

## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY ABOUT RIDGEVIEW WINE ESTATE'S MERRET SPARKLING WINE

RidgeView Merret Bloomsbury 2003. "In its freshly disgorged mode, the nose on this wine shows great finesse, with elegant, yeast-complexed fruit on the palate."

*Tom Stevenson, Tom Stevenson's Wine Report 2007*

RidgeView Merret Bloomsbury 2003. "The Bloomsbury wine is 70 per cent Chardonnay and has a lovely light golden colour and a fine biscuity note".

*Jonathon Ray, The Telegraph, Oct 2006*

RidgeView Merret Bloomsbury 2003. "Toasty, almost oak-like nose with great Pinot fruit. Balanced acidity and a succulent middle palate add up to a really drinkable, enjoyable sparkling wine."

*Stephen Skelton, Tom Stevensons Wine Report 2007*

"(RidgeView Bloomsbury 2003) This wine has a toasty character, biscuity notes, a vivid, crisp, aperitif style and lovely fine mousse".

*Andrew Jefford, Waitrose Seasons, September/October 2006*

"RidgeView's fine, nutty, lemony 2003 Bloomsbury, Cuvée Merret".

*Jane MacQuitty, The Saturday Times – June 2006*

"(RidgeView Bloomsbury 2003) If you haven't yet tasted English sparkling wine grab a bottle of this stuff and marvel. This is a terrific example which offers world class elegance, finesse and quality - vintage sparkling wine at an unbeatable price. Lively and lovely."

*Olly Smith, Waitrose Review, January 2006*

"(A)n excellent English Sparkling: the RidgeView Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury 2003, which has won many awards".

*Marc Sharer – Taste Events, Waitrose Christmas Drinks 2005*

"Sussex, home to the sparkling producers RidgeView Vineyards, near Crawley, is lucky enough to share the same soils, geologically speaking with the Champagne region. No wonder some of the producers from Champagne came over to do a recce in Sussex last year. South Ridge Special Cuvée Blanc de Blancs NV – Refined English fizz from RidgeView Vineyards in Sussex. Floral, apple-scented and lightly biscuity."

*Joanna Simon, The Sunday Times – Wine, Nov 2005*

"Fizz. When it comes to classic flavours, well, clearly Sussex is the place to look, because for sheer class and pleasure, nothing could knock RidgeView off the perch it proudly occupied last year. (Number 1 – best fizz). Cavendish 2000 – I bang the drum for English fizz at every possible opportunity: I use it in wine tastings and on broadcasts, I take it abroad – and the thrilling thing is that people *always* love it. The less thrilling thing is, a large number of them give it the Victor Meldrew 'I don't believe it' treatment. So the battle isn't yet won, but with the constant brilliance of producers like RidgeView and Nyetimber, it can't be long before we put aside our frankly absurd belittling of things vinous and English and acclaim our top producers for what they are – producers of some of the best sparkling wines in the world. So *do* drink English! And start here – with the gorgeous yet restrained flavours of hazelnuts and brioche, the fruit of a big juicy baked apple and a soaring acidity that carries the tiny bubbles to every corner of your mouth".

*Oz Clarke, Wine Buying Guide 2006*

Bloomsbury 2001 (Number 6 – best fizz) "Here's another star from RidgeView, one of England's world-class fizz producers. It's a few quid cheaper than the Cavendish and is more widely available, but it's still outstanding wine, with an exquisite balance between foaming youth and discreet maturity, soft apple flesh streak with lemon acidity, soothed and stroked by a delightful blossomy oatmeal and honey yeast".

*Oz Clarke, Wine Buying Guide 2006*

"Fitzrovia 2002 (Rosé) Aggressive fizz on entry, but softens to an enjoyable mouthful of ripe strawberries."

*Judging panel Decanter World Wine Awards October 2005*

Fitzrovia Rosé 2002. "Excellent fine mousse, delicious with autumnal fruits."

*Christopher Ann, Business Edge Sept 2005*

RidgeView Merret Grosvenor Blanc de Blancs 2001 – 90 points "Crisp and fresh with nice mousse. Light, with floral flavours. A good mousse with attractive autolysis on the nose. The palate is light and fresh with some length."

*English Tasting, Wine International Magazine Aug 2005*

RidgeView South Ridge Merret 2001 – 88 points "Very clean, crisp and pure, with lemon and bread aromas. An attractive stylish wine. Quite characterful with a clean, apple and yeast nose, come richness and length. A toasty nose with a rounded, savoury palate, balanced acidity and some length. Good."

