Ranch Assistant

Checkerboard Ranch

CALISTOGA, CA

Job Description:
Please read the entire job description. This listing is for a general Ranch Assistant position, not a winemaking or vineyard role. The additional help with the vineyard crew and winemaking/harvest help will be secondary to the ranch maintenance.

Checkerboard Ranch is an Icon vineyard and winery operation on the southeast facing slope of Diamond Mountain in Calistoga, California. The total acreage of the estate is approximately 300 acres, with the vineyard operation comprising about 25 acres under vine at 4 different elevations producing luxury wine grapes, joined by a two-and-one-half mile drive spanning the valley floor to the top of the ridge. This dramatic setting is the inspiration for the distinctive, exceptional wines of Checkerboard Vineyards. The winery operations include 2 winery buildings, and 20,000 square feet of caves. In addition, the property includes 2 residences, stables, and several smaller outbuildings.

Overview
The Ranch Assistant will work closely with the Owners and the Assistant Winemaker to oversee and support the ranch operations. As a Ranch Assistant you will be responsible for the basic job functions including the care of the natural forest land, maintain livestock, property maintenance, and some assistance in the vineyard and winery operations as needed. The primary focus will be on the ranch maintenance and care including: general ranch maintenance, basic handyman work, general building repair, and all manner of fixing things that break on a ranch. You will learn how to maintain and operate all aspects of a ranch including irrigation, water, ornamental landscaping, falling trees, farm equipment such as tractors, trailers and all-terrain vehicles, chain saws, and other vineyard and winery equipment. The Ranch Assistant will be instrumental in the successful and smooth operation of the ranch.

Must be available to work agriculture schedule including weekends.

JOB REQUIREMENTS
• Under direction of the Assistant Winemaker and the Owners, perform general ranch maintenance for the natural forest land, property maintenance, and assist with the farming of the vineyards and winemaking as needed.
• Education: Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture, husbandry, or farming. Apprenticeships, technical certifications, or hands-on training will also be seriously considered.
• Previous Experience: as a ranch hand under an experienced farmer is highly desired.
• General construction, building and land maintenance.
• Operation and maintenance of complex agricultural machinery – tractors, trailers, forklift, and all-terrain mules.
• General cleaning of building and property
• Familiarity with Microsoft Office
• Basic math. Must read, write and speak English. Bilingual in Spanish is a huge plus.

QUALITY SKILLS
• Team player, reliable, self-motivated, organized, and capable of strong communication.
• Positive attitude
• The ability to maintain focus and attention to detail while working long hours on your feet.
• As a small team, we require an individual who can think critically, wear multiple hats, multitask effectively, and not require constant supervision.
• Mechanically inclined
• Forklift driving and experience operating and maintaining complex agricultural machinery a huge plus.
• Ability to work with various Spanish speaking labor contractor crews on revolving and ongoing projects.

PHYSICAL/DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS:
• Enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions and physical work with your hands
• Ability to climb stairs, walk extensively, and lift 50 lbs. Requires the ability to work while sitting, bending, twisting, squatting, pushing, pulling, reaching overhead, kneeling and walking over uneven surfaces for prolonged periods of time.
• Valid driver’s license and a reliable method of transportation to and from work.
• Ability to work long hours and on weekends as necessary (regular 6-day schedule during the peak of harvest.)
• We do not provide housing or transportation.

The above information is representative of the work performed in this position; however, it is not all-inclusive. The omission of a specific duty or responsibility does not exclude it from the position if the work is similar or related to the essential duties and responsibilities.

To apply, please e-mail contact below with a cover letter, current resume and brief message of intent as to your career goals and why you want to work at a luxury estate in Calistoga. Applications not sent to the above email address will be ignored.

The interviewing process for this position is scheduled to start soon and the start date is flexible for the right candidate and will run through year-end with the potential to become a permanent full-time position after the probationary period for the right candidate.

Additional Information:
Contact Name: Anthony Hernandez
Contact Email: ranchassistant2019@gmail.com
Salary Information: DOE