

# VITICULTURIST

Viticulturists research and implement their findings to better help grape vines produce grapes that are of high quality and amount that is required for making wine.

## WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL I HAVE?

- Production of grapes under a wide variety of natural conditions including preparation of the land, planting, trellising, pruning, monitoring and controlling of pests and diseases, fertilizing, irrigation and canopy management
- Potential to manage both table and wine grapes
- Understand optimum ripeness (fruit development and characteristics) and proper harvesting of grapes
- Design and implement pest and disease control programs following pest management practices and a sustainable farming approach
- Use plant, climate and soil moisture monitoring equipment for scheduling irrigation and modeling grapevine shape/phrenology
- Diagnose and solve viticulture problems
- Collect, organize and report viticulture data to support farming and marketing decisions
- Possibly direct and supervise staff
- Provide feedback and guidance to wine farmers/vineyard managers to yield the best results
- Direct contact with the winemaker to communicate grape characteristics needed to begin the winemaking process



## WHAT EDUCATION & TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

A Bachelor's or Master's degree in viticulture, enology, or horticulture

## THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL COURSES ARE RECOMMENDED...

Agricultural education, chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, business courses

## TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

Wine farms or estates, wine production companies, government agencies, colleges and universities or you may be self-employed

## FUTURE JOB MARKET/OUTLOOK



## SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

- American Society for Enology and Viticulture
- Winegrape Growers of America

## AVERAGE ANNUAL FULL-TIME SALARY

\$61,000