

# Biddenden

— V I N E Y A R D S —  
AND CIDER WORKS

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Biddenden Vineyards is toast of the House of Lords at wine awards ceremony

Biddenden Vineyards and Cider Works received a top honour at the House of Lords this week, which was presented by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, president of the United Kingdom Vineyards Association. Julian Barnes, managing director of the 22 acre estate in Biddenden, Kent, stepped forward to receive two trophies and a gold medal in 'The English & Welsh Wine of the Year Competition' for a single vintage – the **Biddenden Ortega 2008** still white wine.

After receiving his awards, Julian Barnes, managing director of Biddenden Vineyards, said: "I am absolutely thrilled to receive this double trophy award and gold medal for a single Biddenden vintage. These accolades symbolise the hard work the Barnes family have put into developing our award-winning vineyard over forty years and it is also recognition of our incredibly dedicated and talented staff at Biddenden. This is a team effort and it's a team I am remarkably proud of today!"

With the rising fortunes and international respect received for English sparkling wines, Julian said the recognition from the judges for one of Biddenden's still white wines was a particularly poignant victory for the vineyard. Julian said: "All the attention has been on how English wine growers have developed the expertise to produce excellent sparkling wines. So the double trophy and gold for our still Biddenden Ortega 2008 is sweet praise indeed and shows we are leading the field in producing outstanding still white wines and that we are

achieving our results naturally, without adding sugar to raise the alcoholic content of the wine.”

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The awards day at the House of Lords opened with a wine tasting for all the trophy winners' wines, a fabulous buffet lunch overlooking the London Eye, and then the award ceremony. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu presented Biddenden Vineyards' MD Julian Barnes with the Jack Ward Memorial Salver for the 'Best Wine of the Previous Vintage' and the Berwick Trophy for the 'Best Large Production Unchaptalised Still Wine'.

'The English & Welsh Wine of the Year Competition' 2009, was judged by eight independent Masters of Wine, and won high praise from Patricia Stefanowicz, chair of the judges: "We were particularly impressed with the off dry category, where a successful balance of sugar and fruit was achieved – this was reflected in the awards, with a gold medal and double trophy winner for an unchaptalised Ortega. Our congratulations to Biddenden Vineyards."

The celebrations look set to continue for Biddenden Vineyards in September, when it hosts a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party to thank and celebrate with its customers, supporters, friends and staff at the vineyard. As Julian said: "It's incredible to think that my father started this whole vision to run an English vineyard in 1969, with just one acre vineyard. Now we are operating Kent's oldest commercial vineyard which stretches across 22 acres. It's also a business that has become a key visitor and tourist destination with 33,000 visitors each year enjoying the bespoke vineyard tours and tastings, as well as the shop and visitor centre. We've come a long way!"

For more visit [www.biddendenvineyards.com](http://www.biddendenvineyards.com) , telephone: +44 (0)1580 291726 or E: [info@biddendenvineyards.co.uk](mailto:info@biddendenvineyards.co.uk)

**Pictured:** Managing director Julian Barnes of Biddenden Vineyards with wife Sally Barnes outside the House of Lords

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Issued: 24 July 2009

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