

WISTON ESTATE LIBRARY COLLECTION

BLANC DE NOIRS 2014 EXTRA BRUT

The Wiston Estate Library Collection presents a series of limited-edition releases from our cellar which celebrate the unique wines we are able to make here in the South Downs. Since the release of our very first wine—a Cuvée from the 2008 vintage—we have held back small parcels from the best vintages to further mature and develop. This is a series of unique wines which show the potential for quality and age-ability that English Sparkling Wine can achieve. The Blanc de Noirs Extra Brut 2014 is the second release.



The grapes for this wine came from Findon Park Vineyard—the western end of the vineyard dedicated to Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier.

2014 was a strong vintage for Wiston. A warm spring and early summer allowed for bud burst to develop in perfect conditions and promising signs of fruit set were apparent from the start. The weather was wetter than usual in August, but warm temperatures encouraged bunches to swell, sugars to increase and fruit maturity showed signs of excellent character. An Indian summer in September and October was the perfect end to the growing season, providing optimal ripening conditions to fully complete veraison. Yields were significantly up on previous vintages and the fruit delivered wonderful aroma and flavour.

The grapes (66% Pinot Noir / 34% Pinot Meunier) were co-pressed and fermented with selected yeasts in a mixture of five and six year old oak barrels sourced from Burgundy. Barrels are used to promote a gentle micro-oxygenation, refining the mouthfeel and structure of the wine; there is no oak flavour imparted, due to the age of the barrels. The wine is rested on its lees for 9 months, bringing additional complexity.

Due to the ideal ripeness of the fruit, malolactic fermentation was blocked leaving the wine with natural malic 'energy'. Bottling took place in July 2015. The wine was allowed to age on the lees for 4.5 years on lees and was disgorged at a very low dosage—2g/l. This creates a different mouthfeel, aroma and flavour palate which complements the richness of this wine.

This version of our single vineyard wine from 2014 shows elegant characteristics of marzipan, baked apples and a touch of white pepper on the nose. The poised palate consists of rich buttery notes, apricot and vanilla, with a flash of salinity on the bright vintage. This is a pure wine which moves across the palate with commanding grace.