Sustainable Practices for Byron Winery & Vineyard

Erosion / Runoff / Irrigation Management:

- Cover crops planted and irrigated to control erosion, stabilize the soil and increase soil tilth.
- Cultivation practices are tailored to geography, soil type and season.
- Low-volume, drip irrigation is used throughout the vineyard during the growing season to reduce runoff and limit the amount of water to only what is needed.
- Neutron probes, c-probes, and weather stations are used to monitor soil moisture content to help determine the proper amount of water to be used so that none is applied in excess.
- Detailed knowledge of block by block soil horizons, water holding capacity, vigor, as well as effective rooting depths help us to determine how much water to use at certain times of the season.
- Water testing is done regularly to monitor soil components.
- Potential erosion, habitat issues and locations are always considered when designing a new vineyard planting.
- The farming team operates under the parameters set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Pest / Disease Management:

- Beneficial insects are released when possible to help control harmful pest populations and limit the amount of pesticides that may need to be used.
- Cover crops are planted and managed to provide a sustainable environment for beneficial pests.
- When possible, organic selective chemicals are used to control only the harmful pests and diseases.
- Our vineyard team has the knowledge of life cycles of pests and diseases to better determine when a spray is necessary.
- Canopies are managed through trellising, leaf pulling and shoot positioning to allow light penetration, air movement, and spray penetration to combat pest and disease pressure.
- Owl and raptor houses are built throughout the vineyard to facilitate bio-control of rodents.

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Additional Sustainable Practices:

- Oak trees have been aggressively planted and wildlife corridors left to natural habitat.
- Soil is sampled regularly to monitor nutrient content. This can better help us determine nutrient, fertilizer, and soil amendment needs.
- Bloom time and veraison petioles are also sampled to determine specific vine nutrient needs. This avoids broad, unnecessary applications.
- Certain vineyard sites allow for field press fruit on site where available resulting in a 25% reduction in trucking needs.
- The vineyard operation is moving to more multi-row farming activities. This will potentially reduce fuel inputs and future tractor needs.
- Managers are members of and regularly attend meetings of the following organizations: Central Coast Vineyard Team (CCVT), American Society of Enologists and Viticulturalists (ASEV), California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), Central Coast Wine Grower's Association (CCWGA), and University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). These meetings keep us up to date on new and changing regulations as well as provide a forum to exchange ideas and learn new methods related to sustainable farming.
- We thoroughly and persistently follow all Department of Pesticide Regulations and Worker Protection Standards laws and regulations to ensure that our employees, the public, and the environment are protected at all times. Worker safety is at the forefront of management decisions regarding agrichemicals.