

## **The Vineyard**

The wine industry in England has in the past been treated as a bit of a joke but in Kent vineyards are starting to gain worldwide recognition. This ride will take you out to two vineyards near Staple and sample their produce. On the outward trip you will have the opportunity to leisurely wander along the sides of the Little Stour River visiting the villages of Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux. The return journey gives you commanding views over the downs before you pass through the very attractive village of Patricbourne. This is a fairly easy ride with very few hills worth mentioning.

Total Distance 25.5 miles /42.5 kilometers

1. From the station bear left and pass through a new housing estate bearing right all the time until you reach North Lane, cross and go straight ahead into the Causeway. Turn left into St. Radigunds Street, cross over the Stour River passing the Millers arms on your right and continue following this road until it meets Northgate. Turn left, pass Broad Street, on your right and turn right into the next alleyway on your right. Follow this road as it twists and turns until you reach Military Road.
2. At staggered pedestrian crossings go straight ahead into North Holmes Road. and at T junction by the side of the local prison turn left and in a very short while turn right into Spring Lane signposted Cycle Route 16/17 towards Dover. By the Chaucer School turn right into Pilgrims Way. At the end of the housing estate the route enters a private road and Cycle Track 16. Follow this route carefully through the orchards. (Straight in at the crossroads, and just after passing under high tension electric power cable fork left and climb a short incline.)
3. In a while join a lane on a sharp bend and go straight ahead passing Hode Farm and its oasthouses. Descend a hill and beware there is a T junction at the bottom. In a very short distance there is a mini roundabout.

(4 miles/ 6.5 kilometers)

4. Turn left at the roundabout, signposted Bekesbourne and Littlebourne. Follow this road under a large railway viaduct, past Howletts Wildlife Park to the village of Littlebourne.

(5.5 miles/ 9 kilometers)

5. At staggered crossroads with A257 go straight ahead into Margate Street signposted Ickham and Wickhambreaux. Ride along the side of the Little Stour through village of Wickhambreaux passing the Rose Inn on the green in the village. Continue to the village of Grove and on the left hand

bend turn right into lane signposted Preston and Wingham.

(8.5 miles/ 14 kilometers)

6. At T junction with B2046 in Preston turn right signposted Wingham and Canterbury, past the Moon and Seven Stars Public House and then left opposite village stores signposted Elmstone and Westmarsh. Follow the signs for Elmstone; turn left at Cycle Route 1. At the fork in the road just before you reach Elmstone church fork right signposted Ash. Keep to the main lane ignoring side turnings. At the next T junction turn left (signpost arm broken). On reaching A257 Ash Bypass cross straight ahead and head towards the centre of the village of Ash.

(14 miles/23 kilometers)

7. On a left hand bend turn right signposted Staple. At the entrance to the village of Staple join the main road on a left hand bend. (If you wish to visit more than one vine yard turn left at this junction and you will come to Barnsole Vineyard in 400m). Otherwise go straight ahead at this junction and follow the road through the village to the Three Tuns Public House towards Wingham. Staple Vineyard is almost opposite. After the visit follow the signposts to Wingham.

(17 miles/ 28 kilometers)

8. At T junction with B2046 turn left signposted Barham and Folkestone. On left hand bend turn right signposted Wingham Well. Descend an short hill and turn right. At T junction with A257 turn left, cross front of Hay Wain Public House and turn left down the other side of it.
9. Turn right at the first junction on the right. Pass over a railway bridge and straight on at crossroads. Take next turning on right and follow main lane into Patixbourne. At T junction turn right, pass through the village. Follow Cycle Route 16 to Canterbury.

(22 miles/ 36.5 kilometers)

10. At mini roundabout at the end of the village veer left and almost immediately fork right into Hode land and up the hill to Hode Farm. On left hand bend go straight ahead into private road through orchards. Enter Canterbury through a housing estate, Pilgrims Way. Bear right over railway bridge where road becomes Pilgrims Road. By Chaucer School turn left into Spring Lane. At T junction turn left into St. Martins Hill and almost immediately right into special Cycle lane in North Homes Road.
11. Follow special track along North Homes Road and continue straight ahead

into Cycle path. At junction with busy Military Road cross road to central island, turn left and cross again. Enter alleyway and follow to Northgate.

12. At junction with road turn left and take the second turning on the right into St. Radigunds Street. Pass Millers Arms, pass over River Bridge and turn right into the Causeway. At next junction go straight ahead into Station Road West and follow track through new housing estate veering left all the time until you come to Canterbury West Railway Station.

(25.5 miles/ 42.5 kilometers)