

PRIORS DEAN VINEYARD

FINE ENGLISH WINE

www.priorsdeanvineyard.co.uk

Information and sales.

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NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2007

The Harvest

I suppose the best I can say is 'that it could have been worse'. The bad weather at flowering time really hit us. The vines dislike getting their petals wet, and if the bad weather lasts for more than a day or so they just give up. If you remember back to June and July – flowering time – there was almost continuous rain. Luckily one of our varieties, Madeleine Angevine, is not quite so fussy, and managed to produce about two thirds of its normal crop. However the Bacchus failed completely, and our usually reliable Seyval Blanc was very depleted.

We usually have two pickings at harvest, the Madeleine and Bacchus first, and then the Seyvals, which ripen later, about three weeks after. This time however there were so few bunches on the Seyval that we decided to do only one picking. The winery charges a pressing fee for every load we send, regardless of the weight, so we need a worthwhile quantity. In the end we didn't do too badly, we got .07 of a tonne, which made 500 litres of juice. This should produce getting on for 600 bottles. The grapes were also reasonable quality, with good sugar and low acid so should produce a good wine. Apologies to those who couldn't make the first picking and were hoping to come later. You will be on the list for next year.

We are certainly not alone in having a poor crop. It was the same all over the country. One vineyard of 7 acres got nothing at all. Even France had 10% less this year. Lets hope for better next summer.

Working parties

It is no exaggeration to say that without the help we have had this last year the vineyard would not have been able to keep going. There would probably have been no harvest at all. Both Jim and I are now well into our OAP status, and the vineyard slope seems to get steeper all the time! Our volunteers have helped with the pruning, both summer and winter and with tasks like raking up the prunings, which I certainly could not manage nowadays.

So we will be very grateful for your help again. Pruning days will be 6th and 20th. January to start with, and there will almost certainly be some days in February as well. Time 9.30 to 1.00 approx. Anyone is welcome, and training is given where required. We don't pay any money but free bottles of Priors Dean wine are available. An alternative is to adopt a row. You then get a key to the vineyard and can come when you like. Please would those who have been adopting a row confirm that they want to continue next year.

Sales

We are starting our Christmas wine deliveries now, so if you have not yet contacted us we are ready and waiting for your call. Remember what an excellent gift Priors Dean wine makes, and ideal as an aperitif in the festive season.

2003 Dry. Bronze Medal UKVA competition 2005. The judge's verdict was "Delicate, light, neutral, balanced". Silver Medal Wessex Area Wine of the Year competition 2005.

2005 Dry. This is our classic very dry white wine, which was awarded Highly Commended in this year's Wine of the Year competition. It was very well received at the Alresford show, and Blackmoor Apple day, and should mature well when kept.

Both wines £7.00 per bottle. £80 00 per case of 12 bottles

Delivery is free locally (within about 20 miles) of 6 bottles or more, and we can deliver smaller quantities locally for a small charge. For anything further afield we can arrange carriage at cost. Please contact me for details.

The wine is also available in the shops, but please note the price is not necessarily the same as ours. Also some have very limited stocks so best to check before making a special journey.

Blackmoor Farm Shop (Apple Shop)
Durleighmarsh Farm Shop
East Tisted Post Office Stores
Froxfield Stores
The General Wine Company Liphook
The Haslemere Cellar
Selborne Post Office Stores

And finally...

Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everybody and especially to all of you who have given us such support during the past year.

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Pam and Jim Morley

PS Jim's latest book 'Magdalena's redemption', an exciting thriller set mostly in the Hampshire countryside, is an ideal present. There is even a mention of Buttons Lane (the track to the vineyard). It is available from One Tree Books, Petersfield, from Amazon, or direct from Jim at a discount Tel.01420 538688