

CASE STUDY

Oct 2017



COOLCALIFORNIA CLIMATE LEADER

Captain Vineyards Moraga, CA

The Message in the Bottle is Sustainability



Jon Costantino, owner of Tradesman Advisors, Inc., presenting the Climate Leader Award to Sal and Susan Captain from Captain Vineyards.

Captain Vineyards is a winery in Moraga California that is dedicated to sustainability. Many rave about the winery's bold reds and beautiful views, but their green operations are also causing a commotion amongst viticulturalists, environmentalists, and wine-lovers alike.

Their consistent efforts to decrease waste have been acknowledged for eight years by the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District. And everything that is uprooted from the land is returned. This means 100% of organic materials – pruning clippings, grape skins, seeds, and stems – are recycled. In fact, Captain Vineyards is proud that they no longer require a green waste container because of this initiative.

Captain Vineyards began dry farming its 3,500 vines in 2007. All water used in the cleaning and wine-making process is recycled. Captain Vineyards Winery is clearly achieving its stated goal "to grow with our grapes and show that everyone's favorite beverage does not need to cause environmental damage or worsen a drought." Their water-saving actions have been acknowledged with the Water Smart Audit Award,



The same location is used to crush, ferment, press, age, bottle and sell Captain Vineyards' wines.

which they have received from the East Bay Municipal Utility District twice in the past eight years.

BUSINESS SNAPSHOT

Captain Vineyards embodies sustainability through its initiatives and inspires viticulturalists and visitors alike to conserve natural resources in their business operations and lifestyles.

Green Actions:

- Vine clippings, skins, seeds and stems of the grapes are composted
- 100% of water used in the cleaning process is recycled (zero discharge operation)
- Offers classes through Lamorinda's Department of Parks and Recreation promoting sustainable business operations

Facility Renovations:

- Installed solar panels that generate more energy than consumed
- Upgraded refrigerator and water heater with energy-efficient versions
- Insulated crawl spaces and walls to avoid air conditioning
- Installed OWL boxes instead of using rodenticides



CoolCalifornia.org
CLIMATE LEADER

In addition to initiatives to minimize waste, Captain Vineyards installed solar panels (that generate more electricity than they consume), upgraded their refrigerator and water heaters with energy efficient versions, and insulated crawl spaces and walls to remove the need for air conditioning. The winery has received numerous awards for their energy conservation efforts, including the Leadership in Sustainability Award from Sustainable Contra Costa in 2010 and the Pollution Prevention Award from the County of Contra Costa.

Captain Vineyards shares their passion for sustainability with the local community. The winery offers classes through Lamorinda's Department of Parks and Recreation and the 4-H viticulture program, and provides internships for high school and college students, all with a focus on sustainable practices. They are also partnering with Raptors Are The Solution (RATS) and a local youth club to install OWL boxes in their vineyard, providing a sustainable solution for rodent problems.



Sal and Susan Captain offer classes on a monthly basis through the Lamorinda Parks and Recreation Department with a focus on sustainable practices.

"We take pride in every step of our production process: energy conservation, dry farming, zero waste, and reduced carbon footprint."
- Captain Vineyards



Captain Vineyards is the first and only green winery in Contra Costa County.

The business also regularly encourages their clients to make green choices in their own lives, such as by carpooling for a visit. Captain Vineyard's sustainability efforts serve as a model for other wineries, and inspire viticulturists and visitors alike to consider the environment in their business operations and lifestyles.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Sal and Susan Captain
Owners
1969 Joseph Dr.
Moraga, CA 94556
925-330-2440

<http://www.captainvineyards.com>
sal@captainvineyards.com