MillerCoors recall
In early June MillerCoors recalled a batch of Coors Light in the Southeastern United States after taste tests at the company’s Georgia brewery found the beer to be subpar.

MillerCoors began pulling the beer from its distribution system and from retailers. “We sampled it and realized it wasn’t up to standards,” said Pete Marino, a spokesman for MillerCoors. The batch of beer recalled involved only Coors Light brewed at the firm’s Albany brewery.

Napa Ridge Merlot scores Gold
Napa Ridge’s 2005 Napa Valley Merlot won a Double Gold medal at the 2009 San Diego National Wine Competition, one of the oldest and most prestigious wine competitions in the United States. The same Merlot also took a Gold Medal at the 2009 Monterey Wine Competition.

Empire launches Cape North Vodka
-- by Christine Huard
Cape North Vodka, the new ultra-premium imported vodka, made its North American debut at Atlanta’s W Hotel. Key on- and off-premise accounts were invited to a private party to sample the brand on-the-rocks and in cocktails. The vodka distinguishes itself by its Swedish-French connection, using 100% hand-picked French wheat with Sweden’s famous virgin spring waters. The company is owned by brother and sister Niklas and Marie-Louise Davidson. Niklas Davidson says that Cape North is targeted to “the urban, sophisticated, upscale market.”

Spokesperson Lena Falk; Niklas Davidson, president; and Marie-Louise Davidson, Executive Vice President, both of Cape North Company.

In Memoriam
The former chairman of United Distributors, Jennings M. Hertz Jr., died Saturday, May 30, 2009 of heart failure. He was 83. Jennings was chief executive officer of United Distributors, which was started by his father in the 1940s. The company is now run by his son Doug who is United’s current president.

A noted philanthropist and patron, Jennings has often been credited to pioneering the arts in Atlanta. In 2000, the Alliance Theatre renamed its Studio Theatre The Hertz Stage in his honor. Today, the Hertz Stage is widely recognized as a venue for new, rising playwrights.

A native of Pensacola, Florida, Jennings graduated from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School in 1948.

A Navy veteran, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jill Gitterman Hertz. In addition to his son Doug, he is survived by a daughter, Patty Reid, and her husband, Doug Reid; Doug Hertz’s wife, Lila; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Napa Ridge Merlot scores Gold
Napa Ridge’s 2005 Napa Valley Merlot won a Double Gold medal at the 2009 San Diego National Wine Competition, one of the oldest and most prestigious wine competitions in the United States. The same Merlot also took a Gold Medal at the 2009 Monterey Wine Competition.
**News from GADA**

The Georgia Department of Revenue has issued Policy Statement IT-2009-6-8 “procedures for verifying whether compensation payments may be deducted for Georgia income tax purposes.” To review this policy statement go to: https://etax.dor.ga.gov/policystatements/TLP_Policy_Statement_IT-2009-6-8.pdf.

For more information on this subject, contact the Taxpayer Services Division at 404-417-2409, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm EST, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call the TDD number at 404-417-4302. For forms and other information, visit their website at www.dor.ga.gov.

---

**NDC members earn prestigious WSET certification**

Nine members of National Distributing Company have graduated from the WSET advanced course, joining a group of highly trained individuals from around the world. WSET was established by the Wine and Spirits trade over 30 years ago to provide a system of training and qualifications for the adult beverage industry. Members who have gained the advanced certificate have proven their strong knowledge of wines and spirits from around the world with an increased focus on tasting and describing flavors and origins.

NDC graduates from Georgia include: Kathleen Boggs, Shannon Clint Croft, Tom Donlevy, Tom Fox, Michael Gallant, Joe Gardner, Clint Kummer, Kylie Pittman and Abigail Waguespack.

D.C. Flynt, a Master of Wine, and administrator of the WSET testing says, “The success level of this RNDC Group was extremely high. This shows that they were not only well prepared, but motivated. Congratulations new WSET Advance members. It is one of the highest, if not the highest pass rate on the Advanced examination in the history of the WSET.”

---

**New Chocovine available at Quality Wine & Spirits**

by Christine Hoard

ChocoVine, made from Dutch chocolate and fine red wine is imported from Holland. This new product made its debut at the High Museum Trade Show. ChocoVine can be served chilled, over ice or used in cocktails with a variety of liqueurs and/or vodka. Pictured is Harry Petrides, vice president of George Chotas & Associates introducing ChocoVine.

---

**S. Pellegrino celebrates 110th Anniversary**

S. Pellegrino which began in 1899 is recognizing its long-term growth with a new label and much celebration. A limited anniversary edition label appears on all 5L glass and 1L glass bottles (no UPC change; and case carton is not affected). The new image will be available in limited quantities starting in September and will most likely last through the end of the year.

---

**Alcohol Tax Policy option could cost hospitality industry jobs**

The Distilled Spirits Council has called the Senate Finance Committee policy option to raise alcohol taxes a prescription for disaster for the hard hit hospitality sector.

“At a time when the hospitality industry has been hammered by 10 percent unemployment, an alcohol tax hike would be a prescription for economic disaster,” said Mark Gorman, Distilled Spirits Council Senior Vice President who noted that since April 2008, nearly 450,000 jobs have been lost in the hospitality industry.

Further Gorman noted, when the federal excise tax on spirits was raised in 1991, tax revenues actually fell and it took 10 years before they regained their pre-1991 levels.

Distilled spirits are already one of the highest taxed consumer products with approximately 60 percent of the price of a typical bottle going to taxes.

---

**News from A. Hardy USA**

A. Hardy USA, Ltd. has released a new Blended Scotch Whisky on the anniversary year of the birth of Robert Burns. Born in Scotland in 1759, Burns was known to favor and enjoy Scotch Whiskey. In the U.S., Burns may be best known as the songwriter who wrote “Auld Lang Syne.” To honor his memory, the Isle of Arran Distillers created Robert Burns Blended Scotch Whisky. Tasting notes on the brand state that it is golden amber in color with aromas of sherry, almonds, toffee, treacle, hot sponge cake, banana and a hint of oak; with a medium finish and a hint of spiciness. Robert Burns Blended Scotch Whisky is available in 750ml bottles ($24.99) and will soon be offered in 1.75 liter bottles ($39.99).