuse to overindulge—if you live in an area with lower temps. As long as you are conscious about how much you drink—and the reasons why you're drinking—the cold shouldn't bother you, anyway.

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