

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

**Introducing the pioneers
in planet-friendly wine making**





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The future is in our hands.

Sustainability establishes the criteria of how the world should be and what we should be doing to secure our needs and continue growing without compromising future generations.

The reality and obvious impacts of climate change has brought Earth's health to the forefront of many people's minds. At MMI we have embarked on a journey of change to develop and improve our corporate responsibility and we believe that protecting our planet is the only way to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the world's finest wines and spirits with less impact on our planet.

Organic and biodynamic are terms you may be familiar with in regards to wine and they are

frequently used to communicate the 'green' credentials of a winery. We'll explain those in a little more depth in the following pages. However, whilst these agricultural terms often go hand in hand with a sustainable approach to wine production, they are not a guarantee of a fully holistic and sustainable approach by the winery. Sustainability also covers the measures taken to minimize its impact in terms of water, energy and packaging, how logistics and supply chain can improve in relation to these as well as the social impact in the local community.

A more sustainable industry means sustainable livelihoods in every sector, supporting all of our communities with jobs that are sustainable and

"The fact is that no species has ever had such wholesale control over everything on Earth, living or dead, as we now have. That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility. In our hands now lies not only our own future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the Earth."

David Attenborough
From The Documentary Series, Life On Earth

rewarding in all senses of the word and this is a challenge we are taking seriously too.

Our wine producers care deeply about the health of their land, soil and vineyards, it's core to what they do. We want to support the positive work they're already doing to help our planet by sharing some of their stories and efforts, and will continue to champion those who go the extra mile.

Tony Dodds
GM Wine and Champagne



Defining Organic, Biodynamic, and Sustainable Wines.

Organic and Biodynamic, what does it mean?

The demand for Organic and Biodynamic wines is steadily rising as the global move towards more sustainable ways of living gains traction and while some of us may grasp the basic ideas, we might find ourselves left stuttering for a half-baked explanation if asked to explain the difference. It's true there is a mystique and often a little confusion associated with these terms - this is hardly surprisingly given the varying regulations around the world when it comes to producing organic and biodynamic wines. We've tried to explain simply the basics.

So what is Organic wine?

First things first, organic wine production is regulated, so for a wine to be labelled organic it must be made from grapes grown in non-genetically modified vineyards that exclude the use of prohibited substances such as industrially produced pesticides and chemical fertilisers and once the grapes are harvested vinification must adhere to strict guidelines regarding the use of any additives. So, whether it's preserving the natural balance of the soil in which the vines are grown or deciding which yeasts are used during fermentation, all elements of grape growing and wine making must adhere to the rules. Don't assume this means the wines don't contain additives - there is a list that can be included, many of which are naturally occurring, and the wine can still be certified as organic.

Of course, growing grapes without any chemical intervention at all can be extremely challenging, especially in those marginal climates where the threat of rot and mildew is ever present. Some wine regions are very fortunate though in that their climactic conditions allow for relatively straightforward organic viticulture - if it's a hot, dry climate and where the vines are afforded good airflow, life is that bit easier for the organic farmer, places like Sicily and Chile for example. In Bordeaux, which has a maritime climate, rot and mildew can be a very real problem so during some years it is necessary to intervene with chemical treatments to prevent losing the entire crop and strictly organic farming becomes near impossible to achieve. It is because of this that many estates will never become 100% organic but it doesn't mean they don't aspire to farm sustainably. A further complication that some wineries experience is the time expended and sheer volume of paperwork involved in gaining certification; qualifying is a three year process (unsurprisingly, this is often expensive) and many winemakers opt to follow uncertified sustainable practices instead as this gives them more flexibility and often also includes an element of social and economic responsibility as well as ecological.



...and Biodynamic wine?

