

Extending the life of stored fruit

Growers of apples and pears attended a technical meeting organised by Janny MT at Qgardens near Abingdon in Oxfordshire on Thursday 28 January.

Janny MT has developed a unique system of storage modules for use in conventional cold stores that will extend the storage period for apples and pears from four months in ambient cold storage to seven months and for cherries from six to 25 days.

The plastic storage bins replace the traditional wooden bins but have a unique airtight lid that reduces the metabolism and extends storage life. Once the fruit is

harvested the first step is to place the fruit in the plastic boxes and store at 2C for two days. The lids are then fitted, each having six circular vents incorporating a unique membrane that allows oxygen to enter and carbon dioxide to escape. This maintains the fruit freshness the same as the day it was picked.

The storage system was demonstrated by Caroline Pomarede, export manager at Janny MT. Since its introduction in 2009 the Janny MT system has been used in more than 30 countries worldwide, with 30,000 modules in use.

Kent estate named as English Wine Producer of the Year 2015

Gusbourne Estate in Kent has been named English Wine Producer of the Year 2015 by the International Wine and Spirit Competition (IWSC). It was the only English winery to be awarded the IWSC's highest accolade last year, winning two IWSC gold medals and one gold-outstanding.

Founded in 2004, Gusbourne's 93ha of vineyards in Kent and West Sussex grow the three main traditional Champagne grapes: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Two still wines are also produced: Guinevere Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, considered one of the most promising English still red wines. Gusbourne's winemaker,

Charlie Holland said: "In 2015 we secured some outstanding on-trade clients including: Heston Blumenthal's The Fat Duck in Bray; Gordon Ramsay's Royal Hospital Road in Chelsea and Simon Rogan's foraging-focused L'Enclume in Cumbria. We will continue to develop our on-trade connections this year".

The award follows the continued rise of English wines as demonstrated by successes earlier in 2015 with the IWSC's northern hemisphere results when English wines were awarded a record-breaking 80 medals. The award was made at the IWSC's annual award banquet held in London's Guildhall on 27 November.



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