



# Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Viticulture Internship

by Nick French



## Introduction

My internship took place with Ste. Michelle Wine Estates at 14 Hands Winery in Prosser, WA. 14 Hands winery sources grapes from Eastern Washington. The viticulture staff at 14 Hands is responsible for monitoring vineyards that provide grapes for the majority of Ste. Michelle brands.

### Ste. Michelle Wine Estates

Ste. Michelle Wine Estates is a leading producer of wines. They are made up of many “pearls” or wineries. They own wineries such as 14 Hands, Red Diamond, Col Solare, Stags Leap, Columbia Crest and more. Ste. Michelle is owned by Altria, also a leader in the tobacco industry.

### Responsibilities

My responsibilities included monitoring and recording data specific to grape vine crop estimates, pest identification and pest management. We used Ipads, ATV's, scales, pruners and a lot of sunscreen. My team was responsible for about 300 blocks of grapes ranging from 5 acres to 100 acres each.



ATV's are a necessity.



Erineum mites look bad, but actually pose little threat to the grapes themselves.

### Summary

When I began the internship at 14 Hands as a viticulture intern, I had no idea how much I would learn about wine grapes. I was able to work with many different grape varietals in grower vineyards as well as company vineyards. Working with the industry professionals gave me an opportunity to not only sample a potential career path, but also the incredible opportunity to learn from some great people. This internship was valuable towards my degree and was a great experience.



Powdery Mildew on a Chardonnay cluster.