



NEWS RELEASE

29 June 09

Historic Tall ship offers 'on board' tastings

One of Britain's most impressive tall ships, The Kathleen & May, is on her way from France to Bristol ready to offer visitors to the Bristol Wine & Food Fair special on board tastings of fine French wines during the three day event on Harbourside.

This 109 year old boat is one of only 60 famous tall ships on the UK's National Register of Historic Sailing vessels and is the last remaining wooden hulled, triple-masted top sail schooner. Having spent most of her life working as a sailing trading ship the Kathleen & May has been painstakingly restored to her original 1900 specification and is still registered as a sailing cargo ship.

The owners of the Kathleen & May have teamed up with vineyard owners in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of southern France and will be bringing over some of their fine wines for the public to sample and buy direct. The 130 ft ship will be moored alongside the Wine & Food Fair site enabling visitors to the event to go on board to sample the wines and enjoy unrivalled views from her decks.

Rob Salvidge, Bristol broadcaster, sailor and co-owner of the Bristol Ferry Boat Company is part of the crew involved in this latest venture and is a great admirer of the ship. He said: "The Kathleen & May is one of the most important of the United Kingdom's core collection of historic sailing ships. It's hoped that by continuing to work her in a traditional way bringing exciting cargoes such as fine wine into Bristol, her future will be assured. We are looking forward to welcoming many people on board both when she's in port and also to join some of the trips we'll be making out to sea."

Chris Scholes organiser of the Bristol Wine & Food Fair added: "We are thrilled that the Kathleen & May is on her way to Bristol. The tall ship will make a fantastic backdrop to the Wine & Food Fair as well as offering our visitors a really special opportunity to sample and buy a selection of wines not normally available to the public. We are also delighted to be working with the Bristol Ferry Boat Company again this year offering people the chance to come to the Wine & Food Fair by ferry."



