

Eco-Responsible Farming and Production Classifications:

Sustainable Winegrowing/Winemaking Practices

Sustainability here refers to a forward-thinking approach to winegrowing, avoiding measures that may cause irreversible damage to the natural environment. The long-term availability of a vineyard to be healthy and productive is at the forefront of all decisions made in the vineyard and the winery.

Certified Sustainability

These wineries meet specific standards for sustainability set out by the governing body from which they have received certification. While each program differs slightly, each measures three specific areas of sustainability relating in some form to environmental soundness, economic feasibility and social equality. Full certification requires a third party to audit the winery's water use, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and nitrogen use.

Organic Winegrowing/Winemaking Methods

Wineries that do not regularly employ the use of synthesized pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fertilizers. Vineyard Managers may, however, find justification in their use if they are faced with losing an entire crop of other extreme circumstances. It must also be acknowledged that many producers farm entirely organically but aren't interested in navigating the bureaucracy required of certification.

Certified Organic

These wineries meet specific standards for organic winegrowing and winemaking as set out by the governing body from which they have received certification. Standard criteria requires that wines are made with organically grown grapes, all additives (fining agents, yeast, etc.) are organic, and no GMOs (or other prohibited ingredients) are used.

Certified Biodynamic

Biodynamics in winemaking focuses on holistic agricultural health. The vineyard is seen as an entire ecosystem and emphasis is placed on ensuring harmony and balance. General criteria for certification includes the proper maintenance of soil health; timing planting actions with lunar cycle; and low-interventionist winemaking methods. A certified biodynamic vineyard often meets or exceeds the standards and regulations for organic-certified farming.

Napa Green Certified

Napa Green is a comprehensive environmental certification program for vineyards and wineries in the Napa Valley. The program represents a soil-to-bottle approach to environmental stewardship and

winemaking, integrating holistic management practices at every step of the process. Independent, third-party certification of farms and winemaking facilities is required.