



SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



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PILLAR I

Sustainability in the vineyards.

PILLAR II

Certification of International Standards, ISO 22.000.

PILLAR III

Social responsibility. Be a fair employer & a fair partner.

PILLAR IV

Control of environmental impact & Reduction of our Carbon footprint.

>> SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



PILLAR I: Sustainability in the vineyards.

*All our vineyards are sustainably managed and
cared for in ecofriendly ways:*

1. SUSTAINABLY GROWN GRAPES

We avoid as much as possible the use of pollutants that harm the environment and deplete the soils, such as toxic-synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and genetically modified organisms. Mendoza's terroir is a huge comparative advantage that makes the wines of the region one of the healthiest in the world. Due to high elevation and sun exposure, low rainfalls and dry soils, the vineyards are very unlikely to develop diseases. And if they ever do, Mendoza's conditions enable us to control them by using only organic products.

2. WORLD CLASS VITICULTURE

We hand pick our grapes, which has several advantages over other picking methods, some of which are: vines and berry clusters are not damaged in the process; no leaves are mixed with the grapes in the harvest bins, amongst others. It is overall a much more selective and efficient practice.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

All the water we get in Mendoza is snow-melt from the Andes mountain range and, given Mendoza's desert-like climate, water is extremely valuable. Thus, we use drip irrigation instead of the traditional irrigation method in Mendoza, flood irrigation. It allows us to manage this very scarce resource more effectively, care for the vineyards and the environment in a more efficient manner and reduce costs in the process.

4. PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

The cornerstone of our philosophy in the vineyards is to give back to the land everything we take from "her". All the pruning leftovers are put back in the vineyard between the rows in order to improve soil fertilization and structure. We also mow the indigenous grasses that grow between the rows, and let them decompose on the soil in order to produce organic matter. This helps us enrich the soils and prevent erosion.

5. MINIMAL USE OF MACHINERY IN THE VINEYARDS

We try to reduce the use of machinery in the vineyards as much as we can in order not to compact the soils and to obtain a better use of the water since the soil remains permeable.

>> SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



PILLAR II: Certification of International Standards: ISO 22.000

Dominio del Plata is one of the few wineries in Argentina that possesses the ISO 22000 certification, which was developed by the International Organization for Standardization to recognize high quality practices within food safety.



These are some of the requirements for the ISO 22.0000 certification:

1. TRACEABILITY

The term traceability refers to the recording of all movement of product and steps within the production process, all the way from our vineyards to the shelves. Traceability is invaluable if contamination issues were ever to arise and product recalls were required. Traceability enables us to identify and track down our products at any stage of the production process and also during its commercialization. All the tasks and products involved from the vineyard throughout the winemaking process are registered and recorded.

2. FOOD SAFETY

There are several measures in place in order to prevent any possible food borne illnesses during the winemaking process. Through very meticulous storage safety procedures we ensure that our stored wine and dry goods remain contamination free. Also, all of the oenological products we use (yeasts, enzymes, etc) used all along the winemaking process are fully authorized and certified by the National Institute of Viticulture (INV).

3. HACCP SYSTEM

HACCP system is included within ISO 22.000.

4. CERTIFICATION OF NO USE OF FORBIDDEN PESTICIDES IN THE VINEYARDS

5. WATER CONTROL AND CONTROL OF ALL THE WINERY EFFLUENTS

>> SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



PILLAR III: Social responsibility. Be a fair employer & a fair partner.

Dominio del Plata is actively involved in social responsibility issues:

1. TO THE EMPLOYEES:

- Providing specific monthly training to the staff (ie: employees involved in winemaking, bottling, production, etc) in order to increase their professional skills and efficiency.
- Providing general training like: safe use of machinery, safety and hygiene rules, CPR and first aid, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP guidelines are a series of general principles that must be followed during manufacturing.).
- Granting economic assistance and credits at zero interest rate to winery employees in cases of force majeure.
- Granting funds and permissions for employees who seek continuing education and/or further training in specific areas.
- Helping our workers' children to get good a education. Scholarships have been granted by the winery to enable them to go to college and university.

2. TO THE COMMUNITY:

- Hiring mostly people from Lujan de Cuyo, and specifically the Agrelo district (where the winery is located) in order to contribute to the development of the district and rural areas.
- Supporting local organizations like “The children’s soup kitchen” and “The children’s soccer club of Agrelo” by sponsoring them with funds and equipment.



- Respecting fair trade philosophies, paying a higher price than the local standard to our producers (grape-growers) in order to guarantee the quality of the grapes, and fight against child labor, amongst other things. With higher income, our producers can achieve a higher standard of living and provide education for their children.

>> SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



PILLAR IV: Control of environmental impact & Reduction of our Carbon footprint.

1. ISO 14.001 CERTIFICATION

We are currently working on obtaining the ISO 14.001 certification. It deals with environmental management and its purpose is to control the environmental impact of our activities and products and to continually reduce the impact of our business practices on the environment. A systematic approach has been implemented to set environmental objectives and targets, to achieve them, and to demonstrate how we did it.

2. BOTTLE WEIGHT REDUCTION

We had our bottle supplier create innovative “lighter bottles” for us. The weight of all of our bottles has been decreased by 150 grams on average (from 590 grams to 450 grams) from our vintage 2010.



3. ENERGY CONSUMPTION DECREASE

We have upgraded electronics such as: A/C and heater units, copiers, computer, printers, etc, to newer, energy saving units. All the light bulbs in the winery have also been replaced with lower energy consumption counterparts.

4. REDUCE OUR WASTE AND MAKE OUR PACKAGING MORE ECO FRIENDLY

In order to reduce the impact of our packaging on the environment, we have:

- Removed the wrapping paper for all our wines
- Switched all our cases to recycled cardboard boxes

5. RECYCLING

- Water efficiency

The water used to clean the winery facilities (stainless steel tanks, floors, catwalks, barrels, etc) is treated at a recycling plant in the winery and then reused. The recycling plant is composed of 2 tanks: a settling tank and a treatment tank. Solid particles are first settled by decantation, and then water passes to the second tank through a sloped connecting passage, where it is further treated. The PH is measured and neutralized to a level of 7 (neutral PH). Water is then pumped to different parts of the winery where it will be used once again.

- Cardboards and bottles

All the cardboard boxes, bottles and nylons are recyclable and sold to recycling plants. See below a brief overview of the results we achieved in 2011:

>> SUSTAINABILITY AND
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.



SUSTAINABILITY - 2011				
Month	kgs of cardboard recycled	quantity of trees saved	liters of water non contaminated	Reduction of electric power (kwh)
January	460	7,82	11.960,00	1.886,00
February	890	15,13	23.140,00	3.649,00
March	300	5,1	7.800,00	1.230,00
April	340	5,78	8.840,00	1.394,00
May	220	3,74	5.720,00	902
June	340	5,78	8.840,00	1.394,00
July	970	16,49	25.220,00	3.977,00
August	430	7,31	11.180,00	1.763,00
September	1.070,00	18,19	27.820,00	4.387,00
October	370	6,29	9.620,00	1.517,00
November	480	8,16	12.480,00	1.968,00
December	300	5,1	7.800,00	1.230,00
Total 2011	6.170,00	104,89	160.420,00	25.297,00



THE CREATION OF MY WINES AT
DOMINIO DEL PLATA IS FOR ME THE
CONSAGRATION OF ALL MY EFFORTS
AS A WINEMAKER

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