



The News

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by Emma Phillips

Nicolas Sarkozy's conviction for the illegal financing of his 2012 election campaign has been upheld. The Court of Cassation found him guilty of overspending on the campaign and then instructing a PR firm, Bygmalion, to invoice his political party and not the campaign in order to cover it up. The former president still has to serve the one year sentence of which six months were suspended that he was handed in 2024.

The four new arrested suspects in the Louvre robbery have had their custody periods extended. The two men and women are all from the Paris region. The jewellery haul, worth roughly 88 million euros, is yet to be found.

The trial of what has been dubbed the "Grands Cru" gang got underway in Bordeaux today. The twelve men are accused of stealing, between 2018 and 2020, nearly 900 bottles of Grands Cru wine, a term that means that means high quality vineyards produced the wine. The bottles were worth nearly 5 million euros, and sold across the black market as far as China.

A massive search operation is underway in the country's prisons and will be ongoing until the end of the year. The operation was launched by Justice Minister, Gérald Darmanin in order to confiscate drugs and mobile phones kept by inmates in their cells. The first of the searches took place yesterday at the remand centre in Nanterre and led to the seizure of 70 mobile phones, USB sticks, SIM cards and several grams of drugs.

And finally, it's good news for drivers in France who are looking to make the switch to an electric car. Next year, the government's eco-bonus could reach €5,700 for the most modest households. The money would be provided to go towards the purchase of vehicles manufactured in France or in Europe.