



# REGENERATIVE VITICULTURE CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Regulating body:

**Regenerative Viticulture Alliance**

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## 1. General Introduction

### 1.1. Basic concepts

Global food production faces numerous negative effects caused by traditional production methods (often associated with the industrial revolution), the increasing effects of climate change and the incentives offered to winegrowers to promote unsustainable practices (for example, subsidies for intensifying certain crops). The result is the degradation and loss of agricultural land worldwide; this issue, together with population growth and the unstoppable increase in global temperature, has created an opportunity for agriculture: despite being responsible for approximately 30% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it also solves the need to sequester carbon from the atmosphere by applying good practices at the field level. Regenerative agriculture can provide the solution to this dilemma.

Over the last decades, many practices have been applied in the wine sector to improve the sustainability of vineyards while giving proper importance to the quality and security of the harvest. Concepts such as organic or biodynamic production are well known to winegrowers, and the Regenerative Viticulture Alliance (RVA) intends to move towards a viticulture sector that not only helps to change the production process, but also plays a key role in reducing emissions and, consequently, global warming. The RVA's objectives are:

- Promote the regenerative viticulture and winemaking practices to protect the planet and the people who live on it.
- Provide producers with the tools for implementing regenerative practices and educate consumers to recognize the products that have been made using these practices.
- Make people aware that regenerative viticulture is a potential solution for climate change and promote regenerative practices within society at

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- To act as a hub for regenerative viticulture, facilitating the interchange of experience and knowledge and providing an educational programme on this topic.

### **1.2. The Regenerative Viticulture Standard**

The Regenerative Viticulture Alliance (RVA) has worked in collaboration with experts in the field of regenerative agriculture to develop this standard to obtain public recognition for wines that have been produced in vineyards that respect the principles of regenerative agriculture and that can demonstrate an improvement in the soil where the grapes are produced. This positive effect should be associated with the concept of "negative carbon" farms.

This standard contains the practices that can be applied at two levels (Transition and Advanced) on the property, a sampling system for soil tests that will help demonstrate these practices' positive effects on soil health, and a certification system that will support public recognition of the efforts made by all these winegrowers.

### **1.3. RVA Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board of the RVA will establish the requirements and criteria of the regenerative viticulture standard. The Advisory Board of the RVA will comprise the Board of Directors of the RVA and in their meetings they may also invite associations and organizations representing the wine value chain to attend in an advisory capacity. They shall meet annually to review the correct application and use of the standard and its rules.

In accordance with Article 11 of the Articles of Association of the RVA, the Board of Directors of the RVA comprises:

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- Chair
- Vice-chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- 3 members

Specialists, such as representatives of the business communities involved, may also be invited to the meetings. These specialists may attend only as advisers.

## **2. Establishment of objectives**

Besides improving the health of vineyard soils, positive results are also expected in the biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water cycles in production areas of the properties, as well as animal welfare and economic stability and equity for winegrowers and workers.

At a later stage, after each harvest season, the volume of wine produced from certified holdings or plots must be checked to ensure traceability of wines labelled with the RVA stamp to the origin of the certified grapes.

The parameters established in the standard have been designed to be achieved through the best practices of regenerative viticulture. The independent verification of compliance with these practices aims to support the labelling of wines which, as a result, will have a positive and demonstrable effect on the environment (including the soils in which the grapes are produced, the biodiversity that surrounds them and the water cycle).

Although the independent external evaluation will be planned for three years, the RVA will promote a culture of continuous improvement through self-assessment and the producers who take part in the system must register their practices in the APP or WEB application, which will be used to monitor the results. It will also serve as proof of continuous compliance with the plans established for regenerative viticulture (to be defined by each winegrower).

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The aim of the RVA will be to lead the transformation of grapes towards regenerative agriculture. Any grape producer and/or winery around the world will be able to access the system and opt for certification to comply with the regenerative viticulture techniques proposed in this standard, without having to be part of the RVA. However, they must always accept the regulations implemented, especially on governance and use of the seal.

### **3. Scope**

The RVA standard will come into effect on January 1, 2023 and will be reviewed every two years to confirm its accuracy and suitability for the objectives described above.

The RVA standard will cover the basic structure of regenerative viticulture:

- Estate management
- Actions to improve soil health
- Actions to increase biodiversity
- Increased effectiveness of water cycles
- Animal Welfare
- Economic stability and equity of winegrowers and workers

Participation in the certification system will be voluntary: a winegrower can decide to implement the practices that coincide with the idea of regeneration on their property without having to apply for the certificate. The traceability system implemented for winemakers is the mandatory tool for identifying the estates that are originally working under these principles; however, the labelling

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of these wines will only be possible when 100% of the grape production is certified under the principles of the RVA standard.

The RVA standard is a dynamic system that will be constantly refined to include new findings and requirements. The system will be updated every two years. If any changes in legal provisions will affect the criteria of the RVA standard, the system will be modified accordingly. The standard documents will be publicly available at <https://www.viticulturnaregenerativa.org>.

#### 4. General Requisites

Monitoring of the production process at estate level will include the following verification:

- **Cultivated soils**: the microbiological improvement of the soil and that of the nutrient cycle. Various activities may be conducted to achieve this objective: maintenance of the soil cover (no tilling or turning), organic corrections through grazing, composting, use of natural fertilizers... all this is essential in the process of regenerating the crop soils after years of nutrient depletion and loss of cover content.
- **Increase in biodiversity**, observing the percentage of natural habitats on farms, the existence of biodiverse hedges, or the diversity of grasses between rows (calculation of the number of species). The use of any type of Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) during cultivation and/or processing is prohibited.
- **Environmental protection** giving priority to biofertilizers and phytotherapy manage pests and diseases, respecting water bodies and/or wooded /protected areas, or increasing water infiltration and storage and the percentage of water from rainfall and/or drip irrigation.
- **Animal health and welfare**: If farms use sheep for grazing, or rent a herd, the animals must be in good health and are properly looked after, respecting the following five rights: the right to live without hunger or thirst (they can easily access fresh water and a diet that keeps them



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completely healthy and vigorous); the right to live without discomfort (by providing them with the right environment, including shelter and a comfortable rest area); the right to live without pain, injury or disease (through rapid prevention or diagnosis and treatment); the right to behave naturally (by providing sufficient space, adequate facilities and the company of animals of their species); and the right to live without fear or distress (by ensuring the conditions and treatment necessary to avoid mental suffering).

Winegrowers and/or processors who hold an internationally accepted **Animal Welfare** or similar certification, will be exempt from completing this section on submission of the corresponding certification.

