

SA Winegrape Crush Survey 2024

Regional Summary Report

Currency Creek Wine Region

Wine Australia July 2024



DATUM: GDA2020
PROJECTION: SA Lambert
DATE: 14th May 2024
SOFTWARE: ESRI ArcGIS v10.8.1
DATA SOURCE:
Vineyard Block - Vinehealth Australia
Wine Region - Wine Australia

Currency Creek Wine Region



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Currency Creek

Vintage overview

VINTAGE REPORT

Average winter rainfall followed by cool summer conditions resulted in a prolonged but well-balanced vintage for the Currency Creek Wine Region.

Variable weather during spring resulted in some yield variations within the district between both blocks and varieties. Bunch numbers were excellent overall, but berry set was variable. A mild and wet spring and early summer increased disease pressure throughout the growing season, incidence was high but severity low. Overall canopies were more vigorous allowing for healthy balanced ripeness across all varieties.

White varieties benefited from some early cooler climatic conditions and the maritime influence of the Southern Ocean.

Continued cooler than average mean temperatures through January and February eventually delayed harvest across most red varieties by 14-21 days when compared to the historical average start dates, many reds being picked after Easter.

The March and April temperatures continued to be below average, despite some heat spikes. Night-time temperatures were particularly low and were accompanied by frequent heavy dews.

Yields were below expected estimates overall, particularly in some red blocks where berry set was influenced by spring weather.

Early reds like Sangiovese were picked from the 28th of February; the second week of March saw the Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz harvested. Red varieties benefited greatly from the mild last few weeks of the summer. Currency Creek consistently produces high quality Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon; this year had its challenges but was no exception. These young red wines are already showing lifted and fruit-forward characteristics.

*Nathan Shaw, President
Currency Creek Wine Region*

OVERVIEW OF VINTAGE STATISTICS

The reported crush of Currency Creek winegrapes in 2024 was 3,515 tonnes, down by 9 per cent compared with the prior year's crush. Over the past five years, the average crush for the Currency Creek has been 4,007 tonnes, making this year's crush 12 per cent below the five-year (2019–2023) average.

It was the fourth-smallest reported crush since 2008, less than half the record crush of 10,169 tonnes in 2016.

There were 8 respondents to the survey who reported crushing grapes from the Currency Creek in 2024, compared with 11 in 2023.

The total value of winegrapes in 2024 was \$3.7 million, compared with \$4.2 million in 2023, a decrease of 12 per cent. The overall average value declined by 2 per cent from \$1,097 in 2023 to \$1,080 per tonne.

Due to the small number of purchasers, the average value of most varieties cannot be reported. The average value for white varieties decreased overall by 13 per cent, with Sauvignon Blanc down by 4 per cent to \$896 per tonne.

The price dispersion data shows a downward shift in prices paid, with 26 per cent of grapes purchased at \$600 per tonne or below, compared with 19 per cent in 2023.

According to Vinehealth Australia data, the total vineyard area in Currency Creek as at 30 April 2024 was 1,118 hectares, an increase of 126 hectares compared with the previous year and 123 more than it was in 2019.

There have been virtually no new plantings in the region for the last four years. Therefore, the increase in total area must be due to data corrections.

