



PLANT
SCIENCE

Viticulturist

A Viticulturist studies and applies growing processes of grape vines to produce the amount and quality of grapes necessary for wine production.



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Inspiring Minds to Grow


Funded by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity


career profile

Name: Charlotte Casner
Job Title: Viticulturist


Employer: Verdant Hills Winery

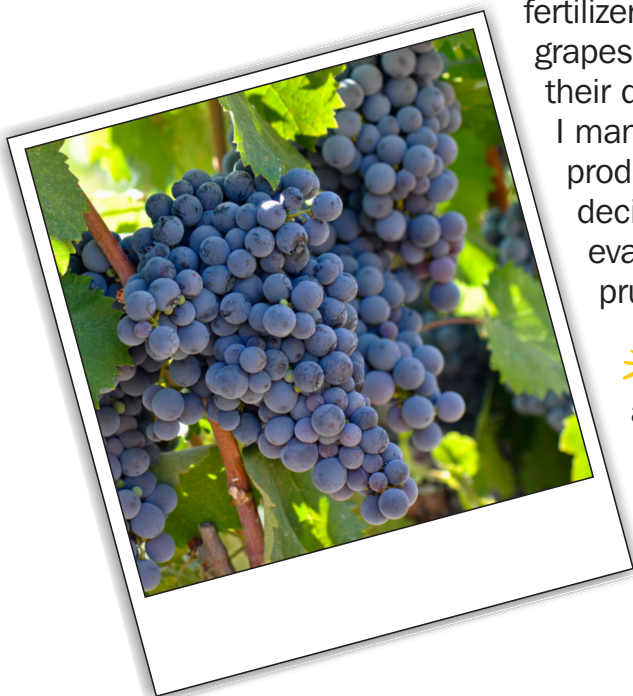
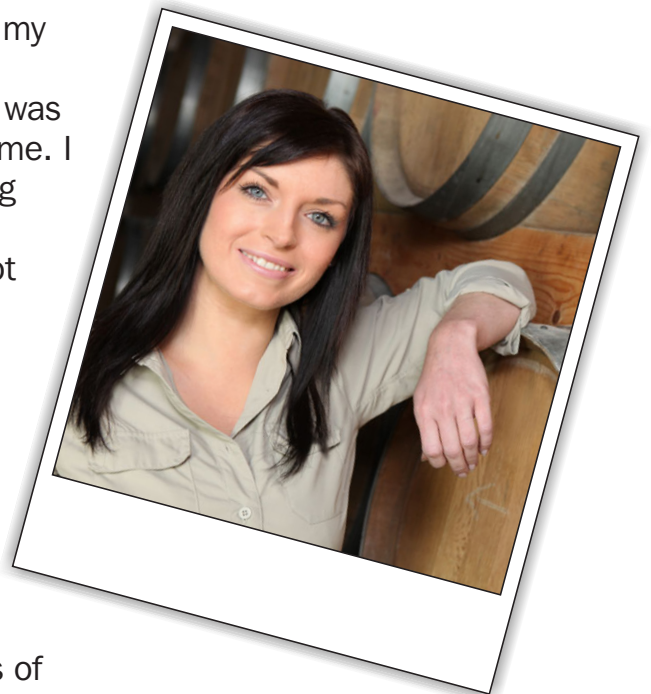
Education: BS, Washington State University: Pullman

 I first became interested in viticulture when my teacher talked about careers in my introductory agriculture class in high school. I have to admit I was drawn to viticulture because it sounded novel to me. I already knew that I liked growing plants and being outdoors, so I thought growing grapes would be interesting. I pursued viticulture in college and got an excellent education.

 Today, I am the chief viticulturist for a moderately sized winery. My responsibility is to cultivate grapes to make the best wines possible. I would guess that I'm in the field at least once a week monitoring the health and water status of the vines. I'm alert for diseases and pests that could affect the vines. I supervise

the applications of fertilizers and pesticides. As the grapes develop, I continually estimate what their quality and quantity will be at the time of harvest. I manage the seasonal help and field crews to meet production goals. Furthermore, I make the final decisions as to the best time to harvest the grapes. I evaluate the harvest, and I decide when to start pruning during the pre-season period.

 I couldn't be happier with my career choice. I am constantly learning about grapes and how to produce the best quality possible. I guess you could say I'm passionate about my work.



Viticulturist

overview



A **viticulturist** studies grape varieties, genetics, and growing season microclimates and their effects on wine.

suggested high school courses



[agriculture](#), horticulture, biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics

experience needed



Most wineries look for a viticulturist who has at least five years of experience in grape growing.

degree(s) required



A bachelor's degree in viticulture or enology is required. A graduate degree is needed for research positions.

potential employers



wineries, government research agencies, universities

salary range



\$35,000 to \$61,457

employment outlook and trends



Job growth for viticulturists is expected to be between 9 to 14% through 2014. The employment outlook is **good** to **high**.

professional organizations



American Society for Enology and Viticulture asev.org/industry-job-board/

Winegrape Growers of America winegrapegrowersofamerica.org/



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