



Wrattenbully wine region

Regional summary report

2008

Vintage report

In contrast to the previous year, this season started with excellent budburst and strong early growth, a few frosts that had localised impact but otherwise fine conditions.

Warm to hot weather, and one key rain event dominated the period to Christmas meaning excellent fruit set and shoot growth. From this point extreme heat was experienced for the month of January, followed by a coolish February, and a very hot March. April was mild by comparison with a slight improvement in rainfall.

Spring conditions this year were cold with some frosts, but different from the previous season in that we had rain through October and November providing a buffer against intense cold periods. Only three severe frosts were recorded that caused economic damage of an intermittent nature across the region

Vineyards (in the main) responded very well in the spring with excellent budburst. Spring conditions were conducive to strong growth and a good rain in November really set the season alight, delaying irrigation and promoting excellent shoot length. The hot January / cool February saw early vintage varieties begin on time with the later varieties (red) ready early in March up to four weeks in advance of normal picking times. This effectively compressed the vintage from twelve to six weeks, creating many logistical challenges at a level rarely experienced before.

Early reports are that this vintage has been strong across all varieties, with notable highlights reported across all producers, and very few disappointments.

In summary - an excellent, but very compressed vintage of both quality and quantity, that is beginning to show the benefits of vines growing in age and stature.

Peter Bird

Wrattobully Grapegrowers' Association

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from Wrattobully was 23,342 tonnes in 2008 – more than double the frost and drought-affected vintage of 2007, and the second highest recorded crop for this region. The total value of grapes from the region more than doubled - from \$13 million to \$30 million - and the average purchase values for Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon both increased by around \$70 per tonne, despite the higher tonnages.

There were only 12 hectares of new plantings in Wrattobully in spring 2007 (including top-working and replacements) compared with 16 hectares in 2006 and 27 hectares in 2005. This is an almost negligible amount – not even normal replacement level. However, almost all the new plantings (9 hectares) were in Pinot Noir, and the total area of this variety in Wrattobully has increased by 60% as a result.

The estimated production from Wrattobully for 2009 is 22,000 tonnes – the normal expectation for this region. Almost all of this estimated supply is already committed to the wineries, so there is not expected to be any surplus fruit.

By 2013, the estimated production is expected to fall to 16,000 tonnes, of which almost all (15,000 tonnes) is already under contract or winery grown fruit.

Across the state, even if growing conditions return to “normal”, there is expected to be little or no overall surplus compared with demand in 2013 (see State Summary section for details).

Wrattenbully

Winegrape intake summary - vintage 2008

Variety	Tonnes purchased	Lowest price ¹	Highest price ¹	Total value purchased grapes	Calc avg. purch. value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed	Est total value ALL grapes
Red winegrapes								
Cabernet Franc	0					1	1	\$1,606
Cabernet Sauvignon	4,939	\$250	\$2,200	\$6,928,471	\$1,403	3,754	8,693	\$12,193,812
Malbec	28			\$33,096	\$1,199	0	28	\$33,096
Merlot	1,271	\$700	\$2,167	\$1,677,530	\$1,319	1,458	2,730	\$3,601,819
Meunier	0					49	49	\$66,264
Petit Verdot	8			\$8,492	\$1,103	110	117	\$129,442
Pinot Noir	104			\$124,644	\$1,200	151	255	\$306,060
Sangiovese	0					33	33	\$44,895
Shiraz	3,857	\$250	\$4,000	\$5,125,822	\$1,329	3,867	7,724	\$10,264,729
Tempranillo	127			\$202,448	\$1,600	9	136	\$216,851
Total red winegrapes	10,333			\$14,100,503		9,431	19,765	\$26,858,574
White winegrapes								
Chardonnay	1,619	\$100	\$2,200	\$1,516,085	\$937	521	2,140	\$2,003,862
Marsanne	0					18	18	\$17,110
Pinot Gris	7			\$8,400	\$1,200	206	213	\$255,120
Riesling	21			\$20,083	\$950	57	78	\$73,853
Sauvignon Blanc	243	\$750	\$1,500	\$279,371	\$1,149	709	952	\$1,094,017
Semillon	34			\$33,550	\$1,000	62	95	\$95,250
Viognier	20			\$21,819	\$1,067	62	83	\$88,109
Total white winegrapes	1,944			\$1,879,308		1,634	3,578	\$3,627,320
Total all winegrapes²	12,277			\$15,979,810		11,065	23,342	\$30,485,894

