

Barbara Brown

Brown's Vineyard



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Located just off the main street in Portlaoise, Brown's Vineyard has always been in Barbara Brown's family but it hasn't always stocked wine.

In 1945, Barbara's grandfather opened the shop as a greengrocers and then her father took over, selling seasonal fruit and veg and a range of delicatessen products.

Barbara always had a passion for good food and wine and when she saw an opportunity to expand the family business, she took it.

After commuting to her job with Diageo for seven years, she bit the bullet and opened Brown's Vineyard in 2015.

The ethos of Barbara's shop is to stock good-quality affordable wines not found in supermarkets. By hosting regular tasting sessions, clients can experience and educate themselves on new wines every week.

She has completed a Certificate in Wine & Spirits (WEST) and is also building on the wholesale side of the wine business.

ACORNS has been a key driver in Barbara's business growth. It has kept her on track and, with the support of her lead mentor and fellow participants, has encouraged her to continue to innovate.

She continues to look at new ways to keep the business unique and has ambitious plans to turn her father's shop into a market style destination.

At the moment, an Artisan Bread maker and a Coffee Roaster come into the shop twice a week to sell their produce, and Barbara is hoping to source a florist and other food producers to supply the shop. Her ultimate dream is to create an offering similar to the English Market in Cork.