This is similar in some ways to organic farming in that it takes place without the use of synthetic chemicals, but has no legal definition and utilises some additional practices, which while adding to the mystique, make it truly baffling for some. Put in simple terms, biodynamic farming looks at the entire vineyard ecosystem with additional considerations for astrological influences and lunar cycles, recognising how these affect the growing cycle and with an overall quest for balance - healthy vines, healthy soils and healthy vineyard flora and fauna. As such it's extremely labour intensive, a very hands on approach, which requires an in-depth knowledge of the entire vineyard ecosystem and being able to preempt a difficulty or problem in the vineyard before it actually materializes, decisions which can save anything from hours of time to an entire crop. During wine making the common manipulations such as acidity adjustments or yeast additions are not practiced. Many famous estates swear by this approach; Chateau Pontet-Canet in Bordeaux is a notable example. The underlying thought process for most Biodynamic producers is if the vineyard and soils are healthy, they can protect the vines against disease naturally.

Sustainable Wines

Sustainable winegrowing practices account for the entire ecosystem and aim to protect the whole earth, including the soil, air, and water. Sustainability accounts for the grape growing and winemaking process, (which could be organic or biodynamic) but additionally incorporates a range of practices that help the winery make economically viable and socially responsible decisions.

Note that a sustainable wine is probably not made with 100% organically grown ingredients unless otherwise indicated. But a sustainable wine can be natural, biodynamic, or organic, so look at the label to learn more.

Definitions for sustainable certification vary around the world and we're not going to get that deep into those explanations here, but generally there are eight key areas that wineries focus on in their sustainability practices; water efficiency, energy efficiency, pest management, soil health, waste management, wildlife habitat, community contributions, and the supply chain.

Examples of this include

Water Conservation: Opting for drip irrigation or even dry farming.

Energy Use: Harvesting at night, so grapes (and vineyard workers) stay cooler, using solar panels.

Pest Management: Using beneficial insects and birds of prey (like falcons!) to help manage insects and rodents.

Green Building: Opting for reclaimed or recycled construction materials.

Land Conservancy: Leaving part of a winery's property undeveloped to provide a wildlife habitat.

Quality Of Life: Committing long-term to the health of their communities.

These practices are not necessarily new - some have been incorporated into the winemaking process for centuries. However, the recent dilemma of climate change has sparked greater eco-friendly conversation within wine. In response, many winemakers have taken steps to become more sustainable in their practice.

We hope you enjoy learning how some of our producers are not only producing great wines for you to enjoy, but doing so in a way that may leave the planet in a better place for the future wine drinkers of our world.

Symington Portugal



Symington Family Estates is one of the world's leading producers of premium Port, the leading vineyard owner in the Douro Valley and one of the top wine producers in Portugal.



The business is run by 4th and 5th generation of members of the Symington family and is founded on a deep commitment to Portugal's people, its lands and its wines.

They have set themselves ambitious sustainability goals; targeting zero carbon emissions, adapting to climate change, fostering and protecting biodiversity and supporting ecosystem regeneration. In recognition, in 2019 Symington Family Estates became the first wine company in Portugal to achieve B Corp certification and was named Ethical Company of the Year in The Drinks Business, Green Awards. They manage over 1,000 hectares of uncultivated land, primarily natural Mediterranean scrub with some olive and orange groves in the Douro Valley. This land provides a valuable sanctuary for a wide range of animals including wild boar, foxes, genet cats, numerous birds of prey and many other small mammals.

Learn more >

Certifications |





Concha y Toro Chile



Well-known for its market-leading premium wines, the vineyards of Concha y Toro are home to world-famous brands such as Casillero del Diablo, Marques de Casa Concha and Don Melchor.



Concha y Toro is truly a world leader in regenerative farming with its focus on restoration and renewal. Its aim is to improve nature and society across all properties and winemaking processes. On April 22, 2021, Earth Day N°50, Viña Concha y Toro became the first public company to obtain the prestigious B Corp certification in Chile.

Learn more >

Certifications |



Ruinart
France



Ruinart is the world’s oldest established Champagne house, exclusively producing champagne since 1729.



Founded by Nicolas Ruinart in the in the city of Reims within the Champagne region, Ruinart retains the values of quality, authenticity and elegance, with Chardonnay used in all Ruinart cuvées.

Maison Ruinart’s commitment and know-how to preserve nature is historically rooted. Since its inception, the House has always considered terroir and time-honoured winemaking knowledge as the basis for its exceptional wines. In response to the global environmental challenges, Maison Ruinart has made strong commitments to carry out numerous transformations with a positive impact on the planet. A pioneer in the field of sustainable viticulture, over the past 10 years the Maison has reduced its use of chemicals and has stopped using herbicides completely. Over 120 areas within the vineyard are dedicated to biodiversity and more than 95% of the vineyard is covered with grass.

Learn more >

Certifications |





Torres Spain



Torres began producing wine in Penedès in 1870 and the wines they make today under the name Familia Torres represent a mosaic of properties most of which have roots in history, with winegrowing associations that reach far into the past.



The wines are an expression of the vines and landscapes where the grapes are grown — honest, exuberant wines with an emphasis on elegance and a unique sense of place.

Torres have focused on reducing their carbon footprint; recovering ancestral varieties, promoting research and implementing regenerative viticulture to benefit the vineyards and the planet. In 2008, Torres strengthened their commitment to the environment by creating the Torres & Earth programme with the aim of mitigating the effects of global warming by reducing their carbon footprint, adapting to the new climate situation, and raising awareness both within the sector and society about the need to take action. Torres are committed to transforming their organic vineyards through a regenerative viticulture model which recovers the natural fertility of the soil, prevents erosion, and encourages biodiversity.

Learn more >

Certifications |





Pioneering system to capture and reuse CO2 from wine fermentation

Journeys End South Africa



In 1995 the Gabb family purchased a beautiful South African vineyard in the Stellenbosch winelands.



Home to Journey's End, Mount Rozier, Identity and Gabb Family vineyards, they produce premium, easy-drinking wines for every occasion. In 2022 Rollo Gabb in collaboration with Andrew Ingham, launched Interpunkt, a new wine that promises to shake things up, both with its branding, edgy attitude and its revolutionary paper bottle packaging.

The Journey's End team is wholly committed to being environmentally sustainable and socially responsible across all of its wine brands. It is WEITA and IPW accredited, converted to solar power in 2014 and the farm became fully Fairtrade certified in April 2017. Journey's End has been recognised for going above and beyond to reduce their impact on the environment receiving the Ethical Award at The Drinks Business Green Awards in 2020. In early 2021 they attained WWF Conservation Champion status for their continued commitment to sustainable farming and conservation of native fauna and flora.

Learn more about Journeys End >
Learn more about Interpunkt >

Certifications |





De Bortoli Australia



With over 90 years of winemaking experience, De Bortoli make an extensive collection of award-winning wines.



De Bortoli has gone well beyond mandatory requirements in striving for a sustainable future, adopting a wide range of innovative programmes and winemaking practices in their vineyards situated right across Australia. More efficient water management, an ongoing move to biological farming in an increasing number of vineyards, and a careful overhaul of packaging and waste management are all practices put in place to reach their sustainability goals.

These changes have not only benefited the environment, but have also resulted in healthier fruit leading to better quality wine. Their ultimate aim is to be a 'Zero Waste Wine Company'.

Learn more >

Certifications |



Santa Julia Argentina



Situated at the foot of the Andes Mountains, in the vast desert province of Mendoza, sits Familia Zuccardi, Argentina's largest family-owned winery as well as one of the leading exporters of Argentine wines.



Created by Argentinian wine icon José Alberto Zuccardi in honour of his daughter Julia, the Santa Julia wines are lauded across the globe.

Santa Julia Winery is a large family of people who are passionate about the land, grapes and wine. They are committed to maintaining the quality of their wines while taking care of the world around them. As well as being Argentina's leading certified organic wine producer, Santa Julia leads the way in sustainability by making their own compost, recycling, waste management and energy saving initiatives.

[Learn more >](#)

Certifications |





Waterkloof South Africa



Perched on the slopes of the Schapenberg in the Helderberg, Waterkloof has unlocked nature’s true potential with its classically elegant wines.



Half of the vineyard is set aside to preserve rare and abundant natural vegetation, fauna and flora situated on the property..

