

Marchand de Vin

Bonjour de France! Grape pickers are working hard at the vineyard, picking and pressing grapes to make wine. When the wine is bottled, it's off to the local bistros to enjoy your wine with cheese on this typical French evening.

Environment

Construct vineyard area by erecting a simple frame from bamboo, covered in grape vine with hanging bunches of red/green grapes. In the space:

- Trugs and bowls filled with green/purple water gels.
- Soundboards and half-pipes for dropping gels onto and rolling them down.
- Rotary grape pressing machine – simply created using bamboo and a barrel.
- Empty wine bottles

On the other side of the space, create a French bistro using tables and coloured parasols. Set the scene using a Parisian street projection if possible. Provide items of costume such as hats and feather boas to enable participants to dress up for the bistro. Complimentary items:

- Coloured wine glasses and wine bottles
- Basket of corks and coloured ice-cubes
- Grape juice as wine
- Bread and cheese for tasting
- Bottle xylophone and mobile bottles – hung carefully apart and played gently with rubber beaters
- Mouse puppet to interact with diners

Costume - coloured berets

Music - Blowzabella are a wonderful group who perform traditional and contemporary folk music primarily from France and England. Featuring the hurdy gurdy and melodion, they have recorded many French dance tunes that would complement this workshop. Try some of the tracks on *Vanilla* for starters.

Activities

Grapes - Pick red and green grapes from the vine and taste them. Roll green/purple water gels round in bowls, pour them from one to another, dip your hands and feet in and feel them on your skin. Roll them down tubes and over sound boards. Drop them and see and hear them bounce and dance. Work together to turn the wine-press round and round...et voila! Bottles of wine!

Bottles - Take your wine bottles to the bistro, dress up if you fancy and settle at tables, where the waiters hurry to serve you and take your orders. Taste red and white wine (grape juice) and play the bottle xylophone and mobile bottles. Hear them clank and sing - all in tune. Sit and watch the passers-by in the Parisian street (projection) while waiting for your food.

Bread and Cheese - Eek! Who's this? A mouse is eating your bread and cheese. He's very friendly and says hello to everyone, sharing everything on the menu. Stroke his fur and say hello. Taste the bread and cheese, then dance the night away until closing time.

Links

Water Gels (Prop)

Projections (Prop)

Xylophones and metallophones (Props)

Puppets (Props)

Feasting (Activity)

Video

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