

Dear Customers
and Friends

BOTHY VINEYARD

Winter 2018

2018 The Year It All Happened

2018 was, without a doubt, an unforgettable and eventful year for Bothy Vineyard. We had more than our fair share of triumphs and challenges. Looking back it was incredible that we packed in so much, but we live tell the tale.....

The Beast from the East

The year kicked off with the Beast From the East – an unusually long and sustained period of cold in late winter. It made working on the vineyard hard work, but we were used to that. The beast crucially kept our vines dormant until late Spring. And when the weather turned warm, it remained warm and dry through the Summer. For the first time in years, we avoided destructive Spring frosts and the weather also remained fair over the flowering period (June), so fruit set was excellent. The vines absolutely loved the long dry summer, showing not the slightest sign of stress whilst the grass turned yellow all around. The grapes plumped up and disease, normally attributed to high humidity, was absent. There might have been just a touch of sun-burn on the grapes, but nothing disastrous. The stage was set for one of earliest, and best, harvests on Bothy records.

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40 years of wine making

This was also the year that Bothy Vineyard turned 40. The first vines in Frilford Heath were planted by Dorothy and Roger Fisher in 1978, making us the oldest, continuously running vineyard-winery in the county. We had to celebrate and we did so through the year. Firstly we bought for the winery, a brand new semi-automatic corking machine, which marked our on-going love-affair with cork.

Cake-and-bubbly parties were held for visitors over English Wine Week, grabbing the news headlines in May. Then we threw a big Thank You party for our volunteers and supporters in August, and for the first time we got the weather wrong. It turned out to be one of the rare, out and out, unrelenting

wet days in that period. In true British style, we nevertheless managed to turn out a BBQ and a comparative tasting of different English wines. Much good-natured mingling was had by all under the tarpaulin, as we toasted the vineyard we love. Our volunteers – what stars!

Then the Awards

Just as our attention was focussed on the September art exhibition we were delighted and surprised to learn that Bothy Vineyard had swept up two of the main awards at the Thames and Chilterns Vineyards Association annual wine challenge. The

2017 Doctor's Bacchus walked away with the trophy for Best White Wine, as well as the Overall Best Wine at the 2018 competition (pic: Richard and Sian Liwicki with judge Yannick Joseph, posing with trophies). Renaissance gleaned a silver. We had only submitted two wines. It was a proud milestone in an exceptionally exciting year.



Sculpture in the Vineyard

Coming at the end of a hot, but perfect summer, the much-heralded Sculpture in the Vineyard exhibition kicked off on 8th September. You probably saw the publicity and the road signs – and indeed many of you visited. It was truly spectacular. Under the curatorship of Dawn Benson, preparations of the grounds started weeks in advance and every piece of art (over 250 pieces) was carefully installed to best advantage. Added to that was

“.....the weather changed and several hurricanes swept over Oxfordshire, buffeting the art in the tent.”

a lively mix of music performances, a pop-up alfresco lunch amongst the vines, workshops and art demonstrations, a treasure trail for the children and food - the most delicious cakes, wine tasting, barbeques for everyone. It was a memorable experience for our 4,250

CHRISTMAS OPENING DATES

Whilst regular opening hours have ceased to make time for the wine-making we are open by appointment. (All our tanks are full to the brim, and the 2018 vintage is looking good). Just ring or email us. Additionally visit us for tastings, nibbles, chat and sales on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd December, 11 am to 5 pm.

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visitors.

The main drama set in when it became apparent that Bothy had to start its harvest early, in the middle of exhibition. It was a huge challenge, but the ripening grapes could not wait. After only a week in the winery, all the indoor sculptures had to be moved out into the best marquee on site. That was not all that nature had in store for us – after one day the weather changed and the tails of several hurricanes swept over Oxfordshire, buf-

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feting the art in the tent. Whilst the team struggled to keep the other marquees safe for workshops and teas, the art pieces were once again moved, this time into the Bothy Shop. It was no mean feat, keeping the show on the road whilst 2 harvests took place.

We had never worked so hard but it worked out in the end – 11 tonnes of grapes were brought in, £106,000 worth of art was sold and nearly £25,000 was raised for the two good causes the Heartstone Fund and Wild Oxfordshire. We would like to thank our sponsors AD Maclean, Susan Dunstall, Slade Legal of Abingdon, Carter Jonas, and North Oxford MINI for their support.

2018.....



WINE UPDATE

Announcing our new vintage sparkling rosé, the Halcyon Days 2016, which will be hitting our shelves just in time for toasting the new year. Our stocks of the award-winning 2017 Doctor's Bacchus, and Oxford Dry are perilously low. However, you might be interested to learn that the Renaissance, made from rich, soft and peachy Ortega, is opening up beautifully and would be an excellent companion at festive feasts. We also have good stocks of our red Coté Bothy and Oxford Pink. All details on the [wine page](#) of our website.



SITV - Fork in Pollen by Mark Reed. Courtesy of Wild Oxfordshire



Celebrating 40 years of wine-making in the Vale of the White Horse. Courtesy of Newsquest



The earliest harvest ever.

BOOK NOW FOR 2019 TOURS

For more details look up the [Visit Us Page](#) on our website.
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Would you like to hear more Bothy stories?
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CHRISTMAS
OPENING
21 AND 22
DECEMBER

A selection of wine-related gift bags, greeting cards, airplants on corks, gift vouchers and other gifts are also on sale.

[Sustainability](#) - Please keep bringing us your used wine boxes and corks. Bothy Vineyard is now the highest achieving collection centre for recycled corks in the UK under the Recorked UK social enterprise scheme. And it is all down to you helping us make our mark. Happy New Year to you all.