Regarding the **production and storage of wine**, the wineries that process the grapes with the idea of obtaining wine labelled as "produced with regenerative viticulture techniques" must meet the following requirements:

- Guarantee that the grapes used in (or intended for) the labelled wine are of 100% regenerative origin.
- Have at least a certificate of compliance with the organic standards for wine production (accepted certificates: EU, NOP, etc.) or comply with the organic principles established under national legislation.
- Each year undergo an external and independent audit that confirms the certified volume and verifies the integrity of the traceability system used. The RVA will maintain a continuous monitoring system of winemakers as part of the programme to ensure accurate information in the APP or WEB application database.
- Correct management of wastewater, industrial wastewater and other waste:
  - The processor must not discharge any untreated faecal wastewater into natural water courses (rivers, aquifers, etc.) or into

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the soil. Waste management will be checked, as will the legally required documentation for managing this type of water.

- The non-ammoniacal industrial waters generated in the winery (vinasse) may be applied in the fields in compliance with the requirements and limitations of each country's agricultural departments and/or international regulations. It will not apply to farms or plots with gradients above 15%. A register of applications in the fields must be kept.
- Winemakers must treat their waste themselves or hire an accredited private company or public waste collection entity. The waste treatment system used must be substantiated by legally established documentation and permits.
- Winemakers must not allow the illegal dumping, burial or burning of waste
- Winemakers must identify, store and manage the hazardous waste in accordance with legislation.

Winegrowers and/or processors who have an internationally accepted **ISO 14001, SMETA 4 Pillars, EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme)** or similar certification, will be exempt from completing this section, and on submission of the corresponding certification.

Finally, both winegrowers and wineries joining the initiative must be able to demonstrate their commitment to **social responsibility**, including labour rights and safe working conditions, in compliance with the main conventions of the ILO (International Labour Organization) or local legislation and always applying the most restrictive of the two.

1. Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948 (No. 87)

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2. Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, 1949 (No. 98)
3. Forced Labour, 1930 (No. 29) (and its 2014 Protocol)
4. Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957 (No. 105)
5. Minimum Age (No. 138) Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1951 (No. 100)
6. Equal Remuneration, 1951 (No. 100)
7. Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958 (No. 111)

Winegrowers and/or processors who hold the **Fair For Life, Fair Trade, SA8000, SMETA 4 pillars, ISO 45001** or similar internationally accepted certification, will be exempt from completing this section, on submission of the corresponding certificate.

## 5. Soil health study

The certifying body will take a sample of the soil of 10% of the management units audited each year at the place where the winegrower took one in the immediately preceding period. All winegrowers must confirm their participation in a system that consists, at least, of taking an initial sample each time the implementation of regenerative practices begins, and a new sample every 3 years in the same place on the property. The result must be available to the audit team to assess the effects of the measures implemented, as well as the soil's capacity to improve its health.

### 5.1. Soil Sample

The soil-sampling procedure for winegrowers and external auditors must follow these steps:

- Identification of the management unit (with a maximum of 12 ha in common, which may be considered to have a similar soil type, topography and coverage) and geolocation of sampling points (GPS coordinates with latitude and longitude, using decimal degrees). If the winegrower has a

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property or plot with areas of various soil characteristics, topography and cover, even if smaller than 12 ha, they shall be treated as separate management units.

- Use of clean instruments (for example, a shovel) and selection of a clean area (no vegetation/residue in the sampling area).
- Accurate identification of the sampling point through the application of the RVA in each management unit (GPS coordinates with latitude and longitude, using decimal degrees). This location will be taken as a reference for subsequent checks (photographs, soil analysis, qualitative assessment of soil condition, etc.).
- Identification of the bag that containing the sample with the following information: an unequivocal identification code of the sampling point and the plot (traceable to the management unit), the sampling date and the GPS location of the sampling points.
- Dig a hole between 15 and 20 cm deep. Repeat the operation five (5) times in the same place and mix the contents of all the samples. Finally, select at least 1 kg, which will be part of the sample to be placed in two different bags one for microbiology analysis and another for physicochemical analysis and sealed.
- Send the sample (s) to an accredited soil analysis laboratory within 48 hours of sampling and for microbiological samples, with 24 hours.
- Send two different samples to accredited in soil-analysis laboratories (see section 5.5), one for physicochemical analysis and the other for microbiological analysis. The sample for physicochemical analysis must be sent within 48 hours of sampling, and the sample for microbiological analysis within 24 hours of sampling.

## **5.2. Physicochemical analysis**

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The list of parameters to be measured must include at least:

- Soil texture
- pH
- CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity)
- Organic material (%)
- Total Carbon (Organic and inorganic)
- Minerals: Nitrogen, Calcium, Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium and Sodium
- Electrical Conductivity of the Soil

### **5.3. Microbiological analysis**

The list of parameters to be measured must include at least:

- Count and relative proportion of microbiological biomass: Fungi, Bacteria, Nematodes and Protozoa.

### **5.4. Field tests**

The list of parameters to be measured must include at least:

- Compacting
- Erosion
- Soil structure
- Water infiltration capacity
- Macrobiotic Diversity

### **5.5. Soil health laboratory and field testing**

RVA Certified requires two methods of soil health testing: laboratory tests and a field test. When used together, they provide a holistic and cost-effective method

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for understanding soil health and the effects of agricultural practices.

Soil health laboratory tests must be performed by accredited laboratories:

- The physicochemical analyses must be performed in laboratories accredited by a national or international accreditation body (ENAC, COFRAC, IPAC, UKAS, Ioas, IAS, ANSI, etc.) or an organization such as a university, a C-MASC laboratory (Centre for Carbon Management and Sequestration), etc.
- Microbiological analyses must be conducted in laboratories with the Certified Soil Foodweb Lab – Tech:

<https://www.soilfoodweb.com/laboratory-technicians/>

The tests will take place in the initial certification process, and then every three years. Refer to the RVA Certified soil sampling protocol for more information on the required soil tests.

## **6. Control System**

### **6.1. Requirements for certifying entities**

The objective monitoring and certification of the vineyards participating in the RVA certification programme shall be carried out by the independent certification bodies. These entities must conduct inspections on the properties; said inspections are referred to as audits, controls or verifications of the RVA standard. Certification bodies must determine the extent to which vineyards and wineries comply with the requirements defined in the RVA standard and shall advise the RVA on certification after evaluating the results.

Certification bodies must be accredited according to ISO/IEC 17065 in the field of agricultural/food production. Certification bodies must be authorised by the RVA before evaluating the RVA standard; the authorisation process shall include

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the signing of a contract with the RVA. The process for authorizing certification bodies will be available upon request to the RVA.

