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Consumer Countries/Markets

China’s wine imports continue to slide

China’s wine imports continue to slide in the first four months of the year, signaling possible overstock in the market and a lag between consumption and imports.

The country’s bottled wine imports grew by 2.99% year-on-year in volume to 148.4 million litres from January to April, while its import value declined by 7.21% over the same period.

Sparkling wine imports, however, rebounded from previous slump and climbed 18.63% in value over the same period last year.

Bulk wine is the only category that has registered robust growth with both volume and value. Its volume grew 9.33% during the period to 49.1 million litres and its value increased by a significant 39.57%.

In terms of country of origin for imported bottled wines, France and Australia still account for the majority, although both experienced contractions in market shares. China, which has surpassed the US to become Chile’s most value wine market earlier, has proven to be bullish for the South American country.

Other leading wine exporting countries to China are Spain (5.9%), Italy (5.7%), the US (2.8%), New Zealand (1.2%), Argentina (1%), South Africa (0.9%), Portugal (0.8%), Germany (0.7%), Georgia (0.7%) and Canada (0.4%).

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Major Wine Producing Countries

Trump budget ‘devastating’ to winegrape farming in California

President Trump’s proposed budget, released May 23, would cut mandatory and discretionary U.S. Department of Agriculture spending by $11.8 billion from the fiscal 2017 budget. That includes elimination of exports-oriented Market Access and Foreign Market Development programs, totaling $234.5 million a year; the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; and the Regional Conservation
Partnership Program. Also targeted by the administration’s budget is $28.6 billion trimmed from the federal crop insurance program over a decade.

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