

A sensational year for English wine

Thanks to the long Indian summer in England wine producers in the country are this year predicting a grape harvest of 'sensational' quality. The recent spell of hot weather that created a mini heatwave, combined with a previous hard winter and mild spring, should help produce a crop of tasty grapes, according to experts. Industry insiders regarded last year as phenomenal, with English producers turning out a record-breaking four million bottles, up by around a million on the previous year. The trade body English Wine Producers said they do not expect such a bountiful harvest this year because many vineyards are reporting smaller berries. But they are predicting a high quality of English wine, as the smaller grapes are expected to be concentrated with flavour.

Julia Trustam Eve, a spokesman for English Wine Producers: "The reports that we are getting from around the country is that people are happy with the quality. It's not going to be a massive volume but this last blast of summer weather has been magnificent in raising sugar levels and lowering the acid content." She added, "We are expecting to have a high quality of vintage and various factors govern that. We have had a wonderful spring, and although we didn't have a fantastic summer, rainfall was low and that has contributed to smaller grapes. Although we don't think we will be hitting any records this year in terms of volume, we prefer to have quality over quantity any day."

A good quality of harvest will add to the reputation of English growers who have collected some of the world's highest awards for white and sparkling wine. Frazer Thompson, managing director of Chapel Down wines in Tenterden, Kent – a producer who has gained support from chefs Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsey and Gary Rhodes – was excited about this year's crop. He said: "The recent heatwave, plus last-minute ripening grapes, means we are looking at the potential for an absolutely sensational year for English wine." Chapel Down has won plaudits across the UK and internationally, with distribution in Marks and Spencer, Waitrose and Selfridges.

Category: England / Wines / Grape harvest

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Wine: Briefly, what three things do you know about wine? Go round the room swapping details.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

6. Local wine: In pairs think of five regions in your country that make wine. Then add five well known local brands of wine that are produced in your country. Write them below. Discuss together. Where is the best local wine produced?

Your country	Wine brands in your country
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. International wine: In pairs think of five well known wine regions in the world that produce good quality wine. Then add five well known international brands of wine that are produced. From which country are they produced? Write them below. Discuss together. Where can you buy these wines?

Wine regions in the world	Famous international wine brands
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

A sensational year for English Wine – 20th October 2011

8. **Let's roleplay: Vineyard FM:** In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Vineyard FM* studio in France. Today's interview is about: *Are English wines better than wines from my country?* 5-10 minutes.

1	A vineyard owner in your country	3	A wine connoisseur
2	A vineyard owner from England	4	A supermarket wine manager

The teacher will choose some pairs/groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

9. **Vineyards and wine:** In pairs discuss the following...

1	The things you might see in a vineyard around harvest time
2	How you make wine?
3	The things you might see in a wine cellar

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

10. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **Wines**. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

11. **Presentation:** In pairs, groups or individually: Prepare in class or at home a two minute presentation on: **Wines from my country**. Stand at the front of the class to give your presentation to the class. The class can vote on the best presentation.

12. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the trade body.
- 2) What type of summer is mentioned? When does this happen?
- 3) Name the English vineyard.
- 4) Name the famous chefs.
- 5) Name the supermarkets.

Student B

- 1) Name the people mentioned in the article.
- 2) What did industry insiders think about last year's English wine crop?
- 3) What did the trade body say?
- 4) Sum up what the spokesman from the trade body said.
- 5) What did the managing director of the wine producer say?

13. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **'English wines'**

14. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) English wines _____
- b) The best wine _____
- c) My favourite wine _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you think of English wine?
- 3) How does English wine compare to wine from your country?
- 4) Is the wine harvest 'sensational' in your country this year?
- 5) What is a good wine year in your country?
- 6) Do you prefer to drink red or white wine? Explain. Why?
- 7) Do you prefer wine to other spirits or beer? Explain.
- 8) What is the best wine you have drunk?
- 9) What makes a good wine?
- 10) Why are some wines so expensive?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Have you ever tried any English wine? If yes, where? When?
- 3) What three bits of advice would you give an English wine grower?
- 4) What do all the things on a wine label mean?
- 5) Which is the best bottle of wine you drank recently?
- 6) Do you look out for the special offers when buying wine?
- 7) Where do you buy your wine?
- 8) Do you visit any vineyards and their cellars to try the locally made wine?
- 9) What's the difference between 'Old World' and 'New World' wines?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's discuss! 20 things about wine

Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1

Discuss the following:

20 things about wine

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A sensational year for English wine

Thanks to the long Indian summer in England wine producers in the country are this year predicting a grape (1)_____ of 'sensational' quality. The recent spell of hot (2)_____ that created a mini heatwave, combined with a previous hard winter and mild spring, should help produce a (3)_____ of tasty (4)_____, according to experts. Industry insiders regarded last year as phenomenal, with English producers turning out a record-breaking four million bottles, up by around a million on the previous year. The trade body English Wine Producers said they do not expect such a bountiful harvest this year because many (5)_____ are reporting smaller berries. But they are predicting a high quality of English wine, as the smaller grapes are expected to be concentrated with (6)_____. Julia Trustam Eve, a spokesman for English Wine Producers: "The reports that we are getting from around the country is that people are happy with the (7)_____. It's not going to be a massive volume but this last (8)_____ of summer weather has been magnificent in raising sugar levels and lowering the acid content."

vineyards

crop

weather

harvest

blast

flavour

quality

grapes

She added, "We are expecting to have a high quality of (1)_____ and various factors govern that. We have had a (2)_____ spring, and although we didn't have a fantastic summer, rainfall was low and that has contributed to smaller grapes. Although we don't think we will be hitting any records this year in terms of (3)_____, we prefer to have quality over quantity any day." A good quality of harvest will add to the (4)_____ of English growers who have collected some of the world's highest awards for white and sparkling wine. Frazer Thompson, managing director of Chapel Down wines in Tenterden, Kent – a producer who has gained support from chefs Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsey and Gary Rhodes – was excited about this year's crop. He said: "The recent (5)_____, plus last-minute (6)_____ grapes, means we are looking at the (7)_____ for an absolutely sensational year for English wine." Chapel Down has won (8)_____ across the UK and internationally, with distribution in Marks and Spencer, Waitrose and Selfridges.

plaudits

reputation

ripening

vintage

volume

potential

heatwave

wonderful

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

A sensational year for English wine

Thanks to the _____ in England wine producers in the country are this year predicting a grape harvest of 'sensational' quality. The recent spell of hot weather that created a mini heatwave, combined with a previous _____ spring, should help produce a crop of tasty grapes, according to experts. Industry insiders regarded last year as phenomenal, with English producers turning out a record-breaking four million bottles, up by around a million on the previous year. The trade body English Wine Producers said they do not expect such a bountiful harvest this year because many vineyards are _____. But they are predicting a high quality of English wine, as the smaller grapes are expected to be _____.

Julia Trustam Eve, a spokesman for English Wine Producers: "The reports that we are getting from around the country is that people are happy with the quality. It's not going to be a massive volume _____ of summer weather has been magnificent in raising sugar levels and lowering the acid content." She added, "_____ have a high quality of vintage and various factors govern that. We have had a wonderful spring, and although we didn't have a fantastic summer, _____ that has contributed to smaller grapes. Although we don't think we will be hitting any records this year in terms of volume, we prefer to have _____ any day."

A good quality of harvest will add to the _____ growers who have collected some of the world's highest awards for _____ wine. Frazer Thompson, managing director of Chapel Down wines in Tenterden, Kent – a producer who has gained support from chefs Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsey and Gary Rhodes – was excited about this year's crop. He said: "_____, plus last-minute ripening grapes, means we are looking at the potential for an absolutely sensational year for English wine." Chapel Down has won plaudits across the UK and internationally, with distribution _____, Waitrose and Selfridges.

