TAMBER BEY
VINEYARDS

Est. 1999

Sustainability Statement

Being a sustainable winegrower means producing high-quality grapes and wines, protecting the environment, being a responsible neighbor and employer, and maintaining a thriving, long-term business.

When Tamber Bey Vintner Barry Waitte purchased an established 60-acre vineyard in the Yountville Appellation of Napa Valley in 1999, he initiated a long-term plan for the property that would meet his objectives of sustainability, land preservation, and diversification.

After thoroughly researching optimal rootstock and clonal options for the site, Waitte developed a 25-year vine-replacement plan to remove grapevines that were not ideal for the growing site and replace them with a more suitable selection of varietals and clones, thus greatly diversifying the vineyard. He adopted a small-block rip, leave-fallow and replant strategy. Through this method, the entire vineyard has been systematically replanted in 2- to 8-acre blocks. Each block is removed, then left fallow for two years to allow the soils to regenerate, then replanted.

Because the Deux Chevaux Vineyard sits in a flood plain, Waitte also installed a drainage system to improve drainage and water flow and minimize standing-water saturation and loss of top-soil and nutrients. Ongoing farming practices include hand-pruning and harvesting to minimize machinery in the vineyard, planting cover crops, composting MOG back into the soil, adhering to water efficiency and pest management practices, and protecting the wildlife habitat along Conn Creek, which borders the property.

Additional Sustainable Practices

- Manual removal/cleaning of solid surfaces of grapes, pomace, leaves, etc. to avoid excessive water usage.
- Regulating water-usage during barrel and tank cleaning/sanitation
- Limited use of cleaning and sanitation chemicals in Production areas, especial toxic or dangerous chemicals.
- Eco-friendly cleaning products are used in our Tasting areas and plant-based detergents are used exclusively with linens for both the Production team and Tasting room staff.
- Weather stations help to understand and reduce possible events that may stress the vine due to decreased water availability or high heat conditions as well as they help track current mildew pressure conditions. Our weather stations allow for more effective scheduling of irrigations/nutrient applications and/or organic foliar sprays (fungicides, nutrients, etc.) applications, while conserving electricity, water, fuel, and labor.

- Soil Moisture probes aid in determining appropriate irrigation scheduling, including amount of water per vine and frequency of irrigation events to maintain health of vine and achieve quality goals related to plant stress.
- Leaf Porometer tool is used to aid in determining the level of vine stress, due to water availability. Targeting of certain vine stress levels through planned irrigation, offers additional information for determining irrigation scheduling, while increasing quality and preventing unnecessary loss of yield.
- Cover crops are sowed each season in the vineyard. Cover crops help prevent soil erosion, increase the sub-surface and surface-level ecological activity and diversity, naturally aerate and break up the soil, and provide nutrients and organic material to the soil.
- Minimal tilling in conjunction with cover-cropping. Minimizing tilling or the mechanical breaking of the soil, can help sequester and prevent the release of potential green-house gases. Preventing disruption of the soil microbiome may additionally increase the nutrient availability to the vine and the rate of decomposition of organic material. Lastly, reduced tractor work in the vineyard decreases fuel consumption and additional soil compaction.
- Fallow areas are not only great for increasing biodiversity of the property and reducing soil erosion.