

**Snail of Approval Standards**

*Slow Food in Sonoma County envisions these standards as guiding principles to embodying core Slow Food values. We understand that practicing Slow Food values is a process based on commitment, passion, and practicality, not on a rubric of metrics. Therefore, applicants need only meet 83% of the criteria listed below to be considered for the Snail of Approval Each of the categories are ranked from 0-3 points with fractional points to be used. The average of the 3-person team (Snail committee member + 2 SF members at large) is calculated to determine approval / rejection status. A typical site visit lasts about 60 to 90 minutes.*

**Good** food is fundamental:  food must taste good and be good for us. This includes:

* the freshness, seasonality, regionality, and wholesomeness of ingredients;
* the care and craft with which the ingredients are handled;
* the health of consumers;
* and the extent to which cultural heritage and/or biodiversity is preserved.

**Clean** food is produced in a manner that does not harm the environment, animal welfare, or our health. This includes:

* the conservation of natural resources and mitigation of climate change;
* the quality of life of consumers, producers, and their neighbors;
* the welfare of animals, including farm animals and wildlife;
* and the employment of practices that are appropriate for the area in question.

**Fair** food means ensuring accessible prices for consumers, as well as fair conditions and pay for small-scale producers. This includes:

* the employment of fair labor practices and fair sourcing;
* fostering a work environment that promotes diversity, and that is safe for people of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and sexualities;
* the fair compensation of producers, laborers, distributors, and others in the food system;
* and ensuring that physical, financial, and educational barriers do not inhibit the availability of high quality and culturally appropriate food to all.

**Recipients Receive**

* Snail of Approval decal(s) to be displayed at their place of business;
* A Snail of Approval icon for inclusion on websites, menus, newsletters;
* Be listed, along with a description of their products and services, on the Snail of Approval page of the Slow Food Sonoma County North & Russian River websites
* Be promoted on the Snail of Approval-Slow Food in Sonoma County social media.

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

Slow Food in Sonoma County monitors the integrity of Snail of Approval restaurants and artisans through ongoing feedback from Slow Food Sonoma County North and Slow Food Russian River members.

* Snail of Approval certification is valid for two years; renewal follows the initial process
* Applicants re-applying after 2 years do not have to pay the $35 fee.

*Please contact us with any questions you may have about these standards by emailing us at* snailofapprovalsc@gmail.com*.*