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Organic, Sustainable + Biodynamic Wine: What's the Difference?

A lesson in eco-friendly wines, just in time for Earth Day.

By: [Molly Miller](#)

We've heard all the buzz words: organic, natural, sustainable, environmentally-friendly. But what do these terms actually mean? And how do you know you're choosing the right "green" product? Let's break it all down in relation to wine and wine making. After all, Earth Day should be a reminder that our planet is precious. And the simplest way to take care of it is to be responsible, conscientious consumers.

Sustainable: Wines labeled as "sustainably-grown" are made on vineyards where sustainable farming practices are used. Sustainable wines are not necessarily organic and some pesticides may still be used. The vineyard itself, however, follows sustainable practices that, for example, reduce waste, use solar power, encourage biodiversity and manage run-off. Sustainable vineyards are not regulated by government agencies. However, there are independent organizations that offer certifications and promote sustainable practices.

———— SUSTAINABLE ————

Crocker & Starr

Crocker & Starr — The Crocker & Starr vineyard is devoted to sustainable and organic farming practices. Their Sauvignon Blanc (\$34) is smooth and refreshing with pear, vanilla and lemon flavors — a great, easy-drinking summer wine.

