

Wrattobully

WRATTONBULLY VINTAGE OVERVIEW

Vintage report

The spring patterns this year have been as wet as we have seen for a decade, soil moisture profiles at the end of winter were full, and frosts were few. The drama started when spring temperatures continued right through to January. The rains virtually stopped in December, with only 25mm recorded for the 4 months of 2002 to April against the expected average of 114mm.

In contrast to last year, where climatic indices were much higher than long term averages, the key feature this year was that the mean maximum and minimum temperatures during October to April were very much lower than the averages, culminating in the coolest summer on record. The number of heat degree days was 1185, compared with 1901 in 2001, and a long term average of 1507 for the region.

The effect of this was that the season was significantly shorter, in terms of the hours during the season available for ripening. Wind played a significant part this year with very few calm days.

The extended spring conditions created many problems, including excessive vigour in Shiraz, protracted flowering due to the cool spring conditions, poor flowering due to rain and wind and (in the case of Merlot) flower caps staying on the flower not letting stamens pollinate the ovum.

Vintage itself was a sombre affair, with hopes of reasonable yields evaporating every time the harvester started. Yields were on average down by 50% on budgets and 60-70% on the previous year. However, the earlier flowering varieties (Chardonnay and Pinot Noir) were not affected as dramatically; nor were some younger vineyards and those who had left high bud numbers (range 60-80 buds/vine).

See map of Wrattobully GI on page 104.

The summer period (December to the end of April) was warm to hot and exceedingly dry which put pressure on irrigation and took pressure off the need to control fungal disease. The long 'Indian Summer' rescued the potentially disastrous low yielding vintage with the sweetener that most producers were very happy with the eventual quality.

Peter Freckleton

Overview of vintage statistics

Wrattobully produced 8683 tonnes this vintage, which was down by 46% on last year. There was a 50% shortfall in red varieties - with Merlot and Shiraz particularly affected.

Weighted average weighbridge prices (WAWP) were up for Shiraz and Merlot compared with 2001; the price of Cabernet Sauvignon fell by only \$15 per tonne, which was much less than in most regions this year.

The forecast for the region is for slight growth in red varieties from 15,500 tonnes in 2003 to 17,000 tonnes in 2007. However, the shortfall will be significant - being over 7,000 tonnes, or 45%. White varieties are expected to grow by over 50% during the forecast period; however, white varieties will still account for less than 10% of the region's production.

WRATTONBULLY PRICE AND BAUME DATA - VINTAGE 2002

Table 15.1

| Variety (1) | Grower grown | Total crushed | weighted average | | estimated total value | | lowest price | highest price | weighted average weighbridge price (\$) | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|---|------|
| | | | baumé | | purchased grapes | total grapes | | | | |
| RED | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 2,008 | 4,393 | 13.5 | 99% | \$3,200,563 | \$7,001,616 | \$800 | \$2,250 | \$1,594 | 100% |
| Merlot | 297 | 641 | 13.3 | 100% | \$465,900 | \$1,003,441 | \$1,200 | \$2,110 | \$1,566 | 100% |
| Shiraz | 1,149 | 2,515 | 13.8 | 90% | \$1,824,360 | \$3,991,723 | \$1,250 | \$2,281 | \$1,587 | 100% |
| Total RED | 3,455 | 7,548 | | | \$5,490,823 | \$11,996,780 | | | | |
| WHITE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 132 | 387 | 13.4 | 79% | \$194,408 | \$569,703 | \$1,350 | \$1,625 | \$1,473 | 100% |
| Total WHITE | 132 | 387 | | | \$194,408 | \$569,703 | | | | |

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

(2) This price does not include end use or other bonuses paid after the weighbridge.

