

# Bitner Vineyards LIVE certified



Submitted photo

Ron Bitner first planted his 15-acre vineyard in 1981 with Riesling and Chardonnay grapes.

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**CALDWELL** — Bitner Vineyards became the first vineyard in Idaho to earn a LIVE certification, the Idaho Wine Commission announced Monday.

LIVE stands for Low Input Viticulture and Enology. It's a 501(c)3 organization that independently certifies environmentally and socially responsible wine growing in the Northwest.

Owner Ron Bitner began an effort toward certification in 2010 after learning about LIVE from executive director Chris Serra at a wine commission meeting in 2010.

The vineyard went through a third-party inspection process to ensure it is farmed using ecologically sound and science-based pest management practices, workers are treated fairly and waterways are protected from agricultural activities.

Bitner wanted to participate in the certification to protect bee activity in his vineyard, according to the commission.