



Currency Creek Wine Region

Regional summary report

2012

DATUM: GDA94
 PROJECTION: MGA Zone 54
 DATE: 8th April 2011
 SOFTWARE: ESRI ArcGIS v10
 DATA SOURCE:
 Vineyard Blocks - PGISA
 Wine Regions - Wine Australia
 Localities - SA Gazetteer
 Roads - DTI

Currency Creek Wine Region

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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 the Board's office.

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 that are known to source fruit from South Australian vineyards are included in the survey collection process. However, not all wineries submit a survey form - therefore the total tonnage reported may underestimate the true crush. An estimate of the non-response rate for each region is provided below each intake summary report. Reported fruit is separated into fruit produced from the winery's own or associated vineyards ("own grown") and from independent vineyards ("purchased").

Crop value data

On the survey forms, wineries are asked to record **total purchase value**. This is the total amount 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.

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. The **estimated total value of purchased grapes** is calculated by multiplying the average purchase value per tonne by the total tonnes purchased. The **estimated total value of total 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.

Note: in small varieties there may sometimes be only one winery contributing towards a calculated average purchase value per tonne.

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. Therefore the average price should not be compared directly with an individual grower's arrangement.

Highest and lowest price

Wineries are asked to report the highest and lowest prices paid for any parcel of fruit of a particular variety, of any size. The highest of all highest prices, and the lowest of all lowest prices are reported – provided that at least three wineries have provided this information for any particular variety. *Note: the highest or lowest price may be for a very small parcel of fruit - and/or reflect an unusual pricing arrangement - eg payment by the hectare rather than per tonne, "spot market" sales of excess fruit etc.*

FORECASTS

Estimated supply

Supply forecasts have been calculated independently using the planting information obtained from the PGIBSA vineyard register (see below). They are calculated by multiplying the area of vines by an estimated yield figure determined separately for each variety in each region, which takes into account industry practices and objectives as well as historical averages. However, the supply forecasts do not make any allowance for future vine removals or mothballing, yield capping or the effects of ongoing water restrictions or unusual seasonal conditions.

Committed intake

Committed intake is the amount of fruit that wineries are *already* committed to take in, for a given future year. It is made up of winery grown fruit and contract purchases. Only existing or ongoing contracts are included – not intended future signings or renewals.

Explanations and Definitions

Available supply

Available supply (uncommitted fruit) is the difference between estimated supply and committed intake. It is the amount of fruit estimated to be available on the open (spot) market. NB If the committed intake is higher than the estimated supply, this indicates a discrepancy between the independent supply forecasts and the wineries' estimates of future production. In this case, available supply is recorded as zero – rather than as a negative number.

Comparing supply and committed intake

In order to compare supply with committed intake, the latter figures are “raised” to compensate for non-respondents. There is no raising of supply figures because it is assumed that the PGIBSA vineyard planting information is close to 100% complete. The non-response rate is calculated separately for each region and is indicated below the relevant tables.

PLANTING DATA

Derivation of planting data tables

Planting data is **not** derived from the 2012 South Australian Crush Survey of wineries. The information is obtained from the vineyard register maintained by the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia.

The Board is required under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* to maintain a complete and accurate register of grapegrowers in the state. All vineyard owners with more than 0.5 hectares are required by law to register with the Board, and to complete an accurate vineyard return each year, giving details of their plantings. This information is kept strictly confidential. An accurate vineyard register enables the Board to produce complete, up-to-date statistical information on vineyard plantings by variety, year planted and location.

For more information on registration of vineyards, please contact the Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board office on 08 8362 0488.

Explanatory notes for planting data tables

1. Planting data tables are current as at April 2011 and include all plantings from the 2010 planting season. Vines planted in a particular year may include topworked 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 2011 report compared with previous reports.
2. Vineyard plantings are recorded by Geographical Indication. Planting details for smaller regions not included in the survey report are available on request from the Board.
3. Where a 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 a slight error in totals or percentages.

