



Great wines.
Healthy vineyards.

SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE (SIP)[™] Vineyard Certification Program

The Sustainability in Practice (SIP)[™] Vineyard Certification Program provides a comprehensive and verifiable method to authenticate a vineyard's attention to integrated farming practices – a commitment to environmental stewardship, equitable treatment of employees, and economic viability. Developed by the Central Coast Vineyard Team - a non-profit dedicated to sustainable winegrowing since 1994 - this program represents one natural outgrowth of the group's pioneering work.

Certification

In order to qualify for vineyard certification, growers must farm in a way that protects both natural and human resources as outlined in the rules, otherwise known as the Standards. Not only do growers have to achieve and document 40 requirements, but they must earn 75% of the available points through implementing management enhancements to qualify for certification. Finally, an independent inspector verifies a grower's responses and practices through an in-depth records and on-site audit.

Comprehensive Standards

After four years of development, the Standards were independently peer reviewed by environmental, regulatory, and academic representatives. They address several interrelated elements of the farming system. Habitat conservation, energy efficiency, pest management, water conservation, and human resources - these represent just a few themes covered in the program. A big picture with an all encompassing approach, the Standards provide a comprehensive look at the farm in its entirety.

Values & Trust

Growers and winemakers recognize that the care in which the fruit is grown represents one layer of a quality product. They show their dedication by adhering to sustainable farming practices every day and by investing in certification. Customers can show their dedication to these shared values by choosing SIP[™] Certified wines. The SIP[™] Certified seal assures that the farmer has completed a process verifying the way the fruit was grown and that wines bearing the seal were made with SIP[™] Certified fruit.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.sipthegoodlife.org.

A Project of the Central
Coast Vineyard Team

A Local Non-Profit Dedicated to
Sustainable Winegrowing Since 1994

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www.sipthegoodlife.org
www.vineyardteam.org



SIP THE GOOD LIFE™

Great wines. Healthy vineyards.

Defining Sustainable Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture defines sustainable agriculture as an integrated system of plant and animal production practices that will, 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 nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and 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

The Sustainability in Practice™ Vineyard Certification Program addresses each of these elements.

Overarching Goals

Sustainability in Practice (SIP)™

Meet today's needs without compromising the needs of future generations including environmental health, economic viability, and social equity.

USDA-National Organic Program

Optimize the health and productivity of interdependent communities of soil life, plants, animals, and people.

Biodynamics®

Create and maintain a unique, self-sustained farming ecosystem.

Farming Certifications – At a Glance

Consumers have many options when it comes to selecting products bearing an “eco-label”. The following describes the primary aspects of Sustainable, Organic, and Biodynamic certification programs.

| Topic of Interest | Sustainability in Practice (SIP)™ | USDA-National Organic Program | Biodynamics® |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Certification | ● | ● | ● |
| Biodiversity | ● | ● | ● |
| Vineyard Management | ● | ● | ● |
| Soil Conservation | ● | ● | ● |
| Pest Management | ● | ● | ● |
| Water Quality | ● | ● | ● |
| Organic Approved Pesticides | ● | ● | ● |
| Reduced Risk Synthetic Pesticides* | ● | | |
| Water Conservation | ● | | |
| Energy Conservation | ● | | |
| Air Quality | ● | | |
| Social Equity | ● | | |
| Continuing Education | ● | | |
| Fruit Quality | ● | | |
| Economic Viability | ● | | |
| GMO Prohibition | n/a for winegrapes | ● | ● |
| Homeopathic Remedies | | | ● |
| Incorporate Forces of Nature | | | ● |

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* Organic and Biodynamic producers may use synthetic pesticides if approved. Sources: www.vineyardteam.org, www.ams.usda.gov/NOP, www.demeter-usa.org