

# WINE & COUNTRY™

## Guest Guide

TO THE STEEPLECHASE RACES



*Hunt races have been a tradition in the foxhunting circles of Great Britain and America since the 1700s. In the villages of Great Britain huntsman enjoyed friendly wagers on races from the church steeple of one village to the next, thus the term “steeplechase racing,” and the events became a formalized spectator sport in the mid 1800s.*

## WHAT TO WEAR

Because it's traditions span over 200 years, many of the fashions you see at the races today hark-en back to styles of the past. Many spectators dress up in old fashioned outfits, participate in the traditional hat contests and enjoy the romance of the day. Many alternatively dress in casual Equestrian style or in a Preppy look. One of the most important fashion elements to remember is to wear good boots or shoes that will withstand the often wet or muddy country fields. Leave your urban high heeled shoes at home, and don't forget the sunscreen and a great hat!



## WHAT TO BRING

A designated driver if you intend to drink, your ID, race day ticket and parking pass, phone, pocket tissues (in case you need it in a porta potty), sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle, a folding chair, a picnic blanket and a hostess gift, drink or dish to contribute to the tailgate party if desired.

## WHAT TO KNOW

Steeplechase racing is different from other horse races in that because it came from foxhunting traditions, the race track includes the obstacles of the huntsman who must tackle jumping over hedges, streams and gullies during the chase. Tackling these obstacles at full gallop takes great skill of both horse and horseman and is a terrific display of both talent, courage and beauty.

You'll no doubt note the red suited fox who will often appear in tailgate displays. He is the ever so sly fox that the huntsman is after. In fun mockery, he appears as smartly dressed as the huntsman because, as the fox is rarely caught in a foxhunt, he is after all more clever in the end. While the foxhunts of the past might have chased the whilly country fox who terrorized the farmer's livestock, today the foxhunt is largely a social occasion with many of the hunt clubs, both men and women, enjoying the traditions of a beautiful day in the countryside with horses and friends.

As is tradition, the races will include friendly betting, so be sure to find a program, study up on the horses, their riders, and your odds and be prepared to enjoy a full and fun day in the country!



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STEEPLECHASE RACES AT [WINEANDCOUNTRYLIFE.COM](http://WINEANDCOUNTRYLIFE.COM)