



RATHFINNY

JOB TITLE: Winery Cellarhand (CH)

DEPARTMENT: Winery

LOCATION: Rathfinny Wine Estate, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TU

RESPONSIBLE TO: Winemaker

ABOUT RATHFINNY

Rathfinny was established in 2010 by Mark and Sarah Driver with the express intention to produce world-class sparkling wine using methods that are kind to our land, people, community, and wider environment.

Located in Alfriston, East Sussex, we are a family-run grower-producer, crafting traditional method, vintage Sussex Sparkling wines with Sussex PDO status. The estate is also home to our leading English wine tourism offering. We welcome visitors for vineyard tours, wine tastings, and shopping at the Cellar Door, plus dining and accommodation at the Flint Barns and self-catering Cottage and drinks and light bites at The Hut.

Since its inception, sustainability has been an important part of Rathfinny's DNA, using innovative technologies for renewable energy, winemaking, and viticulture. This culminated in achieving B Corp certification in 2023.

POSITION OVERVIEW

This position involves the active participation in all the operations of the winemaking facilities at the Rathfinny Estate leading to the successful, safe, and profitable production of wine under the direction of the winemaker. Winemaking is primarily focussed on Rathfinny Estate Sparkling wines but also includes Cradle Valley still wines.

Harvest period will normally involve weekends, long work hours and flexible start & finish times. Often the tasks being undertaken in this role can be time critical, so working patterns may need to be adjusted without notice to take into consideration weather, breakdowns, and other operational issues.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Previous cellar experience in a winery is mandatory requirement for this role.

Current Right to Work in the UK is essential.

CORE DUTIES

WINERY AND VINTAGE OPERATIONS

CH will actively participate in all winery and vintage operations (including set up, operation, cleaning, and maintenance):

- Fruit receipt and press operations.
- Vintage winery activities including racking, transfers, additions.
- Primary and malolactic fermentation management including inoculations and cultures.



RATHFINNY

- Blending, clarification, filtration, stabilisation activity.
- Tirage preparation and bottling for secondary alcoholic fermentation.
- Laboratory work.

High levels of winery hygiene and organisation will need to be maintained throughout this time, and staff will be expected to spend considerable time on tasks related to cleaning equipment and the winery environment.

CH will need to manually handle grapes, additives, buckets, hoses, equipment, bottles, cases (up to 16kg), be able to perform repetitive tasks at a good speed and maintain high levels of quality.

Additionally, CH will participate in related winery operations administration which includes:

- Record-keeping of inputs, outputs, losses.
- Recording of winemaking and laboratory activities.

Winery and vintage operations will require both individual and team tasks, CH will be expected to:

- Ensure work is completed as instructed, thoroughly, efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Record specifics of all operations accurately and as instructed.
- Support the production team as necessary during peak periods.

PRODUCTION

Actively participate in all production operations (including set up, operation, cleaning, and maintenance):

- Riddling, including preparation/loading/unloading stillage and TSR.
- Disgorging equipment and operations
- Labelling and packaging equipment and operations
- Bottling operations both sparkling and still

HYGIENE, FOOD DEFENCE, HOUSEKEEPING AND SECURITY

CH will abide by the Food safety and personal hygiene policy for Rathfinny Wine Estate.

CH will actively protect products from risk related to food safety or quality resulting from accidental or malicious actions (HACCP & TACCP) including reporting any practice or situation which may lead to unsafe food as well challenging any instances of access to food areas by unauthorised people.

CH will actively participate in the Hygiene, Food defence, Housekeeping, Security, and Protection of all the winery assets, including:

- Buildings and all plant and equipment in the winemaking and production departments.
- Wine in storage.
- Property.

CH will be provided appropriate training and food protective clothing (FPC) to allow them to produce safe, high quality authentic wines and drinks.



RATHFINNY

CH will support the winemaking and production department in maintaining site standards that satisfy BRC food-safety standards.

SAFETY

CH will abide by the Health and Safety policy for Rathfinny Wine Estate. CH will actively participate in the provision of a safe, professional work environment including:

- Complying with all applicable Health & Safety regulations and instructions.
- Always operating with a high level of safety.
- Reporting in a timely manner any practice or situation which staff believe to be unsafe.
- Operating in accordance with safe working procedures.

CH will be provided appropriate training and personal protective equipment (PPE) to allow them to work efficiently and safely in this working environment.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

As part of the job role, CH may be required to:

- Work at cool winery and night-time temperatures (typically 10-16°C).
- Work with cleaning chemicals and other substances hazardous to health.
- Work with sulphur dioxide SO₂ (allergen).
- Work in a noisy environment.
- Work at heights.
- Work in confined spaces (if trained).
- Work at night and on the weekends.
- Operate complex wine production machinery.
- Work standing up for prolonged periods of time.
- Work in wet and slippery environments.
- Conduct repetitive tasks such as cleaning, additions, and analysis.

CH may be required to work around and with powered vehicles including:

- Powered pallet truck.
- Motorised scrubber-dryer.
- Delivery vehicles.
- Forklift and attachments (if experienced).
- Tractors and attachment (if experienced).

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

There will be times when you may be required to undertake additional tasks, duties, and responsibilities within your capabilities. Rathfinny wine estate reserves the right to vary your tasks, duties, and responsibilities at any time and from time to time according to the needs of the Company's business.



RATHFINNY

However, you will not be assigned to duties or required to perform services which you cannot reasonably perform or which are outside the range of your normal skills and experience.

CULTURE AND CONDUCT

At Rathfinny Estate we are committed to producing exceptional wines and experiences, enjoyed the world over, that reveal the character of our family Estate in Sussex, using methods that are kind to our land, people, community, and wider environment.

To deliver this commitment we foster an environment of high-performance and a culture of excellence which drives the production of exceptional quality products which are safe, legal, authentic as well as providing excellent customer service.

All staff are expected to:

- Engage in the ongoing process of continual improvement in all aspects of quality, safety, authenticity, and legality.
- Use skills, knowledge, and experience to suggest ways to solve problems and improve processes.
- Work with enthusiasm and professionalism.
- Treat colleagues with respect and kindness.
- Be friendly, helpful, and cheerful with the team and the public.
- Communicate openly and behave in an ethical, honest, and fair way.

B CORP

Actively participate in B Corp certification and the adoption of the highest standard in social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. Teams will decide their annual targets and as a member of that team, you will be expected to show how you have contributed to them. Personal targets towards our mission are encouraged but these are not discussed and assessed in the same way.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Rathfinny is an equal opportunities employer and actively supports Human Rights, and all Equality legislation. Our ethos is to respect and value people's differences, to help everyone achieve more at work as well as in their personal lives so that they feel proud of the part they play in our success.

We believe that all decisions about people at work should be based on the individual's abilities, skills, performance, behaviour, and our business requirements. We are committed to the fair treatment of our staff, potential staff, or users of our services, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependents, age, physical/mental disability, or offending background.

If an applicant, either external or a current employee, needs any specific help to enable them to apply for a role they should make this clear as part of their application.

If you are ready to take on this exciting challenge, we would love to hear from you. Register your interest in this role by sending your up-to-date CV and cover letter to HR@rathfinnyestate.com.