

POSITION DESCRIPTION: WINEMAKER/MANAGER

The Piccadilly Valley estate will be the centre of operations for this newly established wine business, with construction of a state-of-the-art boutique winery and additional vineyard development underway. Initial set-up and commissioning of the winery will be ready for vintage 2025.

Led by owner, Georges Thienpont, the portfolio will focus on premium Chardonnay from the estate in the Adelaide Hills and Cabernet Sauvignon from McLaren Vale. The first vintage of the Cabernet was made in 2024, with the upcoming 2025 vintage set to produce the brand's first Chardonnay.

The Winemaker/Manager will report directly to the owner, managing all winemaking operations and be responsible for site stewardship of the estate. This is a hands-on role that will oversee the final stages of the winery build and commissioning of plant and equipment.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Manage all winemaking operations, driving wine style and quality
- Oversee the final stages of the winery development and commissioning
- Coordinate external contract winemaking facilities, planning relocation of operations to new on-site winery
- Prepare a production plan to meet forecasts, style, quality and budget
- Perform day-to-day cellar operations, laboratory analysis and quality control procedures
- Implement and control winery management systems
- Manage winery budgets, forecasting and production growth modelling, delivering detailed financials and reports
- Manage casual staff and contractors, coordinating cellar operations and work schedules
- Implement and manage a preventative maintenance program
- Ensure all regulatory compliance requirements are met, including environmental and workplace health and safety
- Assist with growth and development plans, managing ongoing capital investment projects
- Work closely with the Vineyard Manager, progressing viticultural plans and liaising on fruit supply and quality
- Manage the estate, including grounds maintenance and site stewardship
- Represent the brand and participate in wine show judging and industry associations
- Collaborate with associated family businesses and brands

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- Tertiary qualification in Oenology
- 10 years relevant experience
- Wine sensory & quality analysis training, such as AWAC, Len Evans Scholar or show judging
- Experience in producing high-quality wine, with strong technical knowledge

REQUIREMENTS:

- Excellent palate & broad understanding of domestic and international wine styles
- Commercial acumen
- Excellent communication skills
- Eye for operational efficiencies
- Proactive and energetic approach
- Driven to achieve outstanding results
- Ability to work autonomously
- Physically capable of performing operational duties
- Capacity for light domestic travel
- Ability to work extended hours when required
- Valid forklift & driver's licence

KEY INTERACTIONS:

INTERNAL:

- Owner
- Vineyard team
- Casual staff
- Associated family & international businesses

EXTERNAL:

- Consultants
- Contractors & suppliers
- Growers
- Contract winemaking & bottling providers
- Wine industry associations & bodies
- Media, trade & consumers