

THE



TIMES

Wednesday June 18 2025 | thetimes.com | No 74750

£2.80 £2.10 to subscribers
(based on a 7 Day Print and Digital Subscription)

Hot summer etiquette and the new holiday rules

INSIDE TIMES2

My sleep divorce isn't working
Carol Midgley

Channel migrant crisis deepens as French hand out life jackets

Emma Yeomans
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

The French authorities were witnessed giving life jackets to migrants crossing the Channel in small boats yesterday. Sir Keir Starmer has admitted the situation in the Channel is "deteriorating". French police fired tear gas at groups of migrants on beaches in Calais but

failed to prevent hundreds reaching Britain. The newcomers took the total to have arrived this year to nearly 17,000 — up nearly 50 per cent on the same period last year. Nearly 40,000 migrants have arrived since Starmer became prime minister last July and pledged to "smash the gangs". Starmer discussed the small boats crisis with President Macron at the G7

summit in Canada. He said he wanted "a smarter use of our visas" and to be "much more transactional" about denying entry to people from countries that do not have an agreement with Britain to take back illegal migrants.

Today Shabana Mahmood, the justice secretary, will deliver a speech in Strasbourg calling for reform of the European convention on human rights.

She will say that the convention must "evolve" to allow Britain and other countries to deport foreign nationals who commit a crime in the UK.

Despite pledges from France to review the legislation on police intervention, the French authorities do not intervene once boats are afloat, instead following them in case they get into distress. Yesterday a crew member of a

French warship could be heard telling British Border Force officers that a migrant boat would be with them in 15 minutes for a "handover". The sailor said: "My intentions are to give the life vests to the vessel on my port side, currently heading east."

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Labour's illegal immigration policy is sinking fast, leading article, page 25

Trump: We won't kill ayatollah — for now

President wants Iran's unconditional surrender

David Charter Washington
Chris Brown Defence Editor
Chris Smyth Kananaskis, Canada

President Trump demanded unconditional surrender from Iran and named its supreme leader that he was an "easy target" who would not be "at least for now".

Increasing pressure on Ayatollah Ali Khamenei while weighing up bombing raids on Iran's nuclear facilities, Trump said America's patience with the regime is running out. He aligned the US with Israel, boasting that "we" have total control of the skies over Iran. A post on his social network Truth Social served as a further warning to Khamenei. In it he boasted about the performance of Israeli-piloted, US-made F-35 jets, a signal to his isolationist "America first" voters that US airstrikes were now on the table.

While the president spent most of the time in the White House situation room, he said Iran's military leadership was "the run" after Ali Shadmehi, its new chief, was killed in Israeli airstrikes four days after his predecessor.

We know exactly where the so-called 'Supreme Leader' is hiding," Trump posted. "He is an easy target. It is safe there — We are not going to run him out (kill), at least not for now. We don't want missiles shot at Americans, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin."

Sir Keir Starmer said he was in "no doubt" that Trump was not planning to attack Iran. However, the president spoke to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, last night and was earlier said to be considering a range of options, including direct US military strikes in support of Israel.

JD Vance, the vice-president, posted a long explanation on X about why direct military involvement was being considered as opposed to diplomacy.

"The president has made clear that Iran cannot have uranium enrichment... He may decide he needs to take further action to end Iranian enrichment," added Vance, who has long opposed becoming embroiled in foreign wars.

"I believe the president has earned some trust on this issue. And having seen this up close and personal, I can assure you that he is only interested in using the American military to accomplish the American people's goals."

Trump withdrew a day early from the G7 in Canada, where he was surrounded by leaders urging restraint. As he left, he slapped down President Macron, calling him "publicity seeking", and adding that he "mistakenly said that I left the G7 Summit, in Canada, to go back to D.C. to work on a cease fire between Israel and Iran. Wrong!"

Trump said he was working on something "much bigger than that".

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Race favourites The King and Queen at Ascot yesterday for the 200th anniversary of the royal procession. Pages 9, 54-55

No more prosecutions for late abortions

Max Kendix
Aubrey Allegretti
Chief Political Correspondent

Women will no longer be prosecuted for having a late-term abortion after a landmark vote by MPs.

The biggest change to abortion laws in half a century passed with a majority of 242 in a free vote backed by 11 cabinet ministers.

The law in England and Wales states that abortion is illegal, but allowed up to the first 24 weeks of pregnancy and beyond that in certain circumstances such as if the woman's life is in danger.

In future, women who terminate a pregnancy after 24 weeks or without

approval from two doctors will no longer be charged, sentenced or imprisoned. Anyone who assists a woman in having an abortion outside the law, including doctors, could still be prosecuted.

