

PRIORS DEAN VINEYARD

FINE ENGLISH WINE

www.priorsdeanvineyard.co.uk

Information and sales.

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This year's crop

There was a time this summer when we had grave doubts about there being a crop. The vines should have been flowering in early July, but as we all know July meant almost continuous wetness and gloom. The vine flowers have a little cap over the petals, and this has to come off for them to be pollinated, if the atmosphere is damp the caps stick on, and after a bit the vine gives up and the buds fall off. They need sun and wind to release the petals and there was little of that this spring. They have normally finished flowering by the second week of July and all there was this year were a few half hearted petals showing on the occasional bunch. We expected the worst, so it was very encouraging to go to the vineyard when the hot weather started and find at least some of the bunches flowering their hearts out. We can't tell yet what sort of a crop we shall get or which varieties will be viable but at least all is not completely lost. In any case the harvest will probably be late this year.

Work parties – summer pruning

The vines have put on a lot of growth, but instead of hanging down neatly on the outside of the rows, they have wound themselves round all their neighbours, preventing the sun from reaching the grapes and encouraging disease. The job now is to disentangle them and trim off the surplus. Jim and I both have bad backs and are feeling our age! Help is desperately needed from our usual volunteers and anyone who would like to give a hand. The next dates are **Sunday 12 August** and **Sunday 26th August**. We start about 9.30 and finish at lunch time with a break for coffee, it is a help if you can let me know in advance if you can come but not essential, you can just turn up. Bring secateurs if possible. No money paid, but free Priors Dean wine available. Children and dogs welcome.

2011 Vintage

We are still waiting for this to come back from the winery. The grapes went to Hattingley Valley vineyard and Jim and I have been over several times and tasted the product through various stages. It looks like being very good. Unfortunately they have had a problem with the final filtration system and are waiting for new parts. It will have to stand a while after being bottled, but should be available soon.

Sales

Our Classic Dry 2009 vintage has proved very popular. It gained a Bronze Medal in the Wessex Area Competition last Autumn and only just missed out on a Silver. It is available from us @ £7.50 per bottle, or £85.00 per case of 12
We still have some of the 2006 Medium Dry at the discounted price of £5.00 per bottle, £60.00 per case.

Best wishes to everybody, we hope to see you either at the vineyard and/or at Alresford Show September 1st and Blackmoor Apple Day on October 14th