



# Our Operating Principles

COLLECTIVELY FOR  
MORE INDIVIDUALITY  
IN OUR WINES

# Philosophy

## respekt-BIODYN AS AN IDEAL

Acting with respect is a quality ideal for us – a quality ideal for products and processes in agriculture, a quality ideal for our work, and of course for all personal aspects of life.

We constantly seek the highest quality, combined with the highest imaginable respect for nature, our earth and humanity.



Understanding and sensibly using the power of herbs.

## respekt-BIODYN AS AN ASSOCIATION

Together we can achieve more. Therefore, we have teamed up in the **respekt-BIODYN** group to learn from each other, and to educate and mutually support each other. We are a learning community of common interests. **respekt-BIODYN** is inspired and sustained by the ideas of Rudolf Steiner, acting simultaneously but independently and confidently in theory and practice. In addition, we seek an open, friendly and professional technical dialogue with like-minded people.

## THE BASIS OF **respekt-BIODYN**

The lectures on agriculture given by Dr. Rudolf Steiner in Kobierzyce, near Wrocław, in 1924 serve as our foundation. Biodynamic agriculture developed from these talks, which with their holistic approach put a very modern perspective on farming in general, especially in the present day.

# Biodiversity



## **BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity are regarded as important bases for human welfare. The destruction and fragmentation of habitats is seen as by far the greatest threat to biodiversity on earth.

## **DIVERSITY IN VINEYARDS VERSUS MONOCULTURE**

Revegetation is revival, as humus is built up and the fertility of the soil is maintained. The more diversity it blooms with, the better – and more beautiful! This strengthens our vines' own resistance and ensures a „vitalization“ of the soil. Buckwheat, phacelia, mustard, clover, vetch, marigold, chamomile, yarrow, cornflower, poppies and many others, as well as hedges and trees at the edge of the vineyard, ensure biodiversity.

## **USEFUL ANIMALS**

They are part of this biodiversity, and come into our vineyards all by themselves if we simply allow them to: worms, ants, bees, butterflies, ladybugs and many more. They help us to keep our vines and soil healthy.



# Plant care



## STRENGTHENING NATURAL DEFENSES

For us **respekt** winemakers, the strengthening of the natural defenses of our vines is of central concern. Healthy soil is the basis for healthy, vigorous vines that are resistant and protected by their own immune response. For example, loose foliage design, application of herbal teas and the use of plant care products are important measures for us.

## TEAS AND EXTRACTS

Nature's pharmacy is diverse and rich in possibilities. Horsetail contains silicon, and it dries, supports and stimulates. Nettles are the "greatest benefactor in nature", they supply iron, nitrogen and calcium and strengthen the immune system of the vine. Just as it does on humans, Camomille has a calming effect on the vines in the heat or after hail, but also after processes that are exhausting for the vine, such as flowering or maturing (after a harvest). We also use birch leaves to provide copper, and yarrow to provide sulfur. Both have antifungal activity, meaning they are effective against fungi and spores.

## OTHER PLANT CARE AGENTS

Baking soda dries and has fungicidal activity, algae extracts also have very good fungicidal effects. Orange and fennel oils, as well as plant care soaps, protect the vines and increase the effectiveness of other measures.

## PHEROMONES

Pheromones are volatile sexual hormones that we use to confuse the grape berry moth, a potential threat.

## PESTICIDES

As pesticides, we use copper and sulfur which deter mildew (mould), Botrytis (grey mould) and also mites.



# Composting

## Humus is the mother of all life!

*“You have to know that fertilizing must be part of an animation of the soil, so that a plant does not sprout in dead earth and find it difficult to achieve from its own vitality what is necessary for fruiting.”*

(Rudolf Steiner)

### COMPOST

Compost is a vitalization agent for the soil:

*“The Earth thinks, feels and is intelligent.”*



We use cattle, sheep, horse and water buffalo dung that we obtain from partners who treat their animals with respect.

### THE COMPOST HEAP

The compost heap is built up layer by layer on open ground with alternately straw, grape pomace, reeds, grass or chaff. Moistened with water and covered with straw, the composting process soon starts within.

### COMPOST PREPARATIONS

In order to maintain a healthy and vital humus, biodynamic preparations of yarrow, chamomile, nettle, oak bark, dandelion and valerian are added to the compost heap.

### WHAT CREATES HUMUS?

We work the compost only very slightly, if at all, and leave the main work to the earthworms and microorganisms in the soil. The flora and fauna of the soil consist of up to 60,000 different plant and animal species. Humus stimulates this system and feeds it. In addition, it acts as a water reservoir, balancing between humid and arid phases, prevents runoff and stores CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Biodynamic preparations

## MEANING

The preparations are considered „organs“ for nutrition, healing and reproduction. They are divided into two groups. On one hand, those prepared from plant substances that are added to the compost are therefore referred to as compost preparations. And on the other hand there are two field spray preparations: horn manure and horn silica.

## COMPOST PREPARATIONS

Yarrow (502), chamomile (503), nettle (504), oak bark (505), dandelion (506) and valerian (507), support growth, recovery and reproductive processes in different ways, working through the compost on soil and plants. They take over the task of organizing and structuring substances and processes; in particular influencing the metabolic processes of essential elements such as calcium, nitrogen, potassium, sulfur, iron and magnesium.

## FIELD SPRAY PREPARATIONS

In order to bring or hold these forces in balance, we work with two biodynamic field spray preparations: preparation 500 represents expansion and growth, and preparation 501 represents concentration and maturing.



## HORN MANURE (also preparation 500)

Cow horns are filled with fresh, high quality cow manure and buried in the ground over the winter months. The vitality of the winter earth radiates into the content of the cow horns and produces a unique transformation process. This preparation acts accordingly on the soil and plant roots. It builds the soil structure, and promotes microbial life and the formation of humus.

## HORN SILICA (also preparation 501)

This product is manufactured from silica (finely ground very pure quartz), and is also placed in cow horns and buried over the summer months in the earth. The earth takes in the summer sun's heat in this period through its unfolded "plant organs", and the cow horn takes over the task of „collecting the summer's energy“ which is stored in the silica inside.

## STIMULATION

In order to bring the forces of horn manure or horn silica into a fundamental bond with water, the preparations must be stirred intensively. We do this by hand in order to also spray our excitement and enthusiasm along with the water into the vineyards.

## APPLICATION

Horn manure is spread out on the ground, while horn silica is finely sprayed on the vines.

# Handwork

## HANDWORK IS PRIMARILY BRAINWORK AND GUT INSTINCTS

Handcraft and manual dexterity are the foundations of all plant care measures in the vineyard. The real core of our work, however, lies in being aware of the how and the why. Which is why we're always alert and committed at work in our vineyards to recognize the needs of our vines. We try to see things from their perspective, in particular regarding the spiritual and psychological effects of the manual care of our vines.

## VINE PRUNING

The respectful treatment of vines and people is the fundamental basis of our actions. This includes the „gentle pruning“ (after Simonit & Sirch) because it has important effects on the welfare of the plant.

You must acknowledge the vines' primal striving towards the sun, and at the same time enable the adaptation to today's popular vine training systems. The right cut is crucial for consistent slow growth, so that the vines can also bring out their best quality, even at an advanced age.



We cultivate the vines with passion, expertise, manually of course, and always at the right time. This is critical for their health.

## CARE OF THE VINES

We clean the stems, pull weeds, shape the foliage, remove shoots and leaves, thin out, ... all done with dedication, high expertise and as quickly as possible. Because perfect canopy management performed in a timely manner is vital to the health of the vines.

## PICKING

As a matter of course manually, selectively and gently! And when necessary, we sort again at the pressing house. It's the only way to create vibrant wines with character.



# In the cellar – diversity before monoculture

## VINIFICATION

We pick our grapes only by hand and rely on spontaneous fermentation by the natural yeast population: a prerequisite for an ideal type of regional wine. Some fermentations run „wild“ without interference, and these wines require a lot

of time to „mature“. We work with awareness and sensitivity, obtaining through them wines with character and soul rather than random results.



## THE BARREL: STAINLESS STEEL - WOOD - CONCRETE - CLAY

Depending on its material, the barrel affects the style of the nascent wine. We know how to use them.

## MOON & WEATHER

Both have great impact on the vineyard and the must in the cellar. We take this into account and also quite consciously use the phases here, in order to have to interfere as little as possible in the wine formation.

## WINES

Every winemaker has his own approach to wine – and that’s a good thing. Our wines should reflect the radiance of nature, our operating philosophy and the nature of the vintner.

This results in individual, wholesome wines with complexity, finesse and character. Wines that need time. Time to mature and time to enjoy.