Certifying entities must ensure that the execution and results of audits are fully and thoroughly documented and undertake to send the information required by the RVA in due time and to grant the RVA access to documents on the inspection activities. Certification bodies must send the RVA an evaluation of the audits conducted together with the recommendation for certification. The RVA will have the final say on the certification decision of each audited winegrower/winery, after reviewing the inspection reports and (if applicable) the result of the soil analyses carried out by both the winegrowers and the auditors.

Certification bodies must have qualified auditors who satisfy the requirements set out in the next paragraph.

The certifying bodies must ensure that the auditors have successfully demonstrated the necessary knowledge on regenerative agriculture and have taken part in regular training sessions and continuing training measures (section 6.3). Staff carrying out the evaluations and the RVA staff who take the decisions on the granting of the certificates must have the qualifications that at least correspond to the requirements listed in section 6.2.

If a breach of the provisions laid down in the RVA standard occurs or in the absence of cooperation with the RVA, the association reserves the right to impose sanctions on the auditor and/or the inspection body and, if appropriate, to revoke their authorisation.

## **6.2. Requirements for auditors**

The independent auditors of the certification bodies must verify whether the RVA participants meet the RVA criteria.

Auditors of the certification bodies must accredit their training as set out in ISO/IEC 17065 and it must be relevant to the work they are required to do for the

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RVA certification programme; this requires specific auditor training. Approved auditors must conduct at least 5 annual audits in the RVA certification programme or equivalent audits in the sustainable agriculture sector. Where auditors carry out fewer than five audits per year in both sectors, they must successfully complete an audit under the supervision of an approved auditor the following year.

Auditors and certifiers must meet one of the following technical requirements:

- Have a professional agricultural qualification with a speciality in sustainable agriculture or have graduated from a technical faculty of agriculture or similar (for example, agriculture, biology, environmental sciences, rural development,...).
- Have at least three years' professional experience as auditors on issues related to agriculture.

In justified individual cases, the certification body may recognise other types of professional qualification and experience with the advice of the RVA.

### **6.3. Continuous education and training**

The auditors must receive training on the RVA standard and must make a practical visit to the vineyards before starting to evaluate the system; the same will be required for wine growers who will be part of the certification process. From this point, they will be required to participate in regular training sessions on the RVA standard, at least once every three years, taking into account the findings of the previous cycle. Training sessions may be provided and carried out by both the RVA and the competent certification authorities or other recognised bodies (Savory, Rhodale...). However, it must be ensured at all times that the representatives of the inspection body have taken part in the training sessions offered by the RVA at least once every three years

### **6.4. Inspection system**



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The list of criteria of the RVA standard will be used to evaluate the regenerative production of the grapes. With the help of the checklist included in the APP and/or WEB application, each winemaker will be able to carry out an annual self-assessment that should be consistent with the records of the practices implemented at the field level. These self-assessments shall be confirmed by the external certification body once every three years with independent audits, as detailed in section 6.5.

The external auditors must carry out a visual inspection of the most representative parts of the production area, with the intention of validating the result of the self-assessments. Wherever possible, the auditors must take into account the records and evidence provided by the wine growers. This may include, among others: application of the inputs, registration of the activities related to disease/pest management and its supporting evidence (for example, the result of the farm monitoring units, climate data), aerial/satellite images, photographs, etc... Ideally, this information should be available in the APP and/or WEB application as it is part of the information that the external auditors will validate during their three-year visits.

The documentation required to demonstrate compliance must be available for review during the audit or pre-audit process at all levels of the supply chain. Auditors must also be allowed to conduct private management and worker interviews in the local language at all levels of the supply chain to assess the proper implementation of animal welfare policies, procedures and documentation, training and compliance.

#### **6.5. Intervals between inspections: system and special audits**

The certification body shall carry out a regular check of the grape growers' system every three years. Compliance with the standard will be verified with:

- An annual self-assessment by each winegrower (registered in the APP and/or WEB application and validated by the RVA).

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- A set of representative results of soil samples, taken by winegrowers every three years.
- An independent inspection every three years (completed by an external body).
- The results of soil sampling of 10 % of the management units (carried out by the external body) every three years.

During the period of validity of the certificate, the RVA shall regularly evaluate the information that has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.4 (PPP and/or WEB application) and decide whether it is necessary to organise special controls. These controls will be based on unannounced inspections (48 hours) and the annual volume will be 10% of the total number of winegrowers who are part of the certification programme. The certification will be carried out by the auditing company at the direct request of the RVA.

## 7. Issue of certificates

After passing the audit, the certification body will issue a report (available to the winegrower and the RVA) that establishes the level of compliance with the requirements. The RVA will evaluate the report results and communicate its decision to the certifying entity so it can issue the certificate, granting (if applicable) one of the following levels:

**RVA Certified (green seal):** all the advanced criteria are met to qualify for this certification category in terms of cultivation.

The grape-producing property and/or plot must be certified in organic farming or comply with the 3 years' equivalent practices described in Annex III.

**RVA Transition (brown seal):** not all criteria of the advanced level are met or all criteria are fulfilled at elementary level to qualify for this certification category in terms of cultivation.

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The grape-producing farm and/or plot must be certified in organic farming or comply with the 3 years' equivalent practices described in Annex III.

**The certificate can only be issued between 9 and 12 months after the winemaker has committed to the RVA certification program.**

Wineries may subsequently choose to label wines with the appropriate certificate stamp if 100 % of the volume used (or intended for) in each certified lot complies with the certification level corresponding to the label, as referred to in the preceding subparagraph.

At crop level, the certificate issued after the first audit will be valid for three (3) years, coinciding with the cycle of external audits and covering a total of three harvest seasons (the externally audited one, and the following two). Taking as a reference the beginning of the harvest season in the production area, the audits may be carried out three months before and three months after the beginning or end of the harvest.

If the highest level of compliance with the criteria is sought, the winegrower may request a new certification audit in advance. If the minimum criteria are not met in an initial evaluation, the winegrower may reapply for an evaluation one year later (corresponding to the next harvest season). In any case, the certificate issued will be valid for three years/harvests.

For wineries, audits shall be carried out annually and shall focus on the wine production of the previous twelve (12) months. The RVA will be responsible for the certification and correct use of the label (and its control).

If the subsequent audits or monitoring controls required by the RVA are not passed, the RVA will remove the certificate and remove the producer/winemaker from the database.

