

Sarah Gately

A) What was your V&E background before attending VENIT?

Before attending the VENIT program at UCSC, I had completed a bachelor's degree, but had no relation to viticulture or enology. It wasn't until after I completed that degree and a few years before applying to the VENIT program that I had sparked in an interest in wine at all.

B) What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

For almost 7 years prior to the program I had worked in the restaurant industry. That is where I started to learn about wine and attend wine tastings. This is what led to me wanting to learn more and why I started looking into programs such as the VENIT one.

C) What is your current occupation?

Currently I am working in Italy as an aupair for a family in Tuscany, who are both the owners and the wine-maker for a winery just outside of Florence. I plan on working the harvest with them this year and after hopefully finding a more permanent job with a wine-maker here in Tuscany.

D) How much did VENIT contribute to such a change?

The VENIT program has contributed a huge amount of change both to my professional and personal life. I am unbelievably grateful for having attended the program when I did, even despite COVID. I have made so many connections with people from around the world and with both my internship and the situation I am in now I have been able to be in contact with some really amazing wine-makers. When I started the only knowledge I had was from tastings and now I have a great understanding of the evolution of grape growing and wine making. I look forward to what the future holds for me as I indulge deeper into the world of winemaking.