The move to decriminalise abortion for pregnant women is set to become law within months after 379 MPs backed an amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill. After an emotionally charged two-hour debate, MPs voted for the change by 379 to 137.

The change in the law was deemed a matter of conscience, so MPs did not have to follow party lines. Labour MPs overwhelmingly backed decriminalisation — 291 of them voting in support of

the backbencher Tonia Antoniazzi's amendment and only 25 voting against it. No cabinet ministers voted against the change. Sir Keir Starmer, the prime minister, was absent at the G7 summit in Canada.

In the Commons, Antoniazzi said it was vital to "take women out of the criminal justice system because they are vulnerable and need our help".

She said: "Just what public interest is this serving? This is not justice. It is cruelty and it has got to end. This is urgent. We know multiple women are still in a system awaiting a decision, accused of breaking this law. They cannot afford to wait. We have a once in

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English sparkling wine magnum beats champagne to world's top 50

A boutique producer in West Sussex who has officially joined the big beasts of fizz spills his secrets to **Seren Hughes**

Champagne has long been the choice to mark life's greatest moments, but connoisseurs believe English sparkling wine is in prime position to compete, and it has now beaten the French fizz to a prestigious international award.

The Trouble with Dreams 2009 by the winemaker Sugrue South Downs has become the first sparkling wine magnum to be crowned one of the top 50 wines in the world at the Decanter awards. The sparkling white from West Sussex took home a best in show medal, an award never given to a magnum of champagne (twice the size of the standard 750ml bottle). Among the other sparkling magnums in the running was a £598 champagne, Henriot's Cuve 38 Edition 6 blanc de blancs brut, which received a platinum medal. The top 50 are chosen from platinum winners.

The judges said: "Our competition has been open to champagne magnums for the last three years, while this year we opened the competition to sparkling wine magnums from all origins. And guess what. It's an English sparkling wine that's the first to find its way in magnum to our best in show selection, of a champagne."

Dermot Sugrue, who founded and

runs the winery, said: "It's no longer what has become a slightly outdated narrative of England versus champagne when it comes to sparkling wine. Now it's England and champagne, because we really are on the world stage beside champagne and the other best sparkling wines in the world."

His wine is made from a blend of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes. The 600 bottles of the 2009 vintage are sold out. They originally cost £185, with a limit of one magnum per customer.

Sugrue, who has been making wine for 23 years, said: "Bottling sparkling wine in magnums is almost like the zenith of what you can achieve quality-wise, because magnums have got the ability to age in a wonderful way."

He said the award demonstrates the "ageability" of his wines. It's a matter of being "very, very patient and having confidence that we're using the correct vintage to age for a long time", he said.

The magnum is from Sugrue's first vintage of The Trouble With Dreams. The previous year should have been the first but the grapes were devoured by birds, prompting the name.

Sugrue said the name also resonated with the challenges of viticulture in the UK, where global warming has allowed these types of wines to flourish.

Ronan Sayburn, a master



The Trouble with Dreams 2009 by Sugrue South Downs was judged a best in show at the Decanter awards

sommelier and one of the five chairs of the awards, said the magnum was "generally regarded as a better format for sparkling wine".

The UK broke its record for medals awarded, with 188, including two platinum, six gold, 80 silver and 99 bronze. This was up from 186 medals last year, when Chapel Down's rosé brut was the first UK sparkling wine to achieve a best in show, and 143 in 2023.

At the Decanter awards wines from 57 countries were evaluated by 248 international experts. France took home the most best in show awards, 14,

followed by Italy with six and Portugal and Spain with five. The UK was level with New Zealand, South Africa and Slovenia with one best in show. China was among those to pip the UK to two top 50 awards.

Sayburn said a mixture of time, allowing the vines to age, global warming, and the increasing skill and experience of UK winemakers had led to the production of world-class wines.

"Maybe 15 years ago English wine was a bit of a joke, but people take it very seriously now," he added.

"In places like America they are absolutely going desperate to get English sparkling wine. It jumped in there as a category above cava and prosecco and just under champagne."

Sayburn said the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 2011, Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the 2012 London Olympics had given English sparkling wine "a big boost".

He pointed out that some vineyards in the Champagne region were established a thousand years ago, whereas it was only in the past 50 years that they were emerging in the UK. "So it may take a hundred years to really get the best sites," he said.

The south of England is well established as the most successful area in the UK for viticulture, but this year the five medals for North Yorkshire went. Dunesford, which won bronze away for its Queen of the North brut 2021 sparkling white, and its pinot gris 2021 a still white.

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