



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Our belief is that great wine starts in our vineyard soil. At LDV Winery we are committed to ensuring that the quality of the terroir – soil, air, water, and overall environment – is protected and maintained.

Evidence of inhabitants in Cochise County where our vineyards are located date back to 9000-6000 BC. Each summer when the monsoon rains come to southeastern Arizona squash plants emerge as a reminder of these early days.

We feel blessed to live in this special place and are taking steps to ensure it is sustainable for future generations.



Our sustainability philosophy at LDV Winery is to take a careful, responsible approach to vineyard management.

Sustainable farming practices include the following:

Understanding Overall Ecosystem



Before planting, a thorough soils and water analysis is completed to help guide LDV Winery's overall sustainable vision.

By understanding the soil composition throughout the property, invaluable information about water holding capacity and nutrients is attained. Knowing this information assists in making decisions about irrigation and fertilization.

Soil Erosion Management

Through careful vineyard design, erosion control is addressed and understanding water flow through the vineyard is critical. Erosion depletes the soil resources and can also impact both water and air quality. Our goal is to minimize soil erosion.

Some of the techniques used include growing cover crops, straw mulching and spreading the material, aerating the vineyard rows, and managing drip irrigation effectively.



Proper Rootstock



Selecting the proper rootstock that is tailored to our location assists in ensuring the health of the vine as well as our ability to manage the vineyard effectively.

Drip Irrigation

LDV Winery uses a drip irrigation system that allows complete control over how much water is given to each vine. Our system allows us to change the settings depending on different vineyard block needs.

This allows the efficient management of our precious water resource. The computerized system allows water management via smart phone from anywhere in the world. It also serves as an alert when the system is malfunctioning.



Canopy Management



Throughout the growing season and up until harvest, we carefully hand-train (i.e., painstakingly tucking each shoot between the trellising wires) the vines to ensure a good canopy is created to protect the grape clusters from the intense Arizona mountain sun.

Controlling the vine's canopy assists in achieving our goal for LDV wines of concentrated fruit flavors. But additionally, careful canopy management also supports our water conservation strategy.

Composting

We strive to use organic mulch and fertilizers that help to maintain soil health and support vine growth. All waste by products from harvest are composted.



Natural Pest Control



At LDV Winery we encourage birds of prey to nest along Ash Creek and in the vineyard. These birds of prey assist in keeping our rodent and gopher population down.

Additionally, instead of netting the vineyard to keep the birds from eating the ripened fruit, we have installed a bird of prey speaker that effectively keeps birds out of the vineyard. At times the outside rows require netting to keep the birds from eating the fruit.

Recycling

We use 100% biodegradable new cardboard packing materials for shipments instead of Styrofoam. We recycle all glass bottles, aluminum, paper, and plastic used at the winery, tasting room, and at our home.

At LDV Winery we are creatively using or re-using as many of the materials found on the property (i.e., rocks, boulders, and sand used in walls and structures and paving) to older barrels being used for tables or are recycled.



We chose to use natural corks instead of non-recyclable screw-tops or synthetic corks because cork is a renewable resource. And it is used in many of the art projects around the winery.

Weather Station



Our weather station is installed in the vineyard allowing us to monitor area weather conditions. This allows the vineyard manager to implement strategies such as water conservation measures to address changes. The weather station also tracks weather conditions over time providing us an historical record that will assist in future vineyard management.

At LDV Winery, we take our responsibility to our family, friends, neighbors, land, and future generations very seriously. We are very fortunate to be able to live in this special place in the foothills of the Chiricahua Mountains along Ash Creek in one of the few Sky Island regions in the world. We owe it to our customers to not only produce a quality wine, but to maintain the natural beauty and resources of this incredible place we call home.