

Peter Hall, Breaky Bottom

1943 – 2025

It is with great sadness that we share the news of **Peter Hall**, founder and winemaker of **Breaky Bottom Vineyard** in Sussex, England, who died earlier this week. Peter was honoured with the Diplome d'Honneur, nominated by the [Wine Guild of the United Kingdom](#), presented to him last November.

Peter was truly one of the icons of the UK wine industry. He planted his vineyard in 1974, at a time when only a handful of producers were making wine in England. Over the next fifty years he became a leading figure in establishing England as a respected wine-producing country.

Peter was dedicated to crafting wines of the highest quality. He recognised the role of the terroir in his vineyard - the landscape of chalk loam and flint, with its own microclimate set within its secluded valley protected from coastal winds - and the part that he as winemaker played in creating his wines. His focus on sustainable practices and respect for the land set an example for future generations of winemakers.

At first, he produced still wines, using Germanic varieties that at the time were the most widely grown in England. Peter brought a different style to his wines, giving them depth and character, drawing out the spicy, aromatic qualities of the grape, and with some bottle age ensuring a lasting flavour that very few vineyards at the time were capable of doing.

He moved into sparkling wines, as ever ensuring that each wines retained consistent quality, finesse, longevity. Each of his wines has been named after a person who was influential in his life – what a wonderful way to remember them for evermore. His wines almost all – if not all – earned a deserved place alongside the top English sparkling wines that have been respected the wine world over.

Peter had many fans. He and his wife Christina created a wonderful haven at Breaky Bottom. Known for his charm, wit and *joie de vivre*, Peter Hall leaves a lasting legacy as one of the influential pioneers of modern English wine.

Visit www.breakybottom.co.uk to find out more about Peter, Breaky Bottom and his iconic wines.