BI Daagliks - BI Daily

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For something different

15 Fun Facts About Wine & Tax

Here are 15 fun facts about wine and tax to help you celebrate with your pour:

1. Wine is about 8,000 years old.
2. Wine production and wine trade were an important part of life and commerce in the Mediterranean by 3100 BC.
3. The first known wine bottle dates back to 325 AD.
4. THE USA: Kentucky has the highest wine excise tax rate at $3.18 per gallon, followed by Alaska ($2.50), Florida ($2.25), Iowa ($1.75), and New Mexico ($1.70).
5. The growth of the wine industry exploded in Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.
6. Wine came to the Americas around the 16th century - by force.
7. Champagne was invented in 1693.
8. As wine became more popular around the world, it became a revenue target.
9. In 1862, President Lincoln signed the first income tax in the United States into law.
10. In 1919, the United States passed the Volstead Act, better known as Prohibition.
11. On March 22, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Cullen–Harrison Act ("An Act to provide revenue by the taxation of certain nonintoxicating liquor, and for other purposes") into law which moved the U.S. away from Prohibition by allowing the manufacture and sale of beer and some wines.
12. After the repeal of Prohibition, lawmakers saw a chance to again raise revenues by taxing alcohol and so they did, over and over. In 1934, the excise tax on alcohol was $2.00 per gallon and by 1970, it was $10.50 per gallon.
13. According to a 2016 Gallup poll, 32% of Americans who drink alcohol say they prefer wine (trailing beer drinkers at 46%).
14. With 1.545 wine-related businesses per 10,000 residents, Portland, Oregon, is the most favorable U.S. city for wine lovers.
15. The most expensive bottle of wine was reportedly a 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet which sold at a 2000 Napa Valley charity auction for $500,000.

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The Origin of Wine

Imbibing the liquid of fermented fruit may have had its start in medicinal traditions.
Although microbes may have invented alcohol, it was the mammals that mastered it. Usually this meant simply munching on one overripe palm fruit too many—but then there are Indian elephants, which are known to have a hankering for liquor and rice beer. From tipsy tree shrews to drunken monkeys, the primate lineage crawls with critters getting high off the hooch. And with our fruit-eating pedigree, 10 percent of the modern human liver’s enzymes are solely dedicated to turning alcohol into energy. In all likelihood, the hangover has been a part of human history a lot longer than the goblet.

Just how long did it take before humans started intentionally transforming nature's botanical bounty into Calvados and Cabernet?

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