Among its many sustainability initiatives Waterkloof use drip irrigation on its young vines, a more efficient system to conserve water. Most of the vineyard is dry-farmed. Solar panels power the cellar which is built into the hillside to maintain a stable temperature naturally. Waterkloof also farm regeneratively which means all of the consumables they use are locally produced minimising their carbon footprint and boosting the local economy.

Learn more >

Certifications |



d'Arenberg Australia



Since 1912, the Osborn family have grown grapes and made wine in the picturesque surroundings of McLaren Vale.



Today, fourth generation family member Chester Osborn is at the winemaking helm, making distinctive wines using traditional methods in the winery and the vineyard.

d'Arenberg has taken action on the environment and increased sustainability through creating less waste, increasing recycling and using more efficient methods to use less water. The installation of a new 100kW solar plant, swapping gas forklifts with electric ones, sourcing environmentally-friendly chemicals and materials are other ways they lessen their impact on the planet within the winemaking process. d'Arenberg have led the way in biodiverse agriculture by growing native plants within their vineyards for many years.

[Learn more >](#)

Certifications |





Stellenrust South Africa



Situated in classic vine growing territory in South Africa, with Table Mountain as its backdrop, Stellenrust pay careful attention to crafting exceptional wines.



This includes an array of different styles to suit a diversity of different palates. They assess everything for the impact it might have on precious natural resources, from the growing of the vines to bottling of the wines.

To reduce the use of chemicals, Stellenrust has their own integrated pest-management system where they promote colonies of natural predators of pests and disease. The company plans to move to integrated organic farming within 15 years and is making great strides towards this goal. All plastic, carton & glass is recycled as part of the in-house quality management system. Grape skins, stalks and seeds are fed to white-faced Hereford cattle and their manure is used to create organic compost.

Learn more >

Certifications |



Craggy Range New Zealand



Craggy Range produces a collection of iconic wines from multiple regions of New Zealand.



Owner Terry Peabody and his family follow the single vineyard approach to winemaking, planting on green fields and bare lands ensuring a focus on quality.

In recent years Craggy Range has embarked on the largest biodiversity programme in the entire New Zealand wine industry. They completed stage 1 in September 2020 planting approximately 24,000 native trees, going on to plant a further 21,000 for stage 2. Craggy Range have converted to organic farming practices and make their own compost, part of their commitment to reducing their carbon footprint.

[Learn more >](#)

Certification |



Ken Forrester South Africa



Situated in the Cape of South Africa, Ken Forrester makes a renowned range of exceptional, handcrafted wines.



Three of the wines are part of the Old Vines Project, an initiative that has captured the attention of the global wine world.

The Ken Forrester Wines team believes in the ethos of sustainable farming and makes a continuous effort to improve and innovate. The winery features a state-of-the-art solar renewable energy system generating sufficient energy to meet its entire daytime needs and feeding excess back into the grid. They make their own organic compost, grow a variety of winter cover crops between the dormant vines and manage yields according to the potential of the soils and the vines.

Learn more >

Certifications

OLD VINE
PROJECT



Mouton Cadet France



Created in 1930 by Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Mouton Cadet is a blend of a number of appellations from the Bordeaux region.



The wine is a result of an exclusive selection of parcels belonging to Mouton Cadet wine-making partners. These partners use their expertise to cultivate the best-known varieties of the appellations' grapes (Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc).

Mouton Cadet is committed to preserving the Bordeaux terroir and treating people with respect at every stage of the way, winegrower to consumer. From eco-friendly packaging to the installation of solar panels and minimal use of agrochemicals, Mouton Cadet is leading the way in sustainable farming practices in Bordeaux and the wider wine-making community.

[Learn more >](#)

Certifications |





**E.&J. Gallo
USA**



Founded in 1933 by Ernest Gallo and Julio Gallo, the winery remains owned by the family and is the world's largest exporter of Californian wines.



For over 90 years Gallo's environmental commitment has extended to production, packaging, transportation and recycling.

Gallo was the first winery in the United States to receive the environmentally-focused ISO 14001 certification and it served a key role in the initiation of the Sustainable Winegrowing Program and Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Practices. This programme promotes practices within vineyards and wineries that are sensitive to the environment and responsive to the needs and interests of society at large.

Learn more >

Certifications |



