

Heppington Vineyard Pinot Noir

COUNTRY

United Kingdom

REGION

Kent

GRAPE100% Pinot Noir (Dijon Clone
777)**VINTAGE**

2022

ABOUT THE DOMAINE

In 1813, Gregory Blaxland became the first European to cross the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. From the vines he planted he became the first person to export wine from Australia to the UK, winning a silver medal for his red wine in London in 1822. Gregory's descendent, Henry Blaxland, planted 6.25h/a of Pinot Noir, Meunier, Chardonnay and Pinot Gris on the edge of the Kent Downs, overlooking Canterbury Cathedral, in 2016. Chalk, flint, limestone and clay soils, combined with the ever-warming and relatively dry South-Eastern English climate, provide an outstanding site for high quality, cool climate still wine.

WINEMAKING

Hand harvested in October, 2022 and made by Nick Lane (formerly Cloudy Bay, Dom Perignon) at Defined Winery in Canterbury. De-stemmed and fermented on skins for 13 days; 100% aged in French Barriques: 25% new, 25% 4th and 50% 5th use. Fined with egg-whites but unfiltered. After seven months, four barrels were bottled in June 2023, resulting in a total production of just under 1200 bottles.

TASTING NOTES

2022 is probably the greatest vintage of the modern professional era in the UK. The fifth warmest Spring on record came with mercifully minimal Spring Frost, the hot and dry conditions continued into August, where some rain alleviated heat stress (a phrase rarely used in English viticulture). The result was low yields of incredibly pure Pinot Noir fruit. Bright yet subtle red cherry, raspberry and a touch of caramel, supported by some well-integrated and savory oak. The wine is drinking beautifully, despite its youth and natural acidity, which is uplifting and fresh when served slightly chilled.



TECHNICAL NOTES

Alcohol by volume
11.5%