

Donnafugata for Sustainability



For over 30 years, Donnafugata has been committed to sustainability, integrating it into every stage of production—from vineyard cultivation based on responsible agricultural practices and biodiversity protection, to energy efficiency, packaging, and human resource management.

In 2025, Donnafugata prepared its first **Sustainability Report**: a document developed through a structured reporting process that enables the company to monitor its progress and provide its stakeholders—employees, customers, partners, and local communities—with comprehensive information on its sustainability journey.

The company’s commitment is aligned with 9 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and is translated into concrete actions encompassing **environmental, social, and governance** aspects.

Environmental Sustainability

Sustainable Resource Management. Donnafugata adopts environmentally sustainable practices, minimizing the use of agrochemicals through **integrated pest management techniques**, including pest control with pheromone traps. In addition, data collected through the monitoring of key agro-meteorological parameters (such as rainfall, temperature, and humidity) are processed using AI algorithms and correlated with 7–10 day weather forecasts. This system enables timely and targeted agronomic interventions.

This set of best practices ensures the protection of plant and animal **biodiversity** in the vineyard and preserves the natural balance that makes agriculture more sustainable, resilient, and high-quality.

The company does not use chemical herbicides, managing weeds through mechanical and manual methods. Donnafugata promotes **low-impact agricultural practices** such as minimum tillage, legumes-based green manure, and organic fertilization. These practices contribute to soil fertility and conservation, while supporting ecosystem balance and biodiversity.

After calculating its Carbon and Water Footprint for several years, in 2021 the company adopted the **SOSTAIN Foundation protocol** for Sicilian viticulture, alongside the VIVA certification program, which is based on four indicators: Air, Water, Vineyard, and Territory.

In particular, in 2025 the total value of the **AIR indicator** amounted to 4,537 tCO₂eq, showing a significant improvement compared to 7,553 tCO₂eq recorded in the previous certification. This improvement is the result of investments in renewable energy and the transition to lighter “Cento per Cento Sicilia” bottles.

In the planting of new vineyards, **environmentally friendly materials** such as wooden stakes and bamboo supports are used, and biodegradable tying materials have been tested to reduce plastic usage.

To preserve biodiversity, the share of company land dedicated to **natural areas has increased from 16% to 22%, covering 148 hectares**. It is also worth noting that Donnafugata operates in areas of outstanding natural value: the Randazzo winery is located within the Etna Natural Park, while the vineyards and winery in Pantelleria are situated within the island's National Park.

Donnafugata also promotes and preserves **native grape varieties** by supporting research through experimental vineyards at the Contessa Entellina estate, featuring 19 varieties across 30 biotypes, and in Pantelleria with 33 Zibibbo biotypes.

The company also participated in the **"HoneyBees & Vineyard"** project by the SOStain Sicily Foundation, supported by Intesa Sanpaolo, aimed at protecting the Sicilian black bee, a species now at risk of extinction but essential for biodiversity and viticulture. Donnafugata hosted an apiary with five hives managed by F.A.I. (*Federazione Apicoltori Italiani*) beekeepers practicing nomadism—periodically moving hives across selected agricultural sites to ensure representative coverage of Sicily's diverse landscapes.

The project had a dual value: on one hand, the protection and repopulation of the Sicilian black bee—a resilient and tireless species adapted to the region's climate and flora; on the other, through the collection and laboratory analysis of honey and pollen produced by these bees, it was possible to obtain a precise picture of the territory's floral biodiversity, highlighting both its diversity and its purity (absence of harmful residues). Sicilian black bees are key pollinators for the vineyard ecosystem's natural flora, indirectly supporting grape and wine quality; their role is essential for the entire agricultural ecosystem and for sustainable viticulture.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources. The company continuously monitors the energy efficiency of its processes and has implemented an energy management system in accordance with ISO 50001:2018.

In 2025, **electricity consumption per liter of wine processed was reduced to 0.419 kWh/l**—well below the 0.7 kWh/l threshold established by the SOStain Foundation protocol.

Donnafugata also generates energy through **photovoltaic systems with a total capacity of 537 kW**. Considering both self-produced energy and energy purchased from Dolomiti Energia—certified as 100% renewable—**92% of the energy used by Donnafugata comes from renewable sources**.

Looking ahead, the company is committed to further reducing its CO₂ emissions by optimizing the energy efficiency of equipment and technologies, and by installing **a new 300 kW photovoltaic system** at its historic Marsala cellars.

Water Resource Management. In a territory characterized by limited rainfall, Donnafugata has adopted advanced water management techniques, such as drip micro-irrigation (where feasible).

Sustainable Packaging and Circular Economy. In 2023, the company introduced the Nomacorc Ocean closure, made from ocean bound plastic, and adopted lightweight "Cento per Cento Sicilia" (100% Sicily) bottles, primarily produced from recycled glass on the island by O-I Glass, based on a project by the SOStain Foundation—an exemplary model of circular economy.

In 2025, **lightweight 750 ml bottles accounted for 65% of total bottling** (up from 59% in 2024). Between 2023 and 2025, Donnafugata progressively replaced most traditional 550 g bottles with lighter 410 g and then 360 g versions, contributing to reduced CO₂ emissions both in production and transportation.

All cardboard packaging is FSC-certified, ensuring responsible forest management.

Social Sustainability

Gender Equality and Training. Donnafugata is committed to ensuring equal rights, treatment, responsibilities, and growth opportunities for all employees. The company places strong emphasis on gender equality: **women hold 40% of leadership positions**, a figure above the agricultural sector average, where women represent approximately 31% of managerial roles.

The company invests in continuous employee training, offering professional development opportunities and fostering an inclusive work environment.

Community Engagement. Donnafugata is actively engaged in supporting its local territories, contributing to their economic development also through wine tourism and wine culture promotion initiatives launched as early as 1993. The company also supports cultural and social initiatives through collaborations with institutions and organizations: Donnafugata supports the Giuseppe Nenci Prize promoted by the Scuola Normale di Pisa, the Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa Literary Prize, and the “Città ad Impatto Positivo” project aimed at ensuring mobility for vulnerable individuals. The company also supports the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo and the FAI – Italian National Trust, of which it is a Corporate Golden Donor.

Quality Certifications. Since 2000, the company has obtained several quality certifications, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, and ISO 50001, demonstrating its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable resource management, as well as ISO 22000 to ensure the quality and safety of its products.

Governance. Donnafugata’s Board of Directors (comprising 2 family members and 3 external members) is committed to monitoring company performance and ensuring that decisions are aligned with sustainability principles.

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