

The farming practices at our estate vineyard, Wildcat Mountain, were recently assessed under *The Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Practices* authored by collaboration between Wine Institute and California Association of Winegrape Growers. The voluntary assessment included sixteen chapters that focused on practices that are sensitive to the environment, responsive to the needs of society, and economically feasible to implement and maintain. We were pleased that our farming practices met most of the highest standards of sustainability. In cases where our practices were not of highest standards, we have developed action plans to improve those practices.

The remote location of Wildcat has enabled us to minimize inputs for pest control, and we are currently experimenting with cover crops that promote beneficial insects to combat any pests that may arise. Houses for owls and other birds can be found throughout the vineyard, encouraging native wildlife and natural predators of rodent pests. Dairy cattle can be found grazing outside the fence line part of the year.

Our efforts in farming sustainably are a work in progress. Experimental plots within the vineyard, attending workshops focused on sustainable practices, and comparing practices with other growers and wineries are all great resources in assisting to achieve our goals in sustainable farming.