



**KINSALE
MEAD CO.**

Explore the Making & Tasting of Mead – the drink of Celtic Ireland’s Kings & Chieftains

Ireland’s first Meadery in 200 years | Honey Tasting | Legends & History of Mead & Honey | Mead Tasting

Mead, also known as "honey wine," is believed to be the world's oldest alcoholic drink, dating back to 6000 BC. Mead and honey are woven through Ireland’s oldest myths and legends when bees were highly prized and protected as part of the island’s ancient *Bech Bretha* (Bee Judgements). From early history, mead was shared and enjoyed throughout the world at rituals and celebrations of marriage and victories.

Ideally located in the historic and food-loving haven of the picturesque coastal town of Kinsale on the Wild Atlantic Way, Kinsale Mead is Ireland’s first meadery in almost 200 years. Using a blend of ancient recipes and modern techniques, Kate and Denis Dempsey have resurrected a love of Mead through the sustainably made, award-winning meads created at their family run meadery. Each batch is lovingly hand crafted with care and passion using the best local and natural ingredients.

Highlights of a tour at Kinsale Mead Co. include:

- ❖ **Insights into Kinsale Meads** | light and refreshing | fermented off dry (12% ABV wine strength)
- ❖ **Myths & Legends** | the story and evolution of Mead through the centuries
- ❖ **Bee Judgements** | how Ireland’s Bee Laws protected the bees | taste three unique raw honeys
- ❖ **Process** | modern mead making from fermentation, through to maturation and bottling
- ❖ **Tasting** | sample award-winning meads and cocktails in the Meadery’s oak bar tasting room
- ❖ **Family Run** | Kate and Denis Dempsey love to share their passion and knowledge!
- ❖ **Kinsale** | bustling harbour town | gourmet capital of Ireland | great restaurants & pubs

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A: Kinsale Mead Co., 5 Barrack Lane, Kinsale, Co Cork, Ireland. P17X V10

Visitor Experiences

Experiences	Short Description	Min/Max Numbers	Duration	Public Price Per Person
Mead mini tour and tasting	Entertaining & educational overview of mead history and mead making. ❖ Tasting of - local honey from West Cork - 3 award-winning meads in the oak bar tasting room	2-25	30 minutes	€XX
Meadery tour & tasting	Guided tour and tasting of Ireland's first Meadery in 200 years covering: ❖ Entertaining history of mead and honey in Ireland ❖ Tasting of 3 raw honey types ❖ Tour of the meadery production area from bee to bottle ❖ Tasting of 3 award-winning meads and a sample of a seasonal mead cocktail in oak bar tasting room	2-25	1 hour	€XX
Bespoke tour and tasting	Bespoke tours on request. These can include: ❖ In-depth tour of the production area and mead making process ❖ Expanded range of unique honey tastings ❖ Tasting of limited-edition meads ❖ Food pairing with local artisan food ❖ Glass of mead or seasonal mead cocktail	2-25	TBA	€XX

NOTE re sampling and tasting information:

- ❖ Honey tasting is done with re-cyclable honey dip sticks
- ❖ Mead sample and seasonal cocktail sample sizes are 30 millilitres per sample
- ❖ Tasting notes in Spanish, Italian, German and French can be provided
- ❖ For the mead tasting section (12% alcohol), participants must be over 18.
- ❖ A glass of water is included on welcome and with the tasting
- ❖ Small children must be supervised by an adult as this is a working meadery

Experience Descriptions

Mead Mini Tour and Tasting

Enjoy an entertaining overview of the history and the production process of mead in the relaxed environment of the Meadery Bar. Begin with an introduction to mead, its many styles and colourful history, then awaken your senses with a tasting of local West Cork honey while sitting at a bar that is made from a 300-year old oak tree. Revel in the opportunity to sample three different award-winning varieties of this ancient drink, with great tips for food pairing and mead cocktails from the Mead Makers.

Meadery Tour and Tasting

Meet the mead makers of Kinsale Mead and hear stories of ancient legends and the colourful history of mead in Ireland. Indulge in a tasting of three different raw honey types while learning about the life of the honey bee. Explore the production area and follow the process of modern mead making from fermentation, through to maturation and onto bottling. As you immerse yourself in the history and making of this ancient drink, sample a selection of three different award-winning meads with great tips for food pairing. Finish with a sample of the seasonal Cocktail of the Day.

Bespoke Tour and Tasting

Bespoke tours and tastings are available on request. Options include an expanded tutored tasting of different styles of mead including some limited-edition meads, some fascinating insights on the life cycle of the honey bee with some extra unique honeys to taste, an in- depth look at the mead-making process, an opportunity to try diverse mead styles in the oak tasting room and pairings with local artisan food from some of the world class producers in the area.



What our visitors say about us at Kinsale Mead Co

What a Lovely Find

We drove to Kinsale with no plans and popped in on the off chance of getting a tour. They couldn't have been more welcoming. We had a very informative tour and tasting. Clearly very knowledgeable and passionate about what they do. The product speaks for itself and is lovely. Great gifts and a fun afternoon - Ashleigh, UK

Simply Buzzing

The honey tasting was amazing, and the mead just as good. The facility looks so crisp and clean and the staff were such lovely people. The tour was interesting and informative, and it was lovely to visit the meadery. Highly recommend - Stjordal, Norway

Great Tour

This was such a great experience! Really interesting tour, loads of great stories of the history of mead. And the tasting afterwards was fab! We were a small hen party and everyone loved the tour - Sorcha, Ireland

Excellent Tour to match an excellent product

We really enjoyed this interesting and fun tour of this gorgeous company. Our tour guide was really lovely and passionate about the product from start to finish. The tasting section was excellent and we got to try 4 different types of mead, all very different from each other - Stephanie, Ireland

Mead my day

A lovely way to spend an hour. The whole process is fascinating and well explained. They kindly took us for the tour outside the normal tour times. The tasting was really good, beautiful flavours. I guarantee you'll want to bring a few bottles home - Paul, USA



General Information

❖ Contact details:

- T: +353 21 477 3538 | E: info@kinsalemeadco.ie

❖ Scheduled Tours:

- November to March: Friday to Sunday 1pm and 3pm
- April to October: Tuesday to Sunday 1pm, 3pm and 5pm.
- For tour requests outside these times, contact the meadery directly.

❖ Parking:

- Free parking available outside the meadery
- Space for up to 2 large coaches at a time

❖ Access:

- The Meadery is on the ground floor level and is fully wheelchair accessible.

❖ Location:

- Kinsale Meadery is within walking distance (550m) of Kinsale Tourist Office
- 20km from Cork Airport
- 25km from Cork City Centre.

