

RATHFINNY



For Immediate Release

First look inside England's largest and greenest winery

A new video has been released showing the scale and ambition of what will become the most advanced winery in England.

The winery, at the 600 acre Rathfinny Estate in East Sussex, will eventually produce around 1 million bottles of sparkling wine a year. It is hoped the first still wines will be bottled early next year.

The first 50 acres of vines were planted last year and a further 50 acres will go under vine in April.

The multi-million pound building, nestled at the heart of 400 acres of land earmarked for vines, features sustainable design techniques and the use of innovative low carbon technologies.

Mark Driver, the founder of Rathfinny, said: "The winery has been designed with high-quality sparkling wine production and environmental sustainability at its core. We have taken an uncompromising approach to ensure that it will be one of the most high-tech and environmentally friendly wineries in the world."

The design of the winery includes 50kW of photovoltaic generation capacity and incorporates a host of energy saving building techniques to enable carbon neutral production of high quality wines. The investment in renewable electricity will save 16 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

The cladding of the building uses locally sourced English oak and uses finger joints to ensure there is minimal wastage from the cutting process. Locally grown, English sweet chestnut will be used for the decking.

Composite window frames (a mixture of aluminium and timber frames) are being used to minimise the use of metal in the building. The winery's design allows for off-

site pre-fabrication of elements of the building in order to reduce materials waste on site during construction.

Top soil excavated during the building process will be re-used while flint, harvested from the Estate's fields, will also be used in the construction.

The extensive wildflower green roof will match the planting of the surrounding fields and helps the building blend into the national parkland setting as well as contributing to the thermal insulation of the building.

The roof provides significant solar shading to the south and west facades, reducing excessive solar gain and avoiding the need to air condition spaces.

The building has been set into the existing landscape on two sides, reducing external wall area and the potential for direct heat loss through the external envelope. This also helps the winery blend into the landscape and match the roof heights of existing structures.

The building heights and floor levels have been designed around a 'gravity' grape pressing solution. This means that the winery will take advantage of the site's natural slope to load grapes at a high level and collect juices from below – avoiding the need to use energy to pump juice into settling tanks.

A waste-water treatment plant will further reduce the winery's impact on the environment and the surrounding eco-system. Ground water is being sourced from the Estate's own bore hole, purified to removed calcium and microbes. The wastewater from the wine making process will be treated on site and released safely back into the land.

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About Rathfinny

Rathfinny is England's newest and largest vineyard.

The first 50 acres of vines were planted in April this year and the first wines will be available to purchase in early 2014. By 2020, Rathfinny will produce about 1 million bottles of high-quality, bottle fermented, sparkling wine a year.

The terroir at Rathfinny is almost identical to that in the Champagne region and the climate is perfectly suited for producing high-quality sparkling wines.

Rathfinny aims to eventually sell up to 50 per cent of its production to key overseas markets in Europe, Asia and North America.

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