

ORGANIC FARMING & WINEMAKING OVERVIEW



- Our 200+ acres of vineyard have been certified by the [CCOF](#) (California Certified Organic Farmers) for **over 20 years** now.
- **Organic certification requires** that our grapes are grown without conventional pesticides or herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, bioengineering, or ionizing radiation. Bell beans, red clover, peas and vetch planted between the rows of vines, and then, just when the flowering plants are turning to either seed or starting to bear “fruit”, the plants are turned back into the soil where they are converted to nutrients for the vines. The soils are alive with micro-organisms that allow the vines to take up the nutrients in a more efficient manner.
- All of the estate grown fruit that goes into the *BARRA of Mendocino* and *Girasole Vineyards* wines is **hand-picked**. No mechanical equipment is used, thereby ensuring our fruit is handled with the utmost care.
- There are **5 ponds** spread throughout the Barra vineyards which help irrigate the grapes. Because we farm organically, these watersheds are protected from chemicals that would otherwise be leaching through the soils.
- In addition to having organically certified vineyards, the **BARRA of Mendocino Winery** is also **certified organic** by the CCOF. This means that our winemaking process must adhere to strict guidelines and ongoing inspection by the CCOF in order to maintain the claim “made with organically grown grapes” on our wine labels. Additionally, any wines carrying this claim can only add 100 ppm (parts per million) of sulfites to their wines. *The BARRA of Mendocino/Girasole Vineyards* wines often test out as low as 40-50 ppm (conventional wines can have up to 350 ppm). The wines are also considered **Vegan** as they don’t contain any animal products, such as egg-whites (often times used in the fining process).
- “Why wouldn’t I farm organically? Yes, it’s more work (annual audits/certifications, paperwork, labor requirements), more risk (crop devastation from pests) and not necessarily a bigger payout, but it’s essential to the well-being of this planet. We need to leave this earth the way we found it, and this doesn’t include chemicals”.

Charlie Barra, organic grape grower for 69 yrs and counting!

