



VINEYARDS ASSOCIATION

## Annual Wine Challenge 2021 Results Brief

### Commentary

The 2021 Wine Challenge was held at Oaken Grove Vineyard on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2021. 27 wines from 9 vineyards were entered from the Region. Exceptionally, no wines from the 2020 vintage were entered, since most vineyards lost their crop to frost last year. The five judges led by Patricia Stefanowicz MW commented that despite the low number of entries, the quality of the wines was exceptionally good, reflected in 4 Gold medals, and that the older wines had held their quality well.

**Class 1:** Dry White, 2020 – none; **Class 2:** Dry White, prior to 2020 - 8 entries; **Class 3:** White, not dry, any year – none;

**Class 4:** Red, any year – 2 entries; **Class 5:** Rose, any year – 4 entries; **Class 6:** Sparkling, any year, any colour – 13 entries (10 white, 3 Rosé).

### Awards:

The following wines are to be congratulated for having won awards:-

| Award                 | For                              | Winner                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mac Mackinnon Trophy  | Best White Wine in any Class     | Stanlake Park, Regatta NV             |
| Sparkling Wine Trophy | Best Sparkling Wine (any colour) | Daws Hill, Sparkling White 2016       |
| Emmbrook Cup          | Best Red Wine                    | Brightwell Vineyard, Pinot Noir 2016  |
| T&CVA Decanter        | Best Wine Overall                | Brightwell Vineyard, Pinot Noir 2016  |
| Stefanowicz salver    | Best Still Rose wine             | Linch Hill Vineyard, Pink Rabbit 2019 |
| Anne Howitt Shield    | Best Non-Commercial Wine         | Vernon Lodge, Siegerebbe 2019         |

### Certificates:

Wines were marked out of 20 and were awarded medal certificates according to the following scoring system:

**Highly Commended:** 13.0-13.9

**Bronze:** 14.0-15.4

**Silver:** 15.5-16.9

**Gold:** 17.0

| Class | Vineyard name       | Entrant name        | Wine name            | Year | Producer name | Award  | Trophy                   |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------|---------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 4     | Brightwell Vineyard | Bob & Carol Nielsen | Pinot noir           | 2016 | Brightwell    | GOLD   | Emmbrook & TCVA Decanter |
| 5     | Linch Hill Vineyard | Denise Santilli     | Pink Rabbit          | 2019 | Three Choirs  | GOLD   | Stefanowicz Salver       |
| 6     | Daws Hill           | Holly Morgan        | Sparkling White      | 2016 | Daws Hill     | GOLD   | Sparkling Wine Trophy    |
| 6R    | Dinton Wines        | Lawrence Kimber     | Dinton Folly Pink    | 2018 | Stanlake Park | GOLD   |                          |
| 6R    | Daws Hill           | Holly Morgan        | Sparkling Rosé       | 2016 | Daws Hill     | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Hendred Vineyard    | David & Eileen Bell | Hendred cuveé        | 2016 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Hendred Vineyard    | David & Eileen Bell | Hendred Brut         | 2016 | Three Choirs  | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Linch Hill Vineyard | Denise Santilli     | Oxford Sparkle       | 2018 | Three Choirs  | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Dinton Wines        | Lawrence Kimber     | Dinton Folly White   | 2018 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Oaken Grove         | Phil Rossi          | Sparkling white      | 2016 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Stanlake Park       | Natalia Pezzone     | Heritage Brut        | NV   | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 6     | Dropmore Vineyard   | Feona McKewan       | Sparkling            | 2017 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 2     | Stanlake Park       | Natalia Pezzone     | Regatta              | NV   | Stanlake Park | SILVER | Mac McKinnon             |
| 6     | Brightwell Vineyard | Bob & Carol Nielsen | Sparkling Chardonnay | 2010 | Brightwell    | SILVER |                          |
| 5     | Oaken Grove         | Phil Rossi          | Still Rosé           | 2019 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 2     | Stanlake Park       | Natalia Pezzone     | Bacchus              | 2019 | Stanlake Park | SILVER |                          |
| 2     | Vernon Lodge        | Mike Dean           | Siegerebbe           | 2019 | Vernon Lodge  | SILVER | Anne Howitt Shield       |
| 2     | Linch Hill Vineyard | Denise Santilli     | Oxford Rebel         | 2019 | Three Choirs  | BRONZE |                          |
| 5     | Dropmore Vineyard   | Feona McKewan       | Pinot Blush          | 2019 | Stanlake Park | BRONZE |                          |
| 6R    | Oaken Grove         | Phil Rossi          | Sparkling Rosé       | 2019 | Stanlake Park | BRONZE |                          |
| 2     | Dropmore Vineyard   | Feona McKewan       | Bacchus              | 2018 | Stanlake Park | BRONZE |                          |
| 6     | Hendred Vineyard    | David & Eileen Bell | Hendred cuveé        | 2015 | Stanlake Park | BRONZE |                          |
| 5     | Brightwell Vineyard | Bob & Carol Nielsen | Oxford Rosé          | 2018 | Brightwell    | BRONZE |                          |
| 4     | Brightwell Vineyard | Bob & Carol Nielsen | Oxford Regatta       | 2016 | Brightwell    | BRONZE |                          |
| 2     | Vernon Lodge        | Mike Dean           | Siegerebbe           | 2018 | Vernon Lodge  | BRONZE |                          |

If anyone requires medal stickers (gold, silver, bronze) to put on their wines, these are available from Christopher Cooke at a cost of £4 per 100 stickers (+ postage) or if you go to the Members page of the T&CVA website you can download a high resolution image of the stickers and the trophies for use on your social media platforms.

The 2021 certificates will be posted to you in due course and the judge's tasting notes for each wine will be sent to their respective growers as soon as we have them from the judges.

Thank you to everyone who entered wines in the Challenge; it is a great opportunity to have our wine tasted by experts in the field and to receive constructive feedback that will enable us to continually improve the quality of our wines.

**A big thank you**, therefore, to the judges who were:

**Patricia Stefanowicz** –MW Chairman of the Regional Challenge and Vice-Chairman of Thames and Chiltern Valley Vineyards Association.

**Lindsay Oram** – Lindsay Oram O'Donoghue AWE, CWW, AIWS

**Yannick Joseph** – Sommelier and Head Butler at St John's College, Oxford

**Mark Stefanowicz** – International Judge and Amateur MS Award Winner

**Alistair Cooper** - MW

**An equally big thank you** to Phil Rossi for making the facilities at Oaken Grove Vineyard available to us at no cost and for providing a delicious lunch. Big thanks also to Marie-Eve Joseph for helping me with glasses and wine pouring.

We cross fingers for lots of sunny, warm ripening weather in the next couple of months and more entries next year!

***Kind regards, Denise Santilli, Honorary Secretary T&CVA, Sept 2021***