

**Elsom Cellars
Seattle, WA
Kaitlyn Neuenschwander
Summer 2018**

Summary of Experience

- The most valuable aspect of my internship was being around people that have been in the wine industry for years and learning from the assistant winemaker and winemaker about their process.
- I want to become a winemaker in the future so witnessing what they do day to day and asking questions was so helpful and eye opening to what the job will really be like.
- This was my first experience working in the wine industry so seeing all the different sides of how a winery is run was very interesting. There's sales, science, and customer interaction all in one so it's a very exciting work environment!
- I absolutely loved my internship experience and I couldn't imagine a better first job in the wine industry. My confidence in my career choice has grown and I'm so excited for the future!



The tasting room

Internship Overview

- I worked in the tasting room serving customers wine and completing transactions.
- I had to use my knowledge of the wines and the winemaking process to answer customer questions and provide them with a meaningful and positive experience.
- My other responsibilities were to maintain a clean work environment behind the bar and throughout the tasting room, prepare food for tastings, keep inventory, and perform other random logistical tasks.
- I got to shadow the assistant winemaker while she worked and ask any questions I had.
- I also attended meetings, sat in on a blending trial, and gave ideas for marketing and labeling of the wines.

Introduction

- Elsom Cellars is a family owned winery located in the Sodo district of Seattle.
- Started in 2006 by the winemaker and owner Jody Elsom.
- Jody started the winery after she established another successful construction company. Wine was always her passion so she fulfilled her childhood dream of opening a winery.
- Elsom only produces 100% Washington red wines from Columbia Valley and Horse Heaven Hills AVA.
- Jody doesn't focus on "fast to market" wines. All the wines are oak barrel aged 36-60 months.
- The winery is a shared space with an outdoor adventure company Evergreen Escapes. They partner up frequently to offer outdoor activities that end with a tasting. A lot of classes are taught in the winery too like yoga + wine.



Outside view of Elsom Cellars



The winemaker, Jody Elsom