Langham Wine Estate,

`Culver` Classic Cuvée NV

Dorset, England





43% Pinot Noir 12% Chardonnay

Winemaker	Tommy Grimshaw
Closure	Technical Cork
ABV	12%
Residual Sugar	1.5g/L
Acidity	6.5g/L
Wine pH	3.28
Bottle Sizes	75cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Vegan

PRODUCER

Langham Wine Estate is one of the most exciting names in English wine, with Jancis Robinson describing their distinctive style as 'à la Selosse' and the IWSC naming them 'Sparkling Wine Producer of the Year' in 2020. Head winemaker Tommy Grimshaw is fast making a name for himself as one of England's best young talents, crafting low-intervention, traditional method sparkling wines from a single site in rural Dorset. Langham began as a small vineyard planted by John Langham at his Dorset family home. It remained a hobby until 2009 when his son Justin started making wine in earnest. After studying viticulture at Plumpton, Justin planted the first block of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Meunier at nearby Crawthorne farm, where they are based today. Now joined by a small but dynamic team, Langham remains independent and family-run.

VINEYARDS

Langham's vineyard is situated at Crawthorne Farm, just under 10 miles from the coast. The site is planted at 80 to 110 metres above sea level and is a sheltered south-facing slope with clay and flint soils over Kimmeridgian and Portlandian limestone. This ensures the vineyard is largely free-draining. These soils also retain heat well, helping moderate vineyard temperatures during England's often unpredictable growing seasons. Meticulous work in the vineyard helps to reduce the need for chemical intervention, as well as improving canopy management to increase airflow and naturally reduce disease pressure.

VINIFICATION

The grapes were pressed in a three-tonne pneumatic press, after which the juice was left to settle overnight. The settled juice was then transferred into a combination of stainless steel tanks and seasoned French oak barrels (minimum three years old, sourced from Champagne, Burgundy, and Bordeaux regions). Alcoholic fermentation occurred with indigenous yeast, which was followed by complete malolactic conversion and extended ageing with regular lees stirring. The wines were blended and bottled without fining or filtration treatments. A reduced sugar addition during tirage resulted in lower bottle pressure of approximately 4.5 bar in order to emphasize complex blends from diverse base wines, which were enhanced rather than overwhelmed by autolytic character. The wines were then aged for 15-18 months on lees following secondary fermentation.

TASTING NOTES

'Culver', Pinot Noir-led and named after Culver chalk, is savoury and spicy with aromas of raspberry yogurt, cherry, black pepper and marzipan. The palate is generously fruited with fresh red cherry and cranberry, as well as bright notes of kumquat, papaya and melon. Elegant and lifted, this edition of Culver finishes with notes of lemon mousse and a touch of Sichuan pepper.