

Wine Industry

Market Application Publication



During the wine making process it is critical that wine be protected from contact with oxygen, as its presence promotes the growth of yeast and aerobic bacteria, which can cause spoilage and alter final product aroma, color, and taste. Nitrogen minimizes the levels of oxygen present, preserving flavors and significantly improving shelf life. It is an essential tool in alleviating the issues caused by oxygen exposure. Unlike argon, nitrogen can be provided as a continuous bleed to blanket storage tanks. A nitrogen generator, which separates nitrogen and oxygen from a compressed air supply, can often be the most cost economical way to supply nitrogen.



Features and Benefits

- A nitrogen generator offers long term price stability.
- Grow without added expenses. Adding more hours of production does not increase the size of your nitrogen generator.
- Replace intermittent argon blanketing with continuous nitrogen purging.
- Nitrogen has a very low boiling point, and is continuously evaporating when supplied as liquid in bulk or dewars.
- Eliminates the contracts required from bulk gas suppliers.
- Complete start up and testing procedure at the factory prior to delivery.
- Very little maintenance or monitoring required once system is up and running.
- Proven technology with over 50,000 successful generator installations worldwide.
- Ease of installation - pipe in compressed air and pipe out nitrogen. Does not require a concrete pad, fence, permit fees, and significant square footage

Case Study

Groth Vineyards is a Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc producer in Napa Valley uses nitrogen to rack wines, sparge tanks, and assist in the bottling process and to ensure product quality. Nitrogen was originally supplied by a local gas company delivered in cylinders and dewars. Fluctuations in usage requirements would frequently cause the winery to run out of nitrogen. This created not only an inconvenience, but also an economic concern as production had to be suspended until more nitrogen could be delivered.

Parker Hannifin was selected to supply a gas generator that would provide a continuous nitrogen stream for each of their processes. Ease of use, minimal maintenance requirements and return on investment (ROI) were important factors in their decision. Parker Hannifin's gas generators are designed for continuous, trouble free operation. Installation was simple - compressed air was piped in and the generator was connected to existing nitrogen piping.

The annual maintenance requirements were straightforward and inexpensive. Overall, the cost savings were impressive, initially yielding in a 14 month payback and ultimately providing price stability for the future. The winery has had no issues with spoilage or DO pickup, and solved their nitrogen delivery issues. They recommend a Parker Hannifin nitrogen generator for improved efficiencies, ease of use and its reliable performance.

Application

There are numerous points in the production process where wine has the opportunity to come in contact with oxygen and cause product quality issues, including storage, transport and sparging. A nitrogen blanket, reducing the oxygen concentration as low as 0.5%, minimizes contact between oxygen and the wine surface during storage (both pre and post bottling). This will prevent the growth of bacteria yeast and other microbes.

Nitrogen can also be used to purge air from pipes and hoses prior to bottling and to ensure oxygen is not introduced during transport. Finally, sparging with nitrogen will remove any oxygen or CO₂ introduced during handling helping to preserve wine flavor, color, and aroma. If nitrogen is not used during these processes, the wine is exposed to oxygen and the level of dissolved oxygen (DO) increases. Using an inert gas helps to ensure minimal DO pickup.



GROTH VINEYARDS & WINERY OAKVILLE VINEYARD

CABERNET, 54.79 ACRES SAUVIGNON BLANC, 32.15 ACRES SEMILLON, 11.29 ACRES

Block	Planting	Vineyard	Planting	Vineyard	Planting	Vineyard	Planting	Vineyard
Block 1: 17.07 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 2: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 3: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 4: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 5: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 6: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 7: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 8: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 9: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 10: 11.08 Acres Cabernet Sauvignon	1999 Planted	2001 Spacing	2003 Planted	2005 Spacing	2007 Planted	2009 Spacing	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing
Block 11: 11.29 Acres Semillon	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing	2015 Planted	2017 Spacing	2019 Planted	2021 Spacing	2023 Planted	2025 Spacing
Block 12: 11.29 Acres Semillon	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing	2015 Planted	2017 Spacing	2019 Planted	2021 Spacing	2023 Planted	2025 Spacing
Block 13: 11.29 Acres Semillon	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing	2015 Planted	2017 Spacing	2019 Planted	2021 Spacing	2023 Planted	2025 Spacing
Block 14: 11.29 Acres Semillon	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing	2015 Planted	2017 Spacing	2019 Planted	2021 Spacing	2023 Planted	2025 Spacing
Block 15: 11.29 Acres Semillon	2011 Planted	2013 Spacing	2015 Planted	2017 Spacing	2019 Planted	2021 Spacing	2023 Planted	2025 Spacing
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