*English Tasting, Wine International Magazine Aug 2005*

RidgeView Merret Bloomsbury 2001 – 85 points "Easy and nice, with a toasty nose and a soft creamy palate".

*English Tasting, Wine International Magazine Aug 2005*

RidgeView Merret Fitzrovia 2002 – 80 points "Delicate salmon pink colour with nice autolysis on the nose. Very crisp with a good mousse".

*English Tasting, Wine International Magazine Aug 2005*

"Pale lemon in colour with a persistent fine beaded mousse. A joyful expression of baked pastry, fresh apple and a lick of citrus aromas abound. In the mouth this wine is beautiful, crisp dry and refreshing but also complex and elegant. The citrus and lees character combine with raspberry and gentle toasted nuts. Terrific length and so enjoyable to drink. A great example of the superb quality that England is capable of producing in traditional method sparkling wines."

*Judging panel IWSC 2005 - Bloomsbury 2002- Yarden Trophy for Best Bottle Fermented Sparkling Wine 2005*

"(Fitzrovia Rosé 2002) Delicious balance of all the elements – fruit, acidity, and flavour – bound up in a gentle mouth-filling mousse. Sparkling wine for enjoying!"

*Stephen Skelton, Tom Stevenson Wine Report 2005*

"(Fitzrovia Rosé 2000) It is not only for enjoying now – it has the capacity to retain its freshness for at least 18-24 months, during which it will get silker and silker."

*Tom Stevenson, Wine Report 2005*

“We have found a good mix of ‘classic’ Champagne and ‘non-classic’ sparkling wines from elsewhere in the world. Except that the most classic of all was the supposedly ‘non-classic’ RidgeView from Sussex in England. We don’t seem to have had much to celebrate this year. So let’s celebrate English sparkling wines by raising a glass of RidgeView.”

**Oz Clarke, Wine Buying Guide 2005**

“(Cavendish 1998) Wonderful wine, everything you could wish for in a really exciting Champagne .. a thrilling mixture of dry mineral fruit, refreshing acidity and soft, soothing oatmeal creaminess. With bubbles. Excellent now, this will be even better in a year or two. (Bloomsbury 2000) Global warming, careful vineyard management and brilliant winemaking have produced this gorgeous, rich yet dry fizz, smelling like every Ovaltine and Horlicks that sent you to bed as a kid but cut through with apple peel and lemon acidity and a torrent of foam that is inspiring and delicious”.

**Oz Clarke, Wine Buying Guide 2005**

“I particularly recommend the RidgeView Belgravia Non-Vintage with its lemon-gold appearance, pronounced aromas of biscuit and concentrated fruit and rich palate”.

**Olly Smith, Argus June 2004**

RidgeView Estate Bloomsbury 2000 “A very classy fizz to rival the big names from Champagne”.

**Andrew Taylor, South Down Cellars, New Currents, June 2005**

“If the Champenois get to taste this finely crafted UK blend of mainly Chardonnay, with some Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, they will be booking their seats on the Eurostar.”

**Tim Atkin, Delia’s Complete Christmas, Dec 2004**

“Exquisite vintage sparkler with toasty richness and masses of tiny bubbles (a real mark of quality). England’s answer to Champagne.”

**The Sunday Times Wine Club, Christmas 2004**

“A sophisticated bone dry sparkling wine made from home-grown champagne grapes. The result is as good as champagne”.

**Oz Clarke’s Top 20, BBC Good Food Guide, August 2004**

“RidgeView’s East Sussex wines are made in a younger, crisper style, like the 2000 RidgeView Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury which showed its class as a thoroughly convincing sparkling wine with a full-flavoured, creamy texture and a dry, appely tang”.

**Anthony Rose, The Independent, June 2004**

“I have found an elegant, easy, nutty, lemony sparkler made from the same grapes as champagne and softened by two years of bottle ageing. RidgeView’s 2000 Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury, is reasonable value at £14.99 (Waitrose).”

**Jane MacQuitty, The Times, May 2004**

“A glass of East Sussex sparkling – RidgeView’s Cuvée Merret 1999 from Ditchling, a winery with a few International Wine Challenge medals – was perfect with the melt in your mouth gnocchi (In eating out review of Jolly Sportsman, East Chilington).”

**Tina Gellie, Wine International, April 2004**

“England’s answer to champagne – RidgeView’s Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury 1999/2000 from West Sussex, which, incidentally, is my choice for Christmas Day. Cheers!”

**Susan McCraith MW, Waitrose Christmas Wine, Dec 2003**

“It may sound surprising but British fizz is the closest thing there is to champagne .... Waitrose has 1999 Bloomsbury Cuvée Merret from RidgeView in Sussex (£14.99) an intense, positively powerful, oatmeal, nutty sparkler.”

