Nuusbrokkies / News Snippets

Wine trends for 2018: More cans, boxes and kegs, for starters

Packaging: We can expect more wines in kegs, boxes and cans rather than the traditional bottles. Not that bottles will be tossed away, by any means. The alternatives are a small percentage of the market, but that percentage will continue to grow as better wines become available in these formats.

Unexpected wines: We know wine regions for certain wines. Argentina for malbec, Oregon for pinot noir and New Zealand for sauvignon blanc and pinot noir. But these three regions also produce exceptional chardonnay. We know Chile for cabernet sauvignon, merlot and perhaps carmenere, but it also produces some great sauvignon blanc and carignan. Australia means shiraz, but Riesling and pinot noir are also exciting. And South Africa is sending us some wonderful old-vine chenin blanc and shiraz.

Urban wineries: Wineries have moved off the farm into the city.

China further reduces tariffs on Australian wine

Starting from 1 January, 2018, import tariffs on Australian bottled wines to China have been cut from 5.6% to 2.8%, while tariffs on bulk wine have been reduced to 4%, based on the two countries’ Free Trade Agreement signed in December 2015. The agreement paved the way for a reduction in tariffs over a few years until 2019, when they will be completely scrapped.