

Biddenden Vineyard Tour 24th May 2017.

Originally home to a 40 acre apple orchard, the Barnes family started to consider diversifying the farm in the late 1960s as apple prices began to decline. After listening to a feature on the BBC's Woman's Hour programme about English vineyards being replanted, Mrs. Barnes was inspired to turn to viticulture. In 1969, one third of an acre of vines was planted and Biddenden Vineyards was born.

Today our single estate vineyard spans 23 acres of gentle south facing slopes situated in a sheltered valley, just outside the picturesque Wealden village of Biddenden. 11 different grape varieties are grown here to produce our array of award-winning White, Rosé, Red and Sparkling English wines.

From the first Biddenden wine, which was bottled around 1972-3, production has now grown to around 80,000 bottles per year. All vine work on the estate is still carried out by hand, including pruning, canopy management and picking, with harvest running from mid to late September right through to November.

Our group did the Ploughman's Platter & Guided Tour at *£19.00 per person*.

We had a guided tour of the vineyard and winery followed by a Ploughman's Platter included a wedge of freshly baked local bread, Cheddar cheese and home baked ham served with salad and a selection of pickles. A glass of wine, cider or apple juice was served with the meal.

