



WineGB National Pruning Competition



7 March 2025

Clayhill Vineyard, Lower Burnham Rd,
Latchingdon, Chelmsford CM3 6HF

THE COMPETITION

WineGB is keen to show recognition to grapevine pruners as an integral practice required for quality wines and vineyard health.

THE EVENT

The competition this year is for teams and individuals.

JUDGING

The judges will look for quality of work, cane selection, and timing. Competitors must abide by the competition rules and the judges' decision in all cases will be final.

SAFETY

Competitors acknowledge that hazards may exist at the site. Competitors must provide their own safety equipment and assume responsibility for their own safety.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments will be provided by the team at Langham Wine Estate.

AWARDS CEREMONY

Prizes will be awarded immediately after the judging has been completed while the contestants are enjoying the refreshments.

HOW TO ENTER

The Teams Event will cost £30 per team (£60 for non-member vineyards). Individual entries cost £10 per person (£20 for individuals from non-member vineyards). All fees are VAT inclusive and must be paid prior to the competition. To enter, please visit the WineGB website, click on the 'What's On' page, and select the WineGB Pruning Competition. You may then fill out the relevant online form and complete payment.

RULES IN BRIEF

1. All entrants must report to the venue by 10am.
2. Competitors will be briefed on the judging criteria prior to the competition.
3. The team event will involve three team members pruning three separate elements on previously two-cane pruned vines. For the individual event the pruner will have to carry out all three elements.
4. Each team or individual will (1) prune, (2) strip, (3) trim and tie a minimum of 5 vines in 10 minutes.
5. Only one competitor per team per element at any one time during the competition. Only once each element has been completed can the next team member start the next element of the event. Bonus points will be awarded for each additional vine pruned and pulled out only by one person after the first 5 vines have been correctly pruned, pulled, trimmed and tied down.
6. The "pruner" (1) will cut back to a maximum of 2x10 bud canes and 2x2 bud replacement spurs. Majority of points awarded for cuts and spurs that respect and preserve sap flow.
7. The "cane puller" (2) will strip out unwanted canes and last year's fruiting wood and place in the inter-row leaving the area under vine debris-free.
8. The "tier" (3) will trim and tie the canes cutting 15-20mm past the last bud and tie with a single wrapped twist tie just back from the last node of the cane.
9. All entrants must supply their own pruning equipment, gloves, safety glasses and appropriate footwear etc.
10. No electronic secateurs are allowed
11. Over 18s only