



The FSMA warned the public against fraudulent offers of investment in wine (see our warnings from [22 May 2019](#) and [4 July 2019](#)). Since then, consumers have reported to us that they were approached with fraudulent offers of investment in whisky.

The principle remains the same: victims are contacted by phone by a salesperson, who offers them investments in whisky and invites them to consult an **online trading platform for fine whiskies**.

These companies offer the opportunity to **acquire bottles of whisky**, undertake to **stock them in a cellar** for you, and promise to **find some major buyers** so that you can earn a **handsome profit**. Would-be investors have nothing to do, the companies 'will take care of everything!' The concept, however, is **too good to be true**. In the end, despite the promises, the investors **never recover** their money!

The suspect companies active in recent weeks

In recent weeks, the FSMA was informed that the companies behind the following websites have been approaching Belgians with these types of offers:

- www.epargne-whisky.com
- www.whisky-prestige.com

The FSMA warns that these companies **do not hold an authorization and are thus not permitted to offer investment services** in Belgium. Moreover, it is very likely that these are cases of investment fraud, which means that in the end, the amounts invested are never reimbursed.

Please see also the [blacklist](#) of sites that offer investments in various goods (cryptoassets, diamonds, wine, etc.) published by the AMF, the French supervisory authority.

How to avoid the trap?

In order to avoid such cases of fraud, the FSMA **urges you to exercise utmost prudence** and **advises you to remain alert to any indication of investment fraud**. It offers a few recommendations to this end:

- **Be wary of (promises of) completely disproportionate returns.** If a return seems too good to be true, it usually is!
- **Always verify the identity of the company** who is contacting you (company identity, home country, etc.). If a company cannot be clearly identified, it should not be trusted. **Find out** as well **when the company website was set up**: if the company's website is relatively new, this could be an additional sign of

investment fraud.

- **Be wary** if you are asked to **deposit money to bank accounts in countries without any connection** to the country where the company contacting you is said to be registered or with your own country of residence. Be wary as well if you are asked to deposit money into accounts whose **beneficiary is someone other than the company itself**.

In any case, if your contact person comes across as **particularly insistent**, this is an additional indication of fraud.

Please note, don't trust the 'professional' appearance of the website to which they referred you; the swindlers do everything they can, of course, to appear as legitimate as possible.

More than ever, then, prudence is necessary.

For more information about this type of fraud, the FSMA invites potential investors to consult its [warning](#) of 22 May 2019 regarding fraudulent offers of investment in wine.

If you have the least doubt about whether financial services being offered to you are lawful, please do not hesitate to contact the FSMA directly via the [consumer contact form](#). As well, feel free to notify us of any suspicious company that has not yet been the subject of a warning by the FSMA.

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