



GRAHAM BECK
WINES

Sustainable Farming

At Graham Beck Wines, the entire ecosystem has been studied and is broadly managed to preserve its continued robust health.

Graham Beck Wines employs not only ecologically-minded vineyard managers, but also a professional conservationist, Mossie Basson, who work together closely, developing farming policies and practices that ensure the production of high-quality grapes while preserving and aiding the land on which they are grown.



Pesticides, which cause more harm than good, are never used during the growing season. Insect pests are managed by the healthy bird population which, in turn, is kept in balance by raptors that have been encouraged to make their home in the vineyard. Vines with evidence of mealy bugs are marked and individually treated in the winter.

Larger threats to the grapes, such as antelope, are easily discouraged by spraying hot sauce on the vines. Baboons are frightened away with a brilliant “low-tech” system: a kid on a bicycle with a radio.

A state-of-the-art weather monitoring system not only tracks, but predicts climate conditions in advance so the vineyard team can look for common diseases, such as downy or powdery mildew and botrytis. Outbreaks are treated locally as they occur with compost teas so that there is never a need for wholesale spraying of fungicides.

Drip irrigation, deficit irrigation and partial root zone drying irrigation are utilized to save water resources. Additionally, GIS mapping monitors vine water consumption so that there is no over-watering. Cover crops, such as oats and lupines help slow evaporation, and prevent erosion and soil compaction as well as providing attractive protection for beneficial insects and rodents who are important to the ecological balance.

Wastewater is treated anaerobically and everything that can be, is recycled. All Graham Beck Wines’ employees participate in a program that has reduced landfill-destined waste by two percent every year since 2006.