

Cheers!

A guide to the Tenterden area's
must-visit vineyards and breweries





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The English wine industry is enjoying a renaissance, thanks in no small part to Kent's top class wine producers.

The county's south facing slopes, chalk soils and increasingly warm climate provide the ideal conditions for grape growing, and are in fact similar to the Champagne region of France.

No surprise then that many leading wine makers are located in the Tenterden area and it's not just wine. Conditions in this area of the Garden of England are also ideal for growing hops, apples and pears to make delicious beers, ciders and juices.

Our abundance of vineyards and other local produce, teamed with appealing places to stay, eat, drink and visit, make Tenterden the ideal choice for a day trip or short break.

Every vineyard and brewery is unique and has something different to explore; so we've put together this guide to help you plan your visit. We hope you'll have fun – cheers!



Wine Beer & Cider

facts, figures
and just for fun!



It contains
a whopping
15 litres
of wine!

England's largest bottle of wine, a Nebuchadnezzar, was produced by Chapel Down.



Biddenden Vineyard produces

700,000

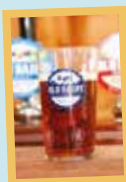
pints of  cider every year!

There are
135 wineries
& **470 vineyards**
in
England & Wales



Hush Heath Estate
wines are served on

British Airways First Class



The Old Dairy Brewery
makes around...

29,000

pints per week!



1792 Tenterden's first brewery was started by Isaac and Thankful Cloake

Destination Tenterden



Relax and unwind as you discover Tenterden, an archetypal Kentish town known to many as the 'Jewel of the Weald'.

The impressive tree-lined High Street and lanes running off it are simply bursting with independent shops selling antiques, gifts and crafts. You'll find a vibrant mix of quirky cafes, pubs and restaurants, plus interesting architecture; cute cottages, a medieval church and Tudor and Georgian buildings. There's everything you need for a memorable short break.

And as you travel beyond Tenterden you can stop off at the picture postcard villages of Biddenden, Rolvenden, Smarden, Woodchurch and Appledore.



Tenterden Trivia



Tenterden is twinned with Avallon in the Burgundy region of France – another top area for wine and vineyards.

The town was once an important trading port, but is no longer linked to the sea. It has been a Cinque Port since 1449.



Events Not to be missed!

Tentertainment

Tenterden's own version of Glastonbury, this free music festival takes place each July. The hugely popular family event has an impressive line-up of performers and bands to suit all ages and tastes.

www.tentertainment.co.uk

Tenterden folk festival

Folk fans will love this four day festival of song, music, dance and crafts which takes over the town every October and attracts thousands of visitors to the area.

www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Biddenden
HEART OF THE GARDEN
ENGLAND



Gusbourne

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Key to your map:

- Vineyard open for tours & tastings
- Vineyard visits by appointment only
- Vineyard not open for visits
- Brewery open for tours & tastings



Biddenden Vineyards

Located on the delightfully named Gribble Bridge Lane for over 50 years, Biddenden is well known for its award-winning estate grown wines and famous Strong Kentish ciders. Twenty-three acres of south facing slopes provide perfect grape growing conditions, giving the wines real character and flavour.

Head to the shop for the full range of wines, ciders and juices as well as other local goodies. Try Gribble Bridge Meats too for a tasty selection of hand reared, grass fed beef. Stroll round the vineyard or pre-book a guided tour.

Don't miss!

Enjoy the mix of old and new – from the old cider press to the fully automated bottling line.

www.biddendenvineyards.com / 01580 291726
Biddenden Vineyards, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DF



Hush Heath Estate

The stunning 400 acre Hush Heath Estate, home to the Balfour-Lynn family, boasts vast ancient oak woodlands, vineyards, orchards and meadows, which you can explore at your leisure.

The estate is immaculately kept; its 40 acres of vines flourish in Hush Heath's own warm micro-climate which helps to create vibrant, fruity wines.

Guided tours are available, but must be pre-booked. Or simply turn up for a tasting – anything goes here and you'll receive a warm welcome whatever your wine knowledge.

Don't miss!

Look out for the wines and ciders named after the owner's children!

www.hushheath.com / 01622 832794
Hush Heath Estate, Five Oak Lane, Junction of Snoad Lane, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0HT



Chapel Down Winery

This impressive winery is the country's leading English wine producer. Its award-winning sparkling wines are rumoured to have been served at the Royal Wedding in 2011.

Pick up a map in the shop and enjoy a free self-guided tour of its breathtaking vineyards or book a full guided tour and marvel at the winery's grape press (largest in the UK) and high tech kit in the modern winery. You'll also find out about Chapel Down's own beer and cider.

Don't miss!

Have a drink in the herb garden, an inviting sun trap filled with fragrance.

www.chapeldown.com / 01580 766111
Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG



Gusbourne Estate

This vineyard and wine maker is one to watch; while the original estate dates back to the 13th century, its current owner is creating very modern English sparkling wines that have already received accolades from wine industry experts. Nothing but perfection will do for this exciting wine producer on Tenterden's outskirts.

