

The biodynamic vineyards of La Raia

La Raia's vineyards are cultivated organically with the biodynamic method, which dispenses with pesticides and herbicides. This method also adds a new kind of vitality to the soil, which in the past had suffered the use of heavy tools and tractors. Today we do as much work on the vineyards as possible manually and when necessary we use light tractors, always following the vine's schedule, not ours. From this approach is born a genuine wine of quality.

	Conventional vines	Biodynamic vines
Pruning	When the leaves have fallen, end of October	When the days start getting longer and during a descending moon. In this way we reinforce the vines and they loose less sap
Working the land	Nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous produced chemically, used as artificial fertilizer	A green manure of grasses and legumes to help develop a deep structured soil with stable humus. Use of light tools that respect the soil and its micro organisms
Treatments	Sulphur, copper based systemical chemicals, anti-rotting chemicals, insecticides	Copper in small doses, cave sulphur. Vines growing in healthy soils need less treatments and are less prone to illness
Clearing between the vines	Either toxic weedkiller or a heavy tractor with a cultivator that damages the soil	Grasses are left to grow and cut if necessary. Sheep graze the vineyards
Canopy management	Frequent trimming with a heavy tractor. Less vegetation is available for producing sugar in grapes. Fertilizer produces excess vegetation	Vine is left to grow and its branches are tied to the trellis. The absence of artificial fertilizer and a more balanced plant result in less vegetative growth later in the season, hence no need to trim
Biodynamic treatments		Spray biodynamic preparations (horn manure and horn silica) which help the plant orientate itself between its poles: earth and sun