



Into Wine

The Lonely Slog of Farming Right: Does Anyone Really Care About Organic and Sustainable Wine?

BY MICHAEL CERVIN SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2019

Perhaps one of the worst professions in America today is to be a farmer. A constant stream of unknowns pummels you: Rainfall (too much or too little), fluctuating crop prices, expensive farming equipment, a fickle buying public, bank loans, a host of pests destroying your crop, erratic subsidies and now global tariffs. What many of us don't realize is that farming any crop is a dicey business. And it's true with farming grapes. Sure, it sounds sexier - making wine, winemaker dinners, selling expensive bottles. The task of farming your vineyards as a responsible citizen, eliminating or mitigating the use of chemicals and treating the land so it will flourish for decades, is a goal many aspire to. However farming consciously is not simple....So what do winemakers do, and does the public really care if a vineyard is farmed sustainably, organically or even biodynamically to begin with? To find out firsthand, I went to those who actually farm vineyards, make wine from these vineyards and certify these vineyards.

I checked in with winemaker Sofía Araya Head Winemaker of González Byass in Chile who uses ECOCERT, the France-based inspection and certification body that is considered the benchmark in organic certification worldwide. She plans to eventually convert González Byass' vast vineyard holdings in the Casablanca, Colchagua and Apalta Valleys to 100% organic and biodynamic - a project of ambitious scale.



veramonte

2018 VERAMONTE SAUVIGNON BLANC

From Chile comes this light, bright and clean organic Sauvignon Blanc with lemony herbaceous notes, a light grassy hint and back notes of grapefruit, tangerine and guava. A very refreshing wine. (\$11.99)