

**Gist of the HK-US
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on
Co-operation in Wine-related Businesses**

- The MOU is an extensive one, covering some **common areas** of co-operation that also feature in our MOUs with other wine producing countries/regions, including promotion of wine trading, investment, wine-related tourism, education / manpower training, and combat against counterfeits.
- It also embraces a **number of special elements** relating to :
 - (i) promoting wine alongside **regional and local cuisine** – both sides will encourage enhanced partnership to promote food products and culinary arts relating to wine as well as regional and local cuisine;
 - (ii) facilitating as appropriate the organisation of **wine auctions** in Hong Kong for US wines – for example, Invest Hong Kong stands ready to assist US auction houses to set up a base in Hong Kong and/or identify business partners; and
 - (iii) encouraging the provision of **quality wine storage facilities** in Hong Kong - for example, the US side may help us publicize the wine storage certification scheme recently launched by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency, which seeks to enhance confidence of wine traders and investors in using Hong Kong's storage facilities.
- The **common elements** are :
 - (a) **facilitation of business visits, exhibitions and wine-related trade fairs** – to strengthen wine-related trading activities, both sides will facilitate business visits and encourage each other's participation in wine fairs organised in Hong Kong or the US;
 - (b) **investment promotion activities** – the investment promotion agencies of the two sides will facilitate exchange of information on wine-related investment activities and services;
 - (c) **education and manpower training** – the two governments will encourage the training institutes in Hong Kong and the US to enhance partnership so as to improve education and training on

wine-related subjects, such as courses on wine appreciation, wine culture and wine storage, and programs for meeting the manpower needs of enterprises engaged in wine-related businesses;

- (d) **wine-related tourism and wine culture** – we will encourage enhanced partnership on promoting wine-related tourism and wine culture through trade shows, festivals, individual and group travel programs, and exchange activities between Hong Kong and the US; and
- (e) **co-operation in combating trade in counterfeit wine and smuggling of wine** – the two governments will endeavour to provide assistance to each other to prevent, investigate and prosecute illegal activities and illicit trade involving counterfeit wine and smuggling. Hong Kong has a clean record on wine counterfeiting. We will upkeep our vigilance through such enhanced co-operation.

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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