Global Trends - Beverages

African countries recognise Scotch GI

Taking lead from Botswana, a further 17 African countries have registered Scotch whisky as a product with geographical indication (GI) status in a landmark agreement.

The Scotch Whisky Association understands that this is the first time the OAPI has recognised the GI status of any spirit drink, adding that this will offer a high level of legal protection against fakes across the market.

Under its GI, Scotch must be made in Scotland from water, cereals and yeast and matured for at least three years.

Countries in the OAPI that now recognise the GI of Scotch include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal and Togo.

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Global Trends - Wine Industry Key Elements

UK: Spirits producers strive to tackle harmful drinking

Spirits companies have marked two years’ progress in tackling harmful drinking through new guidelines and education programmes, but there is “still more to be done”.

The project has seen improvements in curbing underage drinking, preventing drink driving and strengthening and expanding marketing codes of practice to promote responsible drinking.

“We believe that addressing harmful drinking must involve all sectors of society – governments, civil society, and the private sector – and are therefore pleased that the CEOs of the major alcohol-producing companies have agreed to a set of five commitments to address harmful drinking in a five-year programme of work,” commented Ann Keeling, president/CEO, International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD).