



British parliament approves UK/EU Brexit deal; duty free sales begin on Jan. 1; ETRC urges preparation

British lawmakers approved Prime Minister Boris Johnson's post Brexit deal with the European Union on Wednesday. Parliament's lower house voted 521 to 73 in favor of the agreement, sending it to the Upper House, where it is expected to be approved.

On December 24, the European Union and the United Kingdom had reached an agreement in principle on the **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement**.

According to the **European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC)**, the agreement defined the relationship between the two entities at the end of the Brexit transition period based on a level playing field and respect for fundamental rights. The ETRC has urged travel retail businesses to prepare for a new trading regime between the UK and EU countries from January 1, and to clearly communicate updated allowances to travelers.

The trade agreement covers trade in goods and in services, digital trade, intellectual property, public procurement, aviation and road transport, energy, fisheries, social security coordination, law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, thematic cooperation and participation in Union programs.

"While both parties described the deal as an ambitious one which notably includes **zero tariffs and zero quotas on all goods**, this will create new barriers to trade in goods and services," noted ETRC in a note to its members earlier this week.

As it pertains to duty free, ETRC writes: "As of 1 January 2021, 'persons carrying goods in their luggage or otherwise with them are entitled to duty free allowances (meaning goods exempt from VAT and customs duties, and where applicable excise duty).'"

This covers travelers departing England, Scotland and Wales for EU countries; but does not apply to travelers between Northern Ireland and the EU. Travelers from the EU to the UK can purchase duty free goods, including an increased liquor allowance.



Other details in the ETRC memorandum include:

Due to the late adoption of the agreement between the UK and the European Commission acting as the negotiator, the Commission recommended that the Agreement is to be applied on a provisional basis, for a limited period of time until February 28 2021.

Duty and Tax Free allowances

As a retailer's association ETRC says that it encourages responsible retailing including clear communication to passengers of their personal allowances in their country of destination via POS communication. Allowances should be communicated accordingly, e.g. posters in the shop and staff training so that staff can inform passengers at the till and potentially remind them of consequences for exceeding allowances.

[Duty Free allowances when entering the European Union:](#)

- **Alcohol:** a. 4 litres of still wine; and b. 16 litres of beer; and c. a total of 1 litre of spirits over 22 % vol. OR 1 litre of undenatured alcohol (ethyl alcohol) of 80% vol. (or over) OR 2 litres of fortified or sparkling wine.
- **Tobacco:** 200 cigarettes OR 100 cigarillos OR 50 cigars OR 250 g tobacco;
- **Other goods** up to a value of EUR 300 per traveler or EUR 430 for travellers by air and sea.

There are no allowances for tobacco or alcohol for travelers under 17.

[Duty Free allowances when entering Great Britain \(England, Scotland and Wales\):](#)

- **Alcohol:** a. 18 litres of still wine; and b. 42 litres of beer; and c. a total of 4 litres of spirits and other liquors over 22% alcohol OR 9 litres of fortified wine (for example port, sherry), sparkling wine and alcoholic drinks up to 22% alcohol
- **Tobacco:** 200 cigarettes OR 100 cigarillos OR 50 cigars OR 250 g tobacco OR 200 sticks of tobacco for heating.
- **Other goods** worth up to £390 (or up to £270 when arriving by private plane or boat). If a single item's worth more than the allowance duty or tax must be paid on its full value, not just the value above the allowance.



As of this time, effective January 1, 2021 tax free shopping will not be available for air passengers leaving the UK, despite an intense campaign to repeal the new rules.

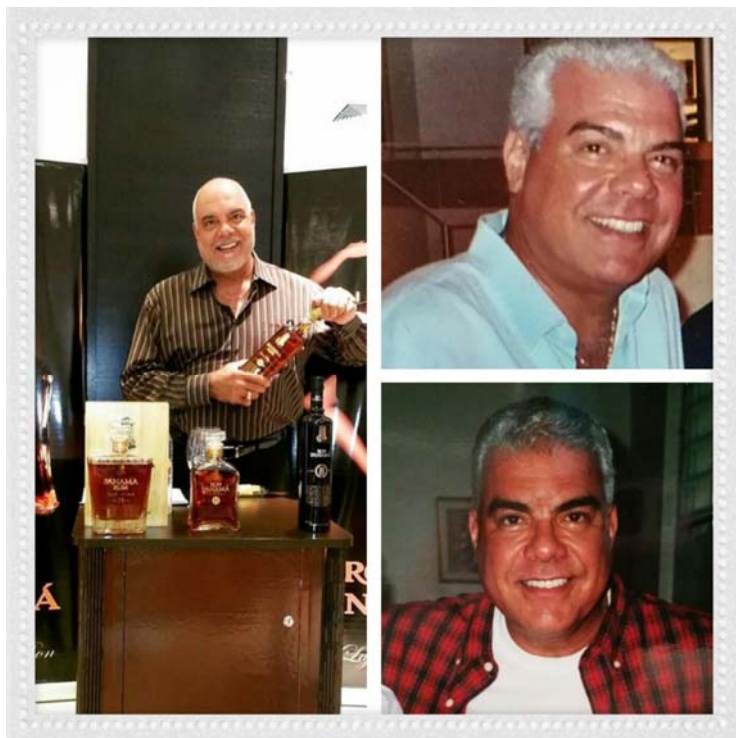
DFS to return to Hainan with Shenzhen Duty Free Group

DFS Group today issued congratulations to its business partner, Shenzhen Duty Free Group, who was awarded a highly-sought license to operate an offshore downtown duty free business in Haikou Mission Hills, Hainan.

DFS will partner with Shenzhen Duty Free Group to establish a world-class duty free retail experience for visitors to Hainan totaling approximately 30,000 square meters. The project will be completed in phases beginning in January 2021.

In the first phase of the project, due to open in Q1 2021, DFS will present experiential displays, taking customers on an immersive tour of "The World in a Day" that represents the very best of its global store network.

Incorporating elements from world-class DFS gallerias in locations from Venice and Paris to Sydney and Macau, the store will offer customers in Hainan a curated selection of fashion, beauty, watches and jewelry brands.



Jorge Ramos photos courtesy of John Gallagher.

In memoriam: Jorge Ramos

As reported last week, the travel retail industry has been greatly saddened by the sudden news that Jorge Ramos had died from complications of COVID-19 in Panama. *TMI's* Latin American correspondent and long-time friend of Jorge's, John Gallagher, has put together a few words in Jorge's memory.

"The passing of Jorge Ramos just before Christmas was a huge shock. Jorge was the first person I knew who died way before their time from complications arising from the COVID-19 virus," writes **John Gallagher**.

"I first met Jorge at an IAADFS show in Orlando in the early nineties when the gentle Puerto Rican was selling Don Q rums. Jorge had started in the duty free business selling perfumes and cosmetics and after his spell in distilled spirits he went on to be International Sales director at Coty. In 2005, he set up his own company Latinluxe International, selling wine and wine accessories in Panama and Central American markets. But his love affair with rum never ended and markets and his Panama rum tasting at the ASUTIL conference in 2015 was one of the highlights of that event.

"Jorge was one of those genuine people who always went out of his way to help you. His huge smile was always there when he greeted you and he always found the right words to give you support and guidance when you needed it."

Note: I myself first met Jorge when he began working for Coty in Miami, where we were regularly in touch. But I am honored to have been part of his wonderful rum event in ASUTIL in Panama. *TMI* adds its deepest condolences to Jorge's friends and family. May he Rest in Peace.

Lois Pasternak

Carnival Cruise Line takes delivery of *Mardi Gras*

Carnival Cruise Line took delivery of its highly anticipated new ship, *Mardi Gras*, in a live virtual signing ceremony at the Meyer Turku Shipyard in Turku, Finland on Dec. 18.

When *Mardi Gras* begins guest operations in April 2021, the 180,000-gross-ton vessel will be the most innovative ship in North America as it will be the first ship to be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG), as well as feature a suite of new technology, and BOLT, the first-ever roller coaster at sea.

The ship's venues, dining and entertainment will be dispersed throughout six distinctive zones, and include a new restaurant by celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse.

The centerpiece of the ship is a breathtaking three-deck-high atrium with floor-to-ceiling windows and movable LED screens that open up to a stunning ocean view.

Mardi Gras will accommodate more than 5,200 guests and a crew of 2,000. Guests will have the choice of more than 2,600 staterooms and 180 suites across 11 categories.

Heinemann Americas is the travel retail concessionaire onboard the ship.

The ship will operate seven-day Caribbean itineraries from Port Canaveral, Fla., and Carnival has worked closely with Port Canaveral to build a new cruise terminal to accommodate the Excel-class ship and also facilitate the new LNG fueling process. The inaugural voyage for *Mardi Gras* is scheduled for April 24, 2021.

Carnival Cruise Line President, Christine Duffy said *Mardi Gras* will depart from Turku later this month to begin her voyage to North America.

A sister ship, *Carnival Celebration*, is scheduled to arrive in 2022.



HMSHost partners with the National Restaurant Association to underscore safety as U.S. readies for travel rebound

HMSHost has signed on as a participant of the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe Dining Commitment program aimed at bolstering the restaurant and food-service industry's recovery.

The ServSafe Dining Commitment logo is designed to assure consumers that the restaurant has declared its dedication to training staff in safe food handling and establishing new guidelines for safe

dining. Since the pandemic began, HMSHost has been abiding by the *National Restaurant Association COVID-19 Safe Operating Guidance, FDA Best Practices for Restaurants*, the HMSHost Growth Plan and comprehensive COVID-19 Manager's Guide to Associate Safety & Wellness, and the laws and guidelines of federal, state and local municipalities.

Together with the Association,

HMSHost is informing consumers about its ongoing commitment to safety for welcoming guests as travel rebounds.

"With global vaccination now becoming a reality, we know people are starting to reengage on travel plans for 2021. Wherever your future leisure or business travel takes you, you can have the utmost confidence that HMSHost restaurants are trustworthy, ready, and have gone above and beyond, to safeguard the health and wellness of everyone who works in and enters our facilities," said HMSHost Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Joe Thornton. "HMSHost is leading and rewriting the script for exceptional travel dining solutions in this new environment and we're excited to be working with the National Restaurant Association to provide a best-in-class experience."

HMSHost says that it is opening locations as travel begins to recover and serve travelers with all of their food and beverage needs in the safest and most efficient manner.

First responder's program

In other community news from HMSHost, the global restaurateur joined in an exclusive co-promotion with Coca-Cola in a holiday campaign that celebrates first-line heroes.

Any first responder who shows a professional ID at select HMSHost-operated airport restaurants and motorway service plazas will receive a complimentary 20-ounce Coca-Cola beverage with any food purchase from November 23 through December 31, while supplies last.

CHTA president predicts rapid return of Caribbean tourism

Pablo Torres, the president of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), is predicting that the Caribbean will see a return of tourism to the region, "faster than many parts of the world."

He says the rapid return of tourism will be due to the protocols and partnerships implemented throughout the region to help lessen the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Declaring that 2021 would be a year of recovery, Torres said: "Tourism is our key to recovery, to restoring the livelihood of thousands of employees in our industry, to reopening our doors, and welcoming our guests."

In addition to replenishing tax revenues to cash-strapped governments, Torres noted that a tourism revival would refresh and renew "the minds, bodies and spirits of millions of travelers who will discover that the Caribbean is the best place on earth to recover from the ravage of this pandemic."

Torres applauded the Caribbean's rapid response to the pandemic, which helped to contain the spread of the virus more effectively than many other parts of the world. He saluted the "countless health heroes" whose dedication and sacrifices had averted a great deal of human suffering and have helped to set the stage for the economic recovery the region will be experiencing in the coming months.



Pablo Torres, CHTA president, salutes 'Countless Health Heroes'

Torres commended both health care professionals and front- and back-of-house workers across many industries, including tourism, airports and airline personnel, immigration and customs officers, and ground transportation workers:

"You have led by example, providing exemplary services while adhering to essential health safety protocols. We are all in debt to your service."

Torres also thanked CHTA's "key partners in health," including National Hotel and Tourism Associations, the Caribbean Public Health Agency, the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the UN World Tourism Organization, and the World Travel and Tourism Council.



3Sixty Duty Free first retail partner of PHL's online platform

3Sixty Duty Free is the first retail store partner of OrderAtPHL.com, providing passengers with a contactless solution for purchasing cosmetics, fragrances and skincare products.

OrderAtPHL.com, the online, mobile-ordering platform at Philadelphia International Airport, allows travelers to browse and preorder meals, snacks, beverages — as well as retail products. PHL is the second airport in the U.S. to offer retail items for preorder; passengers may collect their purchase in-store or request delivery right to their gate.

Duty Free is operated in partnership with 3Sixty. OrderAtPHL.com is a collaboration between the PHL Food & Shops concessions program (MarketPlace PHL), Grab airport app and AtYourGate.

The products available online through the duty free application include designer perfumes and colognes, skincare and make-up, from brands ranging from L'Occitane, Clinique, Estée Lauder, and Lancôme, and are available to both domestic and international travelers.



Aston Martin partners with Bowmore to create 2nd exclusive special edition vehicle

Aston Martin has created a special vehicle, the Aston Martin DBX Bowmore Edition, to celebrate the brand's partnership with Islay single malt whisky distillery, Bowmore. This is the second partnership creation between the British luxury car manufacturer and Bowmore, which is owned by Beam Suntory.

Just 18 special edition Bowmore DBX's will be built by the marque's personalization service, Q by Aston Martin. The SUVs will be delivered to customers at a private lifestyle experience in Scotland. Guests will travel to Edinburgh where they will be presented with their own special edition DBX, before embarking on a 170-mile road trip through the Scottish countryside before driving onto the ferry bound for Islay.

The owners will also be treated to a private tour of the Bowmore Distillery, where they will have the opportunity to hand-fill their own bottle of a 39 year-old, specially selected Bowmore straight from the cask. They will also be given exclusive access to the No 1 Vaults the oldest maturation warehouse in the world which has played host to a number of VIP's over the years, including members

of the Royal Family.

The Bowmore DBX is offered in a paint color named Bowmore Blue, an existing archive color which has been brought back exclusively by Q by Aston Martin for this car. Bowmore-branded copper inlays using copper from the original whisky still have been used to accent the side strakes of the DBX.

Aston Martin's partnership with Bowmore has already created 'Black Bowmore DB5 1964', bringing together an exceptional single malt and a genuine piston from the legendary Aston Martin DB5.

Further luxury products and lifestyle experiences will follow.

Francois Bazini, Global Managing Director of Scotch at Beam Suntory, owners of Bowmore, commented: "Our partnership with Aston Martin continues to be an exciting and enthralling collaboration and the unveiling of this special edition Bowmore DBX is another exciting step on our collective journey. We cannot wait to welcome each of the owners of this beautiful car to our distillery on Islay and show them all that Bowmore and our island home have to offer. Although we make entirely different products, our shared values and passion are very much aligned so you can expect more exciting announcements in the future."



Yves Saint Laurent Beauty launches "Abuse is Not Love"- a global program to help combat Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Yves Saint Laurent Beauty launched a critically important global program in November, on the occasion of the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on Nov. 25, 2020.

Called "Abuse is Not Love," the global program aims at helping to combat intimate partner violence (IPV) by supporting the prevention programs of its non-profit partners.

Research shows that IPV comes with key warning signs. If these signs can be detected earlier, we may be able to recognize it better and seek or offer help. YSL Beauty aims to do its part in raising awareness of these common signs.

Abuse is Not Love is built around three key pillars: funding academic research on the topic to develop thought-leadership around youth and prevention; educating at least 2 million people on the common signs of IPV through international partnerships; and training YSL Beauty employees and beauty advisors on intimate partner violence in the workplace.

IPV is a major societal issue: approximately 1 in 3 women will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime and only a small proportion of survivors will obtain justice, says the research cited by YSL Beauty.

IPV prevalence rates have

increased by 30 to 60% as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many women have been living in lockdown with an abusive partner and have been unable to seek support.

Abuse is Not Love has launched with 3 key partnerships in 2020: En Avant Toute(s) in France, Women's Aid in the UK, and It's on Us in the U.S., with more coming in 2021 in other countries. Through these partnerships, YSL Beauty aims to raise awareness of the seriousness of IPV. By 2030, YSL's objective is to educate two million people around the world on IPV through its partnership with local non-profits.

SPIRITS:

New bottles sizes coming to the U.S.

The U.S. will finally allow 700ml bottles to be imported legally into the country paving the way for the European Union standard size to be sold in the U.S. for the first time.

The Treasury Department's Tax and Trade Bureau, which regulates alcoholic beverages at the federal level, published new regulations in the Federal Register allowing the new bottle sizes. 700ml has been the standard in the European Union for more than three decades, with the 750ml size the standard in the U.S. since 1980.

The new sizes will likely lead to many whiskies being sold in the U.S. for the first time. For years the regulations forced whisky makers to create 700ml bottlings for Europe and special 750ml bottlings to sell in the U.S. Because of this added cost many smaller distillers chose not to export their products to the U.S.

U.S. raising tariffs on some EU spirits

The US has announced it will be raising tariffs on certain European Union products, including non-sparkling vino, cognacs and other brandies from France and Germany, according to the *New York Post*.

The duties increase is part of a long-running dispute between the U.S. and EU over subsidies involving European aircraft company Airbus SE and its American-based rival Boeing Co.

Last year, the Trump administration imposed tariffs, authorized by the World Trade Organization, on about \$7.5 billion in imports from the EU and UK, including a 25 percent tax on French wine.

In November, the EU levied tariffs on about \$4 million in U.S. imports, also allowed by the WTO.