



# Viticulturist

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



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

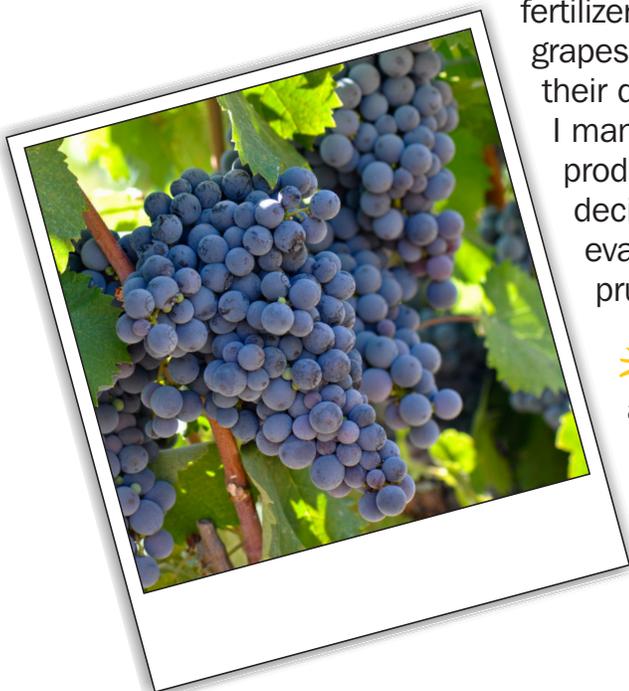
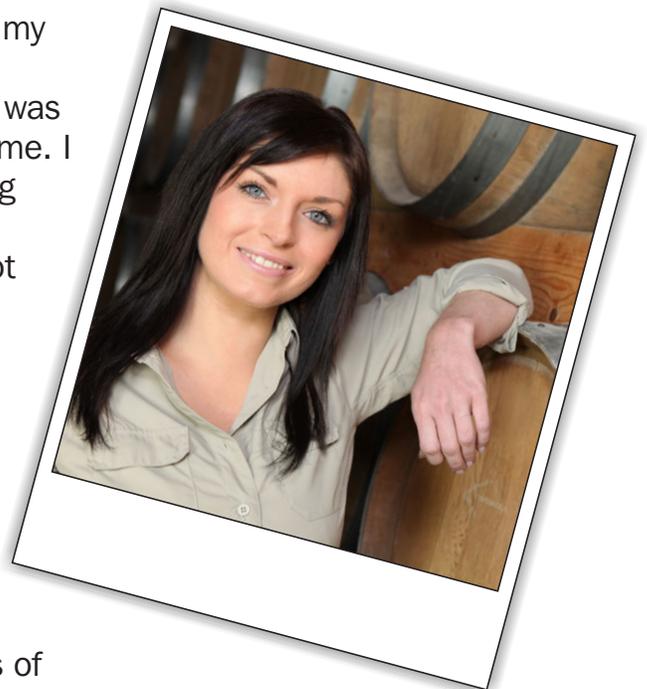
Education: BS, Washington State University: Pullman

 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/](http://asev.org/industry-job-board/)

Winegrape Growers of America [winegrapegrowersofamerica.org/](http://winegrapegrowersofamerica.org/)



## Want to Learn More?

[www.agcareers.com](http://www.agcareers.com)

[www.illinoisworknet.com/vos\\_portal/industry/en/Home](http://www.illinoisworknet.com/vos_portal/industry/en/Home)

[www.mycaert.com/career-profiles](http://www.mycaert.com/career-profiles)

[www.ffa.org/documents/prof\\_handbook\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.ffa.org/documents/prof_handbook_introduction.pdf)

[www.rileyguide.com/](http://www.rileyguide.com/)

[www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/search/](http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/search/)