

WRATTONBULLY VINTAGE OVERVIEW



Vintage report

Wrattobully wine region experienced a season that had a dry start with a few small frosts causing minimum damage, leading into a warm to hot summer period until the end of February, finishing with a cool March and temperate April.

Heat degree days were slightly below, but very close to the long term average. This made a pleasant change after the dramatic highs and lows of previous years!

Rainfall from December onwards was significant in that 30 - 40 mm fell towards the end of every month until April, giving some viticultural problems in February with splitting and botrytis becoming a serious concern. Shiraz crops suffered the worst during this period with up to 30% crop loss due to split and resultant shrivel.

The extra rainfall during summer and the single rainfall event each month assisted in keeping canopies in good condition through ripening, and maintaining above average temperatures in January. Fruit set improved on previous seasons due to the good weather; bunches were even and hen-and-chicken symptoms were not an issue.

Quality has been reported as good to excellent, with most winery specifications met or slightly exceeded.

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Overview of vintage statistics

Wrattobully produced 13,333 tonnes this vintage, which was similar to the 2001 vintage - considerably higher than the 2002 harvest. Despite the increased tonnages, there was still a very substantial (50%) shortfall - almost entirely in Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz.

The average purchase value of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz remained very similar to last year, reflecting probably a high proportion of contracted fruit, and the strong demand for grapes from this region in 2003.

The forecast for the region has shown a dramatic change since the 2002 survey. In particular, the estimated demand for Cabernet Sauvignon has been revised upward from around 11,000 tonnes to 17,000 tonnes, while production is expected to fall short by 7,000 tonnes (70%) in 2008. In the case of Shiraz, a demand has increased from around 9,000 tonnes to over 12,000 tonnes in 2007, with production only expected to be half that amount. White varieties, which are of only minor significance in the region, show growth of around 5,000 tonnes over the forecast period, but a surplus in Chardonnay is anticipated by 2008.

Most new planting was in Chardonnay (27% increase) while there was only 1% and 2% growth in Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz respectively.

WRATTONBULLY CURRENT PLANTINGS BY VARIETY AND YEAR PLANTED

Table 14.1

Area in hectares by year planted

Variety	Pre-99	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total	% planted 2002
RED WINEGRAPES							
BARBERA	0	0	0	1	0	1	0%
CABERNET FRANC	1	0	0	0	0	1	0%
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	709	106	54	107	14	991	1%
MALBEC	1	3	0	2	0	6	0%
MERLOT	143	32	16	38	7	237	3%
NEBBIOLO	1	2	0	1	0	3	0%
PETIT VERDOT	6	0	0	0	1	7	8%
PINOT NOIR	19	2	0	0	0	21	0%
SANGIOVESE	0	2	2	0	0	4	0%
SHIRAZ	316	61	29	78	12	496	2%
TEMPRANILLO	0	0	1	1	6	9	73%
OTHER RED	5	3	0	3	0	10	0%
TOTAL RED WINEGRAPES	1200	211	102	231	40	1785	2%
WHITE WINEGRAPES							
CHARDONNAY	51	0	7	33	33	124	27%
MARSANNE	2	0	0	0	0	2	0%
RIESLING	2	0	0	0	0	2	0%
SAUVIGNON BLANC	20	0	4	0	0	24	0%
SEMILLON	3	3	0	0	0	6	0%
VIOGNIER	0	5	0	3	2	9	18%
OTHER WHITE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL WHITE WINEGRAPES	78	7	11	36	35	167	21%
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	1278	218	113	267	75	1952	4%

