

HOLMES WINERY

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A BRIEF SUMMARY

The goal of Holme's Environmental Management Plan is to ensure that the production of their wine contributes to a healthier environment.

Holmes manages the vineyards to maximize the sinking of carbon into the soil by increasing humus levels:

- No herbicides are used, resulting in healthier soils that store more humus.
- Return all organic, plant matter to the vineyard by mulching summer trimmings, winter prunings and leaf-fall.
- Grape marc is returned from the winery to the vineyard or composted for use in the vineyard; in turn adding humus to the soil.
- A great deal of the leaf plucking and grape harvesting is done manually. This leads to better quality wines, lower energy use and less compaction of the soil. This maintaining the ability of the microbial life in the soil to convert plant matter to stable hummus.
- Care is taken in the timing of mechanical operations in the vineyard, again to avoid damage to the soil through compaction.

Holmes manages the winery to reduce energy costs and CO₂ emissions:

- Main source of power is electricity supplied by a CarbonNZero certified power company that is generated using natural, renewable resources.
- All heating or cooling systems are insulated.
- Special insulated tanks are used for cooling.
- Hand plunge reds as they ferment.
- Winery not heated and processing takes place at ambient temperatures, following nature's natural rhythms.
- This means that malolactic fermentation in the red wines takes place in the spring as the wines warm up naturally saving the need for wasteful, winter heat.

Holmes optimizes Freight Logistics:

- They carefully plan their export freight routes, to minimize the CO₂ emissions by reducing road haulage and maximizing use of efficient sea freight.
- When their export customers control the export freight directly, they ensure they have the best knowledge available to them so they can achieve the most energy efficient export freight solutions.

Food Miles

- Food miles are an out-dated concept that is only valid when comparing products from similar production systems. Holmes does not export wine by inefficient road transport. They use energy efficient sea freight to transport their wine on cargo ships that would otherwise be returning home empty if they were not exporting.

Recycle and Minimize Waste

Carefully Select and Manage Packaging