

RATHFINNY | RESERVED

2018 VINTAGE FAQs

WHAT IS RATHFINNY RESERVED?

Rathfinny Reserved gives private individuals the opportunity to reserve cases of our Sussex Sparkling a few years before it is released onto the general market. Our wines have proven to be very popular and have been in short supply, making it difficult to buy our wines by the case. This is the best way that fans of our wines can guarantee that they will be enjoying a few cases of Sussex Sparkling in 2022.

WHAT ARE YOU OFFERING AS PART OF THE 2020 RATHFINNY RESERVED PROGRAMME?

We have set aside a small amount (only 500 cases) of our signature Sussex Sparkling, 2018 Blanc de Noirs (a blend of Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier) and our elegant Sussex Sparkling, 2018 Blanc de Blancs (a blend of 100% Chardonnay).

They can only be purchased by the case (6 bottles per case), with the minimum order being four cases (24x75cl bottle cases), or four cases of magnums (12x150cl magnum cases - 3 magnums per case).

WHY BUY 'RATHFINNY RESERVED'?

Our premium vintages, Blanc de Blancs and Blanc de Noirs, will always be a limited production, as we source the best grapes from across the Vineyard to blend these two premium wines. This is a unique opportunity to secure a guaranteed allocation, at a slight discount to the recommended retail price, as the majority will be sold through the premium on trade when released in 2022.

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE 2018 VINTAGE?

2018 was a landmark vintage, it has been called the 'vintage of the century'. It was an exceptional year, with a long, very hot summer and a warm, dry September and October, that enabled our fruit to ripen with rich acidity and terrific flavours.

HOW DOES RATHFINNY RESERVED WORK?

Rathfinny 'Reserved' wine has spent its first year in the bottle. The wine will spend a further two years lying in the bottle 'on-lees' in our temperature-controlled cellar, allowing the 'autolytic' flavours to develop. We plan to disgorge the wine at the beginning of 2022, removing the yeast lees and will then release the wines to our 'Reserved' customers in the summer of 2022. We will notify you when they are available for collection from the Vineyard or delivery can be arranged at a small extra charge.

In March 2021, we will invite Rathfinny Reserved customers to attend an exclusive tour and tasting led by Rathfinny Owners, Mark and Sarah Driver and Head Winemaker, Jonathan Médard. This will give private individuals the chance to taste the wines prior to release the following year.

All Rathfinny Reserved wines are sold at ‘under bond’ prices – **therefore exclusive of excise duty and VAT, which is payable before collection or delivery.**

WHAT DOES ‘UNDER BOND’ MEAN?

Under bond means that the wines are stored in a secure temperature-controlled warehouse and excise duty and VAT have not been paid on them. Excise duty and VAT will be applied when the wine leaves the warehouse.

WHAT EXACTLY DO I PAY NOW?

The price of the wine is £26 per 75cl bottle or £54 per 150cl Magnum, exclusive of excise duty and VAT. Once the wines are released, excise duty and VAT will be payable.

HOW MUCH DUTY AND VAT DO I PAY FOR SPARKLING WINE?

Currently excise duty on sparkling wine in the UK is £2.86 per 75cl bottle. The VAT rate is currently 20% and is charged on top of the duty on the total cost of the bottle. This means, that if the excise duty and VAT arrangements are unchanged during the next two years, each 75cl bottle would cost around £34.63 and each magnum would cost around £71.66, which is a small discount on the likely retail prices. However, rates of excise duty and VAT are subject to change by the UK government at any time and cannot be pre-paid. Purchasers of Rathfinny Reserved outside the UK will be charged according to their local duty and tax arrangements.

HOW CAN I BUY THE WINES?

The wines can be purchased from the Rathfinny Shop website by credit or debit card or from the Rathfinny Estate Cellar Door, over the phone or instore.

ARE RATHFINNY RESERVED WINES INSURED?

Rathfinny will remain responsible for insuring the wine at the original invoice value until you collect or request delivery. Ownership of the wines will pass on settlement of all outstanding charges.

WHEN WILL THE WINES BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION OR DELIVERY?

The wines will be disgorged in early 2022 and we will notify you by email when the wine is available for collection or delivery. We generally release our vintages in May or June. At this time, we will request payment of the outstanding charges (excise duty and VAT) and ask you to decide whether you will be collecting your wine from the vineyard or wish it to be delivered. We ask that you collect within one month, thereafter storage charges may apply. We can arrange for delivery to be made, at your cost and upon the rates at the time.