WRATTONBULLY TONNES CRUSHED BY VARIETY - VINTAGE 2003

Table 14.2

Variety	Total winery grown	Total other growers	Total crushed	Total preferred	Tonnes from other growers as % of total	% of demand supplied	Number of wineries reporting tonnages (> 0)		
							Own	Other	Preferred
RED									
Cabernet Sauvignon	3356	3225	6581	10092	49%	65%	7	17	18
Malbec	0	9	9	9	100%	101%	0	1	1
Merlot	934	701	1635	1791	43%	91%	3	9	9
Meunier	21	0	21	21	0%	98%	1	0	1
Nebbiolo	13	0	13	13	0%	100%	1	0	1
Other red	1	0	1	1	0%	113%	1	0	1
Petit Verdot	95	0	95	16	0%	592%	2	0	1
Pinot Noir	234	0	234	234	0%	100%	2	0	2
Sangiovese	33	0	33	40	0%	82%	2	0	2
Shiraz	1911	1919	3829	6862	50%	56%	6	16	18
Tempranillo	3	0	3	10	0%	30%	1	0	1
Zinfandel	60	0	60	60	0%	100%	1	0	1
Total RED	6659	5854	12513	19149	47%	65%			
WHITE									
Chardonnay	325	188	512	614	37%	83%	3	6	8
Marsanne	9	0	9	9	0%	96%	1	0	1
Riesling	3	0	3	5	0%	55%	1	0	1
Sauvignon Blanc	212	32	245	258	13%	95%	1	2	3
Semillon	31	0	31	31	0%	101%	1	0	1
Viognier	19	0	19	19	0%	102%	1	0	1
Total WHITE	599	220	819	936	27%	88%			
Total for region	7258	6074	13333	20085					

WRATTONBULLY CROP VALUE DATA - VINTAGE 2003

Table 14.3

Variety (1)	Grower grown	Total crushed	estimated total value		lowest price (2)	highest price (2)	calc average purchase value per tonne (3)	
			purchased grapes	total grapes				
RED								
Cabernet Sauvignon	3225	6581	\$5,159,668	\$10,528,146	\$968	\$3,000	\$1,600	100%
Malbec	9	9	\$11,602	\$11,603			\$1,275	100%
Merlot	701	1635	\$1,083,742	\$2,527,670	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,546	100%
Shiraz	1919	3829	\$3,042,108	\$6,071,358	\$1,200	\$2,947	\$1,585	100%
Total RED	5854	12055	\$9,297,120	\$19,138,777				
WHITE								
Chardonnay	188	512	\$312,259	\$852,955	\$1,400	\$1,920	\$1,665	100%
Sauvignon Blanc	32	245	\$50,824	\$383,482			\$1,566	100%
Total WHITE	220	757	\$363,083	\$1,236,437				

(1) Only includes varieties where some fruit was purchased. Varieties where all fruit is winery grown are not shown in this table.

(2) The absence of lowest and highest prices means that fewer than three wineries supplied pricing data for each variety.

(3) This does not include end use bonuses or other adjustments determined post-receival.

WRATTONBULLY ESTIMATED AND PREFERRED FUTURE INTAKE OF GRAPES 2004 TO 2008

Table 14.4

Variety	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	estimated	preferred	estimated	preferred	estimated	preferred	estimated	preferred	estimated	preferred
RED										
Cabernet Sauvignon	10586	13092	10695	14945	11055	16527	11108	17852	10569	17458
Malbec	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Merlot	2653	2367	2715	2722	2862	3042	2914	3235	2909	3193
Meunier	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	0	0
Nebbiolo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other red	12	12	20	20	22	22	22	22	22	22
Petit Verdot	51	0	51	0	51	0	51	0	51	0
Pinot Noir	214	214	185	185	185	185	185	185	0	0
Sangiovese	34	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Shiraz	5392	8667	5784	10161	6141	11498	6306	12599	5929	12617
Tempranillo	10	10	52	52	89	89	89	89	89	89
Zinfandel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total for RED	19002	24448	19588	28171	20491	31449	20761	34068	19622	33433
WHITE										
Chardonnay	826	946	1058	1095	1365	1260	1521	1296	1303	1055
Marsanne	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Riesling	7	7	17	17	22	22	27	27	27	27
Sauvignon Blanc	396	396	416	416	441	441	441	441	441	441
Semillon	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Viognier	20	20	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Total for WHITE	1301	1421	1583	1620	1920	1815	2081	1856	1863	1615
Total for region	20303	25869	21171	29791	22411	33264	22842	35924	21485	35048

WRATTONBULLY PAST PRODUCTION AND PROJECTIONS FOR MAJOR VARIETIES 2001 - 2008

Figure 14.1

Past production and projections (major varieties)

