



Biodynamic or Organic?

Biodynamic

Biodynamic farming is a type of organic agriculture. Both organic and biodynamic methods seek to sustain ecosystems, but biodynamic farmers adhere to unique philosophical principles, as well as to guidelines more stringent than those required by the USDA for organic certification.

Based on Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner's notion of the farm and earth as self-sustaining organisms, it involves the application of several strictly formulated plant "preparations," and times operations to coincide with the rhythm of the earth. In a sense, biodynamics is an ongoing path of knowledge rather than an assemblage of methods and techniques.

Formally practiced since the 1920s, biodynamics has enjoyed far greater popularity in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand than in the United States, but American interest is on the rise.

Kuyen and Antiyal wineries, imported by Global Vineyard Importers, practice biodynamic farming.

Organic

Organic, a movement started in the 1940s, places primary importance on soil health, eschewing synthetic chemicals, which pollute the environment and deplete nutrients and microorganisms in the soil. It is characterized by the use of natural soil amendments, manual/mechanical weed control, nontoxic pest management, and sustainable animal husbandry.

Pargua and Pargua II, imported by Global Vineyard Importers, produce their red wine blends organically. The vineyard of Ricardo Santos is currently in transition to organic farming.

Text adapted from Organic Style magazine and Demeter USA—a leading biodynamic certification program.

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