



Balfour

2018

ROSÉ

Brut | Rosé - England



VEGAN

Stats

Grapes: 42% Pinot Noir - 30% Pinot Meunier - 28% Chardonnay

Vineyard: The Hush Heath Estate - Oast House Meadow block

Vine Age: 21-years-old

Soil Type: Wealden clay over Tunbridge Wells sand

Viticulture: Sustainable - dry-farmed

Fermentation: Inoculated - stainless-steel

Skin Contact: None

Aging: Primary: 4 months in stainless-steel Secondary: 48 months in bottle

Alcohol: 11.5%

Residual Sugar: 5.6 g/L

pH: 2.92

Total Acidity: 9 g/L

Total Production: 1,250 cases

UPC: 5060056540306

Reviews

Decanter | 93 points

Jancis Robinson | 16.5+ points

About

The flagship expression Balfour Brut Rosé has helped put this producer firmly on the English wine map, winning a Decanter Gold Medal in 2013 and being regularly served on the Orient Express and British Airways First Class flights, as well as being chosen as the only English wine to be served at the London 2012 Olympics. This single-block wine is the 'tête de cuvée' for the Estate and a wine the Balfours are incredibly proud of, and with good reason. Jancis Robinson called 2018 "England's miracle vintage." Balfour calls it "one of the best years in English viticultural history." Indeed, a record number of healthy, ripe grapes were produced, thanks to a warmer than average growing season.

Grapes for this wine were hand-picked from the Oast House Meadow block. The grapes were whole-bunch pressed to specially designed conical stainless-steel tanks for primary fermentation at a cool 60°F. Wanting to maintain the maximum tension with the plan of extended lees maturation, malolactic fermentation was blocked as the wine was quickly racked off of the lees. After a month post-ferment in tank the blend was assembled and the wine was bottled. Frequent riddling was employed and following four years on lees the wine was disgorged and hit with a small 5-ish gram dosage and addition of a light amount of still Pinot Noir.

Tasting Note

More cranberry than strawberry, this is classic Balfour; dry, precise and powerful. There are burnt orange and herbal notes that persist. This vintage reflects one of the best years in English viticultural history.