



POSITION DESCRIPTION: CHIEF WINEMAKER

Home of *Ladies who Shoot their Lunch*, Fowles is a dynamic 'house of brands' wine business, with an expanding global market reach. The Fowles portfolio has 6 core wine brands, each with an individual identity and story. The diverse product range provides extensive market opportunities and has established domestic and international channels with many of the world's top trade partners, restaurants and retailers.

Embracing the ancient, rocky landscape of Victoria's Strathbogie Ranges, the family owned and run business produces an extensive portfolio of cool climate wines that captures the distinctive characteristics of the high-altitude vineyards. Vertically integrated operations are part of Fowles progressive, next generation winemaking, with the 5000T winery and bottling line set alongside the 120 Ha of vineyards. Fowles is committed to a holistic ground-up approach, investing in a range of biodiversity and sustainability projects, from regenerative farming through to new technology and alternate packaging.

Reporting directly to the CEO, the Chief Winemaker will be responsible for all winemaking operations and be a brand advocate, promoting Fowles and the region. This is a senior management role that will drive innovation and new product development and be a key part of the next growth phase. With a strong focus on people and culture, Fowles have attracted outstanding industry professionals, building a long-term and committed team.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage all winemaking operations, ensuring operational excellence
- Drive wine quality, maintaining standards and control procedures, including a critical wine analysis program
- Set winemaking styles and technical standards, establishing specifications and production processes
- Manage the winery and bottling line teams, establishing shared systems and resources
- Operate a safe work environment, ensuring processes are followed and regulatory compliance is met
- Provide leadership and a supportive team culture, with opportunities for professional development
- Manage winery budgets, delivering forecasts and detailed financial reports
- Prepare a production plan to meet forecasts, style and budgets
- Work closely with the Vineyard Manager, aligning production forecasts and strategies
- Oversee contract winemaking operations and maintain strong client relationships
- Assist with capital investment projects, improving production facilities for optimal performance and profitability
- Identify and develop improvement strategies and growth opportunities, including new product development
- Assist with biodiversity programs and sustainability commitments
- Manage a preventative maintenance program
- Represent the Fowles brands at trade and consumer events, promoting the business and the region
- Liaise with growers, maintaining strong working relationships



QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- Tertiary qualification in Oenology
- At least 10 years relevant experience
- Experience managing large winery operations and a multidisciplinary team
- Advanced technical knowledge across a diverse range of styles and varieties
- Wine sensory and quality analysis training, such as AWAC, Len Evans Scholar or show judging
- Experience in new product development
- Understanding of viticulture and biodiversity

REQUIREMENTS:

- Leadership and people management skills
- Business and financial acumen
- Strong communication skills
- Proactive and attention to detail
- Valid forklift and driver's licence
- Capacity for light domestic and international travel
- Physically capable of performing operational duties when required
- Ability to work extended hours when required

KEY INTERACTIONS:

INTERNAL:

- CEO
- General Manager
- Winery & bottling line team
- Vineyard team
- Finance team
- Marketing & Sales teams

EXTERNAL:

- Suppliers and contractors
- Industry associations and bodies
- Trade and media
- Consumers
- Contract winemaking clients
- Growers