

## Environmental Sustainability

With 95% of wine growing taking place in the unique habitat of the Cape winelands, WWF is participating in a pioneering partnership between the South African wine industry and the conservation sector.



**Backsberg is a WWF Conservation Champion** – acknowledged as an environmental leader in the industry for our commitment to conservation, responsible production practices, integrated environmental management systems, and spearheading innovations in water, energy efficiency and climate adaptation. [www.org.za/conservationchampions](http://www.org.za/conservationchampions)



**Backsberg is the first Certified Carbon Neutral winery in South Africa.** Carbon neutrality is defined as achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released (carbon footprint) with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset. Backsberg has a number of initiatives in place to achieve this, some of which include:

- A move to smaller tractors and farm vehicles
- Reconfiguring winery cooling and fermentation control (through the use of a biomass-boiler heat exchange program)
- A move from heavyweight to lightweight glass packaging for our wines
- LED lighting installations in guest areas
- Skylights installed in the cellar buildings to reduce reliance on electric lighting
- Changing vineyard layout to reduce tractor mileage
- A tree planting program on the farm as well as in the local community
- 10% of our land is demarcated for non-development and habitat preservation