

## **Medal winning producers**

EWOTYC	UKVA “English Wine of the Year Competition”
DWWA	Decanter Magazine “Decanter World Wine Awards”
IWC	International Wine Challenge
IWSC	International Wine and Spirit Competition

### **Astley Vineyards**

Astley, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire DY13 0RU

One of the UK’s oldest vineyards, first planted in 1971. They are unusual in making their sparkling wine from the grape variety Kerner. They have won many awards with their still wines and are now starting to do so with their sparklings.

### **Biddenden Vineyards**

Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent TN27 8DF

Kent’s oldest vineyard, first planted in 1969. They make a wide range of still wines and have won several major awards with wines made from Ortega. They are exceptional in the UK in growing Gamay and use it to make both still and sparkling wines.

### **Bookers Vineyard**

Bolney Wine Estate, Foxhole Lane, Bolney, West Sussex RH17 5NB

Bookers, whose wines are labelled under the “Bolney” name, are one of the largest of the UK’s vineyards and were established in 1972. They make a wide range of both still and sparkling wines, many of which have won awards.

### **Breaky Bottom Vineyard**

Rodmell, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3EX

One of the first UK vineyards to be planted on chalk and their Seyval blanc-based wines have always had a strong following, as well as winning many awards since their first vintage in 1976. Whilst their current wines are 100% Seyval blanc, future vintages will include both Chardonnay and Pinot noir which are now being grown.

### **Brightwell Vineyard**

Rush Court, Shillingford Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8LJ

Brightwell are one of the few remaining vineyards to use the GDC (Geneva Double Curtain) system of trellising, once very popular in this part of the country. Their wines have been successful, winning awards at both home and abroad.

### **Camel Valley Vineyard**

Nanstallon, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5LG

Winner of numerous awards, including coveted “Winemaker of the Year” in 2007, Camel Valley is one of the UK’s top vineyards, producing a wide range of both still and sparkling wines. Their

sparklings are made from both traditional UK varieties – Seyval blanc and Reichensteiner – as well as Pinot noir. Their wines are amongst the finest produced in the UK.

### **Carr Taylor Vineyards**

Wheel Lane, Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4SG

Carr Taylor started making bottle-fermented sparkling wines in 1983 and was the first UK vineyard to produce commercial quantities. From the outset traditional UK varieties – Reichensteiner, Schönburger, Müller-Thurgau and Kerner – were used and it is only in recent years that the Champagne varieties have made an appearance. Their wines often win awards in overseas competitions, most notably the *Challenge International du Vin* in Bordeaux.

### **Chapel Down Wines**

Tenterden Vineyard, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7NG

Until Nyetimber and RidgeView appeared, Chapel Down were the largest UK wine producer of bottle-fermented sparkling wines (as well as still wines). Under their founder-winemaker, David Cowderoy, they set the standard for UK-sparkling wines and their non-vintage *Chapel Down Brut* is still the market leader in the non-Champagne variety wines. In recent years, their winemaking has been directed more and more towards sparkling wines and whilst their *Chapel Down Brut* – probably the best value UK sparkler – contains 70% Reichensteiner and Müller-Thurgau, Pinot noir now accounts for the other 30%. They make a wide range of sparkling wines, some of them excellent and their award and medal tally is high.

### **Davenport Vineyard**

Limney Farm, Castle Hill, Rotherfield, East Sussex TN6 3RR

One of the few organic vineyards in the commercial mainstream, Davenport produces a wide range of both still and sparkling. Their sparklings have won their share of prizes and they also made the *Duchy Originals English Sparkling Wine* which is now sold out. They also own a vineyard at Horsmonden in Kent.

### **Denbies Wine Estate**

London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA

Although no longer the largest UK vineyard, Denbies are still a substantial wine producer and make a very large range of both still, and increasingly, sparkling wines. They use both the classic Champagne varieties as well as Seyval blanc and Reichensteiner and have won several notable awards.

### **Gusbourne Estate Vineyard**

Kenardington Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2BE

A newcomer to the UK-winegrowing scene, Gusbourne have started out at a gallop by getting top score in Jancis Robinson's comprehensive tasting of the wines at the 2010 St. George's Day event. They have a superb site, grow great grapes and take them to RidgeView for processing. Awards and trophies will surely follow.

### **Hush Heath Estate (Balfour Brut Rosé)**

Hush Heath Farm, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2NG

Although only planted in 2002, Hush Heath Estate's *Balfour Brut Rosé* has won a number of awards with all three of their released vintages: 2004, 2005 and 2006. They only produce one wine and for the 2010 vintage, winemaking will take place in a brand new on-site winery, rather than taking the grapes to Chapel Down.

