China launches its own wine rating system

In China’s most affirmative move yet to demonstrate its clout as a leading wine consumer, the country has unveiled a new wine rating system designed to evaluate imported and domestically produced wines, based on Chinese tastes, shunning a set of established international wine rating systems such as the 100-point system favoured by international wine critics.

Evaluating wines mainly based on colour, aroma, palate and body (色香味体), similar to the universal criteria, the Chinese wine rating system will use a scoring scale of 10 points. At this stage, the rating system is not yet compulsory for all wines sold inside China.

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Global and SA Trends

Trend Spotting: 10 alcohol trends in UK retail to watch in 2018/19

1. Low and no alcohol
2. Ethical wines
3. Rum, the dark spirits flavour
4. Large formats – magnums
5. Ginnovation continues
6. Extreme craft
7. Hybrid drinks
8. Alternative packaging
9. Sparkling wine
10. Vermouth

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Bibendum: Top wine trends for 2019
1. Cabernet Franc from around the world
2. Diversity of the Americas
3. The rise of indigenous Italy
4. The vegan era
5. Time for Croatia
6. Beyond the classics in France
7. Indigenous South America
8. Sake keeps diversifying

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**Regulatory Environment**

**Carbon Tax Bill**

The Carbon Tax Bill has been tabled in parliament. The bill calls for a R120 per ton carbon tax. The tax is scheduled to come into effect on 1 June 2019.

The bill aims to:
- provide for the imposition of a tax on the carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions; and
- provide for matters connected therewith.

[Carbon Tax Bill B46-2018]