WRATTONBULLY TONNES CRUSHED BY VARIETY - VINTAGE 2002

Table 15.2

| 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) for | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | Own | Purchased | Preferred |
| RED | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabernet Franc | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0% | 50% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 2385 | 2008 | 4393 | 7107 | 46% | 62% | 7 | 14 | 15 |
| Merlot | 343 | 297 | 641 | 1507 | 46% | 43% | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Meunier | 13 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 0% | 97% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Nebbiolo | 14 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0% | 103% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Other red | 8 | 0 | 8 | 9 | 0% | 86% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Petit Verdot | 32 | 0 | 32 | 8 | 0% | 395% | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Pinot Noir | 165 | 0 | 165 | 165 | 0% | 100% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sangiovese | 31 | 0 | 31 | 31 | 0% | 99% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Shiraz | 1365 | 1149 | 2515 | 6238 | 46% | 40% | 7 | 15 | 16 |
| Zinfandel | 44 | 0 | 44 | 44 | 0% | 100% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total RED | 4402 | 3455 | 7856 | 15140 | 44% | 52% | | | |
| WHITE | | | | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 255 | 132 | 387 | 478 | 34% | 81% | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| Marsanne | 6 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0% | 96% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Riesling | 12 | 0 | 12 | 16 | 0% | 75% | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Sauvignon Blanc | 379 | 0 | 379 | 400 | 0% | 95% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Semillon | 37 | 0 | 37 | 37 | 0% | 99% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Viognier | 6 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0% | 106% | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total WHITE | 694 | 132 | 826 | 943 | 16% | 88% | | | |
| Grand Total (red and white) | 5096 | 3587 | 8683 | 16083 | | | | | |

