



Wow, another year of vineyard work appears to be done.
Even my last block of Aglianico got picked today, November 2nd.

Take a nap. No, I mean it, take a nap! It can only do you good.
But tomorrow you have work to do.

November is the only month of the vineyard year where you really have time to attend to the physical infrastructure.
All of the broken pieces you mended through the year with bailing wire and duct tape can be fixed.

The Irrigation System

I hope you have completed your deep watering. The irrigation system probably has many clogged or partially clogged drip emitters. Turn on each block of your vineyard, take a walk. Replace or clean all the emitters that are not working. Check to see that there is even coverage down each row. Look for damaged drip hose. Baby coyotes may have used your hose as a teething ring. Small tooth marks work as spray emitters. You may have to replace portions of the hose and reinstall emitters.

The last couple feet of each row's drip hose has probably filled with stagnant water throughout the year. Mold and grime have collected there and it is not pretty. While the system is running, open the end of each hose until clear water flows out. Yuck! Don't let it spray on you while you are trying this. The last emitters on the hose may also be clogged.

Nets

Make sure all of your nets are securely stored for the year. A good winter storm may blow nets around the vineyard. Try to avoid losing track of which row each net is designed for. If you are planning to buy new side netting next year, this is an excellent time to add a new net wire 10" below the cordon wire.

Line Posts, End Posts & Wire

Check all your line posts. Make sure they are securely in the ground. Wooden posts may have rotted, steel posts may have rusted out at the ground level. Mark any broken posts. Wait for the first good rain to replace the posts.

The end posts may have gotten loose or started to lean inward. A slight side wind with hundreds

of pounds of grapes on the vines can easily exert enough pressure to move the posts. Pull your loose posts as tight as possible and re-secure them with a support post or tension wire. Hand tighten all the fruiting wires. (this may have to wait until after pre-pruning in December and January).

The First Solid Rain

The first rain of the season is a great time to do any fertilizing or other ground based treatment which needs to be soaked into the soil. If I can find two storms back-to-back, I like to do the treatment between the rains. The first rain softens the soil, the second rain soaks the fertilizer into the root zone.