### **Ickworth Vineyard**

c/o Fortlands, Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 2BNé

Location of vineyard: Ickworth House, Horringer, Bury St Edmunds, IP29 5QE

Ickworth at 0.8 ha is one of the smaller sparkling wine producers, but their *Suffolk Pink*, made from Auxerrois and Pinot noir, with a touch of Rondo in the dosage to give added colour, has won several awards. In the 2005 EWOTYC they won a Gold Medal and the President's Trophy for their Bacchus-based *Walled Garden White*.

### **Jenkyn Place Vineyard**

Hole Lane, Bentley, Alton, Hampshire, GU10 5LU

With the first vines planted in 2004, Jenkyn Place has hit the ground running with its first vintage – the 2006 – winning a Bronze Medal in the 2009 EWOTYC. More vines were planted in 2010 and the total area is now 5.5 ha making it one of the UK's larger vineyards. Only Champagne varieties are grown.

### **Meopham Valley Vineyard**

Norway House, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent DA13 0AU

Since Meopham started making sparkling wines in 2002, they have won several medals. They make wines from a classic Chardonnay and Pinot noir blend as well as one made from Reichensteiner.

### **Nutbourne Vineyards**

Gay Street, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2HH

At over 7 ha, Nutbourne is one of the larger vineyards in the UK and was first established in 1981. Over the years it has won several medals including Silver for its 2006 *Nutty Brut* made from Reichensteiner and Pinot noir. Until now, all wines have been made off-site – for the last decade at Chapel Down – but from the 2010 vintage it will have its own winery in a joint venture with near-neighbour Redfold Vineyard and using the services of ex-Chapel Down winemaker, Owen Elias.

### **Nyetimber Vineyard**

Gay Street, West Chiltington, West Sussex RH20 2HH

At 174 ha (430 acres), Nyetimber is by far the largest UK vineyard and with almost 1,000 tonnes of grapes harvested in 2010, by far the largest producer. Their haul of medals and trophies is impressive – sixteen EWOTYC Gold Medals and four Gore-Browne trophies – and without doubt they are THE most medal-bedecked winery in the UK. They make two styles of wine – a classic three-variety blend called *Classic Cuvée* and a 100% Chardonnay *Blanc de Blancs*. Their speciality is long-aged biscuity, yeasty wines with a firm backbone of linear acidity. New ownership in 2006 brought a renewed impetus to the already successful business, with a major expansion of vineyards and a brand new winery scheduled for vintage 2012.

### **Parva Farm Vineyard**

Tintern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 6SQ, Wales

One of the very few award-winning Welsh vineyards, Parva Farm won Bronze in the 2009 EWOTYC with their *2006 Tintern Parva Dathliad Rosé* made from Seyval blanc, Pinot noir and Rondo and Highly Commended with their *2004 Tintern Parva Dathliad White* made from Seyval blanc and Pinot noir.

### **Pebblebed Wines**

Shop: The Wine Cellar, 46a Fore Street, Topsham, Devon EX3 0HY

Although only ten years old – the first of their four different vineyards was planted in 2000 – Pebblebed have won several medals. Their Seyval blanc and Rondo based *2006 Pebblebed Sparkling Rosé* won a Bronze in the 2008 EWOTYC.

### **Plumpton College Vineyard**

Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE

Plumpton College is the only UK educational establishment that has its own vineyards (it has 0.47 ha at Plumpton and leases vineyards at nearby Ditchling, 1.82 ha and Rock Lodge, 4.67 ha) and in recent years its sparkling - wines – *The Dean* and *The Dean Blush* – have started to win medals. In 2009 both of these Pinot noir and Chardonnay-based wines achieved Silver at the EWOTYC and in 2010 Silver at the IWSC.

### **RidgeView Wine Estate**

Fragbarrow Lane, Ditchling Common, East Sussex BN6 8TP

RidgeView are the second largest producer of sparkling wines in the UK and they produce an impressive range of very good quality, consistent and good value wines using grapes from both their own vineyards as well as those owned by their “partners”. Their tally of medals and awards is impressive – eleven EWOTYC Golds and four Gore-Browne Trophies, plus DWWA, IWC, and IWSC awards. Their output is increasing and whilst they are some way behind the size of Nyetimber, they are widely distributed and available in many different outlets. RidgeView also make the *South Ridge Cuvée Merret* range of sparkling wines sold by Laithwaites and the Sunday Times Wine Club.

### **Sandyford Vineyard**

Salix Farm, Great Sampford, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2QE

Although small – they only have 0.8 ha under vine – Sandyford have won several medals, including an EWOTYC Bronze in 2008 for their Bacchus and Reichensteiner-based *2004 Sandyford Sparkling*.

