

T&CVA 2013 Annual Wine Challenge Results

28 wines from 8 vineyards were entered into the T&CVA Annual Wine Challenge held at Brightwell Vineyard on 15th June 2013.

The four eminent judges were: Patricia Stefanowicz MW; Kathleen Burk, Wine Consultant and Educator MW; Anne Kriebiehl final year MW; Lindsay Oram final year MW.

The following Trophies were awarded:

Award	For	Winner
Mac Mackinnon Trophy	Best White Wine in any Class	Dropmore Vineyard, Bacchus 2011
Sparkling Wine Trophy	Best Sparkling Wine (any colour)	Pheasant's Ridge, Brut 2010
Emmbrook Cup	Best Red Wine	Stanlake Park, Pinot Noir 2009
T&CVA Decanter	Best Wine Overall	Brightwell Vineyard, Oxford Rose 2011
Stefanowicz salver	Best still rose wine	Brightwell Vineyard, Oxford Rose 2011
Anne Howitt Shield	Best Non-Commercial Wine	Not awarded



Dropmore – MacKinnon Trophy winner

Brightwell – Stephanowicz Salver



Brightwell – Decanter Trophy

The 2013 harvest figures for the UK have just been released, revealing the highest production on record, a total of 33,384 hectolitres, equating to just below 4.5 million bottles. This is the highest volume ever, breaking the previous record of 4 million bottles in 2010. The increase reflects the ongoing rise in planting that the industry continues to experience. In the last seven years, hectarage has doubled, with some 500 hectares planted in the last two years alone. Sparkling wine now accounts for around two thirds of England's total production with Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier accounting for just under 50% of recent plantings, followed by Bacchus.

Fairmile Vineyard, Henley-on-Thames planted!

A new vineyard is breathing life into a fallow piece of ground on the A4130 Fairmile heading north-west out of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. The 7? acre (3Ha) Fairmile Vineyard sits on a steep chalky flinty slope and has been planted with 12,000 Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier rootstocks using GPS technology to ensure accuracy of the rows.

Owners Jan & Anthea Mirkowski feel that the south-facing slope will confer great advantages for drainage, frost protection, and capturing sunlight, especially in autumn when the grapes are in berry, and the sun sitting lower on the horizon.

The first harvest should be picked 2017, with the grapes being sent offsite to a contract winemaker who will turn them into mostly sparkling wines – white and rosé.

Other vineyards already exist close by, and we hope to see Henley made famous not only for its Regatta and quality of life but noted for its fine wines!



Wyfold & Theale vineyards scoop top prizes in Judgement of Parsons Green III

CONGRATULATIONS to Wyfold and Theale Vineyards, both in the Laithwaite stable and T&CVA members, who have taken the top two prizes in the Judgement of Parson's Green III - a competition to select the best English Sparkling Wines. Of seventy-nine wines entered, Wyfold Vineyard's "Wyfold 2009" and Theale Vineyard's "Blanc de Blancs 2007" took the 1st and 2nd prizes in this keenly fought competition. The full report can be seen as a pdf attachment to this page, but in particular the judges made the following comments about Wyfold and Theale vineyards:

If using the right grape varieties is one element to get you to the top, the other has to be experience. The name which ran through four of the top six wines was Ridgeview. The top two wines, the Wyfold and the Theale, plus the two wines from Ridgeview itself, were made in the Robert's family winery, proving (once again) that they are a hard team to beat. The other thread running through the top two wines was the name "Laithwaite" as Wyfold is part owned by Barbara Laithwaite and Theale is the tiny (704 vines) vineyard planted on builder's rubble outside Direct Wine's head office. Given that Laithwaites / Direct Wines now have the vineyard in Windsor Great Park, plus son Henry Laithwaite's vineyard at Pump Lane, Marlow, I'm sure the name Laithwaite will be attached to more winners in years to come.