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As set forth in paragraph 6.5, in the case of special audits of an individual case following the detection of serious breaches or the detection of serious legal breaches during the audit, the RVA may immediately decide to withdraw the certificate, thereby revoking the regular validity period of the certificate.

The RVA Sanctions Catalogue document includes the criteria and definitions of the breaches that can void the obtaining and/or use of the certificate or seal.

The RVA CERTIFICATE SUSPENSION AND WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE document sets out the guidelines to be followed for each case in which the certificate or seal may be suspended and/or withdrawn. The winegrower or processor may submit allegations against this sanction through the form included in said procedure.

The Soil Health and Land Management, Animal Welfare and Farmer and Worker Equity modules contain criteria for each certification level that provide guidance and set out the operations must be complied with according to the requested certification level. The criteria include practices that may be:

- **Required Practices (R):** Practices that winegrowers must follow for an operation to be eligible for RVA Certified at the desired level.
- **Optional Good Practices (O):** Practices that are encouraged for all, but not required, at a particular level.

To achieve the RVA Certified level, the candidate must comply with all the practices required for that level. If compliance with 100% of the practices required by Critical Non-Conformities is not achieved, the winegrower will have the period of 1 year to correct the problem and request a new audit. If the Non-Conformity is not classified as critical, the winegrower will have 3 months to take the corrective measures and request the corresponding verification. Certification will not be awarded until the non-conformities are resolved. Participation in any level of RVA certification requires the entity to be duly certified as organic according to national and international standards by an

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accredited certification body or to demonstrate in the audit process that in the last 3 years it has carried out organic practices on the properties or plots to be certified if the entity is not accredited. If organic certification is not held, the auditors will carry out a review before RVA certification, following the European regulations for organic farming, the NOP and other national organic legislation. The most restrictive rule will always apply.

## 8. Use of the seal

### 8.1. Use of the seal

The use of the RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ seal by winemakers and winemakers will depend on having received the RVA certificate and having provided all the details required by the guidelines of the certification standard. Grape producers must have a valid RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ certificate, issued by a certification body and approved by RVA. Any brand or winemaker that uses the RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ seal must be registered with the RVA or have completed a license agreement and paid the corresponding fee.

The use of the RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ seal on the product depends on the certified grape content of the product. The following matrix presents the minimum content criteria for each category of permitted product label:

| Contents<br>RVA Certified™  | Permitted notifications                                  | Using the RVA<br>Certified™ seal   |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 100%                        | RVA Certified™ 100% grape<br>Regenerative                | Yes                                |
| Contents<br>RVA Transition™ | Permitted notifications                                  | Use of the RVA<br>Transition™ seal |
| 100%                        | RVA Transition™ 100% Regenerative<br>Grape in Transition | Yes                                |

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Product containing less than 100% of grapes certified as RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ will not be eligible for the seal.

Product containing 100% of grapes certified with a blend of RVA Certified™ and RVA Transition™ will only be eligible for the RVA Transition seal regardless of the % contained in the blend.

### **8.2. Conditions of use**

The RVA exists to promote the Regenerative Viticulture Alliance Certification™ as the highest standard for regenerative viticulture worldwide. Our goal is to empower winemakers, processors and consumers to create a better world through regenerative viticulture. The RVA Certified™ or RVA Transition™ brands are trademarks owned by RVA and are used to indicate that the grapes used to make a wine come from a property or plot that is certified according to the guidelines found in the RVA certification standard. Only winegrowers and winemakers certified in regenerative viticulture can use the RVA Certified™ or Transition™ brands.

### **8.3. Misuse of the seal**

The RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal must not be misused to mischaracterize manufactured products. The RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal may not be used as a primary brand indicator or origin indicator for any product, but only as a certification mark. The RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal must not be used in any way that may reduce, diminish, jeopardize or damage the goodwill, value, or reputation associated with the RVA or the RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal or in any way that violates the rights of any third party.

The RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal can be used to indicate the certification level (green or brown respectively). No other colour variations are allowed and the RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal cannot be modified in any way.

Certified Producers and Authorized Licensees agree to use the name and seal(s)

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of RVA Certified™ or Transition™ only in accordance with RVA standards and to cease all use of the name and seal of RVA Certified™ or Transition™ upon notification from RVA. Any use of the RVA Certified™ or Transition™ names or trademarks without the express consent of the RVA, is strictly prohibited and constitutes an infringement of the RVA's rights. The RVA shall be entitled to claim reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing any civil action, arbitration or mediation to assert its rights to their names or marks.

#### **8.4. Traceability and segregation requirements for RVA Certified™ and Transition™ products**

The RVA Certified™ or Transition™ product may be a single-ingredient or multi-ingredient certification, in grape, must or wine form, that has maintained a suitable chain of custody throughout the supply chain that is inspected and/or verified.

The certified product must maintain adequate separation of the non-certified product throughout the supply chain and must comply with the chain of custody requirements and policies of European organic cultivation standards, NOP standards and other national or international organic cultivation standards, which will be used as a reference for conducting the chain of custody audit. The most restrictive rule will always apply.

The certified single-origin product must be kept separate from other products during all transport and storage. Certified grapes, must, or wine must not be physically mixed with an uncertified product. It must be guaranteed that the grape, must or wine comes from RVA Certified™ or Transition™ farms until it reaches the winery, always maintaining traceability. This ensures that the product bearing the RVA Certified™ or Transition™ seal is sourced from certified farms or plots.

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**Under no circumstances may the manufacturer make use of the seal on the product, if the wine to be bottled has not been previous qualified as RVA Certified™ or Transition™. The prior qualification of the wine is essential to entitle use of the seal on the product.**

## 9. Glossary of Terms

### 9.1 Soil health and land management

- **Agroforestry:** The practice of incorporating tree cultivation and conservation as part of an agricultural operation. Agroforestry improves soil protection, carbon sequestration, soil moisture retention rates and biodiversity, mitigates temperature fluctuations, while increasing income from simultaneous tree and crop production.
- **Biodiversity:** Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the diversity of life existing on three levels: genetic, species and ecosystem. Biodiversity includes variety in all forms of life, from bacteria and fungi to grasses, ferns, trees, insects and mammals. It encompasses the diversity found at all levels of organization, from the genetic differences between individuals and populations (groups of related individuals) to the types of natural communities (groups of interacting species) found in a particular area. Biodiversity also includes the full range of natural processes on which life depends, such as nutrient cycling, carbon and nitrogen fixation, predation, symbiosis and natural succession. The RVA requirements in the soil pillar work to increase biodiversity above and below the ground.
- **Carbon Capture:** The process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees, grasses, and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots) and soils. For agricultural operations, increased carbon sequestration can be achieved through, for example, reduced tillage practices, complex crop rotations including fodder and green manure crops, agroforestry, reforestation, or the use of biomass-containing amendments.



