

A Taste of Chilterns' Terroir

31 January 2017

The Chilterns is a living, working area of beautiful countryside whose character has been shaped by agriculture, industry and the people who have lived and worked here over the centuries. Once the larder of London, the historic market towns, tucked-away villages, vineyards, pubs, farmland, chalk-fed streams and ancient woods all hint at the growing, trading and of course, enjoyment of good local food and drink.

The Romans were the first to grow vines on the thin chalky soils of the Chiltern slopes. Vineyards and breweries still thrive here, producing a range of award-winning wines, liqueurs and ales. Enjoying what's home-grown in local pubs, restaurants or on a tasting tour is becoming more popular.

Here are our sparkling favourites, all have tours and tastings and on-site shops.

Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery has won scores of trophies and commendations with wines from its vineyard overlooking the lovely Hambleden Valley outside Henley-on-Thames. They produce a wide of wines, including sparkling and their microbrewery is the first in the UK to hold a Royal Warrant and if you can't make it back onto the road after a tasting and tour, you can stay in the B&B in the vineyard farmhouse. www.chilternvalley.co.uk

Harrow & Hope is a family run winery in Marlow, making an impact with their sparkling wine. They bought the farm seven years ago and have been working hard to perfect their range, fermenting in small batches to separate areas of the vineyard, so that when it comes to blending they have as many options as possible available to us. Increasingly stocked in pubs across the Chilterns and can be tasted in the shop. www.harrowandhope.com

Daws Hill Vineyard has coped with everything nature can throw at a new wine grower and his young vines. Located in the beautiful Radnage Valley, famous for the now-abundant red kites that can be seen between October and April, the vineyard is set to produce a total of between 8,000 and 10,000 bottles a year. The majority will be sparkling, but in good years a Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, probably oak aged, will be produced. Tour are by appointment only. www.dawshillvineyard.co.uk

Fawley Vineyard, whilst small, sees Wendy and Nick Sargent, produce excellent wines- the sparkling won a Gold medal and Best sparkling in show at the T&CVA 2005 competition. The sparkling wine is a regular medal winner at local and national competitions and received a Gold medal at the TCVA competition in 2005. The vineyard produces still and sparkling wines more or less in alternate years. The shop is open by appointment only www.gbvg.uk/vineyard/fawley-vineyard

Bookmark <http://www.visitchilterns.co.uk/food-and-drink/vineyard-brewery-tours.html> for more information on day's out and food and drink itineraries.

Notes to Editors

1. This release has been distributed by the Chilterns Tourism Network (CTN), a not-for-profit company representing over 220 local Chilterns tourism businesses who work together to promote this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as a desirable place to in which to live, work and play.
2. www.VisitChilterns.co.uk or on find the Chilterns on FaceBook, or @VisitChitlerns.
3. The Chilterns stretches from the Thames in Oxfordshire through Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to Hitchin in Hertfordshire, north-west of London.
4. Accessible on Chiltern Railways, London Midland and the Metropolitan Line on the Underground.
5. High-res images and Chilterns press pack are available on request, and for further information or to discuss press trip opportunities, please contact Mary Tebje 07941 841058 or contact mary@visitchillterns.co.uk

