

Winery Production Process



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

The Napa County Code contains various references to winery production and refers to production capacity as “the wine bottled or received” at a winery and refers to “bottling and storage of bottled wine and shipping and receiving of bulk and bottled wine” (Code Section 18.16.030(G)(4)).¹

This handout was developed by the County planning staff with the assistance of a number of local industry representatives to assist property owners and other interested parties in interpreting Napa County Code references to winery production. It does not create a new definition or regulation.

A winery’s total annual production equals either (1) the sum of all wine created through fermentation in a given year, plus the net total of all fermented bulk wine received and shipped in the same year, including all bottled wine received on the premises during the same year; or (2) the amount of wine bottled on the premises in the same given year, *whichever is greater*.

Using the diagram on the right, this means the greater of $A + (B - C)$, or D. If B-C is a negative number, total production is equal to either A or D, whichever is greater

This interpretation holds true for all physical winery facilities regardless of the number of business entities (e.g. Alternating Proprietors/Custom Crush) they accommodate or the date that their production capacity was established or recognized. However, wineries occupying multiple facilities are governed by the specific terms of their use permit or Certificate of Legal Non-conformity (CLN), which may vary.

Quantities represented by items A through D on the diagram can be determined by reviewing a winery’s annual submittals to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The County may periodically request a copy of these submittal(s) as a way to monitor compliance with previously adopted conditions/requirements. The County recognizes that annual variations can occur due to the grape harvest and the timing of finishing/bottling, and will generally review and average three to five consecutive years of data.

¹ The complexity of these statements can be attributed to the authors’ desire to avoid “double counting” bulk wine that is both received and bottled at a winery, and the fact that multiple vintages are present within a winery at any given time.

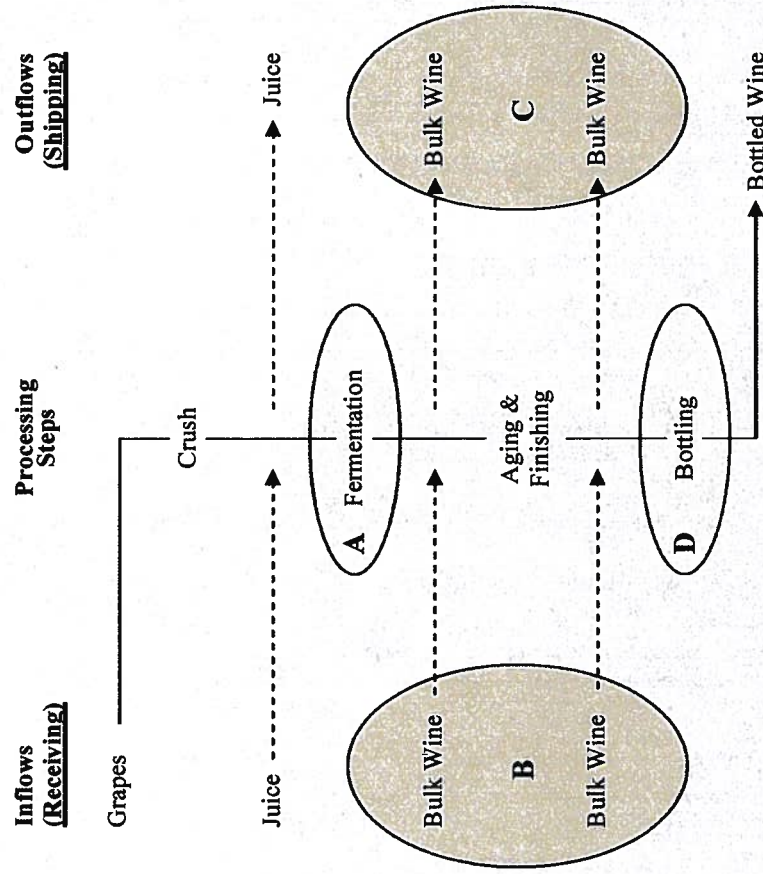


Figure 1. Winery Production Process