

22nd March 2024



### **All Good Things Must Come To An End**

And yes, what a journey it has been!

15 years ago, we decided to get into wine. We knew nothing about the stuff apart from the fact we liked drinking it! But not to be perturbed, we set out on what became our very own wine adventure. It all started with us cheekily asking an art gallery based in the Ouseburn Valley Newcastle if we could have a go with running their bar. And to our surprise they agreed! This pathed the way to us wanting to know and do more.

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Over the next few years, we immersed ourselves in all things wine: from going to wine tastings, doing work experience in local wine stores, hopping on the vinous network, and beginning the course of some serious studying: which led to much needed industry accreditations.

Reaching a point where we could leave behind our previous careers, we embarked on a whirlwind (or it seemed that way at the time) tour of some of the major wine regions around the globe, including Australia, China, England, France, Japan, Portugal, Spain and South Africa. Here, we could be found working in vineyards and in the winery, doing harvests, attending trade events, working on anything from sales stands or being up to our waists treading grapes!

We also jumped into working at wine competitions that eventually lead us to actually having a go at being a wine judge ourselves. Plus, our formal qualifications enabled to teach and instruct others; with wine tastings remaining at the core of what we do.

We've worked alongside some big brands such as Waitrose, where we partnered in joint working with some truly wonderful people. We got ourselves featured in the papers on a number of occasions, including one or two glossy magazines. We became a sponsor for the Christmas At The Cathedral event in Newcastle for a number of years – which always gave us a festive glow at the end of yet another busy year. We also appeared on BBC Radio Newcastle, and one of our wines featured on Channel 4's Sunday Brunch Show!

To complete the journey, we eventually found our place in this glorious world of wine: a business of our very own serving the on-trade (including a fair number of Michelin-starred establishments), online retail, staff training and of course; wine tastings.

During the Covid Pandemic it was all down to the retail side of things that kept our business alive, and so along came Zoom wine tastings of all things! Here, we sometimes partnered with other professionals in the wine industry; in order to do such things as stay at home wine & dines, winemaker tastings, and as well as, creating a series entitled 'Vinarchy': where we teamed up with a top sommelier and a top wine vlogger, to work alongside some highly qualified folk within the wine industry from across the globe, including Australia, England, Europe and the USA. You can still find these videos on our Guest Wines YouTube channel.

And let us not forget all the wonderful people that we have met along the way: including vineyard hands, seasonal workers, viticulturists, winemakers, producers/owners, plus one or two top bods and of course wine celebrities/personalities – all of this beyond our wildest dreams! It really has been a dream come true.

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Then there has been you! The dedicated sommelier, the wine waiter, bar tender, drinks handler and chefs (including one or two off the telly!): we really have met some very dedicated, knowledgeable (as well as) passionate folk. Then there's all our truly lovely retail and on-trade customers: and from all walks of life you have been too! Everyday Drinkers like you and we, Celebrities, Bishops, Dames, Sirs, Lords, Ladies, Viscounts, as well as those linked to the Royals. Thank you, each and every one of you for your ongoing love of wine! It has been a pleasure to have met you all!

We feel such privilege to have been a part of all this for the time we have had. It has taken a lot of hard work (much of it unpaid) and dedication to have arrived at our final destination. Sadly, we have now reached that end.

However, not before raising a glass to each and everyone, especially to you, our lovely customers: it has been truly a pleasure to have served you and without you guys; all that we have achieved would not have been possible!

Finally, we must say a massive 'thank you' to the staff we have employed along the way: we feel lucky to have worked with you over these past years – your help has been invaluable!

Cheers!

Ruth & Kelvyn

### **Silver linings and all that....**

So that you won't miss out on that glass of wine, [Dennhofer Wines](#) have agreed to step-in and take hold of the vinous reins! [01661 844622](tel:01661844622) Please get in touch with them direct, as our website and telephone lines are now closed.