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Champagne Tragedy: 1 Dead, 11 Hospitalized After Drinking MDMA-Contaminated Moët

Tainted Moët & Chandon Bottles Lead to Arrest and Extradition of Dutch Suspect

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A 45-year-old Dutch man has been arrested and extradited to Germany on suspicion of distributing Jeroboam bottles of Moët & Chandon that were laced with liquid ecstasy. The investigation began in 2022 after tainted champagne bottles containing MDMA, a

powerful stimulant and psychedelic drug, were discovered in both Germany and the Netherlands. A total of 12 people were affected after accidentally consuming large amounts of the substance, and one person died.

The first incident took place at a restaurant called La Vita in the city of Weiden, Germany, where a group of eight people ordered a three-liter bottle of Moët & Chandon Ice Imperial for 490 euros. After drinking the champagne, a 52-year-old man died, while the other guests were hospitalized. The affected individuals exhibited severe symptoms such as foaming at the mouth and convulsions. It was reported that the bottle contained a dose of MDMA up to 1,000 times higher than what a typical drug user might ingest.

Before falling ill, the customers had expressed dissatisfaction with the taste of the drink, which is understandable as liquid ecstasy has a bitter, anise-like flavor that would have altered the champagne's taste. Additionally, the color of the drink would have been significantly darker, but this was not apparent due to the opaque design of the bottle.

A similar incident occurred in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where a group of four people drank from another Ice Imperial bottle contaminated with MDMA. Investigations revealed that both bottles had been purchased through the same website, leading authorities to connect the two cases.

In November of last year, a 35-year-old Polish man was arrested on suspicion of storing the adulterated bottles, though he is not believed to be the main suspect. As the investigation progressed, authorities identified a new suspect, the Dutch man who was arrested in June this year and extradited to a prison in Bavaria in September. According to Weiden's public prosecutor, Matthias Bauer, the detainee is suspected of being the owner of the drugs found in the champagne bottles in his home country.

The case remains under investigation, and while it is still unclear how the bottles reached consumers unaware of their contents, it is believed that the street value of the liquid ecstasy inside the bottles far exceeded the price of the champagne, with estimates potentially reaching five or even six figures.