

Defined

Dear all,

rather naively, I imagined that things would quieten down after harvest ended....That hasn't happened, mainly because we have been planning how to expand next year following some significant requests from a number of clients.

Rob and I have visited a number of other English wineries, which has been really instructive in seeing where the industry is at the moment. We are very clear that there is an opportunity to provide contract services based on a professional approach, which requires the right equipment, space and people. We have therefore been scaling up our lab and other equipment for next year (which included a flying visit to a winery equipment show in Montpellier); looking at how we expand our space; as well as recruiting more staff. You can read more in articles featuring us in this month's Vineyard magazine (see pages 23 and 25)



In the winery Rob, Owen and Pete have been monitoring the wines post ferment - a mixture of tasting and lab analysis. We have also experimented with some 'Pet Nat' (Petillant naturel, where the wine is bottled just before fermentation is finished, giving it some fizz in bottle. Cloudy, as no filtration prior to bottling, which was done by siphoning); have been fermenting palm juice for 'palm wine'; and have been asked to make some fruit based sparkling wines. Someone has also distilled some of our waste grape skins into a grappa. The main effort in the first part of the year however will be commissioning our disgorging and bottling lines, and getting clients' wine into bottle.

For those of you wondering how to get hold of

decent quality English wine, friends have recently set up a really cool subscription service CORKK. Once we have bottled some clients' wine, hopefully some of ours will be featured too!



Have a very Happy Christmas,

Regards,

Henry



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