



Chris Blandy

Chris Blandy was born on the island of Madeira in 1979. As was the case with many English families living abroad, Chris studied in England from prep school up to university. After achieving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, he joined the marketing department at the Symington Family Estate in Porto for a 2 year period, focusing on the Madeira wine business.

Chris then moved to Washington DC and worked at the Willard Inter Continental Hotel, ending his 2 year spell there as the hotel's diplomatic liaison manager, dealing with the visiting foreign dignitaries.

Chris has always had a strong link with Madeira and in March 2007, he joined the family business. In 2010 he became the Managing Director of the Travel and Shipping Division and a full member of the Blandy Group board at the end of 2010. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Madeira Wine Company. In August 2011, the Blandy Family agreed with the Symington Family to take back the majority shareholding of the company and in September, Chris took over the role of Managing Director of the company. "It was quite daunting taking over the year in which the Blandy's Madeira not only celebrated its bicentennial anniversary, but also the first time since 1989 that my family had control of the company. 200 years of history certainly increases the weight of responsibility, but I have found that Madeira wine as a whole is experiencing an exciting growth and with the right team in place, I hope to be setting the base for future generations to come."

Chris is married with 2 children (twins) and is interested in a whole range of sports, including rugby, hiking and fishing. His most unusual connection with wine was when he trod grapes the day after a particularly tough rugby practice which finished with a twisted ankle. He swears to this day that his ankle healed almost immediately due to the effects of crushing the grapes!