

Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard

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Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard Receives Biodynamic® Demeter Certification for 33-acre HJW Vineyard

(Dundee, NY) Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard has received the Biodynamic Demeter Certification for their 33-acre HJW Vineyard farm. They are the first Demeter Certified vineyard on the east coast. According to Demeter USA, “The *Demeter Biodynamic® Farm Standard* reflects the Biodynamic principle of the farm as a living organism: self-contained, self-sustaining, following the cycles of nature. Sections of the *Farm Standard* include necessary elements of the farm organism, soil fertility management, crop protection, greenhouse management, animal welfare, and the use of the preparations. Biological diversity within the farm landscape is emphasized, and requires that a minimum of ten percent of the total farm acreage be set aside as a biodiversity preserve.”

Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard has been practicing Biodynamic farming techniques at a portion of their HJW site since 2015, and the entire 33-acre vineyard since 2019. Upon receiving the certification, Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard Director of Vineyard Biology & Biodynamic Specialist, Thijs Verschuuren says, “Since I started working with Fred, Oskar, and Maressa in 2014, it was evident that they were committed to long-term sustainability - in all sense of the word. Obtaining this certification is simply providing proof that our actions follow this commitment, and I’m honored and privileged to be a part of it.”

Hermann J. Wiemer Vineyard Co-Owner Fred Merwarth remarks, “This is the culmination of a lot of hard work from Thijs and our team and a good amount of having faith in the efficacy of the farming practices. But we also see it as the beginning of something very exciting. Knowing the possibilities and success of biodynamic farming will allow us to expand our practices and incorporate this farming ethos more broadly and that is the ultimate goal.”

Demeter states, “Demeter USA is the only certifier for Biodynamic farms and products in America. While all of the organic requirements for certification under the National Organic Program are required for Biodynamic certification, the Demeter standard is much more extensive, with stricter requirements around imported fertility, greater emphasis on on-farm solutions for disease, pest, and weed control, and in-depth specifications around water conservation and biodiversity.”