



Adelaide Plains Wine Region

Regional summary report

2007

Adelaide Plains

Vintage overview

Vintage report

The season started with the vines losing their leaves in response to very cold frosty days in June 2006. Winter-spring rainfall was well below average with no October rain and only just over four inches recorded in the June – November period. Many growers began earlier irrigation prior to bud burst with both underground water and back-up secondary treated water as a means to top up the soil profile. These irrigations made a major difference to Adelaide Plains shoot growth and final yields, compared with regions where irrigation water is not as readily available.

The 2006-07 growing season started one week earlier than average with bursting Chardonnay in the third week of August. Generally shoot growth was average, with mild to warm spring days. There was one isolated very hot day (39° C) in October. Flowering started soon after this with Chardonnay and finished by the end of the month with Cabernet Sauvignon. This early finish to flowering was a potential sign of an early harvest.

Unlike the previous November when the Gawler River broke its banks and there was major flooding, the only significant rain was on the 12th when 20mm fell. This was followed by dry, warm-hot weather and there was no mildew seen.

Similar to the previous months, December recorded only just above 20mm and most of this fell on one day in the 3rd week. The last week saw a four-day heat wave which pushed ripeness even faster than normal. January was milder and the early Sauvignon Blanc blocks were flavour ripe by the end of third week. The most significant rain event of the season occurred at this time, with 30mm falling on one day. More rain fell in other regions where significant berry split occurred, but on the Adelaide Plains very little was seen due to the higher soil moisture contents.

February saw no rain but two significant heat waves. Berry maturity was hard to track during these events but Shiraz was flavour ripe by the second week of the month. By early March the vintage was nearly over.

The white quality seemed to be less affected by the short growing season and there was good varietal flavour. However, red berry colour was lower than average but overall red quality stood up very well, probably due to the full healthy canopies.

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Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from the Adelaide Plains was 4,964 tonnes in 2007, slightly above the 2006 harvest, but still well below the 2005 harvest of 7,000 tonnes. The total value of grapes from the Adelaide Plains increased by 10% to just over \$4 million in 2007 - again well below the 2005 figure. The average purchase value for most varieties was slightly higher than in 2006, with Shiraz up by nearly \$200 per tonne (30%).

There were 14 hectares of new plantings recorded in the Adelaide Plains region in the 2006 planting season – almost all of which were Pinot Gris. As the total area has not increased, this indicates that the new plantings were replacements or top-worked over existing varieties.

The estimated production from the Adelaide Plains vineyards for 2008 is 5,000 tonnes, almost all (4,800 tonnes) of which is already committed to the wineries, leaving very little available on the spot market. By 2012, the estimated production is expected to grow to 7,000 tonnes. 5,000 tonnes is already under contract or winery grown fruit. This leaves around 2,000 tonnes likely to be made available on the open market. There is likely to be a return to over-supply on the open market across the state by 2012, if growing conditions return to “normal”.

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Winegrape intake summary – vintage 2007

Variety	Tonnes purchased	Lowest price ¹	Highest price	Total value purchased grapes	Calc avg. purchase value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed	Est total value ALL grapes
RED								
Cabernet Sauvignon	262	\$650	\$4,368	\$263,831	\$1,005	43	305	\$306,744
Grenache	343	\$450	\$1,000	\$207,969	\$607	6	349	\$211,860
Mataro	56			\$50,382	\$899	0	56	\$50,382
Merlot	319	\$650	\$1,500	\$282,972	\$886	47	366	\$324,348
Other Red	213			\$140,795	\$660	4	218	\$143,606
Petit Verdot	14			\$10,816	\$801	0	14	\$10,816
Pinot Noir	234			\$211,707	\$904	0	234	\$211,707
Ruby Cabernet	3			\$2,028	\$600	0	3	\$2,028
Sangiovese	11			\$9,136	\$801	50	61	\$49,142
Shiraz	1,063	\$500	\$1,622	\$886,434	\$834	109	1,172	\$977,658
Total red winegrapes	2,519			\$2,066,070		259	2,778	\$2,288,292
WHITE								
Chardonnay	920	\$550	\$950	\$700,656	\$761	31	951	\$724,030
Chenin Blanc	67			\$54,896	\$819	0	67	\$54,896
Colombard	42			\$29,081	\$700	197	239	\$167,260
Muscat Gordo Blanco	19			\$9,500	\$500	0	19	\$9,500
Riesling	69			\$41,340	\$600	5	74	\$44,340
Sauvignon Blanc	582	\$700	\$1,400	\$552,842	\$949	21	603	\$572,529
Semillon	65			\$51,680	\$800	0	65	\$51,680
Viognier	169			\$202,320	\$1,200	0	169	\$202,320
Total white winegrapes	1,932			\$1,642,314		254	2,186	\$1,826,555
Total all winegrapes	4,451			\$3,708,384		513	4,964	\$4,114,847

¹ Lowest and highest prices paid are only reported where there are at least three purchasers

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Current plantings and projected production 2008 - 2012