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 The estimated non-response rate for Wrattenbully is 3%.

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Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Current area in hectares				Total area	% planted in 2007
	Pre-2005	2005	2006	2007		
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	1178	0	1	0	1178	0%
Malbec	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Merlot	311	1	14	0	326	0%
Other red	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Petit Verdot	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Pinot Noir	15	0	0	9	25	38%
Sangiovese	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Shiraz	655	5	24	1	685	0%
Tempranillo	9	0	0	0	9	0%
Total red winegrapes	2189	6	39	10	2244	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	202	6	1	0	209	0%
Marsanne	2	0	0	0	2	0%
Pinot Gris	0	11	77	0	88	0%
Riesling	7	0	0	0	7	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	38	0	4	2	44	4%
Semillon	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Viognier	9	2	0	0	11	0%
Total white winegrapes	264	19	82	2	367	1%
Total all varieties	2453	25	121	12	2610	0%

Wrattobully

Estimated supply and committed intake 2009 - 2013

Variety	2009				2011				2013			
	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake ²		Available supply ³	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake ²		Available supply ³	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake ²		Available supply ³
		Winery grapes	Contract purchases			Winery grapes	Contract purchases			Winery grapes	Contract purchases	
Red winegrapes												
Cabernet Franc	1	5	0	0	1	5	0	0	1	10	0	0
Cabernet Sauvignon	11,024	4,364	5,003	1,657	7,192	4,476	2,638	78	7,268	4,481	1,359	1,428
Malbec	18	0	0	18	36	0	0	36	36	0	0	36
Merlot	1,778	1,600	1,145	0	1,865	1,621	795	0	1,865	1,616	577	0
Meunier	16	42	0	0	28	42	0	0	28	42	0	0
Petit Verdot	53	78	6	0	56	78	6	0	56	78	6	0
Pinot Noir	309	179	39	91	322	193	71	59	322	193	45	84
Sangiovese	11	44	0	0	11	47	0	0	11	47	0	0
Shiraz	6,627	3,446	2,416	765	4,114	3,455	1,629	0	4,145	3,465	899	0
Tempranillo	27	10	73	0	27	10	69	0	27	10	69	0
Total red winegrapes	19,863	9,770	8,683	1,410	13,652	9,927	5,208	0	13,760	9,941	2,956	862
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	1,577	451	1,292	0	1,299	453	736	110	1,350	453	600	297
Marsanne	12	19	0	0	12	21	0	0	12	21	0	0
Pinot Gris	149	183	67	0	105	201	143	0	216	201	143	0
Riesling	45	59	41	0	25	62	0	0	25	62	0	0
Sauvignon Blanc	186	591	217	0	185	649	196	0	185	659	196	0
Semillon	59	49	33	0	78	49	0	29	114	49	0	66
Viognier	39	60	71	0	89	64	58	0	123	64	0	59
Total white winegrapes	2,067	1,411	1,722	0	1,792	1,498	1,133	0	2,025	1,507	939	0
Total all winegrapes	21,930	11,181	10,405	344	15,444	11,425	6,341	0	15,784	11,449	3,895	441

¹ Supply forecast produced by ABARE based on the ABS Vineyard Survey 2007

² A raising factor of 1.03 has been applied to committed intake to allow for non-respondents

³ Where total committed intake is greater than estimated supply, the available supply is recorded as zero.