



Dear all,

Since the last newsletter, a flood of glass suddenly arrived and we have been bottling in earnest over the past months. This has kept the winery team constantly busy, finishing wines (fining, stabilising and filtering); plus preparing cultures for sparkling wines. And the production team have been juggling a multitude of different bottle sizes, shapes and labels, whilst continuing to disgorge sparkling wines. We have a final few wines left in barrel but everything will be bottled by the end of the month - just in time to prepare for the next harvest!



From no glass to a wall of glass....



Trade Tasting

In June we held a Trade Tasting in London, the first one outside the winery, and received numerous compliments from journalists, trade buyers and sommeliers on the quality of the wines. English wine, including still wines, have definitely arrived. This point was emphatically made by the decision of Jackson Family Wines, one of America's leading producers, to buy land for still wine production in the Crouch Valley, Essex, along with other sites in Sussex and Kent. And they have asked us to make their wine initially, which is a great endorsement of what we do.



After a comparatively slow start due to the cold spring (though not as bad as 2021), vineyards burst into life with the warm weather and rain in June and there are some big bunches around. However the miserable July has left us all hoping for a warm August and September if everything is to ripen properly. With the potential for lots of disease, we held a spraying session for our vineyards in June in partnership with Hutchinsons and NP Seymour (respectively agronomist/chemical provider and machinery supplier).



Having temporarily used the building next door to store our glass mountain, it is now getting closer to becoming a winery - the drains have been dug and concrete for the sloping floor will be poured this week, giving it time to dry before harvest. We will then knock through the walls to connect the two buildings and work will start on installing new offices, lab and tasting room. We had a successful fundraiser and 61 new stainless steel fermentation tanks will arrive from Croatia in September, at which point we will have more tanks than the British Army!

Some recent press coverage here:

Harpers

The Buyer

Decanter - Jackson Family Wines

Regards,

Henry



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