



Wrattenbully wine region

Regional summary report

2007

Wrattenbully

Vintage overview

Vintage report

Wrattenbully experienced a very dry winter period that led to a very cold and dry spring with many frosts. 70% of the region was severely affected – with half of those suffering total crop loss. Summer continued to be dry with one notable exception in January with 80 – 100mm of rain falling in the space of three days, easing what was becoming a very difficult year, and setting up the ‘non frosted’ vineyards for quite a reasonable finish.

Most producers used twice as much irrigation as normal, with those who started early receiving the greatest rewards.

The HDD of 1820 against the long term average of 1508 was surprising given the cold October temperatures, yet went a long way to explaining why vintage started up to three weeks early, and finished four weeks early. Most vineyards had completed vintage by the 4th of April.

In most cases, the fruit left behind after the frosts suffered from poor, short inconsistent canopies that either had secondary fruit mixed in with primary fruit, or struggled for adequate berry size. On the bright side, receiving wineries all had ample capacity to take more fruit in, and could have handled intake of nearly twice the intake experienced, quite comfortably. The presence of such high HDDs has seen some very high quality parcels delivered, despite the difficult year.

Generally, little or no disease pressure was felt, although wingless grasshopper populations did threaten some areas. The drought however proved a very effective break to the lifecycle and it is expected that hopper populations will have been reduced dramatically.

In summary: a very difficult year with frosts and extremely dry conditions proving challenging. Only 30% of the expected yield occurred with the irony being that some parcels are likely to be exceptional. A good year to have behind us!

Peter Bird
Wrattenbully Grapegrowers' Association

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from Wrattenbully was 10,096 tonnes in 2007, less than half of the 2006 harvest. The total value of grapes from the region decreased from \$25 million to \$13 million but the average purchase values for the major varieties generally increased, with Shiraz and Chardonnay each up by around \$200 per tonne.

There were only 16 hectares of new plantings in Wrattenbully in spring 2006 (including top-working and replacements) compared with 27 hectares the previous year. Almost all the new plantings were in Cabernet Sauvignon. Although the amount of new plantings is very small, as appears to be the case across South Australia, there is no indication of any significant removal of grapevines being undertaken.

The estimated production from the Wrattenbully region for 2008 is 20,000 tonnes due to the after-effects of the severe frosts in 2006, and ongoing dry conditions. 22,000 tonnes is already committed to the wineries, there is not expected to be any surplus fruit.

By 2012, the estimated production is 23,000 tonnes, of which 75% (18,000 tonnes) is already under contract or winery grown fruit. This leaves around 5,000 tonnes 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” (see State Summary section for details).

Wrattobully

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	2,988	\$500	\$2,200	\$3,980,331	\$1,332	2,233	5,221	\$6,955,373
Malbec	14			\$14,960	\$1,100	0	14	\$14,960
Merlot	582	\$800	\$2,105	\$802,992	\$1,379	602	1,184	\$1,633,027
Other Red	0			\$0	\$0	12	12	\$16,107
Petit Verdot	4			\$5,040	\$1,200	37	41	\$48,948
Pinot Noir	148			\$195,915	\$1,325	88	236	\$312,660
Sangiovese	0			\$0	\$0	11	11	\$14,523
Shiraz	1,239	\$600	\$2,105	\$1,546,683	\$1,248	926	2,166	\$2,702,821
Tempranillo	25			\$55,440	\$2,200	2	27	\$59,840
Total red winegrapes	5,000			\$6,601,360		3,911	8,911	\$11,758,259
RED								
Chardonnay	639	\$600	\$2,200	\$822,003	\$1,285	245	884	\$1,136,813
Other White	0			\$0	\$0	12	12	\$14,904
Pinot Gris	0			\$0	\$0	82	82	\$103,948
Riesling	19			\$18,145	\$950	6	25	\$23,465
Sauvignon Blanc	58	\$950	\$1,541	\$74,791	\$1,282	46	104	\$133,757
Semillon	23			\$18,096	\$800	32	55	\$43,856
Viognier	7			\$10,360	\$1,400	15	22	\$31,080
Total white winegrapes	747			\$943,395		438	1,185	\$1,487,823
Total all winegrapes	5,747			\$7,544,755		4,349	10,096	\$13,246,081

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



Wrattenbully

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											
Cabernet Sauvignon	1198	1	0	1	1199	0%	8389	9592	9688	9688	9688
Merlot	311	0	1	14	326	4%	2802	3185	3217	3217	3217
Other red	21	0	0	0	21	0%	145	166	168	168	168
Pinot Noir	15	0	0	0	15	0%	139	154	156	156	156
Shiraz	672	0	5	0	677	0%	5399	6085	6146	6146	6146
Tempranillo	9	0	0	0	9	0%	72	81	81	81	81
Total red winegrapes	2226	1	6	15	2248	1%	16946	19263	19456	19456	19456
White winegrapes											
Chardonnay	193	28	6	1	229	1%	2176	2495	2519	2519	2519
Other white	14	0	0	0	14	0%	130	145	146	146	146
Pinot Gris	0	0	11	0	11	0%	50	83	84	84	84
Sauvignon Blanc	32	6	0	0	38	0%	329	380	384	384	384
Viognier	9	0	4	0	13	0%	98	118	119	119	119
Total white winegrapes	249	34	21	1	305	0%	2783	3221	3253	3253	3253
Total all varieties	2475	35	27	16	2553	1%	19729	22484	22709	22709	22709

Wrattobully

Estimated production 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	8,389	4,701	5,384	-1,695	9,688	4,320	3,553	1,814	9,688	4,330	2,025	3,332
Malbec	0	0	21	-21	0	0	21	-21	0	0	21	-21
Merlot	2,802	1,727	1,186	-111	3,217	1,756	771	690	3,217	1,762	552	903
Other Red	145	42	0	103	168	0	0	168	168	0	0	168
Petit Verdot	0	77	6	-83	0	77	6	-83	0	77	6	-83
Pinot Noir	139	151	0	-12	156	138	0	18	156	138	0	18
Sangiovese	0	56	0	-56	0	56	0	-56	0	56	0	-56
Shiraz	5,399	3,313	2,642	-557	6,146	3,452	1,866	827	6,146	3,483	1,331	1,331
Tempranillo	72	10	63	-1	81	10	63	9	81	10	63	9
Total red winegrapes	16,946	10,078	9,301	-2,433	19,456	9,810	6,280	3,366	19,456	9,857	3,998	5,601
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	2,176	461	1,456	258	2,519	279	1,097	1,143	2,519	279	1,107	1,134
Other White	130	21	0	110	146	21	0	126	146	21	0	126
Pinot Gris	50	97	21	-67	84	644	874	-1,433	84	973	978	-1,867
Riesling	0	30	41	-71	0	30	41	-71	0	30	0	-30
Sauvignon Blanc	329	530	203	-404	384	546	203	-366	384	551	103	-270
Semillon	0	48	0	-48	0	54	0	-54	0	54	0	-54
Viognier	98	60	18	20	119	67	0	53	119	67	0	53
Total white winegrapes	2,783	1,246	1,740	-202	3,253	1,641	2,215	-603	3,253	1,976	2,187	-910
Total all winegrapes	19,729	11,323	11,041	-2,635	22,709	11,451	8,495	2,763	22,709	11,833	6,185	4,691

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

² A raising factor of 1.027 has been applied to these figures to allow for non-respondents

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

