

Update

October 2015 – Issue 10

Beacon Commodities



We have just returned from our annual pilgrimage to the juniper harvest, taking in Serbia and Macedonia. We experienced lovely warm weather which was helping the collectors at the time of our visit. The trip provided useful insight into the 2015 crop and was an excellent opportunity to catch up with our collectors.

Macedonia and Serbia

Both these countries form the bulk of juniper collection within the Balkans and have similar terrain and climates. We have purchased from Serbia for a number of years but there is no doubt that the quantities being processed in Macedonia are far greater.

Our visit helped us to further understand the habits of the collectors and how the number of these collectors is unchanged because of the current high prices that juniper is achieving. This is due to increased demand and difficult harvests in both 2013 and 2014. It was clear that as long as the price for juniper remains high, the number of collectors will remain consistent. If there was to be a significant drop in price then it is likely they would move to a more profitable (and easier to pick) crop such as rose hips, mushrooms and / or blackberries.



Juniper being collected



Tommy was removed from collection duty



Having disturbed his afternoon siesta we were closely monitored by a four legged friend



The sum of Tommy's haul without gloves!



Juniper after collection but before cleaning and sifting

The 2015 crop

We are pleased to report that the quality of the 2015 crop appears to be good both within Macedonia and Serbia, with average yields in most areas. The difficulties in 2014 with the high moisture content of harvested berries has not occurred this year. The weather has been good throughout collection with no more than 2 days of consecutive rain so far. This has meant that the berries this year are being collected between 16-22% moisture whereas last year the highest some collectors were seeing was up around 48%.

We hope the above provides a useful insight but if you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact us.



The mountains



A good yield!