Currency Creek

Vintage overview

Vintage report

Grape maturity for the 2012 vintage in the Currency Creek wine region developed two weeks earlier than the average season, with harvest commencing in the first week of February.

The lowest Winter rainfall in five years saw the growing season start with poor subsoil moisture levels which led to slow early season vine growth. Growing season temperatures from November to March were higher than normal after last year's cool season, despite very few extremely hot days.

Disease pressures were moderate with growers erring on the side of conservatism as a result of the carry over pressures from last year.

The 2012 vintage was an outstanding one from the viewpoint of fruit quality for the Currency Creek wine region. While all varieties produced high quality fruit during this vintage, the stand out for reds was Cabernet Sauvignon (followed closely by Merlot) and for whites was Chardonnay and Pinot Gris. It was evident early in the growing season that this was again going to be a superb Cabernet Sauvignon season with excellent berry size and ideal overall crop to canopy balance.

The later part of the maturation cycle occurred during the month of March. During this season, there was warmer weather than average, despite the odd rainfall event. This finish allowed the reds to ripen early and develop fully mature flavours along with soft and dusty tannins. The last fruit was picked around the end of March, two weeks earlier than normal and six weeks earlier than the 2011 vintage!

Crop yields were down for all varieties due primarily to berry weight, with some Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon blocks being substantially reduced. White varieties were less severely impacted but still exhibited lower than normal yields.

Overall, the 2012 vintage will be classed from a quality perspective as probably the best that the Currency Creek wine region has experienced since its inception.

*David Watkins, President
Currency Creek Wine Region Association*

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from Currency Creek was 5,748 tonnes in 2012, down 11.4% from 2011. The total value of grapes from Currency Creek decreased to \$4.6 million, compared with \$5.2 million in 2011. The average purchase value for red varieties increased – Cabernet Sauvignon up by \$68 per tonne to \$915 per tonne and Shiraz up by \$97 per tonne to \$827 per tonne. Whilst the white variety prices dropped – Sauvignon Blanc down by \$26 per tonne to \$674 per tonne and Chardonnay significantly dropped by \$363 per tonne to \$434 per tonne.

There were 8 hectares of new plantings in Currency Creek for the spring 2011 (including top-working and replacements), with the total area of planted vines in the region remaining stable at 965 hectares.

The estimated production from Currency Creek vineyards for 2013 is around 9,500 tonnes with a wineries committed intake of 4,600 tonnes, leaving 4,900 tonnes (51.6%) of uncommitted fruit.

By 2017, the estimated production is expected to remain stable at 9,600 tonnes, of which 4,548 tonnes is already committed.

Currency Creek

Winegrape intake summary - vintage 2012

Variety	Tonnes purchased	Lowest price ¹	Highest price ¹	Total value purchased grapes	Calc avg. purch. value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed ²	Est total value ALL grapes
RED								
Cabernet Sauvignon	1,660	\$400	\$1,305	\$1,519,207	\$915	199	1,859	\$1,700,951
Grenache	54			\$35,100	\$650	8	62	\$40,222
Merlot	563	\$600	\$1,296	\$568,460	\$1,010	113	676	\$682,536
Nebbiolo	0			\$0	\$0	4	4	\$3,385
Other Red	9			\$11,348	\$1,215	0	9	\$11,348
Petit Verdot	13			\$1,922	\$150	5	18	\$2,687
Pinot Noir	40			\$25,821	\$642	0	40	\$25,821
Sangiovese	80			\$60,071	\$754	13	92	\$69,652
Shiraz	1,441	\$350	\$1,305	\$1,191,787	\$827	97	1,539	\$1,272,382
Tempranillo	23			\$27,678	\$1,215	0	23	\$27,678
Total Red winegrapes	3,883			\$3,441,394		439	4,322	\$3,836,661
WHITE								
Chardonnay	47			\$20,245	\$434	598	644	\$279,851
Other White	28			\$29,270	\$1,035	0	28	\$29,270
Pinot Gris	37			\$42,619	\$1,144	55	92	\$105,529
Riesling	64			\$34,941	\$545	13	77	\$41,749
Sauvignon Blanc	244	\$300	\$1,035	\$164,383	\$674	274	518	\$348,760
Semillon	20			\$5,964	\$300	25	45	\$13,563
Traminer	14			\$8,400	\$600	0	14	\$8,400
Viognier	7			\$2,205	\$300	0	7	\$2,205
Total White winegrapes	462			\$308,027		964	1,426	\$829,328
Total All winegrapes	4,345			\$3,749,421		1,403	5,748	\$4,665,989

