

## Saskia Tingey

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

Before attending the VENIT program, I had studied Enology at my local community college in California. My Viticulture knowledge was limited to basic information about vine structure and viticultural practices. I had a basic understanding of wine science, but was looking to learn more about plant biology and vine physiology.

b) What was your occupation before attending VENIT?

Before attending VENIT, I had worked two wine harvests in California and one in New Zealand. I had spent a year working in a wine laboratory, and eight months in the cellar. My viticultural experience was limited to grape maturity sampling.

c) What is your current occupation?

I currently work in a tasting room in California, and I am interviewing for viticulture technician positions.

d) How much did VENIT contributed to such a change?

The VENIT program solidified my decision to make the switch from Enology to Viticulture. I was inspired by my professors at Cattolica, and I am thankful for the wealth of knowledge they were able to share with us in the short duration of the program. I am also thankful for the field activities in the campus vineyard that provided the opportunity to apply what we were learning in the classroom. Before entering the program, I knew I was curious about making the shift to the vineyard, but now I am confident I have the knowledge and the skill set to excel in my career in viticulture.

