



## SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW

StoneRiver Vineyards is a small family-owned and family-run vineyard that is committed to sustainable agriculture. We believe that ecologically-sound and sustainable agriculture is a necessity for the long-term health of our planet and all its' inhabitants. Our goal is to be good stewards of the land we farm and to leave it in better shape than when we got it. We follow a system-based approach that follows both time proven as well as new and innovative viticulture practices. These practices are sensitive to the environment, economically feasible to implement and maintain, and responsible to the needs and interests of our eco-systems, communities and society. We also believe that following these practices make the wines we produce more complex, better balanced and more reflective of the terroir from which they come.



### LIVE CERTIFIED SINCE 2012

To help us achieve our sustainability goals, we have been a member of the Pacific Northwest's Low Impact Viticulture and Enology (LIVE) program since 2011. LIVE is one of the most authoritative sustainability accreditations in the wine world. As a member of LIVE we follow some of the strictest standards for environmentally and socially responsible wine growing in the world. Annually, since 2012 we have been certified by independent inspectors to meet these requirements.



### SOIL & PLANT PRACTICES

We believe that the grapes we grow are dependent on the health of our soils and are only as good as the land we farm and our farming practices. Soil sustainability is at the core of our agricultural practices. Sustainable soil management recognizes the importance of interaction between a vine's roots and the soil, and that the complexity, character and biodiversity reflected in that interaction is the essence of a great wine. We devote a lot of our time to understanding our soils and the processes going on within them. We believe that the more we know about our soils the greater control we have over yield and quality, and the greater our opportunity to affect the long-term viability of our vineyard.

Soil is perhaps the most complex ecosystem on the planet. One of the biggest contributors to this complexity is the effect organic matter has on soil biodiversity. Our goal as sustainable farmers is to increase the use of on-farm inputs and minimize the use of off-farm inputs. At StoneRiver Vineyards we do this by emphasizing the use of cover crops as the best vehicle for increasing organic matter and adding nutrients into our soils. Our goal is to minimize the use of off-farm fertilizers and nutrients.

Knowing our soil types and monitoring our soil properties such as moisture holding capacity, texture, rooting depth and changes in soil chemistry help ensure our vines are growing in soils with good structure and are better able to cope with soil pests, diseases and other stresses. Our emphasis on efficient uptake of nutrients helps us grow a more uniform crop of wine grapes which in turn ensures higher wine quality.

This is important because synthetic fertilizers feed our vines directly and while fast acting, their effects are short-term. Organic fertilizers, on the other hand, feed our soils which, in turn, feed our vines. Organic fertilizers provide long-term benefits to both plants and soils and feed our vines over a much longer time.

In 2018, after 4 years in transition, we met a major milestone in soils sustainability by completely eliminating the use of herbicides and glyphosates in our vineyards.