

# VEGAN & BIODYNAMIC WINES

## WHAT IS A VEGAN WINE?

Most conventional wines are not vegan and winemakers are not obliged to declare on the label when they use animal products to clarify or enhance the wine. These include egg whites (to fine and brighten the wines), casein (a milk protein to make wine taste softer), gelatin (removes bitterness) and isinglass (a clarification agent derived from fish).

Vegan wines are not produced with any animal product and are instead clarified with *bentonite clay*.

## WHAT IS A BIODYNAMIC WINE?

Biodynamic farming embraces organic practices and adds an extra layer of care. An important aspect includes a holistic approach of bringing in as few amendments and supplies from outside the vineyard. Additionally, special compost preparations, lunar planting and harvesting cycles are practiced. Based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, biodynamic is especially popular with European producers. Look for the "Demeter" certification from these especially dedicated wine makers.

## HOW IS BIODYNAMIC DIFFERENT FROM ORGANIC?

- Every biodynamic farm aims to become self-sufficient in compost, manures and animal feeds.
- All external inputs are kept to a minimum.
- Compost is treated with special herb-based preparations.
- Crop quality is improved using natural manure and quartz based preparations.
- Ecological diversity is a goal of landscape management.
- An astronomical calendar is used to determine auspicious, planting, cultivating and harvesting times.

## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY WINE IS *CERTIFIED* BIODYNAMIC?

If you do not see one of these Demeter logos on the label, or the words, 'certified by Demeter,' then there's no guarantee.



- For more biodynamic information, see <http://www.biodynamic.org.uk/FAQ.html>
- For more organic information see Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7-Agriculture, **Part 205-National Organic Program**, Subpart D-Labels, Labeling, and Market Information, § 205.301-Product Composition, (f) (5) and (7), and § 205.605. Code of Federal Regulations available at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> and more specifically at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx\\_07/7cfr205\\_07.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_07/7cfr205_07.html)