¹ Lowest and highest prices are only reported when there are at least three purchasers. Very low prices may relate to extremely small parcels of fruit or fruit delivered that was over the contract amount or penalised for other reasons.

² It is estimated that the non-response rate for Currency Creek is 0.7%.

Currency Creek

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Current area in hectares				Total area	% planted in 2011
	Pre-2009	2009	2010	2011		
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	295	0	0	0	295	0%
Grenache	11	0	0	0	11	0%
Lagrein	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Merlot	61	0	0	0	61	0%
Nebbiolo	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Petit Verdot	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Pinot Noir	3	8	0	8	19	41%
Sangiovese	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Shiraz	332	0	0	0	332	0%
Tempranillo	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Total red varieties	717	8	0	8	733	1%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	122	0	0	0	122	0%
Pinot Gris	17	0	0	0	17	0%
Riesling	15	0	0	0	15	0%
Roussanne	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	58	0	0	0	58	0%
Semillon	8	0	0	0	8	0%
Vermentino	3	0	0	0	3	0%
Viognier	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Total white winegrapes	229	0	0	0	229	0%
Unknown variety	3	0	0	0	3	0%
Total all varieties	949	8	0	8	965	1%

Currency Creek

Estimated supply and committed intake 2013 - 2017

Variety	2013				2015				2017			
	Est Supply ¹	Committed intake ²			Est Supply ¹	Committed intake ²			Est Supply ¹	Committed intake ²		
		Winery grapes	Contract purchases	Total committed intake		Winery grapes	Contract purchases	Total committed intake		Winery grapes	Contract purchases	Total committed intake
Red winegrapes												
Cabernet Sauvignon	2,947	187	716	903	2,947	187	716	903	2,947	187	716	903
Grenache	110	8	0	8	110	8	0	8	110	8	0	8
Merlot	613	166	91	257	613	166	91	257	613	166	91	257
Nebbiolo	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	4
Other Red	31	0	10	10	31	0	10	10	31	0	10	10
Petit Verdot	40	5	13	18	40	5	13	18	40	5	13	18
Pinot Noir	91	0	186	186	155	0	156	156	155	0	156	156
Sangiovese	39	13	39	51	39	13	39	51	39	13	39	51
Shiraz	3,321	116	1,006	1,122	3,321	116	1,006	1,122	3,321	116	942	1,057
Tempranillo	46	0	20	20	46	0	20	20	46	0	20	20
Total red winegrapes	7,237	498	2,080	2,579	7,301	498	2,050	2,549	7,301	498	1,986	2,484
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	1,218	1,138	60	1,198	1,218	1,138	60	1,198	1,218	1,138	60	1,198
Other White	46	0	30	30	46	0	30	30	46	0	30	30
Pinot Gris	167	105	36	142	167	105	36	142	167	105	36	142
Riesling	152	13	68	81	152	13	68	81	152	13	68	81
Sauvignon Blanc	585	223	337	560	585	223	337	560	585	223	337	560
Semillon	77	25	20	45	77	25	20	45	77	25	20	45
Traminer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viognier	62	0	7	7	62	0	7	7	62	0	7	7
Total white winegrapes	2,307	1,504	560	2,064	2,307	1,504	560	2,064	2,307	1,504	560	2,064
All winegrapes	9,544	2,002	2,640	4,642	9,608	2,002	2,610	4,612	9,608	2,002	2,546	4,548

¹ Supply forecast produced by PGIBSA based on the South Australian vineyard register

² A raising factor of 1.004 has been applied to committed intake to allow for non-respondents