

Jessica Martin Chef, Jackson-Triggs Winery

Jessica Martin is the Estate Chef at Jackson-Triggs Winery, a position she has held since July 2019. Jessica got her start in a kitchen working as a dishwasher under Chef Tim Mackiddie at Inniskillin Winery. In 2016, she was accepted into the Cook Apprenticeship program and attended school at Niagara College. She was promoted to Junior Sous-Chef, overseeing her peers in a supervisory role in 2017. Jessica graduated in 2018, was promoted to Sous-Chef, and earned her Interprovincial Red Seal in July the same year. In December 2018, she earned her Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) level two award and passed with merit. The next year in September 2020 she continued the program and earned her level 3 WSET award, also passing with merit.

Jessica's focus in the kitchen is on educating guests on food and wine, while eliminating the stigma that often gets in the way of learning about how they pair. Her food is heavily focused on fresh, local products, and she works with local suppliers to purvey the best ingredients for her dishes. Her future aspirations include continuing working towards creating a healthier workplace environment in kitchens, as well as learning more about beer and the brewery industry.

In her spare time, Jessica enjoys teaching youth drumming in the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band as the leading drummer. She lives in St. Catharines with her fiancé and two dogs, and loves exploring the Niagara Region with them on her days off.

Kayla Mudford, Chef, Inniskillin Estate Winery

Kayla has worked in the industry for the past 7 years. She graduated from Niagara College in 2018, and immediately took a position at Inniskillin Winery. She worked as Sous Chef under Chef Tim Mackiddie, before taking the lead at the estate in the summer of 2019. Her passion for food comes from family dinners, as food has always been a focal point in social gatherings throughout her life, and so many good memories start with "Remember when we had dinner at...". Outside of cooking, she loves her dogs and a good bottle of wine.