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Wednesday briefing: England heads for ‘uncharted territory’

Warren Murray

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‘Fantastic’ – A “deliciously fresh” pinot noir from Monmouthshire has become the [first Welsh vintage to scoop a gold medal](#) in the Decanter World Wine Awards. Robb Merchant, a former Royal Mail worker who runs White Castle vineyard with his wife, Nicola, a retired nurse, described the win as “fantastic” for the vineyard, which had been his “wife’s dream” to establish. Their drop costs £25.50 a bottle.

While some wine drinkers may be unfamiliar with Welsh wine, it is not new, with the Scottish industrialist Lord Bute credited with planting the first commercial vineyard at Castell, north of Cardiff, in 1875. Today there are 31 vineyards growing more than 20 different grape varieties, and many wine trails aimed at tourists.