



They will spit on craftsman's work

BUT IT'S NO INSULT, SAYS DAVID

BY ECHO REPORTER

IT will come as no insult to Christchurch designer-craftsman David Ballantyne to be told the latest examples of his work are being spat on in France.

And so they should be; that's what spitoons are for, after all.

But these are no ordinary spitoons. Hand-crafted in clay, they are destined to serve the ritualistic needs of the wine tasters at some of the leading chateaux in the Bordeaux wine-growing region.

"Thousands of visitors go round the vineyards tasting the wines but I don't know what they have

been spitting into up to now. They might have just used a hole in a barrel," said David, pictured above with his latest work.

It is typical of David, of Chewton Farm Road, Walkford, that he should have taken on such an unusual commission.

This former head of ceramics at Bournemouth College thrives on producing functional one-off items that defeat normal manufacturing methods.

His ingenuity in this case solved a headache for an English architect working in the Bordeaux region who originally designed the pottery spitoons.

Rigby Lee, the architect, was asked to supply them to the wine growers but was unable to find anyone across the Channel prepared to take on the job apart from a potter who produced the first one some years ago at an old brick-works.

His search for a manufacturer ended when he was put in touch with David while on holiday in Dorset.

Now David and his wife Katharine are delivering the first three personally while on holiday in France this week. Another dozen will follow next year. —

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