



Dear all,

We have nearly bottled all the still wines from the 2021 vintage apart from red wines and a few where we have been waiting for glass - global shortages of everything have restricted availability and energy costs in particular have pushed up the price of glass, so we have seen some big price rises. We will start to bottle the sparkling wines shortly - it helps to wait until the weather is a bit warmer as we need to ensure that the fermentation that we start in tank and will continue in bottle to give the sparkling wine its 'fizz' doesn't get arrested if the bottles get too cold.



*Bottling Rose*



In the meantime we have been continuing to disgorge wine for a wide range of clients, a process that is much easier now that we have moved the disgorging line into a new, specially prepared building. There is better lighting, more space and it can also be cooled, so that we can keep the wine chilled, which helps to prevent gushing during the disgorging process. It also gives us more room in the winery - which we will need when another 36 new tanks arrive in time for harvest!

Our new labelling line is up and running, so we have been taking on more staff to cope with the the demand for production, including a Ukrainian refugee whose English is steadily improving (otherwise we use Google translate!). We have also done some 'transvassage' - essentially transferring the contents of sparkling bottles, under pressure, into bigger format bottles, mainly Jeroboams (the equivalent of 4 standard sized bottles) although we can also do Methusalehs (8 bottles) - great for those wanting to make a statement.



We recently held a 'Trade Tasting' in the winery for a range of journalists and wine buyers, ranging from the big supermarkets to farm shops and small restaurants. All were really impressed by the wines on offer, especially given what a challenging growing season 2021 was.



*May 2021*

So far the weather has been a massive improvement on last year, with very few affected by frost. It has been interesting to see the difference in the vineyards between last year and this - see photos of the same vineyard in Kent exactly one year apart. The conditions are closer to 2020 when we had a very good

harvest - but clearly there is a long way to go. Fingers crossed for a warm, sunny summer!



*Same vineyard - in May 2022*

Regards,

Henry



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