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- **Compost:** Compost, when properly managed, results in high quality soil amendment. Adding compost can increase soil water retention capacity, helping farmers produce a good harvest even in years of low rainfall. Compost improves soil structure and stability, recycles nutrients, stabilizes volatile nitrogen, converts waste into resources and suppresses soil-borne diseases. The composting process destroys weed seeds and pathogenic microorganisms, while beneficial microorganisms grow and multiply in large quantities. Synthetic fertilizers can provide soluble nutrients for plant growth, but they do not build the soil's long-term biological reserves as well as compost does, and are therefore not allowed in RVA Certified entities.
- **Crop rotation:** Crop rotation is a systemic approach of different annual crops and perennial herbaceous crops in succession in the same field. The objectives of crop rotation are to help control soil organic fertility and also to help avoid or reduce problems with diseases, pests and weeds. The more complex and longer the rotation, the greater the benefits. Seven-year rotations that include at least three years of perennial herbaceous plants are ideal for building soil health. Crop rotations as such are not applicable to perennial woody cultivation systems, such as orchards and vineyards.
- **Green Fertiliser Crops:** Cover crops grown specifically for soil construction. These typically include shallow tillage to incorporate the crop while it is still green. Roller crimping or irrigation after laying is an alternative way to help the green manure crop decompose, especially in perennial systems.
- **Invasive species:** Invasive plants and animals that are not native (or foreign) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental damage. or harm to human health. Invasive species may be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the main means of introduction of invasive species.
- **Pastures:** Pasture is a type of land use that has a vegetation cover

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composed mainly of native or introduced forage species that are used for livestock grazing.

- **Perennial Crops:** Crops that are alive all year round and harvested several times before dying. Apples and alfalfa are examples of perennials (apples are a woody perennial and alfalfa a herbaceous perennial) that are already grown and harvested commercially. Perennials develop a much higher root mass than annual crops and protect the soil throughout the year, leaving the fields less vulnerable to wind, water and soil erosion.
- **Riverine areas:** Adjacent plant communities affected by the surface and subsurface hydrological characteristics of perennial or intermittent water bodies in motion and ponds (for example, rivers, streams, lakes or drainage routes). Riverine areas have one or both of the following characteristics: 1) vegetative species clearly different from adjacent areas, and 2) species similar to adjacent areas but exhibiting more vigorous or robust forms of growth. Riverine areas are often transition areas between wetlands and highlands.
- **Rotational grazing:** Rotational grazing is a livestock production system where livestock graze on a portion of a pasture that has been divided into several fields. Livestock are systematically moved from field to field depending on the stage of fodder growth and the objectives of the grazing system. While a field is being grazed, the rest of the grass rests. This time of rest and recovery keeps the fodder plants and builds organic matter from the soil.
- **Silvopasture:** A form of agroforestry, the practice of combining forestry and animal grazing in a mutually beneficial way. A properly managed silvopasture operation improves soil protection and increases long-term income due to the simultaneous production of trees and grazing animals.
- **Soil health:** Soil health, also known as soil quality, is defined as the continuous ability of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Soil is not an inert culture medium, but is associated

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with billions of bacteria, fungi, and other microbes that form the basis of an elegant symbiotic ecosystem. Soil is an ecosystem that can be managed to provide nutrients for plant growth, absorb and retain rainwater for use during dry periods, filter and buffer potential pollutants from leaving our fields, serve as a base for agricultural activities, and provide habitat for soil microbes to flourish and diversify to keep the ecosystem functioning smoothly. Improving soil health is one of RVA Certified's key objectives.

- **Soft tillage:** minimum work of the soil, without tipping or inverting the soil and which does not work at a depth of more than 10 cm.
- **Vegetable cover:** A ground cover is the maintenance of plants in place to reduce soil erosion and prevent desiccation of soil microbial communities as a result of soil exposure. The plant cover will suppress weeds, recycle nutrients back into the soil, increase the soil's organic matter, sequester carbon in the soil, increase soil moisture and reduce erosion. Keeping plant cover alive all year round is ideal, but impossible for most annual production systems.

## 9.2. Animal Welfare

- **Body condition score:** A system of measuring how thin or fat an animal is by reference to a standardized scale.
- **Load-bearing capacity:** The average number of animals that can be rotationally grazed on an area of pasture during a year without damaging it. It is a measure of the ability of a pasture to produce enough fodder to meet the requirements of grazing animals.
- **Non-Commercial Livestock Operation:** Non-commercial animals are those that generally have functions, such as draught power, transport, manure production or for educational purposes. The Five Freedoms described below must be demonstrated for all animals.

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- **Five freedoms:** The Animal Welfare module leverages the five freedoms for animal welfare, including:
  1. Freedom from hunger or thirst through easy access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
  2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable sleeping area
  3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease through prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
  4. Freedom to express normal behaviours by providing sufficient space, adequate facilities and companionship of their own kind
  5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment that prevent mental suffering
  
- **Handling:** Animal handling covers the general treatment of animals during the various tasks performed and the requirements of an operation. To minimize the stress, pain and suffering of an animal, the RVA prohibits certain practices, such as pushing, hitting the animal, declawing and dehorning (horn removal).
  
- **Mobile slaughterhouse unit:** A mobile slaughterhouse unit allows winegrowers to slaughter their animals humanely on site. This reduces the exposure of animals to stressful and inhumane treatment in large-scale slaughterhouses.
  
- **Monogastrics:** Monogastric animals have a simple one-chamber stomach and include dogs, pigs, horses, and rabbits. Their ability to extract energy from the digestion of cellulose is less efficient than in ruminants and therefore they can feed on grains.
  
- **Non-ambulatory animals:** Animals that cannot be lifted from a lying position or that cannot walk, including but not limited to those with broken limbs, cut tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured spine, or metabolic conditions.

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- **Ruminants:** Species of ruminants include animals that chew grass such as cows, goats, bison and sheep. Ruminants are designed to eat fibrous grasses, plants and shrubs. A high grain diet can cause physical problems for ruminants. When ruminants switch from grass to grain, they may be affected by numerous disorders, including a common but painful condition called “subacute acidosis.”

