



WILLAMETTE
VALLEY WINE

SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS



LIVE Certified Sustainable

LIVE is a certification program developed in 1997 by an independently incorporated organization of Oregon winegrowers to provide vineyards and wineries official recognition for sustainable agricultural practices. LIVE is certified internationally by the **International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC)**, which sets an international standard for sustainable farming practices. LIVE certification is a three-year process. A point system for ecological options requires growers to demonstrate continual improvement in diversification of the agro-ecosystem, and reductions in the use of fuels and chemical inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers. Regular third-party inspections are required to maintain certification.
(www.livecertified.org)



USDA Certified Organic

Organic food production is based on a system of farming that mimics natural ecosystems and maintains and replenishes the fertility of the soil. Organic foods are produced without the use of synthetic chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Organic foods are minimally processed to maintain the integrity of the food without artificial preservatives or irradiation. Organic foods are not genetically engineered. Organic certification requires on-site inspections, legally binding contracts, detailed record keeping and periodic testing of soil, water, and produce to ensure that growers and processors are meeting the standards of the USDA National Organic Program.
(www.usda.gov/topics/organic)



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Demeter Certified Biodynamic

The Demeter Association certifies farms and products to international Biodynamic standards that date back to 1928. In order for a farm to be certified it must demonstrate that it has undergone Biodynamic stewardship for a minimum of two years, as defined by the certification guidelines. Certification must be renewed yearly. In general, Demeter certification is in accord with many practices that characterize the certification of organic farms. However, certain practices are unique to Biodynamic agriculture, including managing the whole farm as a living organism; maintenance of a healthy, diverse ecosystem that includes not only the earth, but as well the cosmic influences and rhythms of which the earth is a part; and use of the Biodynamic preparations to build soil health through enlivened compost. (www.demeter-usa.org)



Salmon Safe

Salmon Safe is a corollary certification that is usually achieved in conjunction with one of the comprehensive certification programs. Salmon Safe certifies farming practices that restore and protect healthy streams and rivers, focusing especially on control of soil erosion and runoff, and on maintaining buffer zones in riparian areas to protect water quality. (www.salmonsafe.org)



Oak Accord

In Oregon's Willamette Valley, where more than 97% of the white oak's historic habitat has already disappeared, vineyard and forest landowners have signed on to the Oak Accord as a way to protect and restore more than 1,500 acres of the Willamette Valley's fragile ecosystem. Led by Willamette Partnership, the Oak Accord is a voluntary conservation agreement by landowners in the Willamette Valley to protect and restore the native oak habitat on their property. (www.willamettepartnership.org/oak-accord/)