

## **Samantha Rubanowitz Viticulturist**

Samantha grew up in Southern California, but headed north to attend the University of California, Davis. Her original plan was to study environmental science and French, and then go to Law School. While at U.C. Davis, she took an introductory winemaking course, with encouragement from some friends in the Viticulture and Enology Department, where she had an “ah-ha” moment and quickly changed course.

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree in 2013, Sam worked her first harvest as the lab intern for Vineyard 29 in Saint Helena. In 2014, after a harvest abroad to work in the cellar at Sugar Loaf Wines in Blenheim, New Zealand, she returned to Napa to intern at the acclaimed Stagecoach Vineyard on Atlas Peak. While there, Samantha was hired on full-time as the Assistant Viticulturist. She helped manage the estate’s 600 acres of premium Napa Valley fruit. During the off season, she was able to travel abroad to work harvests in the southern hemisphere. She returned to New Zealand in 2016 to intern at Gisborne Vintners and in 2017 traveled to South Africa to work in the cellar for Rupert & Rothschild Vignerons. Sam is grateful to have experienced working in all aspects of winemaking – lab, cellar, and vineyard – but truly enjoys being outside with the vines the most.

Sam joined Schramsberg in April 2018 as the Viticulturist and Grower Relations representative, a brand-new position for the team. She oversees all farming activities on the three vineyard sites owned by Schramsberg - J. Davies Diamond Mountain Estate, Bayview and Keefer - as well as all the vineyards leased by Schramsberg. She travels frequently between all four counties where the vineyards are located – Marin, Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino - and is truly the “boots on the ground”, supporting the wineries’ growers and their vineyard management crews to ensure the winemaking team receives the highest quality fruit each season.

Sam lives in Napa and travels as often as she can. She travels most frequently to Sweden, where her mother is from, but tries to visit one new place yearly (most recently to Ireland and Scotland). She also enjoys going to concerts, gardening, and trying new recipes in the kitchen.