



## **SUSTAINABILITY PHILOSOPHY**

Blackbird Vineyards aspires to produce wines that clearly express the estate's distinct terroir. Our sustainable business practices—including all operations, human resources, farming, and winemaking—focus the Blackbird Vineyards team to strive for “best practices” in each of their respective fields.

The vineyard is where we can have the greatest individual impact through sustainable farming. This means we rarely use commercial pesticides, herbicides or artificial fertilizers. Additionally, organic materials from farming and harvest are readily put back into the soils as compost. The vineyard has a permanent cover crop of native grasses, flowers and legumes planted as ground cover between the rows of vines; they are never ploughed under, only mowed. These efforts serve to create a more balanced wildlife and habitat for our workers, neighbors, and even the winery dog—a French bulldog named Oliver—who constantly wanders the vine rows.

### **Napa Valley Vintners**

Knowing that the greatest good can occur through strength in numbers, Blackbird Vineyards is an active member of the Napa Valley Vintners ([www.napavintners.com](http://www.napavintners.com)), an organization that is committed to protecting the natural resources of the region and is involved in a number of efforts to preserve the Napa Valley for current and future residents. A few of these efforts include—

- The NVV supports more local control over projects that involve timber conversions – including the submission and approval of an erosion control plan and full compliance with Napa County conservation regulations.
- The NVV is currently working with other industry groups and the environmental community on “Napa Green Certification: Fish friendly farming for the Napa watershed” a program using voluntary, incentive based efforts to encourage growers to use sustainable farming techniques, conserve soil and water, repair erosion sites, reduce chemical use, and restore habitat.
- The NVV encourages the formation of local watershed stewardship groups. Approximately 90% of the Napa River watershed is in private ownership and partnerships are crucial to the watershed's continued health. Currently there are more than ten voluntary watershed stewardship groups in Napa County comprised of vintners, growers and their urban and rural neighbors working together to restore and/or maintain the health of their watershed.

### **Land Trust of Napa County**

Blackbird Vineyards is also a supporter of the Napa Valley Land Trust ([www.napavalleylandtrust.org](http://www.napavalleylandtrust.org))—an organization that works to protect the natural diversity, scenic open space and agricultural vitality of Napa County by preserving lands with significant conservation values for present and future generations and by fostering an appreciation and understanding of the natural environment.

Blackbird Vineyards is pleased to have donated—to the 2006 Napa Valley land Trust annual fundraiser—an auction lot that received the highest bid of the event.