You can find the wines on the menus of some of the country's finest restaurants and they are widely available to buy, or visit the vineyard itself by appointment.

Don't miss!

Pretty rose bushes among the vines are an early warning of disease. White and red roses hint at which colour grape you'll find!

www.gusbourne.com / 01233 758666
Gusbourne Estate, Kenardington Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2BE



Old Dairy Brewery

A rising star of the Kent beer scene, this 30 barrel brewery started in 2010 at an old dairy in Rolvenden. It moved into Tenterden in 2014, to a new home just steps from the steam railway.

With a core range of six ales, plus seasonal and speciality beers, there's something for every taste.

Book ahead for a brewery tour, or just swing by the shop for a tasting and pick up a few bottles to take home.

Don't miss!

Try the Old Dairy Brewery's own Gold Top English Mustard, perfect with some Kentish bangers and mash!

www.olddairybrewery.com / 01580 763867
Old Dairy Brewery, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HE



Farnell Farm

This Rolvenden-based farm planted its vineyard in 2010, so look out for the first wines to come out of this newcomer soon. In the meantime, you can buy a vine on its website to grow for yourself at home.

www.farnellfarm.co.uk

Harbourne Vineyard

Call in at Harbourne's shop near Wittersham and buy handmade wines created using traditional methods from this family owned vineyard and winery. Phone ahead to check opening hours.

www.harbournevineyard.co.uk

Sandhurst

This 25 acre vineyard near Cranbrook is part of the family run Hoads Farm and sells its grapes to other producers for wine making. There's accommodation on site at the farmhouse's B&B.

www.sandhurstvineyards.co.uk

Westwell Wines

A winemaker and grower who produces high quality sparkling and still wines that can be found in many local farm shops and restaurants. You can also buy directly through the website.

www.westwellwines.co.uk

Woodchurch Wines

Located just outside Woodchurch, this small vineyard and wine producer is about to release its first sparkling wines. Visitors are welcome by appointment, to shop, taste or take a guided tour.

www.woodchurchwine.co.uk

What else can we do?

We've done the legwork to uncover the best places to visit in the Tenterden area. Here are our top picks:



Hole Park

This delightful park and garden located near Rolvenden, is the ideal spot to kick back and relax. Its formal gardens, which span 15 acres, are breathtaking in bluebell season.

www.holepark.com

Smallhythe Place

This 16th century house and garden was home to Victorian actress Ellen Terry. Now a popular National Trust property, it tells the story of her extraordinary career and life.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Kent & East Sussex Railway

No trip to Tenterden is complete without the nostalgia and magic of a steam train journey. Climb on board one of its beautifully restored carriages, and enjoy your journey through the pretty Rother Valley to Bodiam Castle.

www.kesr.org.uk



Tenterden Museum

Housed in a traditional Kentish barn, this small museum is packed with information and artefacts telling Tenterden's story; from its history as a Cinque Port to tales of hop picking holidays and more.

www.tenterdenmuseum.co.uk



To find out more about what you can do, visit:

www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk

Places to stay & eat



Feeling hungry?

You'll probably work up an appetite as you tour our vineyards and breweries, so make sure you leave time for eating.

Tenterden is lucky enough to have three Michelin starred restaurants within easy reach, The West House at Biddenden, The Curlew at Bodiam and Apicius in Cranbrook. If that doesn't tickle your tastebuds, alternatives include the stylish yet comfortable restaurant at Chapel Down or many gastropubs in the surrounding villages. Back to Tenterden itself, you'll find restaurants and cafes galore for a light lunch, quick coffee or afternoon tea.

Re-charge your batteries

Whether you're looking for a home from home, a luxurious retreat or a bargain place to rest your head; Tenterden and the area surrounding it have plenty of accommodation to choose from.

If glamping is your thing, you'll find yurts, safari tents and hoppers' huts, or there's plenty of good old English B&Bs in tranquil rural settings. Alternatively, there are beautiful hotels with spa baths and four poster beds if that's more to your taste.

Something different?

Electric Bike Tours

Zip between vineyards in style on an electric bike tour, taking you through country lanes between Chapel Down, Biddenden and Hush Heath. Even better, it includes a stop at a Kentish pub en route.

www.ukelectricbiketours.co.uk



How to find us!



A journey to Tenterden is hassle free, and just 38 minutes from central London to nearby Ashford by train.

Travel from London St Pancras to Ashford International on the high speed train. Taxis are available at Ashford station for the 20 minute journey to Tenterden and there's also a regular bus service.

If you're travelling by car, Tenterden is situated on the A28 between Hastings and Ashford and is less than an hour by car from the M25.



Tourist information is available from:



Ashford Gateway Plus
Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1AS
Tel: 01233 330316
www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk



Remember you can have too much of a good thing.

We encourage anyone drinking alcohol to drink responsibly and consider leaving their car at home. Contact Ashford Gateway Plus for details of taxi companies serving the Tenterden area.



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

ASHFORD

Published by Ashford Borough Council, this brochure is designed to be an informative guide rather than a recommendation.

www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk