



MARIMAR ESTATE
VINEYARDS & WINERY



Our biodynamic garden is planted with yarrow, chamomile, nettle, dandelion, valerian and horsetail.

Prep 500

This is the first of the nine biodynamic preparations from the teachings of Rudolph Steiner, back in the 1920s. A female cow horn is filled with cow manure and buried in the autumn equinox, then dug out around the equinox in April.

The manure is then diluted in water and sprayed on the soil underneath the vines; it only takes miniscule quantities to reap the benefits and improve microbial activity.



Cow manure is packed into a horn and buried in the autumn equinox, then sprayed in April under the vines.

Biodynamic Farming in Our Vineyards

In 2007 we started to experiment with biodynamics in our vineyard and in 2010 we decided to use the BD practices in the entire vineyard. This is really a step up from organic viticulture, where the approach is to see the vineyard as an ecological whole: not just rows of grape vines, but the soil beneath them – an organism in its own right – and the other flora and fauna in the area, growing together independently. To enhance biodiversity, special ‘compost teas’ prepared from herbs like yarrow and nettle are also sprayed in minute quantities over the vines.

Biodynamics is a leap of faith; it’s impossible to quantify the success of the practices. But we firmly believe that our wines have become more reflective of their terroir, rounder, and more ‘stand-alone’ since we became organic, so we think this step may help improve the health of our vineyard.

Mairah

Marimar Torres

Prep 501

The second biodynamic preparation, BD 501, is silica or quartz crystals – a compound with optical and electrical properties found in the surface layers of the earth in sand or rocks.

The silica is ground and mixed with rain water to a paste, packed into the female cow horn and buried in June. In December it is dug out and the silica is ground to a fine powder. We spray it on the vines before harvest, to improve the ripening action of sunlight.



The horn of a female cow filled with silica (quartz crystals) is buried in June, then sprayed on the vines before harvest.