



## Notes from the Grower Next Door



Hello Neighbor,

The energy and excitement of harvest has arrived in Sonoma County! We want to let you know what to expect over the next few months, as harvest gets underway.

For grape harvesting, picking at precisely the right moment is critical. Once the grapes are ready there are, literally, not enough hours in the day. It's a long 8-12 weeks, picking around the clock, to bring all the fruit in at optimal ripeness and maturity. Expect more trucks on the road and a general increase in vineyard activity. You may hear the mechanical harvester in the vineyards at night or see the flood lights of hand picking. Harvesting at night presents more favorable conditions for our employees and allows us to pick the grapes when they are cooler, conserving energy and preventing fermentation on the way to the winery.

Our countywide commitment to sustainability starts with these farming practices, and extends to our workers, community and neighbors like you. We love being farmers and appreciate your support for agriculture in Sonoma County. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding — we could not do it without you.

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