



Eden Valley Wine Region

Regional summary report

2008

Vintage report

For the second year in a row the Eden Valley region experienced rainfall that was significantly below average. This was particularly evident over the winter period where precipitation in many cases was not adequate to fill the region's farm dams enough for best practice irrigation. Despite this, all vineyards in the core of Eden Valley were able to reach field capacity by budburst. During the critical summer months, precipitation was virtually nil which meant that spray programs throughout the season were significantly reduced due to a general lack of disease pressure. Whilst maximum temperatures deviated above means over this period, it is interesting to note that there was less deviation in the minimum temperatures which remained close to average. The only exception was February where weather conditions became extremely mild and average temperatures fell below average. Like all of the major grape growing regions within the state, Eden Valley experienced a significant heat wave in March where day time temperatures, over a 16 day period, consistently reached 35°C and above.

In those areas of adequate water, vegetative growth from flowering right up until the end of harvest remained at good levels; however, premature leaf loss in response to limited supplies of water in the latter part of the season became apparent particularly over the hotter period in March.

Vintage 2008 commenced during the second week of February which was almost two weeks earlier than average. Given the lower than normal rainfall throughout the season, expectations were for a vintage that potentially was lower than average. After a good flowering and set period plus mild conditions in February, bunch size and weight increased and yields responded by being slightly above average. Much of the latter part of vintage was compressed and by the end of March very few grapes remained. Success in terms of quality and yield in this region related to each site's capacity to either store soil moisture or store enough water for supplementary irrigation.

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Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board*

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from Eden Valley was 13,797 tonnes in 2008 compared with 8,607 tonnes in 2007. It was the third highest crop from this region since 2000. The total value of grapes from the region was nearly \$20 million – almost double the 2007 figure of \$11 million; the average purchase value for the major varieties increased substantially (Riesling by \$200 per tonne, Chardonnay and Shiraz by \$100 per tonne) despite the larger production.

New plantings in Eden Valley in spring 2007 (including top-working and replacements) amounted to 26 hectares (approximately 1% of the total area) – nearly half in Riesling. While this is a very small amount, it is higher than in 2006.

The estimated production from Eden Valley for 2009 is around 13,000 tonnes. The wineries' committed intake is around 15,500 tonnes, so there is not likely to be any surplus fruit, particularly if the current dry conditions continue. There is not projected to be any significant increase in production by 2013, based on the low level of new plantings over the past few years. The wineries' committed intake still exceeds the estimated production at that time, indicating strong ongoing demand from this region.

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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	6			\$10,944	\$1,800	3	9	\$15,462
Cabernet Sauvignon	598	\$800	\$5,730	\$850,658	\$1,422	591	1,189	\$1,690,746
Grenache	15			\$9,072	\$611	13	28	\$17,160
Mataro	37			\$46,070	\$1,248	0	37	\$46,070
Merlot	186	\$600	\$1,500	\$204,731	\$1,101	147	333	\$366,405
Meunier	0					33	33	\$51,989
Other Red	13			\$23,505	\$1,808	16	29	\$49,071
Petit Verdot	5			\$6,216	\$1,200	36	41	\$49,416
Pinot Noir	308	\$650	\$1,600	\$347,834	\$1,130	321	629	\$710,150
Shiraz	2,276	\$800	\$8,000	\$3,864,331	\$1,698	1,241	3,516	\$5,971,258
Zinfandel	0					4	4	\$6,230
Total red winegrapes	3,444			\$5,363,361		2,407	5,851	\$8,979,968
White winegrapes								
Chardonnay	1,118	\$500	\$1,600	\$1,322,767	\$1,183	1,143	2,261	\$2,674,754
Muscat a Petit Grains Blanc	17	\$650	\$1,200	\$15,566	\$939	0	17	\$15,566
Other White	7			\$10,150	\$1,450	4	11	\$15,950
Pinot Gris	24			\$34,050	\$1,446	217	240	\$347,715
Riesling	1,765	\$250	\$2,550	\$2,582,015	\$1,463	2,038	3,803	\$5,563,687
Sauvignon Blanc	189	\$1,000	\$1,800	\$275,365	\$1,461	363	552	\$806,184
Semillon	375	\$600	\$1,600	\$378,106	\$1,008	52	427	\$430,664
Traminer	126	\$810	\$1,500	\$157,066	\$1,243	110	237	\$294,079
Verdelho	8			\$8,470	\$1,000	0	8	\$8,470
Viognier	282			\$473,267	\$1,676	107	389	\$652,901
Total white winegrapes	3,911			\$5,256,821		4,035	7,946	\$10,809,970
Total all winegrapes²	7,355			\$10,620,182		6,442	13,797	\$19,789,937

