

Kingfishers Pool Vineyard, 43 Westfield Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire. LE7 7LH
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HARVEST VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

All our volunteers have enjoyed their harvest experience to date, as it is a great social activity. Here is some information so you can get the best out of this unique experience. We have set three double dates, and will set more when the grapes have made up their minds about ripening! You can come for a whole day or for half on a Friday or a Saturday.



Fridays: Grape picking only

- 09.45 Parking in the side paddock
- 10.00 Briefing on the terrace over coffee and croissants. Issue grape scissors/safety gloves
- 10.30 Issue wheelbarrows and picking baskets. Start picking grapes
- 11.30 Coffee will be brought down to the vineyard
- 13.00 Lunch on the terrace (usually cold buffet)
- 14.00 More picking then a cup of tea before home with a leaving present

Saturdays: Both grape picking and wine treading and pressing

- 08.45 Parking in the side paddock
- 9.00 Briefing on the terrace over coffee and croissants. Issue grape scissors/safety gloves
- 9.30 Issue wheelbarrows and picking baskets. Start picking grapes
- 9.30 Matthew starts the wine making process in the courtyard and Liz is driving the full grape baskets up and down.
- 11 am coffee and biscuits
- 11.30 More grape picking
- 12.30 Lunch on the terrace (usually fish'n'chips)
- 13.30 More picking
- 13.30 Afternoon pickers arrive – briefing on the terrace
- 15.30 Afternoon tea on the terrace
- 15.50 More picking then home when you feel like it with a leaving present

What to wear:

- Sensible shoes and outdoor clothing.
- Sunscreen if sun is likely.
- Rainproof apparel if rain is likely
- If you want to tread the grapes please bring shorts and crocs/flip flops to walk from wet room to treading tank.
- Please try to leave handbags/valuables at home because we do not have handbag lockers

Weather:

- We recommend the Mountsorrel weather station for a local forecast <http://www.stormtrack.co.uk/Pages/Weather-Forecast.aspx>
- We will pick grapes through rain light showers, but if rain is heavy and persistent the grape picking will be postponed or stopped.

Grape Treading



- This fun activity is traditionally done best by sturdy men with big feet
- Please wear shorts
- Our new wet room allows you to wash your lower legs and feet before and after treading
- Please bring flip flops/crocs or similar to walk from the wet room to the treading tank
- Please do not volunteer for treading if you have any foot leg infections such as fungal nail disease, warts, verruca, athlete's foot etc. We have a foot inspection policy.
- Treading is done in the courtyard where winemaking equipment in operation, so strict health and safety precautions apply. Young children CANNOT participate. See below.

Children

Children have traditionally participated in grape picking, especially in France where it is considered a good learning experience and a way to integrate in a team with adults. Now, vineyards are working areas with farm like comparisons as well as a factory processes in the winery and courtyard which are not child friendly. We are loath to follow the example of many other English vineyards which have banned children outright from participating. So, we advocate:

- Bring child sized gloves for children to wear, because our safety gloves are all in adult sizes.
- Bring alternative activities in case they get bored – we are very happy for them to kick a ball around in the side paddock.
- Parental supervision at all times
- Children should stay away from the river bank which has recently been reconstructed and is unstable. Kingfishers Pool itself is about 8 foot deep with a slippery waterfall
- Children must **not** go into the winery or the part of courtyard where the wine making machinery is in operation
- We can give a parent a small bowl of grape pulp so children can “have a go” at grape treading away from the winemaking area. This must be supervised by parents.
- If children are clearly fractious and bored it is best that their parents take them home.

Westfield Lane is poorly lit and has a problem with speeding motorists. Once we have closed the side gates, the five acre property is relatively safe. This is why we want to know who is coming and arrival times. We will shut the gates once grape picking starts so that children can run around.

Dogs

- Well behaved dogs are welcome.
- They are allowed to swim, but if they get into difficulty no human should risk themselves in canine rescue.
- Be aware that there might be children present. Check in advance. Dogs known to bite, or frighten children are best left at home. Does your dog need a muzzle.
- Most dogs should be able to run free once the gates have been closed as the fences are reasonably dog proof.
- We have a small shovel for scooping up excrement and putting under the hedge (fox deterrent)
- All the points in the children section above apply, apart from the grape treading bowl!

First Aid

Most likely injury is a cut to fingers. This is why we issue grape scissors instead of secateurs, and adult sized glove for the non-scissor hand.

First aid kit is located in the white pavilion in the corner of the garden, along with antiseptic wipes and insect bite cream.

General Points

- Mobile phone reception is patchy
- We have a full range of protocols and health and safety policies – please let us know if you need to see one
- Remember – people have a great time grape picking!

We hope you enjoy your time on the vineyard

Cheers!

Liz and Matthew