

The producers

October finds a varied choice of game on the farm shop shelves, particularly at **Tillingbourne Trout Farm**, as Claire Pitcher discovers.

On the farm

Jerry Strzebrakowski is partner at Tillingbourne; a local, independent and family-run business. "Since buying it in June 1999, the farm has expanded, as has the business. You can now find us at local farmers markets," he says. Before the fish farm, the family ran various fisheries in the south of England. Before long it they realised they hadn't just purchased 'another' coarse fishery, but an interesting and potentially diverse business. "So we put our heads together and did our homework, learning every aspect of smoking fish, managing the land and running a food/retail business," adds Jerry. Now they also smoke their own fish and run a farm shop, where you will find plenty of game.

In season

Did you know most game can only be shot at certain times of the year? Certain species in particular locations cannot be taken during the Closed Season to allow populations to be maintained. Here's what's available from October: Grouse (to 10th December), Partridges (to 1st February), Pheasant (to 1st February), Hare (to 28th February). Fortunately, there are so many species of deer you should be able to find fresh venison most of the year.

Pick of produce

Tillingbourne sells a range of seasonal local game. Most of their pheasant, wild ducks and partridge, comes from the family owned shoot, based in Ockley. They also source rabbits from local gamekeepers, as well as venison from local stalkers. All of the game is prepared and butchered by the in-house team. As Christmas approaches, consider a visit to pick up local turkeys, geese and large chickens.

Pay a visit

The farm shop is closed on Mondays, open 9am–6pm Tues to Sat, 10.30am to 5pm Sundays. Tillingbourne Trout Farm, Dorking Road, Abinger Hammer RH5 6SA.

01306 730 449 www.tillingbournetrout.com



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» Season's eatings



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