Economic Environment

Global Economics Intelligence executive summary, August 2020
Economic indicators improved and trade began to recover; output and demand are still below pre-COVID-19 levels; recovery in the US, Brazil, and India is impaired by the ongoing public-health crisis. 
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Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements

Tackling illicit alcohol trade in South Africa ‘critical’ to economic recovery
After reports that the illicit trade in alcohol was thriving in South Africa and could take years to be contained, the country’s alcohol industry has said tackling the issue is “critical” to the nation’s post-lockdown recovery.

Representing a group which includes the National Liquor Traders Council, South African Liquor Brandowners Association (SALBA), the Beer Association of South Africa (BASA), Vinpro, the National Liquor Traders Council and alcohol producers, Sibani Mngadi, director of corporate relations at Diageo South Africa, said his peers are concerned about the impact of unregulated trading on the entire value chain, as well as the safety issues it poses. The alcohol sector has said it will continue to support the government in driving behavioural change in relation to alcohol use, but is calling for a “considerably increased law enforcement” to tackle bootlegging.
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Nuusbrokkies / News Snippets

Media Release - Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa
Industry appeals to country to separate paper products for recycling.

South Africa’s paper recovery rate is at 68.5% with 1.2 million tonnes of recyclable paper products diverted from landfill during 2019, according to Anele Sololo, general manager of RecyclePaperZA, the paper recycling association of South Africa.

[Paper Media Release]

Technology

**Robots shed light on grape powdery mildew**
Robots equipped with UV light have taken up the fight against powdery and downy mildew.

The welcome warriors do grape vine battle at night on two Chardonnay sites in New York and robot tender David Gadoury says, “We’ve got effective powdery mildew suppression for Chardonnay grapes over a two-year period with treatments once a week.”

And unlike contract hand labor, “These machines work every night of the week, all night long, applying the same dose of UV light to every vine,” he says. While workers tend vines during daylight hours, this is the night shift, tireless automatons fitted with ultraviolet light lamps roaming in a search-and-destroy mission against powdery mildew.

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