

Roy Grinder

Guest Ranch Owner/Operator

Career Description

A Guest Ranch Owner/Operator manages a working ranch and shares educational and recreational ranch experiences with guests from around the world.

Profile

He has always loved living and working on a ranch. In fact, he has been riding horses, “ever since I was old enough to sit on one.” Now Roy Grinder makes his living sharing that passion and experience with the world.

Roy and his partner, Allyson Rogers, own and operate a secluded 65-hectare guest ranch near 70 Mile House. Located more than 30 kilometres from the nearest neighbour and surrounded by over 32,000 hectares of natural meadows and forest, the ranch is a true wilderness paradise complete with a luxurious log home and private lake.

Each year the couple welcomes hundreds of visitors eager to experience life on a working ranch and learn about Western horsemanship. Most of their guests come from Canada, Europe and the United States.

“We produce a lot of our own food and our chef prepares five star meals,” Roy describes, noting they accept only 12 guests at a time. “We want to provide the ultimate experience.”

Roy started out as a ranch hand and is now responsible for managing all the day-to-day duties around the ranch. His typical day involves feeding and caring for the animals—including cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and two dozen horses—growing a large garden and supervising the ranch hands and wranglers.

He also enjoys working with the guests, often demonstrating how to saddle a horse or leading a trail ride through the woods. A lot of guests are really overwhelmed by the land, he says, so you need to know about the local flora, fauna and surrounding terrain.

“For me, it’s the whole package,” Roy states matter-of-factly. “You’re working with animals and you get to meet people from all over the world. It feels good knowing that our guests leave happy having enjoyed what they came here to experience.”

Key Quote

“There’s no better feeling than being out on the trail with people from around the world, teaching them about plants and animals.”

Ask Roy: How did you learn to do what you do?

“I grew up on a ranch so I got a lot of my animal experience from my dad, but there are lots of courses you can take. I took business management in high school and I know it helps me here. We also work with a business coach and take local courses on topics such as communication and agritourism.”



Primary Location

- Thompson/Okanagan, Cariboo, Kootenay

Interests/Skills

- Animal husbandry
- Hospitality
- Adaptability
- Entrepreneurial
- Mechanical aptitude

Suggested Qualifications

- Relevant training in Livestock Production and/or Business Management

Related High School Subjects

- Biology
- Geography
- Business Education

Related Careers

- Wrangler
- Ranch Hand
- Farrier

Did you know?

- Sixty-four per cent of people involved in agritourism and direct marketing in British Columbia are first-generation farmers. (Source: North America Farmers' Direct Marketing Association/Michigan State University Survey, 2006)