



SA Winegrape Crush Survey 2019

Regional Summary Report

Currency Creek Wine Region

Wine Australia July 2019

DATUM: GDA94
 PROJECTION: MGA Zone 54
 DATE: 8th March 2017
 SOFTWARE: ESRI ArcGIS v10.4
 DATA SOURCE:
 Vineyard Block - Vinehealth Australia
 Wine Region - Wine Australia

Currency Creek Wine Region



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Currency Creek

Vintage overview

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2019 season in Currency Creek turned into one of the most challenging seen for many years.

Late winter rainfall assisted with replenishing poor soil moisture levels prior to budburst, but variable weather early in the season impacted on the timing of bud-burst and led to the first challenge to even-ness of shoot length and subsequently to fruit maturation. Strong storms in late spring provided some leaf and fruit damage but overall rainfall was low and continued that way for the balance of the season.

Flowering commenced with ideal conditions but several weeks of inclement weather events at this critical time deferred the later flowering vines even further, creating a greater difference between the timing of the early and late flowers which followed through to veraison.

Fruit set was good in the reds and average in the whites.

The season progressed adequately with little rainfall and low disease pressure until late January. Then, an extreme heat event led to a maximum of 46.8°C on 24th January and a temperature of over 40°C well into the night, which wreaked havoc with fruit condition. Despite having adequate moisture in the root zone, the vines were unable to take it up fast enough and the fruit suffered accordingly.

This extreme event was followed by several more hot days which together wiped out somewhere between 40-50 per cent of red fruit and 50-75 per cent of the white fruit with Sauvignon Blanc being the most affected.

The lack of rainfall late in the season allowed the fruit to be hung out until flavour ripeness caught up to physiological maturity. The resulting wines are very strong with great colour and intensity, although yields are much reduced.

David Watkins, Currency Creek Wine Region Association

OVERVIEW OF VINTAGE STATISTICS

The reported harvest from Currency Creek in 2019 was 3,139 tonnes, compared with 5,711 tonnes in 2018 – a reduction of 39 per cent on what was previously the lowest crop for at least 10 years (since crush reports have been separately collected for Currency Creek).

There were 12 respondents to the survey who reported crushing grapes from Currency Creek in 2019, compared with 11 in 2018.

Over the past five years (2014-2018), the average crush for the region has been 7,884 tonnes. The 2019 crush was 60 per cent lower than the average and the lowest ever recorded for the region.

The estimated total value of fruit from the region was \$3.2 million, compared with \$4.7 million in 2018, as a result of the lower tonnes crushed being partially offset by increases in average prices. Average prices for the two main varieties both increased significantly – Cabernet Sauvignon up by 13 per cent to \$1167 per tonne and Shiraz up by 18 per cent to \$1182 per tonne.

The price dispersion data shows that 100 per cent of all red purchased fruit and 65 per cent of all white purchased fruit from the region was purchased at \$600 or above.

There were no new plantings recorded in the region for the fourth year in a row. Total plantings are 995 hectares, three-quarters of which are red varieties. There has been little change in plantings in the past five years; the total planted area in Currency Creek in 2013 was 960 hectares.

Currency Creek

Winegrape intake summary table

	Total tonnes purchased	Price dispersion - number of tonnes in each price range					total value purchased grapes	Average purch. value per tonne	Change in price YoY	Winery grown fruit	Share of winery grown	Total crushed	Est total value ALL grapes
		< \$300	\$300 to <\$600	\$600 to <\$1500	\$1500 to <\$2000	\$2000+							
Red													
Cabernet Sauvignon	276			276			\$321,691	\$1,167	13%	309	53%	585	\$682,229
Durif										136	100%	136	\$168,365
Grenache										69	100%	69	\$121,601
Merlot	48			48						172	78%	220	\$131,796
Petit Verdot										35	100%	35	\$41,836
Pinot Noir										64	100%	64	\$108,042
Sangiovese	25			25					-100%		0%	25	\$32,892
Shiraz	687			667	21		\$812,437	\$1,182	18%	296	30%	984	\$1,162,528
Tempranillo	20				20						0%	20	\$29,370
Red Total	1,056			1,015	40		\$1,225,082	\$1,161	12%	1,081	51%	2,136	\$2,478,659
White													
Chardonnay	71		71							484	87%	555	\$302,334
Gewurztraminer										100	100%	100	\$82,432
Pinot Gris/Grigio	59			59						161	73%	220	\$229,963
Prosecco	22			22							0%	22	\$28,002
Sauvignon Blanc	49			49						57	54%	106	\$63,408
White Total	200		71	129			\$157,548	\$786	-4%	802	80%	1,003	\$706,139
Grand Total	1,256		71	1,145	40		\$1,382,630	\$1,101	10%	1,883	60%	3,139	\$3,184,797

Note: Where there are fewer than three purchasers of a variety, the average price and total value are not reported to protect confidentiality.