### **Sharpham Vineyard**

Sharpham Estate, Ashprington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 7UT

Although better known for their impressive still wine range, Sharpham’s sparklings have featured in the medal lists with a Bronze in the 2009 EWOTYC for their *2004 Sharpham Sparkling*

### **Stanlake Park Wine Estate**

Twyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 0BN

Stanlake Park – formerly known as Thames Valley Vineyards and then Valley Vineyards – has a very impressive track-record since their first EWOTYC success in 1988. Under the previous ownership, their *Ascot Sparkling* (often made from Gamay sourced from the now-defunct Send Vineyard) and

*Heritage Brut* and *Heritage Rosé* were often medal winners. These last two wines won the Gore-Browne Trophy in 1996 and 1998 respectively. Their *2006 Stanlake Brut* won Silver in the 2006 EWOTYC.

### **Surrenden Vineyard**

Walnut Tree Farm, Swan Lane, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent TN27 0ES

Surrenden – established in 1986 and 1987 – is reputed to be the first UK vineyard to plant the Champagne varieties specifically for the production of bottle-fermented sparkling wine. They also have the distinction of having supplied RidgeView with grapes which formed part of the blend that went into RidgeView's *1996 Bloomsbury* which won the Gore-Browne Trophy in 2000. Their 2003 won a Bronze Medal in the 2008 EWOTYC. Surrenden make a long lasting wine – current vintages are 2004 and 2006 – which improve with age.

### **Theale Vineyard**

Laithwaites, New Aquitaine House, Exeter Way, Theale, Reading, Berkshire RG7 4PL

Theale vineyard is definitely the smallest vineyard in this selection – only 704 vines – and is planted on what was a pile of builder's rubble outside the offices of Tony and Barbara Laithwaite, owners of Laithwaites direct-sales wine company. Their really excellent *2003 Theale Founder's Reserve* picked up a Silver in the 2007 IWC and a Gold Medal and top ten position in the French sparkling wine competition *Effervescents du Monde* in 2007. Their current vintage is the 2005.

### **Three Choirs Vineyard**

Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1LS

Three Choirs are one of the top five producers by volume in the UK and make a wide range of both still and sparkling wines. Their non-vintage *Three Choirs Classic Cuvée* – mainly made from Seyval blanc and Reichensteiner with 10% Pinot noir – won a Bronze medal in both the 2008 and 2009 EWOTYC.

### **Throwley Vineyard**

The Old Rectory, Throwley, Faversham, Kent ME13 0PF

Throwley have been growing Chardonnay and Pinot noir for the production of sparkling wines since 1986 and have achieved considerable success with them. Their *1989 Sparkling Chardonnay* won the English Wine Trophy and a Gold medal at the 1992 IWSC. Their *2003 Throwley Sparkling Brut* – 50% Chardonnay and 50% Pinot noir – won a Bronze in the 2010 IWSC.

### **Tiltridge Vineyard**

Upper Hook Road, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire WR8 0SA

Although quite a small vineyard – only 0.74 ha – Tiltridge manage to get their fair share of awards. They currently offer a Seyval-based wine, the *2006 Elgar Sparkling* which in the past has been a medal winner.

### **Warden Abbey Vineyard**

Southill Park, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 9LJ

Warden Abbey – one of the very few vineyards in Bedfordshire – have been making sparkling wines since 1998. Their current offerings are a Bacchus, Reichensteiner blend *2007 Warden Abbey Vineyard Extra Dry*, which won a Bronze medal at the 2010 IWC and their *2007 Abbot Brut* made from Regner, Reichensteiner, Müller-Thurgau and Bacchus.

### **Welland Valley Vineyard**

Vine Lodge, Marston Trussell, Market Harborough, Northamptonshire LE16 9TX

Welland Valley make sparkling wines using Reichensteiner and Seyval blanc. Their current offerings are a *2006 Steeplechase Brut* and a *2007 Tickled Pink Brut Rosé*. Their 2002 and 2003 both won EWOTYC Bronze medals.

### **Wickham Vineyards**

Wickham Holdings, Botley Road, Shedfield, Southampton, Hampshire SO32 2HL

Wickham Vineyards encompasses almost 14 ha of vineyards both at Shedfield and Shotley in Suffolk, together with the well-known rent-a-vine scheme called WineShare, is one of the more established and larger of the UK's wine producers. Although better known for their still wine, they currently have two sparkling wines, both rosé: *Wickham Rosé Brut* and *Wickham Rosé Demi-Sec*.

### **Wroxeter Roman Vineyard**

Wroxeter, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6PQ

Wroxeter make a large number of still wines, many of which have won awards, together with two sparkling wines, a rosé and a white, both of which have won EWOTYC Bronze medals.

### **Wyken Vineyard**

Stanton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP31 2DW

Although better known for their still wines, Wyken also produce a sparkling *NV Wyken Moonshine* from Auxerrois and Pinot noir which in 2004 won a Bronze at the EWOTYC.

### **Yearlstone Vineyard**

Bickleigh, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8RL

Devon's oldest vineyard has been winning awards for both still and sparkling wines for several years. Its white sparkling wines are made from Seyval blanc and its rosé from Dornfelder and Pinot noir.