

# Assistant Winemaker

Von Stiehl Winery

Algoma, WI

The von Stiehl Winery family has an exciting opportunity for a qualified Assistant Winemaker to join our already strong team. Our state-of-the-art winemaking and bottling facility produce over 100 labels yearly and is the ideal place to learn and continue to grow an already strong skill set. Our sustainably farmed 1.5-acre vineyard is home to several French Hybrid grapes and located just north of the production facility. Our single varietal wines are produced from fruit within the major growing areas in California, Washington State, and New York.

Von Stiehl has been in operation since 1967 and is the oldest licensed winery in Wisconsin. The winery has grown incrementally every year and has a sister winery in Green Bay called Captain's Walk. Combined, the von Stiehl Brand produces over 90 different wines.

This position is best suited for an up-and-coming winemaker with a passion for the industry and all aspects from vineyard management to production and bottling, and everything in between. This position will report directly to and learn under the Winemaker.

## **Job Description**

The Assistant Winemaker reports to the Winemaker of von Stiehl Winery LTD. The Assistant Winemaker is responsible for all general winemaking tasks, as well as aiding the Winemaker in planning day to day, as well as future tasks. The Assistant Winemaker is also responsible for aiding in the upkeep of all equipment and buildings, co-pack projects, and overseeing the cleaning process of the production area. The Assistant Winemaker is directly responsible for performing wine additions and adjustments per Winemaker guidance, blending and finalizing wines with the Winemaker, and complete blending/fining trials or other experiments as needed.

## **Supervises**

Cellar Workers, Warehouse Workers, Bottling-line, Production employees

## **Skills/Requirements**

- Effective time management handling multiple tasks on a daily basis
- Project management
- Highly effective communication and people skills within a team environment
- Highly organized with great attention to detail
- Working knowledge of wine systems, wine business, wine in general, legal requirements, label(s)/labeling
- Computer proficient
- Positive attitude with the ability to lead, coach and develop staff
- Valid Wisconsin driver's license with CDL designation
- Ability to lift 50+ pounds
- Ability and willingness to work a flexible schedule that can be up to 7 days a week during harvest

## **Position Duties**

- All general winemaking tasks such as grape and fruit processing, wine racking, blending, filtering, bottling, meticulous cleaning/sanitation of all tanks, fittings, processing equipment and barrels.

- Assist in managing with the Winemaker, or managing, vineyard from spring pruning, pesticide and fertilizer application(s), canopy management, weeding, drainage, testing, harvest, and winterizing.
- Perform wine additions/adjustments for yeast, nutrient, SO<sub>2</sub>, etc. per Winemaker directions. Complete blending/fining trials or other experiments as needed.
- Assist Winemaker in working with growers and brokers for grapes, fruit, and juice ordering along with organizing freight for these items.
- Assist Winemaker in planning day to day production activities as well as help to create daily, weekly, and monthly lists based on winemaking, production, and maintenance needs.
- Help with general equipment and building upkeep, cleaning, organizing, maintenance, repair, as well as any and all preventative maintenance and recording on a schedule.
- Oversee and complete the cleaning process of production area from floors to walls, tanks, drains, fittings, filters and everywhere in between.
- Assist with warehouse/laboratory/bathroom organizing and cleaning as needed.
- Assist with pulling cases of wine for wholesale orders and preparing them for shipping.
- Assist Winemaker in managing all co-pack bottling projects.
- Assist with inhouse record keeping as well as state and federal reports.
- Facilitates oak barrel program under direction of the Winemaker, including topping off and SO<sub>2</sub> of full barrels every six weeks and SO<sub>2</sub> wicking/ozone gassing of empty barrels every three weeks.
- Complete understanding of all equipment and will be able to run the Crossflow filtering machine as well as the bottling line.
- Work special events and tastings as needed.
- Effectively use winery resources such as labor, materials, and equipment.
- May be required to drive company truck with a trailer behind and occasional overnight stays for certain events.
- Able to complete laboratory testing – Brix, ABV, SO<sub>2</sub>, TA, pH, turbidity, heat and cold stability, etc. using either automated or bench chemistry analytical methods.
- Assist with winery grounds upkeep.
- Perform other duties as needed under direction from the Winemaker.

### **Physical Demands**

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; talk or hear. The employee is required to stand; walk; bend; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; stoop or kneel. The employee must lift and/or move 50+ pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision.

### **Work Environment**

While performing the essential functions of this job, it is a physical job in a winery/production/manufacturing setting that requires long periods of standing, walking, lifting, climbing ladders, driving, operating equipment, and observing others. While performing the various duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts, high precarious places, fumes or airborne particles, toxic or caustic chemicals and outside weather conditions.

### **Benefits**

- 401K
- Competitive Salary commensurate to experience and qualifications
- Health Insurance
- Paid Vacation