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 Eden Valley is 7%.

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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 Franc	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Cabernet Sauvignon	311	0	0	0	311	0%
Grenache	20	0	0	0	20	0%
Mataro (Mourvedre)	7	0	0	0	7	0%
Merlot	87	0	0	0	87	0%
Other red	11	0	0	1	12	5%
Petit Verdot	11	0	0	0	11	0%
Pinot Noir	57	3	4	0	63	0%
Shiraz	677	5	0	3	685	0%
Total red winegrapes	1187	8	4	4	1203	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	279	3	6	5	294	2%
Other white	10	1	1	0	11	0%
Pinot Gris	21	4	3	2	30	8%
Riesling	529	4	5	10	548	2%
Sauvignon Blanc	46	2	2	5	54	9%
Semillon	47	0	0	0	47	0%
Traminer	26	0	0	0	26	0%
Viognier	42	8	1	0	51	0%
Total white winegrapes	998	22	19	22	1061	2%
Total all varieties	2185	30	23	26	2264	1%

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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	11	3	13	0	15	3	13	0	15	3	13	0
Cabernet Sauvignon	1,836	1,012	768	55	1,605	1,017	695	0	1,605	1,020	671	0
Grenache	30	18	97	0	29	19	97	0	29	19	11	0
Mataro	62	1	37	24	50	2	37	10	50	3	37	9
Merlot	514	157	255	102	431	141	235	55	431	146	235	49
Meunier	16	22	0	0	18	22	0	0	18	22	0	0
Nebbiolo	4	4	0	0	6	4	0	1	6	4	0	1
Other Red	24	5	16	3	29	5	16	7	29	5	16	7
Petit Verdot	7	29	5	0	6	29	5	0	6	29	5	0
Pinot Noir	421	298	275	0	448	298	281	0	517	298	167	52
Shiraz	3,251	1,357	2,439	0	2,941	1,397	2,316	0	2,941	1,397	2,033	0
Tempranillo	9	6	0	2	6	6	0	0	6	6	0	0
Zinfandel	6	4	0	2	5	4	0	1	5	4	0	1
Total red winegrapes	6,190	2,918	3,906	0	5,589	2,948	3,696	0	5,658	2,958	3,188	0
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	1,794	1,168	1,262	0	1,649	1,168	1,022	0	1,739	1,172	695	0
Muscat a Petit Grains Blanc	1	0	21	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	21	0
Other White	25	4	16	10	24	10	24	1	24	18	24	1
Pinot Gris	122	185	38	0	128	185	41	0	149	185	41	0
Riesling	3,813	2,080	2,226	0	3,731	2,112	2,169	0	3,788	2,145	1,775	0
Sauvignon Blanc	420	386	178	0	378	391	205	0	378	391	195	0
Semillon	456	50	436	0	434	50	436	0	434	50	372	12
Traminer	192	87	162	0	147	87	162	0	147	87	153	0
Viognier	264	115	290	0	190	116	293	0	200	116	293	0
Total white winegrapes	7,087	4,075	4,631	0	6,683	4,118	4,373	0	6,861	4,163	3,568	0
Total all winegrapes	13,277	6,993	8,538	0	12,272	7,067	8,069	0	12,518	7,121	6,756	0

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

² A raising factor of 1.07 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.