Variety	Current area in hectares by year planted						Estimated production 2008 - 2012				
	Pre-2004	2004	2005	2006	Total	% planted in 2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Red winegrapes											
Alicante Bouschet	2	0	0	0	2	0%	25	25	25	25	25
Cabernet Franc	3	0	0	0	3	0%	36	36	36	36	36
Cabernet Sauvignon	59	0	0	0	59	0%	823	823	823	823	823
Grenache	29	0	0	0	29	0%	404	404	404	404	404
Malbec	6	0	0	0	6	0%	89	89	89	89	89
Mataro (Mourvedre)	4	0	0	0	4	0%	49	49	49	49	49
Merlot	41	0	0	0	41	0%	579	579	579	579	579
Petit Verdot	2	0	0	0	2	0%	32	32	32	32	32
Pinot Noir	14	0	0	0	14	0%	196	196	196	196	196
Ruby Cabernet	8	0	0	0	8	0%	105	105	105	105	105
Sangiovese	6	0	0	0	6	0%	81	81	81	81	81
Shiraz	180	0	0	0	180	0%	2521	2521	2521	2521	2521
Tempranillo	0	0	0	2	2	100%	0	9	31	31	31
Zinfandel	2	0	0	0	2	0%	22	22	22	22	22
Total red winegrapes	354	0	0	2	356	1%	4962	4970	4993	4993	4993
White winegrapes											
Chardonnay	85	1	0	0	86	0%	1029	1032	1032	1032	1032
Chenin Blanc	5	0	0	0	5	0%	62	62	62	62	62
Colombard	10	0	0	0	10	0%	115	115	115	115	115
Muscat Blanc (Frontignac)	1	0	0	0	1	0%	12	12	12	12	12
Muscat Gordo Blanco	3	0	0	0	3	0%	30	30	30	30	30
Pinot Gris	0	0	0	12	12	100%	0	44	161	161	161
Riesling	17	0	0	0	17	0%	207	207	207	207	207
Sauvignon Blanc	49	7	0	0	56	0%	653	669	669	669	669
Semillon	9	0	0	0	9	0%	107	107	107	107	107
Verdelho	1	0	0	0	1	0%	17	17	17	17	17
Viognier	16	0	0	0	16	0%	196	196	196	196	196
Total white winegrapes	196	8	0	12	216	6%	2428	2491	2608	2608	2608
Total all varieties	550	8	0	14	573	2%	7390	7461	7601	7601	7601

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Estimated supply and committed intake 2008 - 2012

Variety	2008				2010				2012			
	Est Supply ¹	Winery grown grapes ²	Contract purchases ²	Un-contracted fruit ³	Est Supply ¹	Winery grown grapes ²	Contract purchases ²	Un-contracted fruit ³	Est Supply ¹	Winery grown grapes ²	Contract purchases ²	Un-contracted fruit ³
Red winegrapes												
Cabernet Sauvignon	823	59	155	610	823	59	155	610	823	59	155	610
Grenache	404	8	72	323	404	9	2	393	404	9	2	393
Mataro	49	0	40	9	49	0	40	9	49	0	40	9
Merlot	579	20	354	205	579	20	354	205	579	20	354	205
Other Red	47	5	0	42	47	7	0	40	47	8	0	39
Pinot Noir	196	0	262	-66	196	0	262	-66	196	0	262	-66
Ruby Cabernet	105	0	0	105	105	0	0	105	105	0	0	105
Sangiovese	81	35	0	45	81	35	0	45	81	40	0	40
Shiraz	2,521	95	1,083	1,342	2,521	95	982	1,444	2,521	100	982	1,438
Total red winegrapes	4,962	223	1,967	2,772	4,993	226	1,795	2,973	4,993	237	1,795	2,961
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	1,029	36	998	-5	1,032	36	953	43	1,032	36	953	43
Chenin Blanc	62	0	0	62	62	0	0	62	62	0	0	62
Colombard	115	223	81	-188	115	223	81	-188	115	223	81	-188
Muscat Gordo Blanco	30	0	30	0	30	0	30	0	30	0	30	0
Pinot Gris	0	0	101	-101	161	0	303	-143	161	0	303	-143
Riesling	207	28	80	99	207	28	43	135	207	28	43	135
Sauvignon Blanc	653	20	804	-172	669	20	814	-166	669	20	814	-166
Semillon	107	0	51	56	107	0	51	56	107	0	51	56
Viognier	196	0	202	-6	196	0	202	-6	196	0	202	-6
Total white winegrapes	2,428	308	2,348	-227	2,608	308	2,478	-178	2,608	308	2,478	-178
Total all winegrapes	7,390	530	4,315	2,545	7,601	533	4,273	2,795	7,601	544	4,273	2,784

¹ Supply forecast derived from planting details recorded on PGIB vineyard register (see planting report)

² A raising factor of 1.01 has been applied to these figures to allow for non-respondents

³ A negative number indicates supply forecast is below wineries' estimated commitment

