

Wine Notes – September 2026

‘English Wines’

We noticed that some of the locally grown vines were nearly ready for harvesting and that prompted a thought that the Wine Whisperers might like to see what is produced close to home.

Wine 1 Chapel Down Touch of sparkle

Stats:

Price	£16 (£13 mix six)
Alcohol	11.5 %
Stockist	Majestic / Waitrose
Grape	Bachus & Chardonay
Country	UK (Kent)

Notes:

From UK's largest wine maker. A blend of Bachus and Chardonay from a vineyard in Tenterden some 10 miles from the Kent coast.

Floral aromas, notes of pineapple, grapefruit and tropical fruit

Wine 2 Balfour Sparkling Rose

Stats:

Price	£26 (£23 mix six)
Alcohol	12 %
Stockist	Majestic / M & S
Grape	Pinot dominated blend
Country	UK (Kent)

Notes:

Vineyard in Tonbridge (near Maidstone) in Kent

Delicate pink appearance.

Pink grapefruit character with notes of wild strawberries and 'subtle herbaceousness'

Suggested food venison sausages.

Wine 3 Stopham Estate Pinot Gris

Stats:

Price	£24 (£22 mix six)
Alcohol	11 %
Stockist	Majestic
Grape	Pinot Gris
Country	UK (West Sussex)

Notes:

Grown at Pulborough (near Petworth) in the South Downs National Park

Dry white from 17 year old vines. Dry white with tropical aromas.

Suggested pairing with spicy dishes.

Wine 4 Chapel Down Bacchus

Stats:

Price	£16 (£13 mix six)
Alcohol	12%
Stockist	Majestic / Waitrose
Grape	Bacchus (sibling of Sauvignon Blanc)
Country	UK (Kent / East Sussex)

Notes:

Grown in Tenterden

Notes of Grapefruit, melon, green apple and pineapple.

Suggested food pairing with pork belly, grilled seafood and Thai food

Wine 5 Balfour 1503 Pinot Noir

Stats:

Price	£23 (£21 mix six)
Alcohol	12 %
Stockist	Majestic (only)
Grape	Pinot Noir
Country	UK (Kent)

Notes:

Made from Burgundy grapes from the estates warmest vineyards and aged for a short time in new oak.

Vibrant red fruit flavours with a hint of spice.

Suggested food pairings with cheese and charcuterie.

Also suggested to serve slightly chilled in summer months.

Wine of the month

Red: Balfour Pinot Noir

White: Chapel Down Bacchus

Sparkling: Balfour Sparkling Rose

Favourite of the night: Chapel Down Bacchus