**Oz Clarke, Mid Sussex Leader, Dec 03**

“(Cavendish 1998) Biscuity flavours and lemon meringue pie creaminess mark this sparkler ... this one could just about fool you into thinking it was Champagne”.

**Susan Low, Wine International, Nov 2003**

“Without a doubt, RidgeView produces some of England’s finest fizz. The Fitzrovia is a salmon-coloured, raspberry-laden beauty with a ripe, round, forward, classically styled appeal.”

**Wine International, Silver Medal IWC 2003, Nov 2003**

“Where is the next best place? (to Champagne for sparkling wine) England! We have the same soils; our southern counties have the same relatively warm but rarely hot summers; and the best bottles of English sparkling wine are already proclaiming their right to exist with remarkable confidence - as you’ll see if you try a bottle of RidgeView Cuvée Merret stocked by the 67 largest branches of Waitrose.”

**Andrew Jefford, Waitrose Food Illustrated, Oct 2003**

“Knightsbridge ... made from black grapes only... seductive, perfumed red-fruit aromas and flavours, with an underlying nutty richness and well-balanced acidity... Bloomsbury a half-chardonnay blend, is just as good.”

**Joanna Simon, Sunday Times, Sept 2003**

“Of all wineries, this is the one to look around, if only to see how seriously they take themselves. The tasting is a real treat – bet you won’t leave without purchasing a bottle or 12.”

**Matt Rudd, Sunday Times, Sept 2003**

“At RidgeView Estate, Michael Roberts is proving that England can produce quality wines.”

**Ed Cassidy, Sunday Times, Simply Wine Sept 2003**

“In my view, the future is looking brightest for English sparkling wines .. Nyetimber and RidgeView ... both make very serious bubble indeed. Knightsbridge: this limited-release fizz is a real winner: nutty and elegant with good depth of flavour.”

**Liz Morcom, House & Garden, Sept 2003**

“The 1998 Cuvée Merret Cavendish has a lovely biscuit aroma and long length of flavour”.

**Conal Gregory MW, The Times, July 2003**

“There can be no doubt that RidgeView Estate wines deserve a place on restaurant wine lists so that discerning diners can enjoy the rare pleasure of enjoying world-class sparkling wines from an English vineyard.”

**Philippe Boucheron, The Master’s Table, Spring 2003**

“It’s hard to believe that this small family-run Sussex winery has been going for fewer than 10 years, so quickly has it established its name as a producer of top quality sparkling wine..Cavendish ..delightful soft red fruits and a suggestion of biscuitness. Definitely one for smoked salmon.”

**Chris Losh, Telegraph, May 2003**

“... Today’s king of fizz is Mike Roberts of RidgeView Estate. England’s best wine: The 1999 RidgeView Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury is a creamy, full flavoured fizz that compares favourably with grande marque champagne.”

*Anthony Rose, The Independent, May 2003*

“RidgeView goes on and on winning prizes for its classy sparkling wines ... My particular favourite is the Cavendish ... it’s a smooth, ripe pleasure to drink.”

*Sarah Jane Evans, BBC Good Food Guide, May 2003*

“The 1997 from this award winning winery raised eyebrows in Champagne, but the 1998 blend is even better. A toasty, finely crafted, weighty fizz with masses of flavour and bubble.”

*Tim Atkin, Observer Food Monthly, Mar 2003*

“Impress overseas visitors and sceptics with the 1998 RidgeView Cuvée Merret, a classy, creamy-textured Sussex sparkler based on Chardonnay that will amaze with its Champagne-like presumption”.

*Antony Rose, Decanter, Jan 2003*

“(Bloomsbury 1998) Subtle butter and floral aromas re the main components in this Chardonnay-rich blend. Easy drinking yet quite complex.”

*Charles Metcalfe, Food & Travel, Dec 2002*

“(Bloomsbury 1998) this knocks spots off many a champagne. It has a hint of brioche and fresh, gently honeyed, apple fruit.”

*Joanna Simon, Sunday Times Style Magazine, Dec 2002*

Best English wine over £10. “(Cavendish) Complex, tight-knit, textured, mouth-seizing flavours have won it the 2002 Wine of the Year title from the UK Vineyards Association.”

*Andrew Jefford, Guardian, Oct 2002*

“An excellent wine and a unanimous choice; stylish; balanced and would more than hold its own against many champagnes.”

