



# SA Winegrape Crush Survey Regional Summary Report - 2014

## Currency Creek Wine Region

# 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 and committed intake*

The estimated supply and committed intake report has been removed from the 2014 Winegrape Crush Survey. It has been identified that the methodology used to determine the estimated supply requires review.

To assist industry stakeholders gain an understanding of state and regional estimated supply, the last 5 years actual total tonnes crushed at the state level and each region has been averaged. A range is then provided using the highest and lowest figures from the actual tonnes crushed.

The estimated committed intake is the amount of fruit that wineries are already committed to take in, for 2015. 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 cont.

## PLANTING DATA

### *Derivation of planting data tables*

Planting data is **not** derived from the 2014 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 2014 and include all plantings from the 2013 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 2013 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 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 a slight error in totals or percentages.

## Currency Creek

## Vintage overview

### *Vintage report*

Wet, cold, wind, heat, wet, cold - in that order - one of the most challenging, yet potentially rewarding, vintages since 2011.

Restricted spring vine growth due to cool wet conditions meant the usual canopy management techniques were abandoned early in the season, and a 'wait and see policy' was adopted until the soils warmed a little more. November winds arrived with force and continued through to flowering. These winds placed more pressure on the vines as they coincided with cloudy days, creating less than ideal conditions for pollination and canopy growth. Relief came mid December and the vines released all their pent up energy in a frenzy of unprecedented growth.

As sometimes happens, trying conditions resulted in some spectacular fruit, and that is certainly the case with the 2014 vintage. Fruit acid balance was ideal for early whites, with aromatic whites picked primarily before the heat spell in January 13th-18th, with other white varieties following in February,

Currency Creek whites were spared from the heat somewhat, as lower night time temperatures and lower "heat time" duration in the days gave the vines greater respite; however, the whites and reds did suffer where fruit was exposed to the sun.

The weather then reverted to its pre-heat-wave behaviour and cool cloudy conditions delayed ripening. Reds in Currency Creek benefited from extended hang time with little in the way of adverse weather events and were harvested each side of Easter and into the first week in May.

2014 was a protracted vintage, one of the longest we have experienced and subsequently the wines of 2014 are already showing good structure and character.

2014 was a growing season when the cooler regions shone across southern Australia and the Currency Creek wines are already showing a great deal of finesse and elegance while still maintaining powerful intensity.

*David Watkins and Nathan Shaw*  
*Currency Creek Wine Region Association*

### *Overview of vintage statistics*

*Please note: there was an estimated non-response rate of 19.7% and readers are cautioned to take this into account when considering the data tables.*

The harvest from Currency Creek was 7,269 tonnes in 2014, down by 2,763 tonnes (27.5%) from the 2013 harvest of 10,032 tonnes. The total value of grapes from Currency Creek decreased from \$7.4 million to \$5.5 million. The average purchase value for red varieties stabilised – Cabernet Sauvignon slightly down by \$7 per tonne to \$808 per tonne and with Shiraz up by \$41 per tonne to \$805 per tonne. Of the white varieties – Chardonnay decreased by \$72 per tonne to \$326 per tonne and Sauvignon Blanc down by \$26 per tonne to \$724 per tonne.

There were no new plantings in Currency Creek for the spring 2013 (including top-working and replacements). The total planted area of vines in the region remains stable at 960 hectares for a second year in a row.

Over the last 5 years, the average Currency Creek production was 8,619 tonnes, with a low of 5,748 tonnes in 2012 and a high of 11,881 tonnes in 2009. The 2014 crush is down by 18.6% against the last 5 year average. For 2015, the estimated committed intake is 6,045 tonnes.

Variety	Tonnes purchased	Lowest price <sup>1</sup>	Highest price <sup>1</sup>	Total value purchased grapes	Calc avg. purch. value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed <sup>2</sup>	Est total value ALL grapes
<b>RED</b>								
Cabernet Sauvignon	1,963	\$375	\$1,305	\$1,585,572	\$808	349	2,312	\$1,867,635
Merlot	598			\$437,188	\$731	110	708	\$517,518
Other red	9			\$10,376	\$1,215	36	36	\$39,915
Pinot Noir	57			\$51,354	\$900	0	57	\$51,354
Sangiovese	47			\$53,808	\$1,150	0	47	\$53,808
Shiraz	2,455	\$375	\$1,350	\$1,976,588	\$805	433	2,888	\$2,325,502
Tempranillo	17			\$21,117	\$1,215	0	17	\$21,117
<b>Total Red winegrapes</b>	<b>5,146</b>			<b>\$4,136,003</b>		<b>929</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>\$4,876,849</b>
<b>WHITE</b>								
Chardonnay	312			\$101,676	\$326	16	329	\$107,031
Other white	42			\$43,284	\$1,035	0	42	\$43,284
Pinot Gris	25			\$28,460	\$1,150	0	25	\$28,460
Riesling	57			\$40,180	\$700	0	57	\$40,180
Sauvignon Blanc	423	\$700	\$1,035	\$305,857	\$724	159	581	\$420,710
Semillon	29			\$5,281	\$180	18	47	\$8,440
Traminer	82			\$41,210	\$500	0	82	\$41,210
Viognier	7			\$2,184	\$300	24	31	\$9,357
<b>Total White winegrapes</b>	<b>978</b>			<b>\$568,132</b>		<b>217</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>\$698,672</b>
<b>Grand Total All winegrapes</b>	<b>6,124</b>			<b>\$4,704,135</b>		<b>1,146</b>	<b>7,269</b>	<b>\$5,575,521</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> It is estimated that the non-response rate for Currency Creek is 19.7%.

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Current area in hectares				Total area	% planted in 2013
	Pre-2011	2011	2012	2013		
<b>Red winegrapes</b>						
Cabernet Sauvignon	291	0	0	0	291	0%
Grenache	11	0	0	0	11	0%
Merlot	61	0	0	0	61	0%
Other Red	2	0	2	0	4	0%
Petit Verdot	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Pinot Noir	11	8	0	0	19	0%
Sangiovese	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Shiraz	326	0	0	0	326	0%
Tempranillo	5	0	0	0	5	0%
<b>Total red varieties</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>White winegrapes</b>						
Chardonnay	122	0	0	0	122	0%
Other White	24	0	2	0	26	0%
Pinot Gris	17	0	0	0	17	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	55	0	0	0	55	0%
Semillon	8	0	0	0	8	0%
Viognier	6	0	0	0	6	0%
<b>Total white varieties</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>0%</b>
Unknown variety	2	0	0	0	2	0%
<b>Total all varieties</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>0%</b>