### **9.3. Farmer and worker equity**

- **Atypical employment:** The use of labour-only contracting arrangements, short-term back-to-back contracts and/or bogus apprenticeship or other schemes by the organisation to avoid meeting its obligations to staff under applicable labour and social security related laws and regulations.
- **Capacity Building:** The process of developing and strengthening skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources to improve the social and economic position of farmers and workers.
- **Democratic Organizations (International):** The ability of small farmers to organize democratically in order to compete globally.
- **Equal opportunities:** The policy of treating job seekers or employees equally regardless of race, colour, gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, age, religion, personal policy. opinion, nationality, social origin or other personal characteristics.
- **Fair Payments:** Sufficient payment to cover the cost of production, including workers' living wages and equivalent income to farmers, in addition to reinvestment on the farm.
- **Family members:** Relatives who are directly related to the producer and live in the same household as the producer. It may include parents, spouses, siblings and children, but does not include aunts/uncles, cousins or other relatives.

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- **Freedom of association and collective bargaining:** A method by which workers' (trade unions) and producers' (farmers' / animal farmers') representatives negotiate employment conditions, often resulting in a written contract setting out the wages, hours and other conditions to be observed during a stipulated period. Collective bargaining must take place in good faith.
- **Living Wage:** Remuneration received for a standard working week by a worker at a particular location sufficient to enable a decent standard of living for the worker and their family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, medical care, transport, clothing, and other essential necessities, including provision for unexpected events.
- **Routine audits in the workplace:** Routine third-party audits should assess how producers minimize exposure to disease, ensure access to safe supplies, provide clean facilities, document identification procedures, record the use of treatment products and adequately train workers in operational protocols.
- **Small wine growers:** Small agricultural operations where land productivity and labour are comparatively low due to limited resources. Small-scale winegrowers often rely on agriculture as a primary livelihood and are at increased risk of supply-chain vulnerability. Small-scale winegrowers are mainly dependent on family labour for their operations. The size of small-scale winegrowers may vary according to the type of holding. Contact the RVA for additional guidance on how to determine whether your operation is considered a small winemaker under the RVA Certified.
- **Forced labour or human trafficking:** Any work performed by a person who has been recruited, transported, housed, or obtained through the use of threats, force, coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation

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For the purposes of the Social Welfare section and the determination of the applicability of specific social criteria, the following definitions shall be used to determine the scale of operations:

- **Small-scale winegrowers and/or winemakers**
  - o ≤5 permanent workers and no more than 25 total workers in the managed unit at any time (FT-USA, FFL)
- **Medium-scale winegrowers and/or processors**
  - o 6-25 permanent workers and no more than 100 total workers on site in the managed unit at any time
- **Large-scale winegrowers and/or processors**
  - o All other situations

References and resources:

- **ISO 19011: Guidelines for the audit of management systems**  
Section 7.2 "Determining the Auditor's Competence to Meet the Needs of the Audit Programme" <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/#iso:std:iso:19011:ed-2:v1:en>
- **GSCP (Global Social Compliance Programme)**  
Table A - Auditor's core competence and baseline prerequisites (for social and environmental compliance assessment), pg. 13  
[http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/images/the\\_forum\\_images/strategic-focus/gscp/gscp-work/reference\\_tools/pdf/GSCP\\_Auditing\\_Competence.pdf](http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/images/the_forum_images/strategic-focus/gscp/gscp-work/reference_tools/pdf/GSCP_Auditing_Competence.pdf)
- **APSCA (Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors )**  
Competency framework for social compliance auditors

[http://www.theapsca.org/uploads/7/3/4/0/73406857/apsca\\_competency\\_framework\\_v5\\_.pdf](http://www.theapsca.org/uploads/7/3/4/0/73406857/apsca_competency_framework_v5_.pdf)

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**Annex I: RVA Required Criteria List**  
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| <b>N°</b> | <b>Criteria</b>  | <b>Guide</b>   | <b>Transition (*)</b>  | <b>Advanced (*)</b>   |
|-----------|--|--|--|---|
| 1.1       | The operational procedure must have a documented plan for defining practices related to regenerative agriculture with details of implementation terms and objectives to be achieved over time. | Verification by reviewing the documented plan using the Task Planning Template (Excel document included in the documentation area of the RVA website), plus an interview with the operational procedure manager to confirm that the practices and their benefits are correctly understood. The plan must include the starting point (previous practices, initial organic matter content, existing biodiversity on the farm...), which will help to define a roadmap leading to a clear improvement in soil health. | This plan will be established with the practices and their commitment will be confirmed. (12 months) by means of a certification or documents that accredit these practices. | The plan has been in operation for 3 years (or fewer if the improvement is noticeable), and practices are maintained/improved based on the results of 1 cycle (3 years) by means of a certification or documents that accredit these practices. |

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| 1.2 | The monitoring units will be defined in a maximum of 12 Ha of production (identifying the homogeneous areas taking into account the orogenic - relief - and soil profile of the farms). Each unit must have defined sampling points (with traceable GPS locations), extract the soil samples and take photographs that demonstrate the evolution of the property. | A first set of photographs, taken from a predefined angle and at a position with known traceability (geolocated with GPS) must be submitted during the first external audit, and then repeated annually in spring, summer and autumn. (See Appendix V) | The photograph (s) (at least 1 per monitoring unit) must be available before the initial (external) inspection. | Photographs, taken annually at the same location and from the same angle of the identified monitoring units, shall be available and shall clearly show the permanence of cover and species diversity. |
| 1.3 | The winegrower (or the person responsible for implementing the regenerative practices) must be trained in regenerative agriculture.   | There will be an initial training session of 4 hours organized by the RVA that will be mandatory for all applicants for certification (minimum 1 person per farm). The cost will be borne by the operation.  | The winegrower must be able to accredit the initial training provided by the RVA.                               | The winegrower must be able to accredit the initial training provided by the RVA.   |

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| 1.4 | Quantitative analyses of soil health (physico-chemical parameters). It should be analysed periodically to confirm the positive effects of the practices implemented at field level. Every three years, the entity must obtain an analysis of each monitoring unit, carried out by an accredited laboratory. | <p>The analyses must contain at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Soil texture</li> <li>-Organic material</li> <li>-PH</li> <li>- CEC (Cation Exchange Capacity)</li> <li>-Electrical conductivity of soil</li> <li>-Organic and inorganic total carbon</li> <li>-Minerals: Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium</li> </ul> <p>Samples will be taken according to the sampling protocol.</p> | A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point) | No worsening is observed in the analysed parameters compared with the analytics of the starting point. |
| 1.5 | Quantitative soil health analyses (microbiological parameters). It should be analysed periodically to confirm the positive effects of the practices implemented at field level. Every three years, the entity must obtain an analysis of each monitoring unit, carried out by an accredited laboratory.     | <p>The analyses must contain at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Count and relative proportion of microbiological biomass: Fungi, Bacteria, Nematodes and Protozoa.</li> </ul> <p>Samples must be taken according to the sampling protocol.</p>   | A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point) | No worsening is observed in the analysed parameters compared with the analytics of the starting point. |