Currency Creek

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Year planted				Total area	% planted in 2018
	Pre-2016	2016	2017	2018		
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	298	0	0	0	298	0%
Grenache	11	0	0	0	11	0%
Merlot	60	0	0	0	60	0%
Pinot Noir	12	0	0	0	12	0%
Sangiovese	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Shiraz	339	0	0	0	339	0%
Other Red	26	0	0	0	26	0%
TOTAL RED WINEGRAPES	750	0	0	0	750	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	122	0	0	0	122	0%
Pinot Gris/Grigio	31	0	0	0	31	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	56	0	0	0	56	0%
Semillon	8	0	0	0	8	0%
Viognier	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Other White	20	0	0	0	20	0%
TOTAL WHITE WINEGRAPES	243	0	0	0	243	0%
Unknown variety	2	0	0	0	2	0%
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	995	0	0	0	995	1%

Source: Vinehealth Australia

Explanations and definitions

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VINTAGE SURVEY

The information for this report has been collected and analysed by Wine Australia as part of the Australian National Vintage Survey. The SA Winegrape Crush Survey Report has been prepared by Wine Australia on behalf of the South Australian Wine Industry Association, Wine Grape Growers South Australia and Primary Industries and Regions SA.

Maps and planting data tables are provided by Vinehealth Australia (see notes on planting data tables).

The survey publication is available on Wine Australia's website wineaustralia.com, the Vinehealth Australia website vinehealth.com.au and via links from the Wine Grape Council SA website wgcsa.com.au and the South Australian Wine Industry Association website winesa.com.au

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Note: data published in this report supercedes that in earlier reports. Minor variations in reported figures can occur due to data revisions.

Any questions about the report should be directed to:

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Explanations and definitions - continued

INTAKE (CURRENT VINTAGE) DATA

Definition of regions

Regions have been defined in accordance with Geographical Indication (GI) boundaries. If a GI region has not been declared, or produces less than 5,000 tonnes, then the data is aggregated into the relevant GI zone. Disaggregation of data into smaller regions such as Southern Fleurieu and Mount Benson is available on request from Wine Australia.

Total crush

The total crushed is the total tonnes of grapes crushed from a particular source region, whether processed in that region, another region in SA or interstate. All wineries in Australia are included in the survey collection process. However, not all wineries respond to the survey - therefore the total tonnage reported may underestimate the true crush. It is estimated that the overall response rate for the survey is 88 per cent; however, individual regions may vary. Generally, regions will have a higher response rate when there is a high proportion of purchased winegrapes within the region.

Reported fruit is separated into fruit produced from the winery's own or associated vineyards ("own grown") and from independent vineyards ("purchased").

Calculated average purchase value

The survey requests wineries to provide the total amount paid for each parcel of fruit purchased (or the price per tonne). This is the price paid for fruit of a particular variety at the point of receipt – NOT including freight. It includes any penalties or bonuses (eg Baumé) applied at the weighbridge, but DOES NOT INCLUDE other bonuses or adjustments such as end use quality bonuses, which are not available at the time the survey is conducted (May-June 2019).

The calculated average purchase value per tonne is the average amount paid per tonne of fruit across all wineries.

Winery grown grapes are not included in the calculation of average purchase value; nor are grapes grown by companies connected with the winery or under lease arrangements.

Average and total purchase values are not reported where there are fewer than three purchasers of a variety in a particular region. However the values are included in the calculation of totals for each region.

Important note on average purchase value

There is considerable variation in the pricing arrangements made by different wineries. For example, some wineries make adjustment payments based on the average value per tonne reported in this survey and some pay quality bonuses based on the end use of the product. These additional payments are not included in the reported figures. The average price also does not give any indication of the distribution of prices, or variables that go into individual contracts.

Price dispersion data (shaded columns in Intake Summary tables)

All purchases for each variety are grouped into price segments according to the price paid for that batch of fruit. The sum of tonnes in all the price segments may not match the total tonnes purchased where there are tonnes reported without an associated price.

Estimated total value of all grapes

The estimated total value of all grapes is calculated by multiplying the average purchase value per tonne by all tonnes crushed. If there is a variety where there are no purchases, then the average purchase value for the same variety across similar regions, or across all other varieties of the same colour in the same region is used to determine an estimated value for the own grown grapes.

Explanations and definitions - continued

PLANTING DATA

Source of planting data tables

Planting data is not collected by the Australian National Vintage Survey. The information is obtained from the vineyard register maintained by Vinehealth Australia.

Vinehealth Australia is required under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* to maintain a complete and accurate register of vineyard owners in the state. Vineyard owners with plantings of 0.5 hectares or more are required to register with Vinehealth Australia, and provide details of any changes made to these vineyard plantings within three months of any such change. This information is kept strictly confidential and provided for this survey in a deidentified and aggregated manner.

Explanatory notes for planting data tables

Regions are defined according to the Register of Australian Geographical Indications.

To protect confidentiality, the following rules are applied to reporting varieties:

- where there are fewer than 10 registered owners with plantings of a particular variety across the state, that variety is not separately identified in either the state or the regional reports but is grouped with “other red/white”, AND
- where there are fewer than three registered owners with a particular grape variety in a given region, that variety is not separately identified in the regional report but is grouped with “other red/white” unless it is a white variety listed in the top six, or red variety in the top five by planted area for the state for the current year.

- Planting data tables are current as at 30 April 2019 and include all plantings from the 2018-19 planting season.
- Reference to “other varieties” includes rootstock, multi-purpose and table-grape plantings.
- Vines planted in a particular year may include top-worked or replaced vines, as well as new plantings in virgin ground. Where vines have been replaced or topworked, the old variety record is removed. This explains why the area planted for earlier years may be different in the current report compared with previous reports.
- Where a zero (0) appears in a table, this may indicate the presence of a planting of less than 0.5 hectares, or it may indicate zero plantings. Rounding may produce slight discrepancies in totals.

For more information on the planting data in this report or about registration of vineyards, please contact the Vinehealth Australia office on (08) 8273 0550.