



RATHFINNY WINE ESTATE CLASSIC CUVÉE 2016

Rathfinny Classic Cuvée 2016 is the first vintage of our classic Sussex Sparkling, made in the traditional method from Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay grapes grown and hand-harvested on the Rathfinny Wine Estate.

RELEASE DATE. May 2020

BLEND. 57% Pinot Noir, 22% Chardonnay, 21% Pinot Meunier,

LEES AGEING. 36 months

FERMENTATION. Inoculated with commercial yeast, fermented in stainless steel tanks at 16°C

PH. 2.96

TA. 8.3g/L

DOSAGE. 5g/L

MALOLACTIC FERMENTATION. 100%

FINING AGENT. Isinglass

ABV. 12.5%

TASTING NOTE. Radiant lemon in hue, with an expressive nose of fresh red orchard apples, a creamy tangerine mousse punctuated by toasty notes of almond brittle, and a honeydew melon finish.

FOOD MATCH. Our classic sparkling gravitates towards the deep and earthy notes of truffle-infused arancini or a cep and onion tart, though meshes phenomenally with the comforting creaminess of a fish pie.

VINTAGE. Budburst was timely, though it was very wet prior to flowering which, as a result, was slightly later than usual. However, we had a successful fruit set, despite July and the early part of August coming in cooler than normal. The second half of August brightened up with some very warm days, with this dry weather continuing throughout September until the end of the season. We picked in the latter part of October.

ABOUT RATHFINNY

Rathfinny Estate in East Sussex was founded in 2010 by husband and wife, Mark and Sarah Driver. Once a working arable farm, the first vines were planted in 2012 and today Rathfinny comprises over 200 acres of predominantly Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier.

Rathfinny Estate is located in the South Downs National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty in Southern England. It occupies the main part of Cradle Valley, on a south-facing slope close to the iconic Cuckmere Valley, just three miles from the sea and the famous Seven Sisters cliffs, about a half a mile south of Alfriston village.

As well as being a stunning site, the Rathfinny vineyard is perfect for growing sparkling wine grapes: The light, thin, clay loam soils over chalk are free draining and very similar to the Champagne region of France. The chalk provides a ready source of water for the vines during the drier summer months. The warm semi-continental climate and long summer days ensure perfect ripening, and the proximity to the sea helps mitigate frost risk, a major problem in cooler climate vineyards in northern Europe.

