

# From Barrel to Bottle: Bringing Efficiency to Operations with the Help of Technology

Producing food and beverage products can be challenging. Following food safety regulations, maintaining compliance, and managing product shelf life all rely on efficient systems to keep everything in check. See how this producer gave their processes a boost with an automated data collection solution.



## The Customer

Scheid Family Wines (Scheid) has farmed wine grapes in Monterey County, California, since 1972. With 4,000 acres of certified sustainable vineyards located along a 70-mile spread of the Salinas Valley and a state-of-the-art winery, Scheid is fully integrated to bring high-quality estate-grown wines to the marketplace.

## Migrating to Barcode Technology

Scheid implemented a warehouse management software (WMS) solution called ACE Warehousing to improve tracking and real-time inventory of raw and finished goods using barcode technology. To track production materials and output, Justin Perino, General Manager Finished Goods Operations, needed to integrate mobile computing and printing solutions to support their bottling and warehouse operations.

## CHALLENGES

- To avoid non-compliance and be able to follow food safety guidelines and requirements more easily, Scheid needed to implement the right technology to track, trace, and efficiently control production.
- With multiple bottling lines and varying employee skill levels, streamlining workflows in a fast-paced, multi-user plant was critical for continued growth of the business.
- Scheid lacked real-time inventory visibility. Inefficient tracking of raw materials and finished goods left procurement to risk overbuying or running out of materials and made selling difficult when new products launched.

Furthermore, mock recalls from retailers required Scheid to collect data and respond within two hours. “With paperwork being filled out by multiple people for each line, it was a challenge to complete quickly,” said Perino. “Interpreting the data and then entering it into the system left room for errors,” he added.

## SOLUTION

Barcom worked with Scheid to purchase and deploy barcode label printers that could respond to commands from a worker’s mobile computing device which would dramatically improve effectiveness on the production floor. The flexibility of barcode automation allowed them to manage and access data and information in far less time and with greater efficiency.

## On-Demand Label Printing: The Zebra GK420 Desktop Label Printer

The compact size of the GK420 makes it easy to install multiple units in strategic locations around the plant for worker convenience. Used to print pallet tags for both incoming and outgoing shipments, these workhorse printers produce labels containing information users initiate through the handheld device. Zebra GK420 printers are also used to place on inbound shipments (e.g., glass bottles) containing specific order information. Labels for this application are generally used in situations where the vendor either did not supply a label, or the label itself fell off during shipment. Workers can simply print a label on demand and re-apply without disrupting workflows.



▶▶▶ **Generating pallet tags on demand brings greater efficiency to warehouse personnel, so they can quickly and easily check the product into a specific bin and know exactly where and what they have available.**

### RESULTS

**With this new system in place, efficiency has greatly improved:**

**Enhanced Lot Tracking:** Ability to track down to a 10-15 minute window on materials like corks, glass, or screw caps, including when those materials were added to the production lines.

**Real-Time Inventory Accuracy:** Greater visibility into dry goods inventories, with tighter controls on materials needed in advance of bottling. Sales can now see when new products are coming off the production line, enabling shorter sales cycles. Inventory accuracy for finished products improved to 99.9%.

**Food Safety Requirements:** Having an automated data collection solution allowed them to maintain a successful record of compliance and traceability. A couple of factors helped Scheid meet their ROI goal:

1. The solution is flexible enough to effectively manage both dry goods and finished goods.
2. Inventory management is more efficient now, so they aren't buying material they don't need.

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*"The system has provided great value to our operation and customers," said Perino. "We anticipated this type of investment would show returns immediately, which was spot on," he added.*

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## Are you looking for a way to improve processes with barcode technology?



Contact us today to find ways to streamline operating efficiencies throughout your warehouse. Email [sales@barcominc.com](mailto:sales@barcominc.com) or call **423-855-1822**.

*Scheid Family Wines produces over 20 regionally distributed brands for specific clients or distributors. For more information please visit [www.scheidfamilywines.com](http://www.scheidfamilywines.com).*

