

Adelaide Hills Wine Region

Regional summary report

2008

Adelaide Hills

Vintage overview

Vintage report

Vintage 2008 was both early and highly condensed. This appears to be the “new normal” - not the exception.

Flowering and fruit-set weather conditions were nearly perfect - being fine sunny and dry during November, resulting in above average crop potential. Yields at vintage reflected this with all whites above average and some Chardonnay at record highs. Red varieties were slightly more variable but generally ended up slightly above average as well.

Rainfall during the 07/08 growing season was 300 mm, which is 64% below the long term average.

Even with the record heatwave in March and the daily maximum temperatures being higher than the long term averages, the degree-day accumulation was very close to average at 1277 (Balhannah) - which is much lower than last year's record of 1357 for the growing season. This was a result of below average minima right through the season.

The record heatwave in March showed what happens to vines without enough water and sadly some crop loss occurred as dry vines simply lost their leaves during the hot spell. However, crop loss was minimised because supplementary irrigation was available to most growers.

Record ripening rates caused a very large amount of fruit across all varieties to be ready to pick at the same time. The resulting pressure on harvesting, winery throughput and transport was very challenging, and as a result some fruit was overripe at the time of harvest.

In summary, imagine trying to fit twelve weeks' work into eight weeks and you will have some idea what vintage 2008 was like.

Tom Ayers

Phylloxera Board Central Regional Committee chairman

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from the Adelaide Hills was 34,618 tonnes in 2008, a 34% increase on the 2007 harvest and the second highest crop ever in this region. The total value of grapes from the Adelaide Hills increased by more than 35%, from \$42 million to \$57 million. The significant increases in average purchase values that occurred in 2007 were sustained for most major varieties despite the near record tonnage, with Sauvignon Blanc even increasing slightly to a new record of \$1911 per tonne.

New plantings in the Adelaide Hills in 2007 (including top-working and replacements) were only 77 hectares (2% of the total area) – almost all of which was Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. This rate of growth, although not high, is higher than the average across the state (1%).

The estimated production from the Adelaide Hills region for 2009 is 30,000 tonnes. 24,000 tonnes is already committed to the wineries, leaving around 6,000 tonnes (20%) uncontracted.

In 2013, the estimated production for the Adelaide Hills is 33,600 tonnes, of which only 15,000 tonnes is already under contract or winery grown fruit. This proportion of already committed fruit (less than 50%) is low compared with most other regions, and leaves around 18,000 tonnes yet to be contracted, or available on the open market. However, 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).

