

Cornish fizz puts Moët in the shade

NEIL PALMER

A CORNISH vineyard has confirmed its position among the world's top wine producers by winning a top international award.

The Camel Valley Vineyard has picked up a gold award at the International Wine Challenge Awards, arguably the top international wine awards, for its 2001 Cornwall Sparkling Brut, beating famous brands, including Moët and Chandon, in a blind tasting.

It was the only English vineyard and only sparkling wine not from the Champagne region of France to win one of the 14 gold awards for sparkling wine. The father and son team running the business, Bob and Sam Lindo, were rightly pleased at their achievement, and also for what it could do in terms of promoting English wine.

"It is probably one of the best things we can get as far as we are concerned," said Sam Lindo.

"There were people there from France and Portugal who had flown over just to pick up bronze medals, that is how big a thing it is. This confirms our position as one of the best vineyards in England."

The awards are organised by the International Wine magazine, seen by many as the UK's wine Bible. This is the latest in a string of awards for the vineyard, which also won an award in the French wine industry's heartland at the Bordeaux international Vinexpo, for the same wine.

Camel Valley is also one of a handful of English vineyards to have its wines promoted by the UK



● **CHEERS:** Annie and Bob Lindo, of Camel Valley Vineyard, which has just won the country's only gold award at the International Wine Challenge Awards

A sparkling wine has put a Cornish vineyard on the map by winning a top international award. **David Wilcock reports**

Government during its EU presidency, where it is served at state functions for visiting dignitaries.

Mr Lindo revealed that the vineyard, near Bodmin, is planning to capitalise on its success by doubling its vines from ten to twenty acres. Much of the new land will grow the same Seyval Blanc vines

that are used to make the Cornwall Brut. It is hoped it will double production from 35,000 to 70,000 bottles a year.

Sam Lindo said there had been a distinct upturn in the fortunes of native wines, which are no longer seen as second rate.

"People are wanting to taste the

wine because it is so good, I don't think it comes as a surprise any more, people are realising it is worth drinking, not because it is English but because it is good, especially on a typical English summer day," he said.

This summer has been ideal for the grape harvest, with the hot dry weather and light rainfall.

The popularity of the Sparkling Brut – which costs £14.95 and can be ordered by calling 01208 77959 – means it is served in all of Cornwall's Michelin-starred restaurants.