


# SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NEW ZEALAND

## AUDIT PROCEDURES FOR VINEYARDS AND WINERIES



NEW ZEALAND WINE  
PURE DISCOVERY

 ^ Nowhere is New Zealand's clean, green image more passionately preserved than on the vineyard — hence the almost universal adoption of the Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand program. In Maori culture the manaia is a guardian spirit that protects air, water and land. The very elements whose purity is so vital to the quality of New Zealand wine.

THE SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NEW ZEALAND (SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NZ) PROGRAMME IS A PROACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT ENABLES WINEGROWERS TO PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY WINE, USING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE PRACTICES.

The programme is designed to help wine businesses to continually improve their operations, with the aim of becoming more sustainable and reducing the impact they have on the environment.

### AIM OF THE SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NZ AUDIT

The Sustainable Winegrowing NZ audit helps maintain the integrity of the programme by holding members responsible for:

- Accurately monitoring and recording required information.
- Adhering to standards, procedures, guidelines and regulations.
- Ensuring staff have the correct training and knowledge.
- Managing risks and issues in-line with regulations.

The audit provides a record of findings and assists with the development of industry education and training programmes. The information gathered from the audit also helps members and Sustainable Winegrowing NZ to monitor progress, make informed decisions, identify and manage risks, demonstrate safe and effective practices, and minimise or address issues.

### AUDIT FREQUENCY

All member vineyards and wineries will be audited at the end of their first year of registration and participation in the programme, and after providing the required documentation to Sustainable Winegrowing NZ. After the first year vineyards and wineries can expect to be audited once every three years.

Members must provide the following documentation annually:

- Completed self-assessment vineyard and winery scorecards.
- Supporting records and documentation (i.e. spray diaries and monitoring records).

### AUDITORS AND AUDIT VISIT

The audit is completed by a trained, independent auditor who understands vineyard and winery practices, and the Sustainable Winegrowing NZ programme and standards.

The main focus of the audit is to visit the property and verify that responses in the scorecard are supported by reviewing member documentation and records, and inspecting the property.

### AUDIT PROCEDURE FOR THE VINEYARD

During the audit visit, the auditor and member will discuss the member scorecard and answers recorded, along with supporting information, where applicable, for the following areas:

- Regulations: including relevant resource consents, knowledge of the regional/district council plan and monitoring requirements.
- Soil and nutrient plans and records: including fertiliser records, soil and foliar test results, and compost production and management.
- Irrigation records: including water requirement prediction methods, soil moisture measurement methods, rainfall records, water budgeting, dates and volumes of water applied, system checks, system energy use.
- Pest and disease management and spraying: including spray diaries, records of pest and disease monitoring, member and staff Growsafe certification, calibration and maintenance records of machinery used, property spray plan, staff training records.
- Canopy and sward management, and frost protection measures.
- Biodiversity strategy.
- Facilities and methods for storing sprays, fuels and fertilisers.

- By-product collection and management systems.
- Staff member interview to verify staff training.

### AUDIT PROCEDURE FOR THE WINERY

During the audit visit, the auditor and member will discuss the scorecard and answers recorded, along with supporting information, where applicable, for the following areas:

- Regulations: including relevant resource consents, knowledge of regional/district council plans, and monitoring requirements.
- Winery wastewater: including management practices, monitoring records, and disposal practices.
- Documented standard operating procedures: including spills and emergency procedures and records, staff training records.
- Resource management records: including energy and water use and minimisation measures, refrigerant use, contractor compliance documentation.
- By-product collection and management.
- Packaging recycling and disposal practices.
- Use of the Sustainable Winegrowing NZ logo.
- Staff member interview to verify staff training.

### REPORTS AND FOLLOW-UP

Members will receive a copy of the auditor's summary sheet on completion of the audit. The summary will identify compliant areas as well as any areas that have further follow-up requirements which need to be undertaken in order to gain or retain compliance.

Any follow-up requirements must be undertaken by the member within two weeks of the audit being completed, or according to a timeline agreed by the member and auditor.

Additional audits may be required if unacceptable scores are identified on scorecards.

A copy of the audit, with any adjustments to the scorecard that were identified during the audit, is supplied to the member and Sustainable Winegrowing NZ.