



## California's wine industry at the time of forest fires

The impact of forest fires on the wine industry was one of the topics discussed at the Vancouver International Wine Festival, where California was honored. The state has been hit hard by fierce fires in recent years, and Californian winemakers are trying to adapt to this new reality.

### Harvest earlier

Boisset Collection owner Jean-Charles Boisset in the Napa Valley believes that more frequent forest fires could force vineyards to change the way they do things.

"It means harvesting earlier, with less alcohol in the berries, or less sugar, but picking the grapes earlier than before," he says.

Mr. Boisset says that in 2017, when fires broke out in their county, they had to work hard to secure the harvest against smoke. "If the grape is locked in the tank, the taste is obviously not there. "

He adds that there are certain processes to remove the taste of smoke from wine, but they make the wine of lower quality.



Wildfires are becoming more common in California. Photo: Associated Press / Jae C. Hong

### **"The new norm"**

Anita Oberholster believes that California as a whole is preparing to face more extreme weather events.

"I think people are starting to understand that this is the new norm," she says. "You can not just put your head in the sand and hope it does not happen again. "

Jean-Charles Boisset agrees. According to him, the whole industry must be more proactive.

"You have to be very close to his vineyard, very close to his grapes, very close to his land, to really study very precisely what is happening in the vineyard, much more than before. "