

Vineyard worker

Average salary: \$49,000

Career trend: growing strongly

Job description

Vineyard workers combine a passion for nature, science and wine to help grow grapes and make, bottle, warehouse, and package wines.

What vineyard workers do

Vineyard workers help winemakers produce wine. They're integral to day-to-day operations and perform many tasks from processing fruit through to fermentation, finishing and maturing wine.

Depending on the size of the winery, vineyard workers may be involved in all aspects of work or may specialise in laboratory work, bottling or cellar door sales.

Under the instruction of the viticulturist, vineyard workers prepare the ground for planting by fertilising and oxygenating the soil using hoes or tractors. They then install irrigation systems and trellises.

They train the vines to grow along trellises and weed and spray for harmful insects.

As harvest approaches, vineyard workers remove unripe bunches so pickers only choose quality fruit. In winter, vines are pruned to cut away old growth.

Manual labour involves filling barrels, transferring wine between tanks, and cleaning. Vineyard workers may also make chemical adjustments to wines in the lab.

You'll like this job if...

You're organised. You have good physical fitness. You enjoy outdoor work in all kinds of weather. You're adaptable, responsible and reliable. You like to focus on the facts and details. You apply common sense to come up with practical solutions to problems. You're business minded. You have a passion for wine.



Will I get a job?

- Strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 3,200 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 33,900.

What will I earn?

- Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Vineyard worker
- Winery cellar hand
- Cellar door sales person
- Vineyard assistant
- Cellar operator
- Bottle and packaging operator (wine)
- Wine grape grower
- Production horticulturalist

A day in the life...

Work as a vineyard worker may involve these tasks:

- prepare soil, plant vines, cultivate and fertilise crops
- construct wire trellises to support vines
- control weeds, diseases and pests
- assist with grape picking and, after harvest, vine pruning
- make wine by operating equipment to crush and ferment grapes
- support bottle fermentation by turning the bottles and re-topping
- operate equipment to clarify and filter wine
- make additions to wine, and blend and transfer wine during maturation
- prepare wine for bottling
- assist with barrel work and racking
- bottle, cork, package, and general cleaning duties
- forward export orders
- operate cellar door sales and administration.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate II in Production Horticulture (AHC20316) these relate to vineyard workers

Certificate III in Production Horticulture (AHC30616)

Certificate III in Wine Industry Operations (FBP30918)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

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www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Main employing industries

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Other jobs you may like...

- Crop farm worker
- Fruit or nut farm worker or picker
- Grain, oilseed or pasture farm worker
- Vegetable farm worker or picker
- Hop farm worker
- Sugar cane planter
- Mushroom picker

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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