

What was your background before attending VENIT?

Before studying at USCS in the VENIT program I was working as a sommelier. My bachelor's degree was in sustainable foods and bioenergy with a focus on soil studies. Through university I had worked in restaurants to make money. It was very serendipitous that my work and degree collided to find a middle ground in wine. While still in school I studied for and sat my sommelier exams. Though I always knew in order to be a better sommelier it was important to start from the ground up and learn about the biology of the grapevine and get closer to the source.

What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

After completing my degree I was working as a sommelier for a private club called the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky, Montana.

What is your current occupation?

I am now living and working in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. I am the hospitality ambassador for a winery called Antica Terra.

How much did VENIT contribute to such a change?

VENIT made my outlook much more well rounded, and it helped to diversify my experience in wine. I now feel confident moving forward in wine that I could work in most roles and I am not confined to only work as a floor sommelier. I feel that before I was looking through a very narrow lens and now I am looking through a kaleidoscope full of opportunity and adventure.