

# Vineyard Manager, Robert Young Vineyards

## Full-time position, Alexander Valley, Sonoma County

Robert Young Vineyards is one of the largest family-owned growers of premium grapes in Alexander Valley, with a ranch encompassing 448 acres, and 287 estate acres planted to Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux reds. Approximately 8% of the grapes grown are for our luxury wine brand, Robert Young Estate Winery, with the remaining grown commercially for other premium brands. We are embarking on a replant of the estate vineyards over the next 8-10 years and are looking for a qualified candidate who can help manage that transition. The Young ranch was established in 1858, and continues to be run by the Young family, with this position reporting to Jim Young, the CEO and President of RYV. In this role, the candidate will also work closely with our Winemaker, Matt Michael, and will have support from our in-house Finance and Accounting team and oversee approximately 25-30 RYV workers. The ideal candidate will also have the opportunity to apply for the position to helm the vineyards in the future when Jim Young retires. **This is a unique, long-term opportunity for a seasoned Assistant Vineyard Manager, who wants to take the next step in their career and work for one of the most respected families in the wine business, helping to take our vineyards to the next level.**

This role includes but is not limited to direct supervision of hourly vineyard crews and crew leaders, ensuring that all employees follow safety guidelines. Maintains close supervision of the field crews through crew leaders to ensure quality and quantity standards are met. Works closely with crew leaders, Payroll and Finance team to ensure efficient payroll data. Collaborates closely with the winemaking team to ensure quality standards are met. Develops and implements vineyard farm plans, manages equipment and resources necessary to produce grapes of the highest quality. Responsible to help direct all aspects of vineyard management, to include, but not limited to frost protection, direction of crews for pruning, suckering, leafing, thinning and harvest. Direction of field staff on cultivation, spray passes, irrigation and fertilization management, data collection and other projects as required. Demonstrates an eagerness to stay at the cutting edge of high-end viticultural practices for luxury wine production.

### Requirements (includes, but not limited to):

- Bachelor of Science or higher degree in Viticulture.
- 5-10 years of vineyard management experience in premium grape growing regions.
- Experience growing Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux reds highly preferred.
- Experience growing grapes for a luxury winery, and at the cutting edge of high-end viticulture preferred.
- Thorough knowledge of viticulture practices and experience in vineyard planning. Experience in vineyard redevelopment a plus.
- Strong leadership skills, and ability to motivate vineyard employees.
- Ability to collaborate with management, family owners, winemaking team, and support staff.
- Competencies - Detailed Oriented, Innovative, Planning and Organizing, Initiative and Building Relationships.
- Knowledge of equipment operations and management, working with our FT in-house mechanic for repairs.
- Valid CA Driver's License, and ability to be insured.
- Comfortable using computers, including programs such as, Excel, Word, Database, Email, Weather programs, SureHarvest and Internet.
- Fluent English, and proficiency in Spanish required.
- Ability to lift and carry 40lbs.
- Able to work in all weather conditions including hot/cold weather temperatures, mud, dust, soft soil, walk in uneven terrain.
- Ability to work extended hours, weekends, and holidays, as needed.
- Work nights during frost season and harvest, as needed.

Contact: Jim Young, CEO Robert Young, [jim@ryew.com](mailto:jim@ryew.com)

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