Adelaide Hills

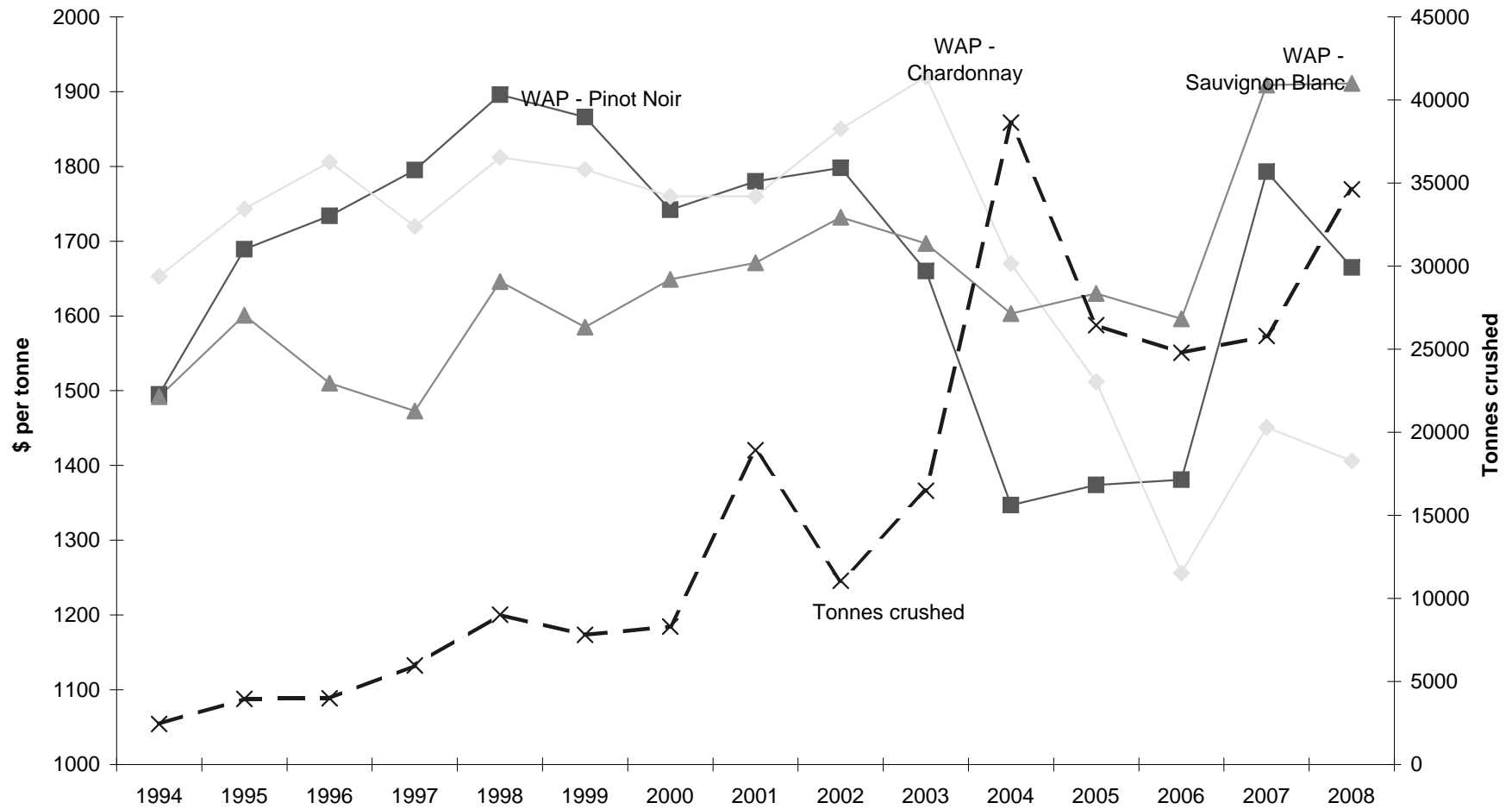
Winegrape intake summary - vintage 2008

| 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 | | | | | 8 | 8 | \$12,965 |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 829 | \$400 | \$2,322 | \$1,368,386 | \$1,650 | 291 | 1,121 | \$1,848,815 |
| Grenache | 16 | | | \$13,369 | \$835 | 0 | 16 | \$13,369 |
| Merlot | 1,291 | \$250 | \$2,322 | \$1,637,497 | \$1,268 | 180 | 1,472 | \$1,866,211 |
| Meunier | 415 | \$1,300 | \$2,100 | \$714,528 | \$1,721 | 5 | 421 | \$723,613 |
| Nebbiolo | 0 | | | | | 12 | 12 | \$19,415 |
| Petit Verdot | 20 | | | \$46,466 | \$2,322 | 1 | 21 | \$49,253 |
| Pinot Noir | 6,115 | \$800 | \$3,300 | \$10,183,435 | \$1,665 | 554 | 6,669 | \$11,105,880 |
| Sangiovese | 45 | | | \$74,826 | \$1,653 | 0 | 45 | \$74,826 |
| Shiraz | 1,356 | \$100 | \$4,300 | \$2,302,869 | \$1,699 | 532 | 1,888 | \$3,207,247 |
| Tempranillo | 78 | \$1,200 | \$2,322 | \$137,248 | \$1,754 | 16 | 94 | \$165,129 |
| Zinfandel | 0 | | | | | 27 | 27 | \$44,080 |
| Total red winegrapes | 10,167 | | | \$16,478,624 | | 1,627 | 11,794 | \$19,130,804 |
| White winegrapes | | | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 8,737 | \$100 | \$3,300 | \$12,284,423 | \$1,406 | 1,518 | 10,255 | \$14,418,496 |
| Other White | 17 | | | \$29,429 | \$1,731 | 1 | 18 | \$31,092 |
| Pinot Gris | 1,155 | \$1,200 | \$3,000 | \$2,742,562 | \$2,375 | 640 | 1,795 | \$4,263,282 |
| Riesling | 664 | \$250 | \$2,250 | \$881,695 | \$1,328 | 249 | 913 | \$1,212,723 |
| Sauvignon Blanc | 5,777 | \$100 | \$2,595 | \$11,037,816 | \$1,911 | 2,204 | 7,981 | \$15,248,141 |
| Semillon | 759 | \$100 | \$1,600 | \$891,674 | \$1,175 | 212 | 971 | \$1,140,630 |
| Traminer | 243 | \$900 | \$1,800 | \$280,444 | \$1,155 | 64 | 306 | \$353,959 |
| Verdelho | 57 | | | \$105,779 | \$1,872 | 0 | 57 | \$105,779 |
| Viognier | 465 | \$250 | \$2,322 | \$765,959 | \$1,646 | 62 | 528 | \$868,574 |
| Total white winegrapes | 17,874 | | | \$29,019,782 | | 4,950 | 22,824 | \$37,642,675 |
| Total all winegrapes² | 28,040 | | | \$45,498,406 | | 6,577 | 34,618 | \$56,773,479 |

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 the Adelaide Hills is 3%.

