

ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

WINE COUNTRY TRAILS BY HORSEBACK

RISK REDUCTION STANDARDS AND TRAIL RULES

1. Headgear should be worn while riding, handling, or being around horses. The wearing of such Certified Protective Headgear at these times may reduce the severity of some of the wearer's head injuries and possibly prevent the wearer's death from happening as the result of a fall or other occurrence.
2. Riders must be at least 7 years of age. Riders 17 years old and younger **MUST WEAR** Certified Protective Headgear.
3. Legal age riders, 18 years and older, **MAY CHOOSE** whether or not to wear Certified Protective Headgear; however, they must sign a refusal statement, if they choose not to wear Certified Protective Headgear.
4. Please understand that it is the **RECOMMENDATION** of Wine Country Trails by Horseback, that all Riders should wear Certified Protective Headgear. We maintain Certified Protective Headgear for participants in various sizes, to afford the best possible fit for participants. Please bear in mind that a perfect fit may not be possible.
5. Riders may supply their own equestrian helmet, provided the individual's helmet meets or exceeds the standards of the SEI Certified ASTM Standard F 1163 Equestrian Riding Helmets/Protective Headgear.
6. Helmets must be on the Rider's head, with the chin harness securely fastened, under the chin, prior to mounting a horse. The helmet must remain on, with harness securely fastened, throughout the ride, and until after dismounting. Our helmets have been cleaned and disinfected for your protection.
7. Wine Country Trails horses are all more than seven years of age; they are well-trained, tested, and seasoned specifically for providing the safest possible rides for beginners. No horse with a known history of chronically risky tendencies will be used, such as horses that are prone to kick, strike, bite, buck, run away, rear up, lay down, or if they have exhibited signs of being difficult to control. Our horses are part of our family. They are healthy, sound, and well fed. We demand that our horses be treated humanely at all times. ***We reserve the right to deny service to any rider who we feel has treated any of our horses inhumanely, who does not agree to follow the rules stated in this Agreement, or who shows any signs of being uncooperative. We may deny a participant, at our discretion, without a first warning.***
8. We will demonstrate the following basic riding skills, before you ride: How to mount, how to stop or slow your horse, how to make the horse move forward, how to turn the horse left and right, and how to dismount. We will also demonstrate the correct positions for the Rider's body, arms, and legs, as well as the correct foot position in stirrups while riding, and how to hold the reins. For example:
 - To stop, you will be pulling back, evenly on both reins, beginning gently, while saying WHOA. Pull back gradually, with more tension on the reins, if the horse does not respond adequately.
 - To move forward, slacken the reins and nudge or squeeze inward, with the inside of your lower legs or heels.
 - Do not make fast, erratic movements while riding. Do not yell or scream. Staying calm will help keep your horse calm.
9. Riders over 240 pounds cannot ride, unless we are able to provide a horse and saddle of adequate size and stability to accommodate the rider. No rider shall weigh more than 20% of the estimated weight of the horse they will be riding.
10. Riders must be at least 7 years of age. If a rider, of any age, is determined to be overly frightened about riding a horse, we recommend terminating the ride immediately. We reserve the right to determine whether or not to allow an individual to begin a ride.
11. We are pleased to assist and accommodate special needs, including physical or mental disabilities, disorders, and unique conditions, ***if we can do so adequately, considering the individual's needs and ultimate safety.*** Individuals who have Downs Syndrome must have a negative X-ray of their necks or written permission from their doctor.

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12. Saddles will be required. There will be no bareback riding. Only one rider per horse will be allowed. Guides will supervise every ride.

13. We will be checking for tightness of cinches before you mount and prior to leaving for our ride. After briefing and saddle checks, our rides will last for a minimum of one hour.

14. Riders will be asked not to wear hats that do not securely tie under the chin, not to carry anything that might drop, bounce, flap, or blow away. Please do not bring anything on the ride that will make noise or otherwise possibly frighten a horse (e.g., toys, purses, cameras, or extra unworn clothing). Please turn off cell phones, and refrain from using them during the ride. As in driving, telephones are a dangerous distraction. Please do not put on or take off any articles of clothing any time while mounted.