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| 1.6 | Qualitative soil health analyses should be periodically analysed to confirm the positive effects of practices implemented at field level.  | <p>The following parameters are analysed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Compaction of the terrain</li> <li>-Erosion of the terrain</li> <li>- Soil structure</li> <li>- Water infiltration capacity</li> <li>- Microbiotic Diversity</li> </ul> <p>Analyses must be carried out following the soil qualitative analysis protocols.</p> | A starting point is determined according to the different parameters analysed (starting point)   | No worsening is observed in the analysed parameters compared with the analytics of the starting point.   |
| 1.7 | The conclusions of the monitoring units will be treated in accordance with the results, and the corrections to the plan will be implemented in time to achieve the expected results (in relation to the analyses, see 1.4) | The self-assessment must be documented and may be carried out by the winegrower and/or a trained consultant. If deviations are observed, sufficient corrections must be made to return to the positive evolution.  | There must be a registered annual self-assessment registered in the planning document that confirms the positive evolution of regenerative activities at farm level and (if necessary) the actions taken when a deviation from the objectives is detected. | There must be a registered annual self-assessment registered in the planning document that confirms the positive evolution of regenerative activities at farm level and (if necessary) the actions taken when a deviation from the objectives is detected. |
| 2.1 | The plots must have the space between the rows covered with perennial vegetation throughout the year (to be  | Native vegetation or seed mixtures must be maintained as cover between the rows of the vineyards.  | A minimum of 50 % of the total production area must be reached during the first year, and in three years a   | At least 75 % of the total production area.  |

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|     | defined by location/latitude, depending on the rainfall).   |  | minimum of 75% of the total production area must be achieved. If this level is not reached, the winegrower will have another cycle of 3 years to reach 75%. If this level has not been reached after 6 years, the winegrower will lose the certificate of the transition level and will only be able to apply for a new certification for the advanced level. |  |
| 2.2 | Cover can be managed in two ways:<br>With Rational Grazing and/or Mechanical Control and addition of organic fertilisers. | Both organic fertilizer and support grazing must be known and local.                         | There must be no evidence of herbicide use, the content of the organic fertilizer must be known.  | There must be no evidence of herbicide use, the content of the organic fertilizer must be known. |
| 2.3 | To maintain the plant cover throughout the year (see 2.1) The structure of the soil must not be altered.                  | Tillage is eliminated or minimised (maximum 10 -15 cm depth) Sporadic use must be justified. | Soft tillage may be carried out in the uncovered areas  | Soft tillage may be carried out on the back (see section 2.1)                                    |

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|     |  |   | and in the back part (see section 2.1).   |   |
| 2.4 | There must be no erosion and if there is, corrective action must be taken. | Cultivation practices must be used to prevent soil erosion.   | There will be a planning and commitment to carry out corrective actions to minimize erosion.  | Corrective actions have been taken to minimize erosion.   |
| 2.5 | Increase the plant diversity of the covers.                                | Identification of different species in the vegetation cover.  | There must be covers of at least 2 species between the rows of the vines.   | There must be covers of at least 4 species between the rows of the vines.   |
| 2.6 | The property has Biodiverse areas and natural habitats.                    | <p>The total area of the property will include the production area (rows of vines) and the perimeter subject to the management/ownership of the winemaker.</p> <p>Preserve and restore natural water bodies, wetlands, riverine areas, and their associated habitats, if any.</p> <p>Vineyards that have not caused the felling of virgin primary forests or primary secondary forests or converted protected</p> | <p>The area identified as a natural habitat or Biodiverse Area must remain intact and shall represent at least 5 % of the property's total area.</p> <p>The following can be considered to be part of these areas: windbreaks, margins of plots, of roads by cultivated areas, of canals and rivers, etc.</p> | <p>The area identified as a natural habitat or Biodiverse Area must remain intact and must be greater than 5% of the total area of the farm.</p> <p>The following can be considered to be part of these areas: windbreaks, margins of plots, of roads by cultivated areas, of canals and rivers, etc.</p> |

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|     |   | wetlands, peatlands or grassland into agricultural production   |  | Extensions of the biodiverse area will be made with native species whenever possible, trying to maintain a diversity of structure and composition.   |
| 2.7 | The use of fertilization/plant protection products must be minimal and be environmentally friendly. | <p>Use of copper must be limited (4 kg/Ha/year and 28 kg/Ha/ 7 years) and always comply with the organic/ecological regulations (EU, National or International), which may apply for the use of this product.</p> <p>Synthetic fertilizers or pesticides are not allowed.</p> <p>The use of organic nitrogen and phosphors is allowed, but it must be documented and comply with the organic/ecological regulations (EU, National or International) that may apply for this type of product.</p> <p>The operational procedure must not use genetically modified additives or processing</p> | The fertilization and plant protection plan must be based on previous data (productivity, pest/disease history, and application of agricultural chemicals during the previous season (s)) and the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited. | The fertilization and plant protection plan must be based on previous data (productivity, pest/disease history, and application of agricultural chemicals during the previous season (s)) and the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is prohibited. |

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|     |   | supplements such as fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, seeds, or crops derived from genetically modified sources.  |   |   |
| 2.8 | Efficient use of water used in irrigation systems, if used.   | Irrigation systems must be efficient (drip or spray irrigation with programmers)<br>Water must come from a sustainable and legal source (well or irrigation community, etc.) and its use/extraction must be authorized.              | Irrigation systems (if used) must be as efficient as possible and the amount of water used must be recorded. The documentation of the legalization and extraction of the water will be presented.   | Irrigation systems (if any) must be as efficient as possible and the amount of water used must be recorded; a reduction (in l/kg of produce) within the cycle (3 years) will be positively valued. The documentation of the legalization and extraction of the water will be presented. |
| 3.1 | When animals are used in vineyards, all five rights of animal welfare freedoms and any other space-specific requirements must be respected. | Animals must have the right to live without hunger or thirst; the right to live without discomfort; the right to live without pain, injury or disease; the right to behave naturally; and the right to live without fear or anguish. | When animals are used, they must be able to access food and fresh water, they must be kept free of suffering and in good health, they must not suffer any physical pain, they must be able to behave naturally and they must be accommodated in a way | When animals are used, they must be able to access food and fresh water, they must be kept free of suffering and in good health, they must not suffer any physical pain, they must be able to behave naturally and they must be accommodated in a way that does not create distress.    |



