

Alice Grace Richards

What was your background before attending VENIT?

Before studying the VENIT course, I had finished a bachelor of science degree in Food science and Human Nutrition. So really no background, I went in with the hope that my experience in Food science could aid me in some way with the Masters programme. It did to some extent but to say I came in fresh is a fair statement. For me, the VENIT course was a great way to introduce myself to the world of Viticulture and Enology as it covers everything on a wide basis. It not only allowed me to develop knowledge in many aspects of this industry, but also the ability to complete an internship and turn that knowledge into practical skills which has been truly invaluable to me.

What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

After completing my degree I then went on to work as a buyer for a large wholesalers in the UK. I began in licensed so this sparked some of my interest in the wine industry as I met many people on the 'other side' I guess you could say. The main thing this job did for me was to push me to find out what I really wanted to do. This is how I came across VENIT.

What is your current occupation?

After completing my internship, I headed back to the UK. I was set up to work in a distillery there but as yet another lockdown was pending I took the decision to fly back to Italy. Here I found a job in wine sales for a small winery in Bertinoro only 30 hectares and this was only for a short while. As of now, I have accepted a scholarship job at the University (UCSC) in viticulture research, it is safe to say I am really looking forward to developing my knowledge further.

How much did VENIT contribute to such a change?

VENIT was my way into this industry and a great one at that. I developed my knowledge more than I could have imagined in such a vast spectrum of this industry. The opportunity here has been fantastic; the visits to wineries with the university, the attention to detail to teaching given by each professor not to mention the ability to travel in Italy (before coronavirus). I now have the confidence going forward knowing that I have sound knowledge of cultivation of vineyards and the production of wine. My personal and academic life has well and truly profited from completing the VENIT programme.