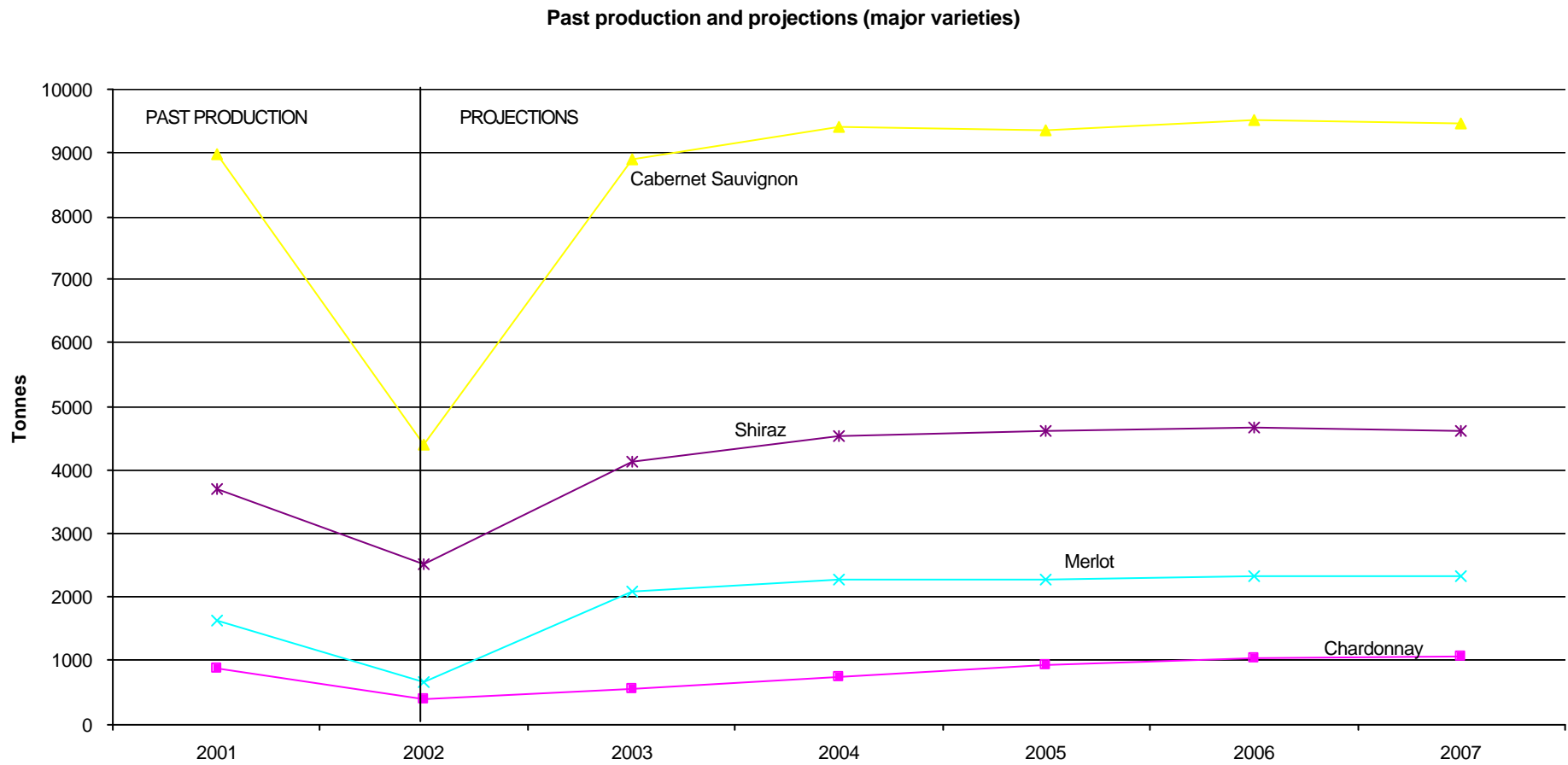
WRATTONBULLY ESTIMATED AND PREFERRED FUTURE INTAKE OF GRAPES 2003 TO 2007

Table 15.3

| Variety | 2003 | | 2004 | | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | estimated | preferred | estimated | preferred | estimated | preferred | estimated | preferred | estimated | preferred |
| RED | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabernet Franc | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Cabernet Sauvignon | 8898 | 8228 | 9395 | 9203 | 9346 | 10040 | 9523 | 10855 | 9452 | 11570 |
| Malbec | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| Merlot | 2098 | 1701 | 2278 | 1949 | 2270 | 2215 | 2350 | 2437 | 2350 | 2653 |
| Meunier | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| Nebbiolo | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| Other red | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| Petit Verdot | 34 | 8 | 34 | 8 | 34 | 8 | 34 | 8 | 34 | 8 |
| Pinot Noir | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 |
| Sangiovese | 32 | 38 | 36 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 |
| Shiraz | 4137 | 6992 | 4542 | 7719 | 4606 | 8408 | 4675 | 9139 | 4632 | 9865 |
| Tempranillo | 2 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 50 | 50 | 87 | 87 | 87 | 87 |
| Zinfandel | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Total for RED | 15526 | 17300 | 16616 | 19250 | 16676 | 21092 | 17042 | 22899 | 16927 | 24556 |
| WHITE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chardonnay | 549 | 621 | 734 | 822 | 936 | 1040 | 1036 | 1156 | 1061 | 1181 |
| Marsanne | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Riesling | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Sauvignon Blanc | 355 | 400 | 365 | 450 | 385 | 450 | 395 | 500 | 395 | 500 |
| Semillon | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 42 | 0 |
| Viognier | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Total for WHITE | 1007 | 1082 | 1202 | 1333 | 1444 | 1571 | 1554 | 1737 | 1579 | 1762 |

WRATTONBULLY PAST PRODUCTION AND PROJECTIONS FOR MAJOR VARIETIES 2001 - 2007

Figure 15.1



WRATTONBULLY CURRENT PLANTINGS BY VARIETY AND YEAR PLANTED

Table 15.4

| Variety | Year planted - area in hectares | | | | | Total | % planted in 2001 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Pre-98 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | | |
| RED WINEGRAPES | | | | | | | |
| CABERNET SAUVIGNON | 569 | 237 | 57 | 61 | 107 | 1031 | 10% |
| MALBEC | 0 | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 6 | 34% |
| MERLOT | 86 | 69 | 20 | 12 | 38 | 225 | 17% |
| NEBBIOLO | 1 | - | 2 | - | 1 | 3 | 20% |
| PETIT VERDOT | 4 | 4 | 0 | - | - | 9 | 0% |
| PINOT MEUNIER | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 0% |
| PINOT NOIR | 22 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 26 | 0% |
| SANGIOVESE | 0 | - | 2 | 4 | - | 6 | 0% |
| SHIRAZ | 256 | 124 | 48 | 22 | 78 | 528 | 15% |
| TEMPRANILLO | 0 | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 59% |
| ZINFANDEL | 0 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 4 | 0% |
| OTHER RED | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 71% |
| TOTAL RED WINEGRAPES | 943 | 438 | 137 | 100 | 231 | 1849 | 13% |
| WHITE WINEGRAPES | | | | | | | |
| CHARDONNAY | 48 | 3 | - | - | 23 | 74 | 31% |
| SAUVIGNON BLANC | 20 | - | - | - | - | 20 | 0% |
| SEMILLON | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | 6 | 0% |
| VIOGNIER | 0 | - | 5 | - | 3 | 7 | 38% |
| OTHER WHITE | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0% |
| TOTAL WHITE WINEGRAPES | 74 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 26 | 112 | 23% |
| TOTAL ALL VARIETIES | 1017 | 443 | 144 | 100 | 257 | 1961 | 13% |

