



Job Description (Permanent, Full-time)

POSITION: Viticulturist

DIVISION: Aquilini Vineyards

REPORTS TO: VP, Operations

LOCATION: Benton City, Washington

SUMMARY:

Aquilini Vineyards is actively seeking a dynamic Viticulturist to join our Red Mountain AVA vineyard team in Benton City, WA.

As a pivotal member of our vineyard operations, you will provide specialized production advice to grape growers and foster strong relationships with industry stakeholders. This role demands expertise in grape growing, pest management, and emerging viticulture trends. Collaborating with clients, industry groups, and government representatives, you will ensure effective communication and contribute to the global recognition of our wine region. In addition to operational responsibilities such as data collection, vineyard mapping, and assisting with harvest activities, you will play a key role as a subject matter expert to our customers with grape sales. This involves assisting with grape sales to 3rd party customers and addressing customer inquiries about the fruit while making strategic adjustments to optimize sales. This role will be our face to the Red Mountain community and our customers,

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

(other duties will be assigned, as required)

- Respond to viticulture inquiries, offering expert guidance in-person and remotely
- Transfer new technologies and management practices through presentations, field days, and various communication channels
- Assist with grape sales to 3rd party customers and provide support with questions from customers about the fruit
- Develop production-specific information for producers, including petioles, crop estimation, soil samples, and amendment/seeding records
- Conduct general data collection and entry, incorporating pest and disease scouting, and managing the crop protection program
- Collect data for yield estimation, soil, tissue, and water samples, and assist with weed surveys
- Manage vine fertility work with the Farm Manager to support with scheduling, annual farm plans, quality control, and occasionally act as an alternate field supervisor
- Maintain detailed vineyard maps for accurate record-keeping and future planning
- Implement crop-level management strategies for quality grape production, including estimation and thinning
- Participate in vineyard development projects to enhance overall vineyard infrastructure and performance
- Engage in some seasonal night work, including participation in harvest activities and frost protection rotations
- Assist with annual budgeting process (operating expenses and capex)

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post-secondary education in viticulture, plant science, horticulture, or related fields
- Minimum one year of viticulture or farming operations experience
- Ability to work outdoors for long hours in variable weather throughout the year as well as on uneven terrain and varying weather conditions
- Self-motivated, takes initiative and capable of working independently
- Solid organizational and problem-solving abilities
- Computer literacy, including proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Willingness to work extended hours, including six days a week during peak periods.
- Possession of a driver's license with an insurable record

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Interest in wine production
- Proficiency in Spanish
- PCA or QAL certification

- Equipment operation experience, including ATV, tractor, forklift, and fruit delivery
- Pesticide/SPI license holder or ability to obtain license is preferred