Please ask for horse holding assistance.

15. No person will be secured or fastened onto a saddle, in any way.

16. If anyone does not understand an instruction, please ask us to repeat or demonstrate the meaning of the instruction. Please assess whether or not your children understand the instructions.

17. All riders will be asked to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled ride, in order that each rider has the time to:

- a. Read, complete, and sign the Assumption of Risk and Liability Release;
- b. Read, complete and sign the Risk Reduction Standards;
- c. Be assessed according to individual needs prior to the ride according to age, size, and special needs; and
- d. Receive pre-riding instructions and sign that you have participated in the orientation and safety briefing.

18. Our trail will be mostly flat and mostly dirt, as we proceed through the vineyards. Horses can perceive objects, even if they are immobile, as something to shy away from. Even though our horses are well seasoned, always be prepared that your horse may suddenly stop, or take a quick step away from anything that may frighten it, mobile or immobile.

19. If you have chosen to wear a helmet, does it fit snugly, and has the chin strap been adjusted? Yes ____ No ____

20. Do you require additional assistance in adjusting your helmet? Yes ____ No ____

21. You will be introduced to your Trail Guides, and the positions they will assume on the trail. Each Rider will be checked out by a Guide as to his/her saddle, stirrups, cinch, bridle, and reins, before the ride begins.

TRAIL RULES

1. Ride single-file at all times. Do not pass the horse ahead of you.
2. Maintain one horse length between horses. Horses may kick at the horse behind them, if a horse comes too close to the horse ahead.
3. Turn off cell phones and pagers during the ride.
4. No unsecured carry-on objects. Hats and helmets must be secured under the rider's chin.
5. The Guides will be happy to take your pictures at the end of the trail.
6. No screaming, yelling or making loud, sharp noises, which could scare or excite the horses.
7. Do not hold your horse back, behind the group. Everyone must stay in a group.
8. Do not allow your horse to go faster than the horse ahead of you. Do not run your horse. Do not allow your horse to speed up as you return from the end of the trail. We will never travel faster than the least experienced rider in the group can handle with assurance.

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9. Do not allow your horse to eat...not grapevines, not weeds, not grass. Pull their heads up firmly with the reins. **DO NOT YANK OR JERK THE REINS.**
10. No slapping, hard kicking, jerking on the reins or any other abuse to the horses will be allowed. You will immediately be asked to dismount, walk back to our point of origination, and leave.
11. **NEVER** run your horse up behind another horse or canter past a group of riders.
12. If we encounter any vehicles on the trail, move off the trail, to whichever side the Guide instructs. Be prepared that your horse may shy at a vehicle. Pay attention and remain alert.
13. Warn others of any vehicles that are approaching.
14. If a Rider is experiencing any difficulty, the entire group will stop and wait for the issue to be resolved before proceeding.
15. Watch the ground ahead of you. Avoid taking your horse over any holes or obstacles.
16. Please do not litter.
17. Be thoughtful and courteous to fellow riders.
18. Please, no smoking on the trail, around the horses, guest Riders or Guides.
19. We will have name tags available. Please print, in large block print, your first name, on two name tags. Stick one on your front left shoulder and one on your back. If you have long hair, put it on one side or the other of your back
20. Please bring, and carry with you during your ride, photo identification, your insurance card, and a list of any known allergies.

Again, please listen, and always follow the Trail Guides instructions. It is our goal to offer every rider a pleasurable and safe experience.

I, _____ have read the three-page Risk Reduction Standards and Trail Rules. I was present when this entire document was discussed and when demonstrations were conducted. I understand everything that I have read, and the demonstrations as given.

Signature of Rider

I, _____ am certain my child understands and is capable of following the instructions as written above and as discussed.

Signature of parent or guardian if rider is under 18

Headgear/Helmet Refusal Statement

I, _____ (please print name), state that I was offered a SEI Certified ASTM Standard F 1163 Equestrian Riding Helmet/Protective Headgear. I understand that not wearing protective headgear increases my risk of serious injury and/or death during horseback riding and horse riding activities.