

## UK Vineyards continue to expand

The most recent Wine Standards Branch (WSB) figures for vine varieties grown in the UK have just been released and show a jump from 2009's total of 1,215 ha to a new total of 1,323.5 ha – a jump of almost 9%. The increase is a result of new plantings of 111 ha with around 2.5 ha of vines having been grubbed. However, as WSB figures traditionally lag behind reality by at least 12 if not 24 months, the true planted area is probably nearer 1,500 ha, with the Champagne varieties topping 650 ha.

New plantings are predominantly of the three classic Champagne varieties – Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier – which have risen by 17.5% in one year, from 468 ha to 550 ha, with Chardonnay overtaking Pinot Noir as the most widely planted variety. Seyval blanc, also used widely in UK sparkling wines, put on another 4 ha to bring it to 93 ha, making it the fourth most widely planted variety, followed by Meunier with just under 4 ha. Other varieties to increase include Solaris, Rondo and Ortega.

WSB press release also confirms that the area under production is now 1,095 ha – up from 946 ha – and that there are now 404 commercial vineyards and 114 wineries. There are also an additional 74 “amateur” vineyards who do not sell wine.

HM Revenue and Customs figures show that sales of UK produced wines continue to increase. Duty payments of UK wines grew in the latest 6 months for which figures are available (January-June 2009) by 43% from 7,683 hl (1.024 m x 75 cl bottles) to 10,993 hl (1.466 m x 75 cl bottles) for the same period in 2010. 2009's total of 23,965 hl (3.195 m x 75 cl bottles) looks like being comfortably overtaken and ought to top 30,000 hl (4 m x 75 cl bottles). These figures do not include wines sold under bond i.e. exports, sales to ships, embassies or embassies.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Variety - 2010</b>	<b>Ha</b>
1	Chardonnay	249.30
2	Pinot Noir	247.77
3	Bacchus	128.35
4	Seyval Blanc	92.99
5	Reichensteiner	85.38
6	Muller Thurgau	61.39
7	Meunier	52.58
8	Madeleine Angevine	47.03
9	Rondo	44.91
10	Schonburger	42.03
11	Ortega	29.67
12	Pinot Blanc	21.34
13	Phoenix	21.19

14	Regent	19.49
15	Dornfelder	18.54
16	Pinot Noir Précoce	18.39
17	Huxelrebe	17.44
18	Triomphe	15.04
19	Siegerrebe	12.79
20	Orion	10.76
	Others	87.11
	UK Total	1323.50