*Judging panel IWSC 2002 - Bloomsbury Best English Wine*

“Very Champagne-like. Some nice complexity and a good balance of fruit and acid. Really quite moreish.”

*Samantha Stokes, Deputy Editor Wine Magazine July 2002*

“RidgeView Bloomsbury 1997 showed ‘perfect balance and freshness, this was refreshing yet offered complexity’.”

*Samantha Jones, Wine Magazine July 2002*

“The Chardonnay-dominated 1997 Bloomsbury is a creamy, full-flavoured bubbly with toast flavours and piercingly tangy freshness. . . the new 1998 Cuvée Merret Cavendish is every bit as classy, with a more persistent mousse and elegant texture than many a Champagne.”

*Anthony Rose, The Independent, June 2002*

“1997 Bloomsbury...this nutty, finely crafted wine would not be out of place in a tasting of middle-market Champagnes.”

*Tim Atkin, The Observer, June 2002*

“RidgeView ... show lovely fruit and are sufficiently high in quality to be served at many of our embassies.”

*Conal Gregory MW, Morning Advertiser, June 2002*

“English sparkling wines ... have become the darlings of the wine industry ... Nyetimber and RidgeView have shown that it’s possible to excel in sparkling wine with a positive attitude and an even more positive bank balance.”

*Anthony Rose, Harpers, Feb 2002*

*Bloomsbury 1997* – Dare I say classic English fizz? The fruit is immaculate and is ageing far more slowly than that in *Cavendish 1998* - The palate is very smooth, already mellow and showing a lovely creaminess on the finish. 85 points

*Fitzrovia (Rosé) 1998* – A pale, Roederer-like rosé colour, with lovely biscuity aromas intermingling with the fruit on the palate. Very classy. 85 points

*Tom Stevenson, Champagne & Sparkling Wine Guide 2002*

“It’s the best thing to come out of England in a bottle.”

*Jancis Robinson, Time, December 2001*

“RidgeView ... is one of several wineries proving that Blighty can make world-class bubbly.”

*Tom Grose, Time, December 2001*

“One of the finest sparkling wines outside Champagne.”

*Sunday Times Wine Club, November 2000.*

“This sparkler has strawberries and cream on the nose. Lovely, full-bodied fresh fruit flavours and a good depth.”

*Best wines from around the world, Decanter, Oct 20*

“The 1997 RidgeView Cuvée Merret was regarded as absolutely top class. There is no doubt that this wine beats many lesser Champagnes from the point of view of quality and value ... Champagne quality, with the lovely biscuit-like palate being loved by all. The price was considered to be reasonable for a wine of this quality.”

*Keith Grainger, Guild of Sommeliers, Sept 2001*

“English sparkling wines ‘can stand up to global competition and have carried off gold medals from under the noses of serious competitors,’ says CONAL GREGORY, who singles out RidgeView and Nyetimber as top producers.”

*Harpers June 2001*

“The Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury 1997 is ripe and tangy with slight smoky hints, and will only get better in the bottle. The Belgravia Special Reserve is fresher and fruitier, an ideal aperitif wine.”

*Simon Wood, Financial Times June 2001*

“Ridgeview, one of the best sparkling wine producers in England.”

*Andrew Jefford, BBC Radio 4 2001*

“RidgeView’s Cuvée Merret Fitzrovia sparkling rosé is not just world class but world beating sparkling wine.”

*Richard Bamfield MW, SEVA Wine of the Year 2001*

“Belgravia... is an excellently balanced wine that opens up on the palate developing into a lovely long palate.”

*CLA English & Welsh Wine on the Year Comp, June 2001*

“But our *pièce de résistance* must be making sparkling wines. When on top form, English sparkling wine can be sublime.... In last year’s International Wine Challenge England won more fizz medals than the Spanish with their mighty CAVA industry.”

*Matthew Jukes, Daily Mail, May 2001*

"Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia... are two of the very best examples of wines produced in England – they hold their own impressively well against rival products from that most distinguished of wine regions, Champagne."

*Liz Sagues Food and Drink- May 2001*

"Our sparklers stand up to the global competition and have carried off gold medals from under the noses of serious competitors."

*Conal Gregory, Telegraph, May 2001*

"REMEMBER! 85 Points: The sort of quality Champagne has to be to warrant inclusion in my cellar."

*Tom Stevenson*

**BLOOMSBURY 1996 CUVÉE  
MERRET, BRUT**

85

TOM STEVENSON'S  
CHAMPAGNE  
& SPARKLING WINE GUIDE 2000

"The quality of mature vintage Champagne."

*Bordeaux Direct Wines 2001*

"The RidgeView wines are serious, classic, traditional-method sparklers."

