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## New Biodynamic Wines Just in Time for Hump Day!



This Fall, DeLoach Vineyards will harvest their first biodynamic wines. Ok, so they're not quite ready for *this week's* hump day...but they will soon be!

Demeter USA, the only certification agent for Biodynamic® farms in the United States, has certified the 17-acre estate vineyard and garden at DeLoach Vineyards, making them one of only 64 wineries or vineyards *in the world* with Demeter certified Biodynamic® estate vineyards. As such, DeLoach enters into an elite family of sustainable winegrape growers committed to farming in parallel with the Earth's natural cycles.

The process of converting a farm from conventional to Biodynamic® agriculture requires a three-year transition process to become organically certified, followed by an additional year of biodynamic-specific practices. All work is done according to the Biodynamic® calendar, which is based on celestial and terrestrial movements.

Biodynamic farming, first established in 1924 by Rudolf Steiner, has minimal dependence on external inputs; its holistic approach instead relies upon creating natural biodiversity within the farm through cover crops and annual preparations such as the iconic #500 Horn Manure. As a result, biodynamic farming leaves one of the smallest carbon footprints of any agricultural method.

Today, the estate at DeLoach is a rich ecosystem in which eight clones of Pinot Noir and two clones of Chardonnay are able to express the unique combination of soil, climate, air, water, nutrients and human attention that turn the concept of *terroir* into a tangible reality. Sheep graze and trim the vegetation beneath the vines; bees pollinate the half-acre CCOF and Demeter-certified garden and the cover crops planted between rows of vines. Fruits and vegetables from the garden are served to winery guests and donated to local food banks including Food for Thought and Redwood Empire Food Bank; herbs from the garden are used as the basis for certain Biodynamic® preparations.

DeLoach's commitment to environmentally-friendly practices extends to the winery: an innovative membrane bio-reactor purifies all water from the winemaking process for reuse in the vineyards and 100% of its energy is purchased from renewable sources, eliminating 314 metric tons of CO2 – the equivalent of 57 passenger vehicles for 1 year.

Cheers!!

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