Photography Policy

Photography must be conducted without disruption to Filoli operations or limitation to the accessibility of other guests, including doorways, pathways, and high traffic areas.

Photographs and videos are a wonderful way to remember your visit. Photography and video taken at Filoli are for personal use and enjoyment and may not be sold. Visitors and members are welcome to take casual photographs of plants, individuals and subjects that capture the events of your visit.

Tripods, monopods, and selfie sticks, are permitted within the Garden ONLY, and only to be used for snapshots or nature photography (not staged portraits) Only natural light photography is permitted indoors; no flash or other supplemental light sources. A safe distance must be maintained from all artwork, furniture, and displays.

For safety and security reasons, drones are not permitted on Property. Filoli reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to withhold and/or withdraw permission to photograph or videotape on its premises, if it is a disruption and/or is perceived that it might endanger artwork, garden beds, garden objects, or other visitors.

Filoli reserves the right to further define Portrait Photography and Professional Photography on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: Filoli reserves the right to turn away photographers who are not operating in accordance with our rules and regulations, as well as photographers who have not made reservations.

Filoli reserves the right to adjust these policies at any time, with or without notice, in the best interest of the property and the general public.

Wedding photography is exclusive with our Wedding Packages and are not apart of our Portrait Sessions. If you have booked your wedding at Filoli, the package includes portrait sessions before and after your ceremony. Otherwise we do not allow Wedding Photography. This includes wedding attire such as bridal gowns and groom’s suits. If you are unsure if you’re outfit qualifies as wedding attire, you may send our Reservations office a picture of your outfit to determine if it will be permitted.
Commercial Photography

Commercial Photography is to be requested in advance with the Rentals and Events Department. Requests can be made at (650) 364-8300 x221 or events@filoli.org. Advance booking is required and is typically only booked one week or more prior to requested date.

Portrait Sessions

Filoli defines portrait photography as: engagement, quinceanera, family, maternity, portfolio, prom, graduation, holiday, and any other posed portraiture of individuals by professional or amateur photographers, whether PAID or UNPAID. The interior of the House may NOT be used for photographs in the portrait sessions; such pictures would require a commercial photography package coordinated through the Rental and Events Department. Wedding photography is exclusive with our Wedding Packages and are not apart of our Portrait Sessions. Balloons, rice, glitter, and confetti are strictly prohibited anywhere on property.

All Portrait Sessions should be scheduled in advance with the Visitor Services Department. Reservations are not required, but Portrait Sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis and there are a limited number of Portrait Sessions available per day. Portrait Sessions are not available on special event days and holidays. Filoli reserves the right to black out dates for Portrait Sessions where attendance is higher than average.

Guests participating in a Portrait Session must purchase admission for that day with an additional Portrait Session Fee of $75. The session fee is good for up to 90-minutes. The designated group photographer will receive an identification badge to be worn while photographing. The badge must be returned when finished or at the end of 90-minutes or additional fees may apply. Only 5 badges will be issued simultaneously.

Portrait Sessions do not permit large photo equipment, such as, but not limited to:
- Large Tripods or stands
- Shades
- Reflectors
- Freestanding flashes
- Large equipment bags
- Chairs or stools
- Large props - such as signs greater than 12 inches
By purchasing a Portrait Session and receiving a permit you acknowledge that you have reviewed the Filoli Photography Policy and agree to abide by the following policies and guidelines:

- Portrait Sessions are for 90 minutes from the time of purchase. The permit pass must be returned at the end of 90-minutes or additional fees will apply.
- Portrait Sessions are to be performed during normal business hours. Special requests may be made to perform photography session before or after normal hours.
- Clients/Models must be fully and appropriately clothed (i.e. no nudity, swimsuits, lingerie, etc.)
- Wardrobe changes are **NOT** permitted in our public restrooms. A changing room can be scheduled in advance for an additional fee. There is no guarantee a space may be available without booking in advance.
- Portrait sessions should not disrupt visitor access, employee access, special events or pedestrian flow.
- Property of Filoli may not be moved or disturbed. This includes standing or walking in flower beds, picking flower/plant material, moving benches or display.
- Filoli assumes no responsibility for loss, theft, or damage to any equipment or belongings.
- Filoli reserves the right to cease portrait sessions if clients do not follow the outlined policies and guidelines.
- You may bring cut flowers in a bouquet for your photography session. All cut flowers must have been purchased and arranged by a professional florist.
- Any unauthorized portrait, professional, or commercial photography sessions will be escorted from Filoli.

Name:__________________________________  Time:_______________

Signature:_______________________________  Date:_______________

Contact Phone Number: ________________________________