*Liz Morcom MW, House & Garden, January 2001*

"There can be no doubt that RidgeView Estate wines deserve a place on restaurant wine list so discerning diners can enjoy the rare pleasure of enjoying world-class sparkling wines from an English vineyard .. the sparkling wines as elegant as any made anywhere in the whole wide world".

*Phillipe Boucheron, Masters Table, Jan 2001*

"Classic champagne style blend from Ditchling worked beautiful (with smoked salmon). It's clean and fresh with plenty of biscuity fruit and will develop well in the bottle if you keep it."

*Henry Butler, Venus Magazine, Jan 2001*

"This is a stunning effort from RidgeView (Belgravia NV). It has a grapey, yeasty nose which is followed up on the palate with a lovely character, fine bubbles and great balance. The overall impression is of a sophisticated product. Very good/excellent."

*wineanorak.com, Jan 2001*

"Eat thy heart out, Dom Perignon, because at last the English might just be catching up if this is anything to by. Delicious ripe fruit on the nose was followed by great complexity and excellent acidity that integrated well in a savoury palate possessing a long finish."

*Wine Magazine, International Wine Competition 2000.*

"I enjoyed Bloomsbury, as did my wine-loving guests that night. It seemed very fresh, young, lively & attractively dry."

*Jancis Robinson MW 2000*

"England already produces some top quality sparkling wines, such as Bloomsbury, which are real competitors to Champagne."

*Oz Clarke BBC Good Food Magazine, Christmas 2000*

"This is extraordinary. It looks like champagne – good pale-gold colour and fine, persistent mousse...Quite Brilliant sparkling wine, from of all places, Ditchling in West Sussex."

*Ned Halley, Spyglass, April 2000*

"RidgeView's Cuvée Merret Bloomsbury is a very convincing trophy winner and gold medallist."

*Rosemary George MW, Chairman of Judges UKVA Wine of the year competition 2000*

"Personally I think it is brilliant, both the acclaim and the wine. I grabbed Tom [Tom Stevenson, author Champagne and Sparkling Wine Guide] and said, 'this wine is great. How come I have never heard of it?' Tom gives it an 85 in his book, more than many well know Champagnes. I agree with Tom's assessment, a great English wine."

*Anthony le Ray-Cook, Wine and Dine E-zine, Nov 2000*

"..... RidgeView have proved that at least one small area of England can produce world class fizz..."

*Joanna Simon, The Sunday Times Style Magazine, Nov 2000*

"Bloomsbury 1996 .. It had a rich, appely, Pinot-dominated nose, with a dark, chocolatey flavour and a toasty finish".

*Charles Metcalfe, Wine Magazine, Oct 2000*

"On quality – at least as far as Nyetimber and RidgeView are concerned – they are and equal to (and in some cases a lot better than) similarly priced Champagnes"

*Editor, Wine Guild Magazine, August 2000*

"The 1996 Bloomsbury is appely and peary with some good biscuity richness ... I'd be happy to serve any of the wines at my dinner table – which is more than could be said for a supermarket own-label Champagne I had the misfortune to taste."

*Robert Joesph, The Sunday Telegraph, August 2000*

"The 1996 Bloomsbury is appely and peary with some good biscuity richness, while the Belgravia Special Reserve Non-Vintage is less champagne-like but just as tasty in its grapefruity, gooseberryish way."

*Robert Joesph, Amazon Food & Drink, August 2000*

RidgeView Estate ... produces an excellent sparkling wine called 'Cuvée Merret'.

*Lilyane Weston, Dine Out Jan 2000*

"A high quality English sparkling wine made from the Champagne grapes, Chardonnay, Pinot Meunier and Pinot Noir. It's a classy fizz with a subtle, biscuity bouquet, showing complex, yeast driven, bottle aged flavours on the palate, with a tangy, bone dry finish adding finesse. Order now before the Champenois find out."

*Anthony Rose, The Independent, Dec 1999*

"The Independent top 50 best wines... One of the 5 best sparkling wines under £20."

*Anthony Rose, Independent, December 1999*

"...I've been really impressed by RidgeView Estate CUVÉE MERRET."

*Fiona Beckett, Daily Mail, December 1999.*

"A personal favourite of Club President Hugh Johnson, South Ridge has a huge following among 'in the know'. Champagne lovers too."

*The Sunday Times Wine Club 1999*

"... a very classy sparkling wine whose combination of pinprick bubbles and steely acidity is straight out of the Reims textbook."

*Richard Neill, The Daily Telegraph, 1999*