



The Cornish burst champagne's bubble

A SPARKLING wine from Cornwall beat 250 champagnes to win gold in a prestigious international competition.

Camel Valley Brut outscored brands including Moët and Chandon and Mumm in the International Wine Challenge, the industry's premier contest.

The wine, made from Kerner and Seyval Blanc grapes, was

By **Dan Parkinson**

picked out by judges from across the world, who were made to taste blind.

The tippable already boasts a celebrity following with TV chef Rick Stein serving it at his fish restaurant in Padstow.

Camel Valley Brut 2001, which costs £17.50 a bottle, was one of 15 sparkling wines

to be given a gold award, but the only one from outside the Champagne region.

Bob Lindo, 56, who produces it at his vineyard near Bodmin, said: 'It's quite overwhelming. We know we're up there near the top, but to get the only gold anywhere in the whole world outside Champagne is just absolutely amazing.'

'There were lots of famous

wines from Champagne that didn't make the gold standard. It proves English vineyards can take on the French.'

Mr Lindo, whose wife Annie, 52, and son Sam, 29, help with the business, took up his dream of winemaking in 1989 after surviving a mid-air collision as an RAF pilot, after which he was told he would never be allowed to fly again.