



Château Thénac

Working Farm Manager Dordogne, France

Chateau Thénac offers a wonderful opportunity for a practical, industrious, agriculturalist to live and work in the Dordogne, SW France, managing the agricultural part of a large wine estate.

The successful candidate will have had previous arable and sheep farming experience, be committed to success and have a can-do attitude. They will have to be practical as well as capable of handling the management and administration involved in growing 100 hectares of cereals and sunflowers as well as forage crops for sheep, deer and other animals, be a good stock person (100+ sheep and other livestock), able to work with or without supervision and integrate into a local team.

The remuneration package will be commensurate with experience and includes a good salary and nice 2-bedroom property on the farm. Spoken French and/or English would be an advantage, but firm efforts must be made to fit into the locality. The successful candidate must be able to live and work in France.

Interested? Need more info?

Look at our website www.chateau-thenac.com or email for information.

To apply please email your CV and covering letter to
stephane@chateau-thenac.com

Chateau Thénac, France - An introduction

Many thanks for your interest in the post of Farm Manager. Chateau Thénac is a small family-owned winery in South-West France with the aim of building on our reputation for high quality wines. I have been the winemaker and day-to-day manager of Chateau Thénac since 2012. You will be able to find further information on the estate and the wines at our website www.chateau-thenac.com

Background (Wines):

Château Thénac is built on a plateau of exceptional terroir of rolling limestone hills, separated from the famous ridge of St. Emilion by the Dordogne river. The estate benefits from a higher altitude than Bordeaux (180-220 meters) and a more continental climate. The property extends to over 200 hectares with the vineyard at the heart of the property extending to about 40 hectares. As winemaker I was initially enthused by the potential of this terroir and by Chateau Thénac's ambition to create great wines that can rival the best of Bordeaux.

Grapes have been grown at Thénac since at least 1109, when a Benedictine monastery was built on the site. Merlot and Cabernet are joined by the aromatic power of Malbec for the reds, while for the whites, Muscadelle adds floral complexity to the traditional Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. The wines are vinified either in oak or stainless steel vats at our impeccably equipped winery, where there is also a temperature-controlled barrel cellar for both red and white wines. Annual production is around 240,000 bottles in total.



Background (Farm):

Whilst the main thrust of the Chateau is based on the vineyard and wines we also have 110ha of arable land and 20ha of pasture, as well as woodland, lakes etc. We are extremely keen that the quality and care throughout the estate is maintained to the highest levels and this very much includes the arable and sheep enterprises. For the arable we have a rotation based around Wheat, Barley and Sunflowers, sometimes even Sorghum. The local conditions and market dictate these crops. We do all our own work except the harvest which is contracted out. We have all our own machinery necessary for the role. The arable is the principal project here and we are open to expanding, if possible, and it makes sense.

In terms of the sheep – we have a flock of around 45no. Scottish Blackface sheep and a commercial flock of Texel and Suffolk – about 100 in number. The area is not known for sheep production and these started out as a hobby. The lambs are sold to the local abattoir and also privately.

The flock must be maintained to a high standard and they need to be fully cared for. The role will include maintaining the sheep and looked after them on an all year round basis. We also have donkeys, numerous goats, a pony and other livestock that need to be cared for.

There is also a deer park where we have about 30 head of fallow deer enclosed. These are largely self-sufficient but we do have to maintain them. The local hunt help with culling but we would ideally like an expert to assist with the management of the herd. There are also the lakes where we have black swans, ducks, geese and occasionally chickens.

French:

The area around Chateau Thénac is popular with the British and many people have purchased second homes in the area. The local town of Eymet (about 15kms) away is probably 50% English. However it is essential that the farm manager speaks French as local business will be only in French. French can be learnt (and we will help) but significant efforts need to be made. The business operates in French, even if many of us speak English.



The role:

The role of Farm Manager is a hands-on role and the candidate must be proficient and autonomous to get on with the work involved in the arable and livestock. The work involved must be approached in an organised and committed way to ensure that the best is made of every aspect of the farm. There are no other farm workers to assist, although there are arrangements for other staff to assist with the livestock over weekends and holidays. The candidate will report directly to myself.

Property:

The property that we are offering is a two bedroomed property that is attached to one of the agricultural buildings – photos below.

The property is a single story apartment looking out over an orchard and the arable fields beyond. It is in the farmstead (the main farmhouse is a holiday home). It is very clean and tidy.

Salary:

The salary is to be negotiated but we are offering a good salary for the position and locality. The house comes with the job. There is also a farm van to use. We would ask that you disclose your salary expectations – in euros.



CHATEAU
Thénac

