NEWS RELEASE

Naked Wines Customers Raise £60,000 To Rescue Chablis Winemaker Whose Vines Were Destroyed

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- Naked Wines Angels raised over £60,000 in under 24 hours to support winemaker Benjamin Laroche.
- Earlier this year, catastrophic weather brought Chablis to its knees, destroying a huge chunk of Benjamin's vines.
- The proceeds will help Benjamin to fill the gap in his production.
- To say thank you, Ben has sourced a wine from outside the Chablis region – with many of the features that his Chablis is famous for.

Naked Wines, the online crowd funded wine retailer, has raised £60,000 for Chablis winemaker Benjamin Laroche, after his vines were destroyed by the worst weather in a generation in Chablis.

In April, serious frost damaged vines across Chablis, killing the young buds that were just starting to break through to become bunches of grapes. Then on Friday 13th May, a vicious hailstorm hit the vineyards, destroying most of the remaining grapes.

Benjamin lost 30% of his crop overnight… a devastating 70% in some plots.

On Thursday 21st July, Naked Wines launched a crowd funding campaign to help Benjamin fill the gap in his production. He ventured outside of Chablis to a tiny region between Toulouse and Pau and discovered a delicious new wine, Comté Tolosan 2015.

1,200 Angels ordered a rescue pack – containing 5 bottles of Comté Tolosan, plus a bottle of Chablis 1er Cru from Benjamin's cellar – raising £60,000 in under 24 hours to get Benjamin's business back on its feet.

Benjamin Laroche, Naked Winemaker, said:

The last 12 weeks have been particularly challenging and stressful looking at the sky days and night. Pieces of ice like pigeon's eggs, as big as golf balls in some places, fell down in the vineyards. Now sun is back in the sky and also in my heart… thank you all again for all your support Naked Angels!"

For more information visit: **https://www.nakedwines.com/marketplace**