



The Crew Picking Syrah for a Client

Eclectic Vineyards

Prosser, WA

Cameron Fox

Fall 2016



Syrah Grapes Ready for Harvest

Vineyard Operations

Eclectic Vineyards is a small family owned vineyard that has 16 planted acres, 10 of which are in production in 2016 with the balance coming into production in 2017. The vineyard is comprised of 14 different varietals; Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Malbec, Merlot, Chardonnay, Muscat Canilli, Riesling, Viogneir, Nebbiolo, Touriga Nacional, Tinta Cao, Malmsey, and Tempranillo. The vineyard was specifically planted with the idea of targeting small boutique wineries and home wine makers as the primary customers. All of the planting are small in size, ranging from .25 acres up to 3 acres per varietal.



Cabernet Franc Block, looking south towards the Horse Heaven Hills



Cabernet Sauvignon Harvest



Eclectic Vineyards in the Riesling Block

My Responsibilities

During my time at Eclectic vineyards I was given many responsibilities and latitude with oversight to make decisions and carry out implementation. These included but were not limited to the following: Spray plan development and execution, Fruit thinning and canopy management strategies, Grape Sales, Crushing and Destemming for home wine makers, Picking Scheduling, Oversight of picking crew, Grape delivers to wineries, Trellis repair, and General and mechanical maintenance.



Harvesting Muscat

What I Learned During my Internship

Some of the main things that I learned during my time with Eclectic Vineyards is that being a grower is not an easy profession. It requires the ability to think on the fly and use experience and knowledge to get through the growing season. It also takes a lot of patience as situations will come up that make you question being in the profession, like having a grape broker fall through on a large order and trying to find a home for 16 plus tons of Grapes. It is situations like this that allows for growth and knowledge accumulation that can be used in years and seasons to come.

Overall my experience at Eclectic Vineyards was excellent. This growing season was full of twists and turns that no one could have expected. An August that was record breaking in terms of how hot it was to a September that was 15-20 degrees below average, followed by an October that was 300% higher in rainfall than average. I was given free range to be in charge of many different aspects of the growing operation from spray schedule to picking and some sales experience. I fell that the knowledge that I gained during my time with Eclectic Vineyards this semester well serve me very well in my future in agriculture and specifically in the wine a grape growing industry.



Harper the Farm Hand



Freshly Picked Muscat