

RISE Brings Focus on Sustainability and Climate Resiliency to Napa

By Anna Brittain

The RISE Climate & Wine Symposium returns to Napa for the third year, focusing on results and resources for Regeneration, Innovation, Sustainability, and Empowerment. This unique six-event symposium, starting April 29th, is organized and hosted by Napa Green, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing regenerative winegrowing, and setting the highest bar for sustainability and climate action in the wine industry.

Organized around Napa Green's Six Pillars of Sustainable Winegrowing Leadership, the symposium will feature more than 65 expert speakers from five countries. While RISE is focused on wine industry opportunities, much of the content is relevant to anyone in the community interested in stewardship, cultivating biodiversity, adopting regenerative farming practices, and building climate resiliency.

RISE focuses on actionable opportunities. In addition to facilitating mentorships, Napa Green has tracked dozens of positive impacts stemming from the symposium since 2022, including the introduction of sheep grazing at Corison, generating biochar at White Rock, and trials of three herbicide-free farming methods at Chimney Rock.

"Sustainability is a journey, and I think it's a journey best taken with other people," said Elizabeth Vianna, Winemaker at Chimney Rock. "RISE brings people together who are on the same path. And it doesn't matter where you are in your journey, you'll come away with new ideas. You'll find incredible collaboration with leaders from all over the world. It is truly inspiring."

Each half-day RISE event includes practical workshops, a marquee keynote address, a forum asking a critical question, and community-building over food and wine. The event lineup and question of the day includes:

April 29 – Water Efficiency & Savings: "Is Water the Solution Heat Stress?"

April 30 – Energy Efficiency & Savings: "To Till & EV or Not to Till & EV?"

May 1 – Proactive Farming, Soil Health & Biodiversity: "Is Regenerative Ag Our Future?"

May 6 – Diversity & Inclusion: "Does Diversity Improve Business Performance & Resilience?"

May 7 – Supply Chain & Waste Prevention: "Do Consumers Care about Sustainability & Climate Action?"

May 8 – Climate Action & Regenerative Agriculture: Two forums – "Can Forest & Creek Restoration Create Localized Climate Cooling?" and "Can Wine Really Impact Climate Action?"

RISE gives participants a chance to engage with speakers rarely here in Napa, including:

- **Mark Arax**, journalist, storyteller and author, "The Dreamt Land" (April 29)

- **Praveen Penmetsa**, CEO of Monarch Tractor (April 30)
- **Dr. Jonathan Lundgren**, Agroecologist, Director ECDYSIS Foundation & 1000 Farms Initiative (May 1)
- **Jermaine Stone**, creator and host of Emmy- and James Beard-nominated Street Somm (May 6)
- **Randi Kronthal-Sacco**, Senior Scholar at NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business (May 7)
- **Dom De Ville**, Director of Sustainability and Social Impact at The Wine Society (May 7)
- **Obi Kaufmann**, Author and Illustrator of the California Field Atlas series (May 8)
- **Dr. Sarah Jaquette Ray**, Professor and Chair of Environmental Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt and author, "A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety" (May 8)
- **Finn Does**, Youth Climate Justice Organizer (May 8)

Jermaine Stone, who is coming west from Manhattan to marquee the May 6 event, said, "Wine is a reflection of history, culture, and the people who shape it. It is more important than ever to identify how we will continue to uplift the voices and contributions of diverse communities. True sustainability isn't just about the land –it's about creating opportunities, breaking barriers, and ensuring that everyone has a seat at the table. At RISE we're not just talking –we're building a future where diversity is the standard."

Martin Reyes, MW, partner at WineWise and co-founder of RISE, added, "The data is clear: businesses that integrate a whole system approach to sustainability leadership outperform their counterparts. As we face the headwinds of economic and market uncertainty, this philosophy isn't idealistic – it's imperative. I've spoken to many RISE participants who have shared the sustained impacts of our content on their businesses."

Visit www.RISEgreen.org to learn more and to purchase tickets to individual events or a shareable six-pack ticket.

Guest contributor Anna Brittain is Executive Director of Napa Green and co-founder of RISE.

