

1. What was your V&E experience before attending VENIT?

I had some experience working in the cellar of a small winery, but no viticulture experience. Most of what I knew about V&E was from books and hearing things second hand from people in the industry. I was interested in learning more and the VENIT program gave me that opportunity.

2. What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

I worked in a small winery in Northern California for 2 years, mostly in the tasting room with a limited experience in the cellar. As the winery sourced all their fruit I had zero viticulture experience before beginning the program. It was the winemaker at my job that encouraged me to seek out higher education in V&E and that led me here.

3. What is your current occupation?

I am working at a small, family-run winery in the Sierra Foothills of California. I'm working both as the lead in the cellar and as an assistant in the vineyard. Because the winery is so small I have plenty of creative control to apply the things I learned through the VENIT program.

4. How much did VENIT contribute to such a change?

Because of the education and the internship required for the degree I was able to get confidence in what it takes to be successful in the vineyard and in the winery. It went from hearing about what factors make a great wine to learning the details of how to make that possible. I have learned a lot and look forward to being able to apply what I learned in class to my new environment.