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|  |  |  | that does not create distress. |  |
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| 4.1 | <p>The winegrower must be registered in the social security and in the tax agency. The winemaker must have the activity license and/or the necessary permits to carry out its activity. They must also be up to date with the payment of compulsory social contributions and the corresponding taxes.</p> | <p>The registration to social security and the tax agency in the case of winemakers and the current activity license or necessary permits in the case of processors must be held. In both cases, the entity must be up to date in the payment of mandatory social contributions and in the payment of taxes.</p> | <p>The registration document must be submitted to social security and the Tax Agency in the case of winemakers, and the activity license or permit in force in the case of winemakers. A certificate issued by the relevant social security body stating that the social security contributions have been paid up to date and a certificate issued by the tax office stating that the taxes have been paid up to date will also be requested.</p> | <p>The registration document must be submitted to social security and the Tax Agency in the case of winemakers, and the activity license or permit in force in the case of winemakers. A certificate issued by the relevant social security body stating that the social security contributions have been paid up to date and a certificate issued by the tax office stating that the taxes have been paid up to date will also be requested.</p> |
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| 4.2 | ILO conventions relating to forced labour, minimum age and child labour, work permits in the country, etc., must always be respected.   | All workers, regardless of their type of contract, must have well-defined working conditions and that do not violate the conventions cited in the standard.<br><br>Migrant workers, who must hold a work permit in the country. | There may be no cases based on documentary evidence (contracts, payroll, work permits in the country) and/or interviews with employees. | There may be no cases based on documentary evidence (contracts, payroll, work permits in the country) and/or interviews with employees. |
| 4.3 | Collective bargaining (if any) must be respected for all workers, who shall have the right to organise through representation.  | The right to have workers representation that can ensure the labour rights of staff before the management, through periodic meetings or direct contact must be guaranteed.  | There must be no unaddressed or unresolved issues between employees and management related to the rights of workers.                    | There must be no unaddressed or unresolved issues between employees and management related to the rights of workers.                    |
| 4.4 | Human rights must be respected and there must be no discrimination on any grounds, including but not limited to: ethnicity, race, minority status, religion/belief, age, gender identity/expression, disability, language, gender, sexual characteristics or orientation. | Discrimination includes the concepts of harassment, sexual harassment and issues related to abuse.  | There must be no cases based on documentary evidence and/or interviews with employees in the past year.                                 | There may be no cases based on documentary evidence and/or interviews with employees in the last 3 years.                               |

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| 4.5 | An occupational risk analysis must be conducted for the activities carried out on the producers property and a prevention plan drawn up. Workers' homes, when provided, must comply with the minimum hygiene and safety conditions | <p>The occupational risk analysis must be documented, paying particular attention to each activity.</p> <p>The prevention plan must include training and/or the provision of protective equipment.</p> <p>The dwellings of the workers provided must comply with the requirements set out in Annex IV</p> | <p>A risk analysis must be carried out and prevention measures effectively implemented.</p> <p>The conditions of workers' dwellings, if they are provided, shall be inspected in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex IV.</p> | <p>A risk analysis must be carried out and prevention measures effectively implemented, and a record of the number of major incidents kept and the reasons for them stated.</p> <p>The conditions of workers' dwellings, if they are provided, shall be inspected in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex IV.</p> |
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## **Annex II Good optional RV practices for winegrowers**

### **1-Water Management**

- 1.1. New Vineyard Design in Key Line
- 1.2. Construction of ponds
- 1.3. Collection of rainwater
- 1.4. Water recycling and reuse
- 1.5: Irrigation Optimization options if used (see also 2.8)

-Use Buried Irrigation (to improve water efficiency)

- Use pumping systems powered by renewable energies.

### **2- Use of Phytotherapy**

Use of phytotherapy and other natural preparations to reduce copper and sulphur.

### **3- Natural methods of soil improvement**

Biofertilizers, Biostimulants, Biochar, BRF, incorporation of pruning remains, and better if carried out using the property's own resources.

Increase the resting period of the uprooted vineyard as much as possible before a new planting.

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#### **4- Biodiversity improvements**

Beehives, Nest Boxes, rafts for amphibians, insect traps and shelters in the margins.

Reduce the size of the plots or build biodiversity connectors.

#### **5- Animal Welfare**

If the property has a herd or flock, provide grass areas for the times of the year when the herd cannot be inside the vineyard.

Use the vineyards at rest as a pasture area.

#### **6- Optional Laboratory Analysis**

6.1 Soil Breathing (ppm CO<sub>2</sub>)

6.2 Metagenomic analysis

6.3 CRAD

6.4 Carbon sequestration study

6.5 Ideal Soil (Dr. William Albrecht)

6.6 Infiltration rate

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## 7- Other Observations

7.1 Samples

7.2 Arthropods and Mustard Worms (OPVT PROTOCOL DE TERRAIN)

7.3 Chromatographies

7.4 Botanical Survey

7.5 Identification of Bioindicator Plants (spring and autumn)

7.6 Other wildlife surveys

7.7 Use of new technologies to optimize the application of products (sulphur, copper...)

7.8. Continuous training in the field of regenerative agriculture.

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**Annex III      Organic practices to be complied with if the entity is not certified in organic cultivation.**

- Prohibition of the use of **chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, antibiotics** and other synthetic substances.
- Use of **soil-friendly tillage and cultivation practices**
- Prohibition of the use of **genetically modified organisms**
- Use of **crop rotation** for efficient use of on-site resources
- Prioritisation of **resources produced on site**, such as own farm fertilizer or feed produced on the same farm
- Choice of **appropriate species and varieties** that are adapted to local conditions and resistant to pests and diseases

**European organic cultivation standards, NOP standards and other national or international organic cultivation standards will be used as a reference for conducting the auditor's prior review before being able to access the RVA certification. The most restrictive rule will always apply.**



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As winegrowers, it is **our responsibility to guarantee:**

- Better **environmental practices**
- A high level of **biodiversity**
- Preservation of **natural resources**
- High standards of **social and occupational welfare**
- High **animal welfare** standards

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**Annex IV      Conditions of habitability of seasonal and campaign accommodation for migrant workers**

[Hygiene and safety conditions workers' homes 2](#)

**Appendix V      How to take pictures**

The photographs must be taken in two ways: 45º and Panoramic. Here is an example:



**Panorámica**



**Cerca (45 grados)**