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 Vineyard Block - Vinehealth Australia
 Wine Region - Wine Australia

Wrattenbully Wine Region



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SA Winegrape Crush Survey

Regional Summary Report 2017

Wrattenbully Wine Region

Wine Australia July 2017

Wrattobully

Vintage overview

VINTAGE REPORT

The 2017 vintage will be remembered as a long and hard season, and brought back some memories of the 2011 vintage.

Coming out of winter was looking like the best start to the season we have had in years; creeks had been constantly flowing, soil moisture levels were high and plenty of ground water recharge had occurred. Bud burst occurred on par with the past couple of seasons and was relatively even, and with high moisture levels there were no significant frost events. Early growth of the vines was excellent with ample soil moisture to fuel good even and balanced growth.

Spring was one of the wettest on record, with constant nearly weekly rainfall events making disease control very difficult. Adding to this was the milder temperatures which fuelled higher vigour in the vines than the past couple of drier seasons. The cooler and wetter conditions of spring led to a late and extended flowering period, leading to quite a bit of variability in bunch ripeness going into Harvest.

Drier conditions returned in February and March which allowed for good even ripening of the fruit, with flavours, tannins and baumes developing well especially in Cabernet Sauvignon, which benefited from the absence of any significant heatwaves.

Harvesting of whites commenced in late February, a few weeks later than the past two seasons, but more in line with long term average. With favourable weather conditions, harvest continued into mid-March with the whites showing strong varietal characters, and high crisp natural acidity.

The bulk of the red harvest didn't start until April and this coincided with the return to wet and cold conditions making harvest very intermittent and drawn out.

The early harvested fruit is expressing the strong varietal characters that were seen on the vines, but the cooler wetter conditions made it more difficult to concentrate flavours in the later picked fruit. Despite the tough season the hard work and effort put in by the growers in the district has again paid dividends with very strong and varietal red wines being produced again this season, with Cabernet Sauvignon being the standout.

Tim Fletcher – Chairperson, Wrattobully Wine Region Association

OVERVIEW OF VINTAGE STATISTICS

The reported harvest from Wrattobully was 27,374 tonnes in 2017 compared with 23,606 tonnes in 2016.

The five-year average crush for Wrattobully is 20,918 tonnes. The 2017 crush was the highest in the five year period and 31% above the five year average. The smallest vintage in the past five years was 16,557 tonnes in 2015.

The total value of grapes increased from \$23 million to \$28.5 million due mainly to the increased tonnes crushed. There were also increases in prices paid for most reds: Shiraz increased by 2% to \$1,088 per tonne, Merlot by 14% to \$927 and Pinot Noir by 12% to \$849. Chardonnay also increased – up 4% to \$664, but Cabernet Sauvignon decreased by 5% to \$1,234 per tonne and Pinot Gris/Grigio by 9% to \$902 per tonne.

The price dispersion data shows that 84% of red tonnages were purchased at between \$600 and \$1500 and 13% at above \$1500, while for the whites, 77% was purchased between \$600 and \$1500 and 23% below \$600.

There were 11 hectares of new plantings in Wrattobully in 2016, similar to the two previous years. Almost all was in red varieties.

Wrattobully

Winegrape intake summary table

Variety	E Tonnes purchased	D (less than \$300- \$600)	C (\$600- \$1,500)	B (\$1,500- \$2,000)	A (above \$2000)	Total value purchased	Calc avg. purch value per tonnes	Change in price YoY	Winery grown fruit	Share of own grown	Total crushed	Est total value ALL grapes	
Red													
Cabernet Franc									2	100%	2	\$2,403	
Cabernet Sauvignon	3938		3%	84%	10%	3%	\$4,859,959	\$1,234	-5%	6480	62%	10418	\$12,855,994
Malbec	40											40	\$39,214
Merlot	790			83%	17%		\$732,073	\$927	14%	2617	77%	3407	\$3,157,771
Petit Verdot	3											3	\$3,684
Pinot Noir	465			100%			\$394,892	\$849	12%	416	47%	881	\$748,322
Sangiovese										77	100%	77	\$87,278
Shiraz	2393		6%	79%	16%		\$2,603,578	\$1,088	2%	4576	66%	6969	\$7,581,614
Tempranillo	58									9	14%	68	\$94,710
Total red	7688		3%	84%	11%	2%	\$8,715,049	\$1,134	-1%	14177	65%	21865	\$24,570,991
White													
Chardonnay	1007	7%	12%	80%			\$668,795	\$664	4%	1188	54%	2195	\$1,457,402
Gewurztraminer	7											7	\$5,754
Pinot Gris/Grigio	383		14%	86%			\$345,691	\$902	-9%	1215	76%	1598	\$1,442,123
Prosecco	92											92	\$46,095
Riesling	20			100%			\$13,260	\$650	8%	85	81%	105	\$68,348
Sauvignon Blanc	507		24%	76%			\$310,948	\$614	0%	904	64%	1410	\$865,441
Semillon										68	100%	68	\$47,042
Viognier										33	100%	33	\$22,562
Total white	2017	4%	19%	77%			\$1,390,542	\$690	-1%	3492	63%	5509	\$3,954,767
Total all varieties	9704	1%	7%	82%	9%	1%	\$10,105,591	\$1,041	0%	17669	65%	27374	\$28,525,758

Wrattobully

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Pre-2014	2014	2015	2016	Total area	% planted in 2016
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	1,200	0	11	2	1,212	0%
Malbec	5	2	0	2	8	19%
Merlot	281	0	0	2	283	1%
Other Red	9	0	0	0	9	0%
Petit Verdot	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Pinot Noir	63	0	0	0	63	0%
Shiraz	680	10	0	4	694	1%
Tempranillo	9	0	0	0	9	0%
Total red varieties	2,251	12	11	9	2,283	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	193	0	0	0	193	0%
Pinot Gris	98	0	0	2	99	2%
Prosecco	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Riesling	7	0	0	0	7	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	59	0	0	0	59	0%
Semillon	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Viognier	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Total white varieties	372	0	0	2	374	1%
Unknown variety	22	0	0	0	22	0%
Total all varieties	2,645	12	11	11	2,679	0%

Source: Vinehealth Australia

Explanations and definitions

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%; 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 2017).

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.

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. It should also be noted that in minor varieties there may sometimes be very few purchases contributing towards a calculated average purchase value.

Price dispersion data (shaded columns in Intake Summary tables)

All purchases for each variety are grouped into categories according to the price paid for that fruit. The tonnes in each category are converted into a percentage of the total tonnes purchased, giving an indication of what share of fruit was purchased in each price range category. The categories are given nominal titles of A to E for convenience but these do not correspond with grades used by any particular winery.

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 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 cont.d

PLANTING DATA

Source of planting data tables

Planting data is not collected by the 2017 Australian Wine Sector 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.

Vineyard plantings are recorded by Geographical Indication. Planting details for smaller regions not included in the survey report are available on request from Vinehealth Australia.

For more information on registration of vineyards, please contact the Vinehealth Australia office on (08) 8273 0550.

Explanatory notes for planting data tables

1. Planting data tables are current as at April 2017 and include all plantings from the 2016 planting season.
2. 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 2017 report compared with previous reports.
3. 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 variations between tables.

AUSTRALIAN WINE SECTOR SURVEY

The information for this report has been collected and analysed by Wine Australia as part of the Australian Wine Sector 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 provided by Brendan Tully, Vinehealth Australia.

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

Disclaimer

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