

Science Careers Wine Science

Bryce Brown, BSc, PGDipSci Wine Science Assistant Winemaker, Mission Estate, Hawkes Bay



As assistant winemaker I manage the cellar operations and wine making production process.

I graduated with a BSc from Victoria University in 1993 and was interested in winemaking even then, but initially moved into the financial markets and sales. My sales role covered the hospitality and wine industries and when I decided to retrain my contacts had only good things to say about the wine science programme at The University of Auckland.

The postgraduate diploma in wine science is very practical and hands-on. It teaches the realities of winemaking, which will suit you if you like getting your hands dirty – it's not all about drinking Chardonnay in the sunshine!

The course is very professionally run and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it. It flows well, starting with the winemaking process then focusing on the chemistry of wine. A highlight is an intensive wine appreciation module – an opportunity to taste some amazing wines.

My year – 2008 – had a fantastic core of twelve students and everyone got along well. Students were of all ages and backgrounds, from lab work to Pilates, but everyone had the pre-requisite science slant.

I have previously worked as the assistant winemaker at Coopers Creek vineyard in Huapai and am now at Mission Estate Winery in the Hawkes Bay. Learning about wine and winemaking is a continual process, and a hands-on role like mine is the best way to learn. In the future I intend to be the head winemaker in a winery, making the ultimate decisions about production and style.

Wine is a global business. There are many career opportunities and you can travel all over the world, but the industry is also small enough in New Zealand that

your contacts really help in your career.

For further information contact

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