



## Sokol Blosser Organic, LEED Certified, B Corp FAQ

April 14, 2016

### What is Certified Organic?

- **Farming organically means using only Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)-approved substances in our vineyards. In addition, while not required to attain certification, to be good organic farmers you also want to encourage biodiversity and a balanced ecosystem.**
- **Our 85 acres of vineyards attained US Department of Agriculture (USDA) organic certification in 2005, by way of Oregon Tilth. We later switched certifying agents and are now certified by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Certification is attained when farmland has been free from prohibited chemicals for at least 3 years.**
- Organic certification addresses a growing worldwide demand for organic food. It is intended to assure quality and prevent fraud, and to promote commerce.
- To achieve and maintain organic certification, organic seeds, planting stock, and ingredients must be used if commercially available throughout all aspects of farming.
- Under organic certification compliance, nonagricultural substances and conventionally produced agricultural products introduced to our vineyards must be listed on the Code of Federal Regulations national list of allowed and prohibited substances.

### What is LEED Certified?

- **LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. LEED certification is the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability, and is the best way to demonstrate that a building project is truly "green."**
- The LEED green building rating system -- developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington D.C.-based, nonprofit -- is designed to promote design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being.
- LEED certification means healthier, more productive places, reduced stress on the environment by encouraging energy and resource-efficient buildings, and savings from increased building value, higher lease rates and decreased utility costs.
- **At Sokol Blosser, our underground barrel cellar was the first winery facility in the world to earn the prestigious Silver LEED certification (one step above standard LEED Certification), in 2002. It keeps our barrels of Pinot Noir aging at a constant 55-60 degrees year-round with very**

**minimal heating and fan cooling, which is done in an extremely energy-efficient manner.**

Heating is employed only when necessary to encourage malolactic fermentation at key points in our winemaking process.

### **What is B-Corp Certified?**

- **B Corp is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification is to milk.**
- B Corps are for-profit companies certified by the nonprofit B Lab to meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.
- **Sokol Blosser achieved B Corp status in April 2015.** Today, there is a growing community of more than 1,700 Certified B Corps from 42 countries and over 120 industries. This includes global companies such as Ben & Jerry's, Patagonia, Warby Parker, and Method, as well as local companies such as New Seasons, Hopworks, Yogi Tea, Fishpeople, and Tofurkey.
- **Sokol Blosser is one of only 3 Oregon wineries that have achieved B Corp certification as of April 2016 (the others being Winderlea and A to Z), and one of only 10 wineries having achieved this certification globally.**
- The B Corporation community envisions a global economy that uses business as a force for good. B Corp is purpose-driven and creates benefits for all stakeholders, not just shareholders.
- **As B Corporations and leaders of this emerging economy, we believe:**
  - **That, through our products, practices, and profits, business should aspire to do no harm and benefit all.**
  - That we must be the change we seek in the world.
  - That all business ought to be conducted as if people and place mattered.
  - To do so requires that we act with the understanding that we are each dependent upon another and thus responsible for each other and future generations.
- B Corp is not a one-time certification: **all B Corp certifications must re-submit their application every 2 years to certify compliance with B Corp certification standards.**