

Assistant Winemaker/Winemaker

Keuka Lake Vineyards is a small winery producing high-end, dry estate wines in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. We are seeking someone for either a winemaker or assistant winemaking position, based on the background of the candidate. Looking for a good fit for harvest of 2014 (August).

Since the winery is small (currently producing just over 2000 cases aiming to double production over four years) the winemaking work is full time only seasonally. In order to offer a full-time position, we are seeking an individual with significant cellar experience that also has the experience and/or drive to assume responsibilities in business management and/or vineyard management.

The ideal winemaker candidate would have at least three years of winemaking/cellar experience, a strong sense of traditional and modern winemaking practices, an enology/viticulture degree, knowledge of the business of winemaking, good organizational skills, ability to utilize a wide range of software programs in the support of small business operations, excellent writing abilities, and the flexibility to take on tasks as needed.

For those candidates without a degree or limited winemaking background, but with significant cellar experience and a keen drive to be among the best, the position of assistant winemaker would work under the guidance of an experienced consulting winemaker.

The winery grows all of its own Riesling and nearly all the grapes for the remainder of production. The Rieslings are highly rated with a few Wine Spectator ratings of 90 and above each year. This position would provide a unique opportunity for an up-and-coming winemaker to practice their art while learning and being involved in all aspects of wine business operations.

The Finger Lakes makes world class Riesling competitive with those of Alsace and Germany. Other notable varieties include Cabernet Franc, Vignoles, Gewurtztraminer and Pinot Noir. For those also interested in starting their own vineyard or winery, land prices remain affordable compared to other well-known regions.

Conditions of employment including pay and benefits will depend on the experience and capabilities of the individual.

If interested please send a resume and cover letter with your experience and contact information. Contact email melgoldman@klvineyards.com and phone number 607-868-4100.