

T&CVA 2016 Annual Wine Challenge Results

The 2016 Wine Challenge was held at Hope & Harrow Vineyard and Winery on Sunday September 4th 2016. 46 wines from 14 vineyards were entered from the Region. The three judges led by Patricia Stefanowicz MW commented that the quality of the wines overall was very good.

Award	For	Winner
Mac Mackinnon Trophy	Best White Wine in any Class	Brightwell Crispin 2014
Sparkling Wine Trophy	Best Sparkling Wine (any colour)	Chafor Vintage Sparkling Wine 2013
Emmbrook Cup	Best Red Wine	Brightwell Oxford Regatta 2013
T&CVA Decanter	Best Wine Overall	Chafor Vintage Sparkling Wine 2013
Stefanowicz salver	Best still rose wine	Stanlake Park Pinot blush 2014
Anne Howitt Shield	Best Non-Commercial Wine	Not awarded this year



Four trophies were presented at the meeting (see photos). Mike Dean of Vernon Lodge was unable to make the meeting to collect the Anne Howitt Salver for best non-Commercial Wine.



Tribute to John Petersen: Dropmore Vineyard

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of John Petersen on March 29th 2016 following a 4-year battle with multiple myeloma. John was a very active member of the T&CVA and always participated in our events. He will be sadly missed. The Stefanowicz salver for the Best Rose wine 2015 was awarded posthumously to John and will be given to his widow, Feona, who intends to carry on John's good work in the vineyard. Members of the T&CVA gave a toast to John's memory with a glass of his award winning Rose wine, at the AGM.

Another scoop of medals for Alder Ridge Vineyard as they pick up Gold and Silver at The Champagne and Sparkling Wine World Championship!

Alder Ridge Vineyard, based at Cobbs Farm in West Berkshire was established in 2011. Nestled into the Kennet Valley on southerly facing and chalky slopes, there was no question about planting the classic Champagne style grapes; including Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and more recently Pinot Precoce and Pinout Meunier. The attention given to these vines borders on the obsessive but what has been proven, is the ability to produce world class English Sparkling Wines as they pick up yet more awards 20 months after releasing their first vintage.



In 2016, their 2013 Blanc de Noirs beat some of the bigger French Champagne houses (such as Taittinger and Veuve Clicquot) in blind tastings at the International Wine Challenge where they were awarded a Silver and later in the year a very respectable Gold at the English & Welsh Wine Awards. This latest haul, from the prestigious Champagne and Sparkling Wine World Championships 2017, saw their 2013 Blanc de Noirs awarded Gold and their recently released 2013 Classic Cuvée a Silver medal. These awards pull together the very best in class of Champagne and sparkling wine from all over the world, with only 127 Gold medals and 167 Silver medals being awarded internationally.

Tom Newey, CEO of Cobbs Farm Co. Ltd says “We couldn’t be prouder of the recognition we’ve been given in these very tough and no less prestigious competitions. To think that our unique little vineyard in England is being awarded the same level of recognition as some of the centuries old classic French Champagne houses like Dom Pérignon or Vranken Pommery is incredibly humbling. These awards drive our passion to continue to produce exceptional English Sparkling Wines to the very best of our abilities.”

NOTES TO EDITORS The CSWWC is the most respected, comprehensive and rigorous international sparkling wine competition in the world, judged exclusively by renowned fizz experts Tom Stevenson, Essi Avellan MW and Dr Tony Jordan, together with permanent reserve judge George Márkus. No other fizz competition is as tough, nor can match the consistency and accuracy of judging.