

Les 5 du Vin

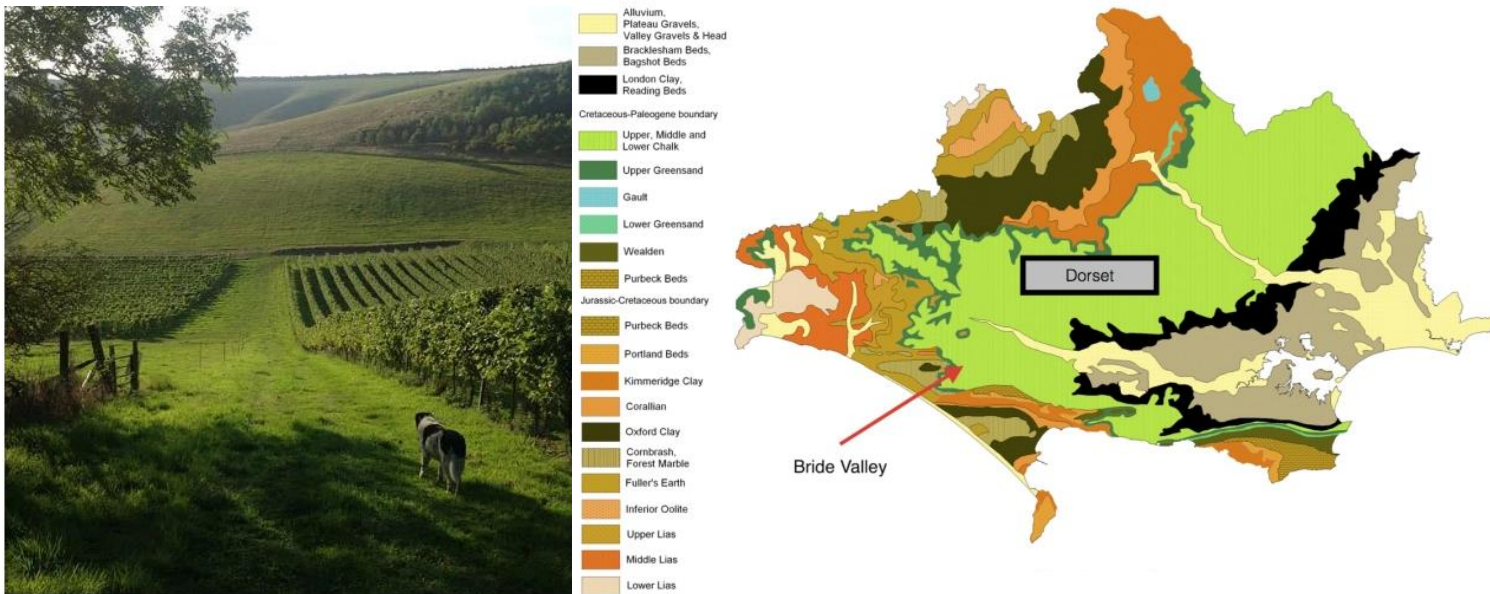
Bride Valley, a good bubble Made in Dorset

01/20/2016 by The Wine 5 | Post comment

The wine critic Steven Spurrier went from *Productive side of the Force* and has built a winery in Litton Cheney, Dorset with his wife Bella.

This field *Bride Valley*, named after the small coastal river that borders it. The place is pleasant, hilly, green, and frankly, very English.

Simplified Geology of Dorset



The call chalk

Bella y raised sheep. But the call of the chalk was the highest - for those unaware, these are villages in this area (especially Portland Kimmeridge), who gave their name to the famous geological eras Jurassic limestones and that one finds in the Champagne or Burgundy (among others). As for the area it is located at the foot of chalk hills.

In 2007, encouraged by the good results of the pioneers of the English bull Nyetimber as the Spurrier have therefore decided to plant vines, to produce effervescent - the *English sparkling*, what!

Their choice fell on the trilogy Champagne - Chardonnay immediately showing very good provisions, while the two Pinots (especially the miller) put a little more time to acclimatize. In total, 10 of the 60 hectares that make up the area are vineyards today.

The Spurrier also planted a thousand elderberry plants - not to produce the *elderberry* wine, but to shield sea wind (Channel is only 6 km).

And for good measure, the Spurrier have secured the support of Ian Edwards, winemaker of Furleigh Estate, another area of Dorset. Because if Bella is actually very present in the vineyard, the other Steven activities prevent it from being as often as he would like to Litton Cheney.



The wine that I present today is one of the first produced vintages, the 2011 "Cuvée Réserve".

Poor first year, climatically, to the region, 2011 was rescued by a beautiful autumn. But Pinot Noir suffered millerandage, as this wine is it composed of 93% Chardonnay.

It is dosed at 8.8 g sugar. Production was almost symbolic (490 bottles, against 20,000 in 2014).

Joyful bride

You say? That this wine makes the most of its vintage: it does not show a lot of power or vinous, but is very fresh, subtly aromatic (apple, lemon, hawthorn, linden), the mouth is frank, cheerful, like suspended a good acidity, but not biting. And in the final, a nice texture, maybe not chalky but smooth.

The word that comes to me is "*allegro*". This makes me think effervescent Morgan - not the fairy, the car ...

So, well done, M & Ms Spurrier! Especially the last two vintages were very favorable, the vines grow old quietly, that knowledge of the winemaker is improving every year. To be continued ...

More info: <http://www.bridevalleyvineyard.com>