Historical Weighted Average Price vs tonnes crushed



Adelaide Hills

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 Franc | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0% |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 226 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 226 | 0% |
| Grenache | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0% |
| Merlot | 274 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 274 | 0% |
| Meunier (Pinot Meunier) | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 0% |
| Nebbiolo | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 15% |
| Other red | 12 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 9% |
| Petit Verdot | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0% |
| Pinot Noir | 547 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 560 | 0% |
| Sangiovese | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0% |
| Shiraz | 304 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 311 | 0% |
| Tempranillo | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0% |
| Total red winegrapes | 1430 | 7 | 13 | 3 | 1454 | 0% |
| White winegrapes | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 950 | 32 | 3 | 0 | 986 | 0% |
| Muscat Blanc (Frontignac) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0% |
| Other white | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 23% |
| Pinot Gris | 119 | 23 | 45 | 15 | 202 | 7% |
| Riesling | 101 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 104 | 0% |
| Sauvignon Blanc | 710 | 67 | 67 | 55 | 899 | 6% |
| Semillon | 94 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 0% |
| Traminer | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 2% |
| Verdelho | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0% |
| Viognier | 67 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 72 | 0% |
| Total white winegrapes | 2092 | 131 | 125 | 73 | 2421 | 3% |
| Rootstock Block | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7% |
| Unknown variety | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0% |
| Total all varieties | 3549 | 138 | 138 | 77 | 3901 | 2% |

Adelaide Hills

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 | 19 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 24 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 24 | 8 | 0 | 16 |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 1,560 | 379 | 841 | 340 | 1,781 | 383 | 479 | 919 | 1,944 | 383 | 234 | 1,327 |
| Grenache | 19 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 141 | 0 | 0 | 141 |
| Merlot | 2,336 | 150 | 1,007 | 1,179 | 2,500 | 121 | 624 | 1,755 | 2,500 | 121 | 438 | 1,941 |
| Meunier | 353 | 5 | 73 | 275 | 364 | 5 | 73 | 286 | 364 | 5 | 26 | 333 |
| Nebbiolo | 26 | 18 | 0 | 8 | 31 | 18 | 0 | 14 | 31 | 18 | 0 | 14 |
| Petit Verdot | 29 | 1 | 25 | 3 | 26 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 26 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| Pinot Noir | 4,923 | 636 | 3,295 | 992 | 5,313 | 651 | 2,377 | 2,286 | 5,329 | 658 | 1,415 | 3,256 |
| Sangiovese | 62 | 0 | 15 | 46 | 57 | 0 | 15 | 41 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| Shiraz | 2,376 | 699 | 1,053 | 625 | 2,415 | 730 | 696 | 990 | 2,497 | 730 | 444 | 1,323 |
| Tempranillo | 22 | 14 | 64 | 0 | 20 | 31 | 44 | 0 | 20 | 31 | 44 | 0 |
| Zinfandel | 2 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Total red winegrapes | 11,781 | 1,933 | 6,373 | 3,475 | 12,674 | 1,970 | 4,308 | 6,396 | 13,066 | 1,977 | 2,600 | 8,489 |
| White winegrapes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 8,655 | 1,347 | 4,926 | 2,382 | 8,661 | 1,351 | 3,447 | 3,863 | 8,845 | 1,357 | 1,644 | 5,844 |
| Other White | 6 | 6 | 11 | 0 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 0 | 28 | 8 | 11 | 9 |
| Pinot Gris | 1,363 | 737 | 654 | 0 | 1,797 | 843 | 597 | 357 | 2,184 | 861 | 408 | 915 |
| Riesling | 854 | 253 | 247 | 354 | 882 | 253 | 176 | 453 | 892 | 253 | 108 | 531 |
| Sauvignon Blanc | 6,012 | 2,550 | 4,326 | 0 | 6,435 | 2,737 | 3,704 | 0 | 6,724 | 2,750 | 2,679 | 1,294 |
| Semillon | 957 | 297 | 428 | 231 | 1,181 | 310 | 273 | 598 | 1,181 | 310 | 103 | 768 |
| Traminer | 183 | 57 | 0 | 126 | 146 | 59 | 0 | 86 | 146 | 59 | 0 | 86 |
| Verdelho | 158 | 0 | 41 | 116 | 149 | 0 | 41 | 107 | 149 | 0 | 0 | 149 |
| Viognier | 399 | 81 | 317 | 2 | 382 | 82 | 261 | 39 | 386 | 82 | 192 | 112 |
| Total white winegrapes | 18,588 | 5,328 | 10,950 | 2,310 | 19,648 | 5,643 | 8,510 | 5,494 | 20,535 | 5,681 | 5,145 | 9,709 |
| Total all winegrapes | 30,368 | 7,261 | 17,323 | 5,784 | 32,322 | 7,613 | 12,819 | 11,890 | 33,602 | 7,658 | 7,745 | 18,198 |

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

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

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