



BOTHY VINEYARD SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARDS

We are very excited to tell you that in the national competition for English and Welsh wines, Bothy Vineyard scooped Silver medals for both of the wines which it entered; the *Oxford Dry 2007* (very aromatic and complex – almost Sauvignon Blanc like) and *The Paradox* (quite sweet and rich with great length – great on its own or with rich meats, cheeses or strawberries). *The Paradox* won the Berwick Trophy for the best unchaptalised wine. The UKVA General Secretary (Sian!) refused to allow me to enter the *Oxford Pink* which sold out shortly before the competition, since one of the rules states that all wines entered must be available for sale. However, we feel certain that it would also have won a silver medal. We will enter it into the local competition in September where such rules do not exist!

As hinted above, we have run out of our first ever rosé, the *Oxford Pink*. We have also sold over half of each of the white wines, so if you have not yet tried these or wish to build up stocks to see you through to next year, don't leave it too long!

Richard Liwicki



Richard and Sian at the prize presentation at the House of Lords

NEW BOTHY PRODUCTS

As many of you are aware, we try to manage the vineyard, wine production, and indeed our lives in an environmentally sensitive way and produce our wines as naturally as possible.

Our latest venture is to offer Hessian Bothy Bottle Carriers for 6 bottles. These have been produced for us in an Indian factory which is Fairtrade and ethically accredited and is "carbon neutral". These bags cost us £4.50 each and we are offering them to you for the same price. And to encourage you to buy and use them, we are also offering you a 50p discount on every 6 bottles of wine which are carried out in our carriers until the end of 2010 (you will need two carriers to also benefit from the case discount prices).

(Please note we are still happy to receive the good quality wine boxes that so many of you bring along to our shop).

And of course, we are still offering our stylish unbleached cotton T-shirts for just £7.

Our shop is open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am to 5 pm; first Sunday of the month and Bank Holidays 11 am to 4pm. We will also serve customers by prior arrangement outside these eccentric opening hours!

Bothy Vineyard only accepts cash or cheques.

OTHER VINEYARD NEWS

2008 will be our seventh vintage at the vineyard. The weather was remarkably kind to us for our first three years but since then it has been more challenging. In 2005 we lost our entire production due to frost; 2006 lost half of our production due to sour rot at vintage time (due to a very warm and wet autumn); 2007 lost half of our production to incessant rain during flowering leading to poor fruit set.

Only time will tell what 2008 will bring, but so far we have lost a good number of fruiting canes in exceptionally strong winds – and it has not been exactly dry during flowering However, most of the vines which we planted in 2004 will produce their first, small crop this year.

Improving the soil—Richard spent an inordinate amount of time this spring spreading 180 tons of green waste compost in the vineyard in an attempt to improve soil structure and health. Time will tell whether this has a positive impact on the health of the vines and the quality of the fruit, but Richard has sworn never to order such a large quantity of compost ever again!

New varieties—We also planted a thousand new vines this year, mainly Solaris (white) and Acalon (red) to replace the Optima, but also some Findling replacing diseased vines. Many thanks once again to the volunteers who were dragged out at short notice when the vines were delivered two weeks earlier than expected!

www.bothyvineyard.co.uk
designed by Tim Irving

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