



POSITION DESCRIPTION: VITICULTURIST

A pioneer in Tasmanian viticulture, Meadowbank is regarded as one of the most iconic vineyards in the state and has continued to grow alongside increasing demand and attention on premium fruit. Set on the banks of the Derwent River and surrounded by 2500 Ha of grazing land, the Meadowbank vineyard was one of the first to be planted in the Derwent Valley in 1976 and includes some of Tasmania's oldest vines.

The family owned and run business has grown from a small vineyard block on the family farm, to an established 50 Ha vineyard, with an additional 14 Ha to be planted this year as part of the next phase of expansion plans. The vineyard supplies high quality fruit to a range of premium producers, including the Meadowbank Wine brand. The wine business operates independently of the vineyard and is a partnership between the Ellis family and the Winemaker, Peter Dredge and his family.

Reporting directly to the owner, this is a hands-on role that will be responsible for technical viticulture, driving quality, vineyard budgets and reporting. The Viticulturist will also be involved in managing grape supply contracts, growing high quality grapes for customers.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop & implement a proactive viticulture plan, driving quality and productivity
- Deliver an efficient and cost-effective operations plan, overseeing vineyard work plans
- Establish sustainable farming practices, aligned with business objectives and certification requirements
- Work closely with the Vineyard Manager and viticulture team, providing technical guidance and training
- Work with the Winemaker on vineyard development plans, as well as planning fruit allocation and sampling
- Manage grape supply contracts and customer relationships
- Coordinate vintage operations, liaising with the Winemaker and grape supply customers
- Manage the vineyard budget, providing accurate forecasts and financial reports
- Maintain comprehensive records and deliver accurate reports
- Assist with growth and development plans, advising on technical strategy and implementation
- Perform regular reviews of all operations, implementing preventative measures to mitigate risks and potential difficulties
- Contribute to management and strategy plans, facilitating optimal performance and profitability
- Manage the equipment upgrade program, assessing new technological developments and suitability
- Operate a safe work environment, ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations and policies
- Represent the business at trade and industry events, contributing expert technical knowledge
- Provide occasional assistance and support to family related businesses

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- Tertiary qualification in Viticulture, Applied Science, Agricultural Science or equivalent discipline



- At least 5 years relevant experience in either vineyard management, technical viticulture, or viticulturist roles
- Experience with budgets and financial reporting
- Understanding of grape supply contracts and grower relations
- Valid driver's licence
- Valid forklift licence, or willingness to obtain
- Familiarity with operating a tractor and machinery
- Chemical Accreditation Course, or willingness to undertake

REQUIREMENTS:

- Strong technical knowledge
- Proactive and organised
- Excellent communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Business fundamentals
- Ability & willingness to undertake manual labour tasks
- Capacity for light domestic travel

KEY INTERACTIONS:

INTERNAL:

- Owners/Family
- Vineyard Manager
- Viticulture team
- Winemaker
- Related family-owned businesses

EXTERNAL:

- Grape supply customers
- Suppliers
- Contractors and casual labour
- Trade & media
- Industry associations & bodies
- Wine Tasmania's VinØ program
- Sustainable Winegrowing Australia