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

A sensational year for English wine

Thanks to the long Indian summer in England wine producers in the country are this year predicting a grape harvest of 'sensational' quality. The recent spell of hot weather (1)___ created a mini heatwave, combined with a previous hard winter and mild spring, (2)___ help produce a crop of tasty grapes, according to experts. Industry insiders regarded last year as phenomenal, (3)___ English producers turning out a record-breaking four million bottles, up by around a million on the previous year. The trade body English Wine Producers said they do not expect (4)___ a bountiful harvest this year because (5)___ vineyards are reporting smaller berries. But (6)___ are predicting a high quality of English wine, as the smaller grapes are expected to be concentrated with flavour. Julia Trustam Eve, a spokesman for English Wine Producers: "The reports that we are getting from around the country is (7)___ people are happy with the quality. It's not going to be a massive volume but (8)___ last blast of summer weather has been magnificent in raising sugar levels and lowering the acid content."

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(1)___ added, "We are expecting to have a high quality of vintage and various factors govern that. We have had (2)___ wonderful spring, and although (3)___ didn't have a fantastic summer, rainfall was low and that has contributed to smaller grapes. Although we don't think we will be hitting any records this year in terms of volume, we prefer to have quality over quantity any day." A good quality (4)___ harvest will add to the reputation of English growers (5)___ have collected some of the world's highest awards (6)___ white and sparkling wine. Frazer Thompson, managing director of Chapel Down wines in Tenterden, Kent – a producer who has gained support from chefs Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsey (7)___ Gary Rhodes – was excited about this year's crop. He said: "(8)___ recent heatwave, plus last-minute ripening grapes, means we are looking at the potential for an absolutely sensational year for English wine." Chapel Down has won plaudits across the UK and internationally, with distribution in Marks and Spencer, Waitrose and Selfridges.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	sensational	11	weather
2	absolutely	12	heatwave
3	vintage	13	previous
4	govern	14	tasty
5	bountiful	15	although
6	concentrated	16	fantastic
7	phenomenal	17	contributed
8	spokesman	18	predicting
9	massive	19	million
10	reputation	20	blast

LINKS

<http://www.english-wine.com/vineyards.html>

<http://english-wine.com/>

<http://www.wine-pages.com/organise/chapel-down.htm>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/uk/travellers-guide-english-vineyards-2363612.html>

<http://ezinearticles.com/?A-Guide-to-English-Vineyards-to-Visit-Locally-Near-Rye-in-East-Sussex&id=6578960>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: A sensational year for English wine: Thanks to the long Indian summer in England wine producers in the country are this year predicting a grape **harvest** of 'sensational' quality. The recent spell of hot **weather** that created a mini heatwave, combined with a previous hard winter and mild spring, should help produce a **crop** of tasty **grapes**, according to experts. Industry insiders regarded last year as phenomenal, with English producers turning out a record-breaking four million bottles, up by around a million on the previous year. The trade body English Wine Producers said they do not expect such a bountiful harvest this year because many **vineyards** are reporting smaller berries. But they are predicting a high quality of English wine, as the smaller grapes are expected to be concentrated with **flavour**. Julia Trustam Eve, a spokesman for English Wine Producers: "The reports that we are getting from around the country is that people are happy with the **quality**. It's not going to be a massive volume but this last **blast** of summer weather has been magnificent in raising sugar levels and lowering the acid content."

She added, "We are expecting to have a high quality of **vintage** and various factors govern that. We have had a **wonderful** spring, and although we didn't have a fantastic summer, rainfall was low and that has contributed to smaller grapes. Although we don't think we will be hitting any records this year in terms of **volume**, we prefer to have quality over quantity any day." A good quality of harvest will add to the **reputation** of English growers who have collected some of the world's highest awards for white and sparkling wine. Frazer Thompson, managing director of Chapel Down wines in Tenterden, Kent – a producer who has gained support from chefs Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsey and Gary Rhodes – was excited about this year's crop. He said: "The recent **heatwave**, plus last-minute **ripening** grapes, means we are looking at the **potential** for an absolutely sensational year for English wine." Chapel Down has won **plaudits** across the UK and internationally, with distribution in Marks and Spencer, Waitrose and Selfridges.(V3)

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