

Organic Wines

What are organic wines?

Sofia Araya, the Head Winemaker at Veramonte, Chile.

“We started organic management in 2012 and we finished our certification process in 2018. We believe organic practise is the best way to express terroir in the wines, which show a much more intense fruit profile and freshness.”

In its simplest terms organic wine is wine made from grapes grown free from man-made chemicals such as artificial fertilisers, chemical herbicides, synthetic insecticides or pesticides or genetically modified products.

Anyone can practise organically, but producers need to be certified in order to label their wines organic. In EU countries specific companies are authorised to issue certificates generally at a cost to the winery.

Not everyone chooses to apply for certification though. Some object to the cost or red tape involved, others want to leave themselves the flexibility to return to conventional methods of protecting their crop in difficult vintages. Some only practise organically in certain plots of their vineyard.

What does ‘Ethical practices’ mean?

Christelle Alias, Winemaker Sainte Marie des Crozes, Corbières, France

“We were conscious about the problem of pesticides on the health of the soil. Since we went organic, the wines have evolved with more acidity, important in hot south of France where the change has given improved balance on the wine.”

At Matthew Clark we like to recognise all producers that are working towards organic or ethical practices so that you can make an informed choice, whether they choose to be certified or not.

Did you know our wine list includes a Key to wines that are Organic or have Ethical practices. Look out for this in our wine list, or for quick reference we have a complete list of Vegetarian, Vegan and Organic wines at the back of wine list too.

Our leaf icon highlights activities carried out by producers we represent that come under a wide ethical umbrella. These vary from vineyard-focused pest control regimes to activities designed to reduce the impact on global resources.



Are Biodynamic vineyards the same?

The concept behind biodynamics is that everything in the universe is interconnected, including celestial bodies like the moon, planets and stars. Biodynamic viticulture is the practice of balancing this resonance between vine, man, earth and stars. Essentially, biodynamics is a holistic view of agriculture. A biodynamic farm should be self-sustaining with all these life forces working in unison to optimise the health of the soil and plant.

A biodynamic vineyard would have to be organic but not all organic vineyards are biodynamic.

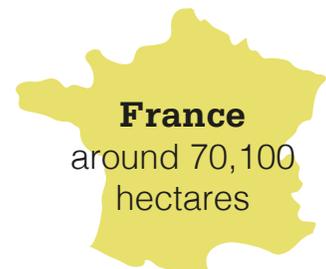
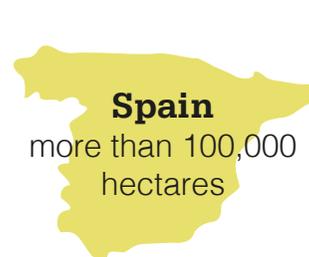
Do organic wines contain sulphites?

Sulphites play a very important role in the winery, they are preservatives and antioxidants commonly used to prevent oxidation and unwanted bacteria spoiling the wine. They are a natural by-product of the yeast during fermentation, so even if you do not add sulphites to the wine, the wine will still contain them at a low level.

Any wine that contains more than 10 parts per million, must be labelled "contains sulphites."

In the EU wines with added sulphites can still be labelled organic.

Top three countries with organic lands 2016
(In hectares not % of vineyard)



These three countries represent 73% of all organic vineyards in the world. Soon, China will have the largest total organic wine area, with an important part of its vineyard currently undergoing conversion.

Source DivaWine.com





Organic wine will account for 9% of the UK's total still wine consumption by 2022. UK's organic wine segment is expected to grow in value by 10.5% to reach £1.15 billion by 2022.

Source: Drinks Retailing News 28.11.18

Organic wines are on the whole more expensive than non-organic (averaging, on a global scale, £10.21 per bottle to £7.38 market average), however the findings showed that UK consumers are willing to pay on average 38% more for a bottle of organic versus a non-organic wine," said IWSR consultant Giles Gough.

Source: Harpers

While it is true that 89 percent of the world's certified organic winegrowing areas are in Europe, by far the largest single operation is located at the other side of the world, in Chile. Viña Emiliana, which belongs to the Concha y Toro Group, farms 630 hectares biodynamically with a further 370 hectares farmed using classic organic methods.

Source: Prowein.com



37599 Corbières Rouge Organic, 4ème Génération, Domaine Sainte Marie des Crozes



35041 Riesling Alsace Eguisham Organic Emile Beyer



28941 Puro Organic Malbec, Mendoza



36939 Veramonte Organic Sauvignon Blanc, Casablanca Valley.



32783 San Salvatore Vetere Rosato, organic Paestum.



31042 Bottega Poeti Prosecco Organic Extra Dry



37702 Don Jacobo Rioja Crianza, Viticultura Ecológica, Organic



37440 Codorniu Ecologica Organic Zero.

