

PEDRONCELLI

As a family winery who has farmed for 80 years in the Dry Creek Valley, we want the next generations to be able to continue farming in an environmentally sensitive way. The most important statement we can make about our wine is that we are here for the long term and protecting the environment is how we will achieve that goal.

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program at University of California, Davis (UC SAREP) emphasizes that sustainable agriculture integrates 3 main goals—environmental health, economic profitability, and social and economic equity. UC SAREP also points out that a systems perspective is essential to understanding sustainable agriculture. Farming does not operate in a vacuum. Each farmer's field is part of a complex community ecosystem, which in turn can effect or be impacted by global economics and even global ecological processes (eg. El Nino). A systems perspective involves viewing multiple factors when considering field and farm-level decisions.

Sustainable agriculture is an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having site-specific applications that will achieve many objectives over the long term:

- Satisfy human food and fiber needs
- Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends
- Make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm resources
- Integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- Sustain the economic viability of farm operations
- Enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole

To put it simply: **Sustainable agriculture is economically viable, socially supportive and ecologically sound.**

At Pedroncelli Winery, we practice sustainable winegrowing and, over the years, we have been reducing water use, building healthy soil, and protecting the vineyard environment. This is a comprehensive approach to vineyard management that involves all aspects of farming including human resources, viticulture, soil management, water management, pest management, habitat management, and wine quality.

We use various methods from planting cover crops, to using organic materials for fertilization to erosion control through various ways. Sustainable viticulture is one part of an overreaching effort to be environmentally conscious.

Examples of Sustainable farming practices at Pedroncelli Winery:

- Compost of grape pomace, vineyard prunings, and other mature organic materials are spread in the vineyard to replenish the soil and stems are spread on roadways for erosion control.
- Hillside vineyards are terraced and drainage is engineered to minimize water erosion.
- All pruning, thinning and harvesting is done by hand reducing carbon emissions from mechanical equipment.
- Planting cover crops to improve the land's natural fertility, control erosion and host beneficial insects. Cover crops such as barley, oats, and bell beans are all grown naturally and are chopped and turned into the soil to replenish nitrogen and oxygen and naturally prevent soil compaction.
- Significant acreage is dedicated to permanent cover crops or no-till vegetation aiding in erosion control and lower green-house emissions.
- Synthetic pesticides are not used on our Home Ranch vineyards. Cover crops provide habitat to attract beneficial insects that prey on insect pests.
- Soil moisture content is checked weekly by vineyard management experts to dictate when and how much water is applied to vineyards so grapevines do not have to compete for water with cover crop.
- Insect pests, powdery mildew and bunch rot are reduced through leaf removal and canopy management thus reducing the need for synthetic fungicides.

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1220 Canyon Rd. Geyserville CA • 800-836-3894 • www.pedroncelli.com • service@pedroncelli.com

A Sonoma County Tradition Since 1927