Currency Creek

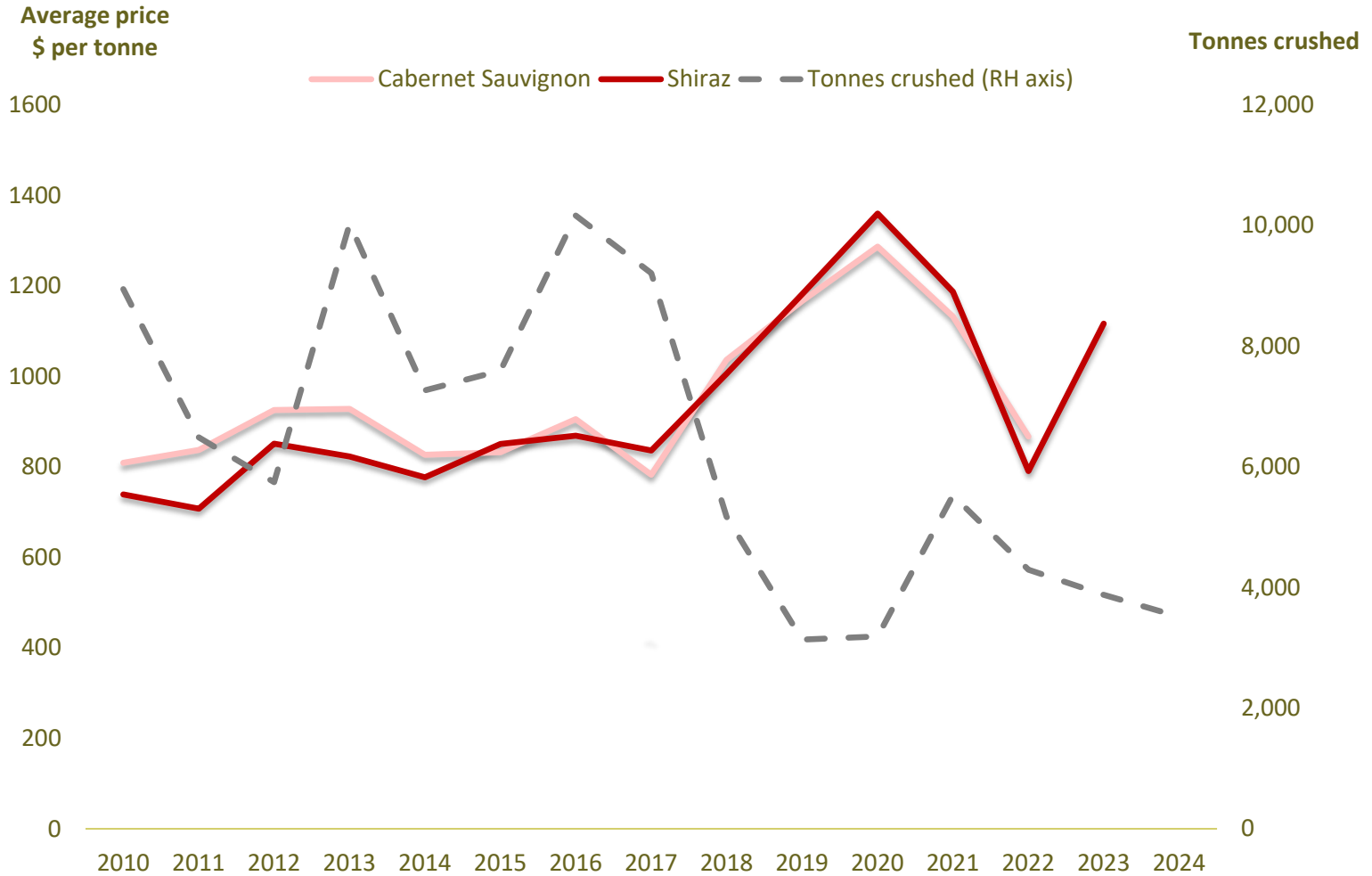
Winegrape intake summary table

Varieties	Tonnes purchased	Total value purchased	Average purchase value per tonne	Change in price year on year	Winery grown fruit (tonnes)	Winery grown share of crush	Total crushed (tonnes)	Estimated total value all grapes
Red								
Cabernet Sauvignon	1,011				60	6%	1,071	\$1,256,561
Grenache	79						79	\$71,334
Malbec	9						9	\$11,853
Merlot	267				25	9%	293	\$244,536
Nebbiolo	0						0	\$528
Petit Verdot	19						19	\$22,538
Pinot Noir	25						25	\$27,390
Sangiovese	31						31	\$46,157
Shiraz	786				263	25%	1,049	\$1,191,306
Tempranillo	14						14	\$20,250
Red Total	2,241				348	13%	2,589	\$2,892,452
White								
Chardonnay	122				403	77%	525	\$431,211
Gewürztraminer	34						34	\$25,575
Pinot Gris/Grigio	31						31	\$31,548
Roussanne	1						1	\$915
Sauvignon Blanc	260	\$233,284	\$896	-4%	47	15%	308	\$275,693
Vermentino	21						21	\$29,932
Viognier	5						5	\$6,870
White Total	475	\$428,634	\$906	-13%	450	49%	925	\$801,744
Grand Total	2,717	\$2,931,121	\$1,080	-2%	798	23%	3,515	\$3,694,196

Note: Where there are fewer than three purchasers of a variety, the average price and total value are not reported to protect confidentiality.

Currency Creek

Historical weighted average price vs tonnes crushed



Currency Creek

Price dispersion – purchased grapes

Varieties	Tonnes purchased in each segment			Total purchased
	\$600-<\$900	\$900-<\$1500	\$1500-<\$2000	
Red				
Cabernet Sauvignon	44	967		1,011
Grenache		79		79
Malbec		9		9
Merlot	267			267
Nebbiolo		0		0
Petit Verdot		19		19
Pinot Noir		25		25
Sangiovese		4	28	31
Shiraz	67	719		786
Tempranillo			14	14
Red Total	378	1,822	41	2,241
White				
Chardonnay	87	35		122
Gewürztraminer	34			34
Pinot Gris/Grigio		31		31
Roussanne	1			1
Sauvignon Blanc	201	60		260
Vermentino		21		21
Viognier			5	5
White Total	323	147	5	475
Total purchased	702	1,969	46	2,717

Currency Creek

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Variety	Area (hectares)				Total area (Ha)	% planted in 2023
	Pre-2021	2021	2022	2023		
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	288	0	0	0	288	0%
Merlot	57	0	0	0	57	0%
Pinot Noir	12	0	5	0	16	0%
Shiraz	347	0	4	0	351	0%
Other Red	40	0	0	0	40	0%
Red winegrapes Total	744	0	8	0	753	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	122	0	0	0	122	0%
Pinot Gris	31	0	0	0	31	0%
Riesling	10	0	0	0	10	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	56	7	0	0	62	0%
Semillon	8	0	0	0	8	0%
Viognier	2	0	0	0	2	0%
Other White	11	7	0	0	18	0%
White winegrapes Total	239	14	0	0	252	0%
Unknown variety	113	0	0	0	113	0%
All varieties Total	1,095	14	8	0	1,118	0%

Source:
Vinehealth
Australia

Explanations and definitions

INTAKE (CURRENT VINTAGE) DATA

Definition of regions

Regions have been defined in accordance with Geographical Indication (GI) boundaries. If a GI region has not been declared, or produces less than 5,000 tonnes, then the data is aggregated into the relevant GI zone. Disaggregation of data into smaller regions such as Southern Fleurieu and Mount Benson is available on request from Wine Australia.

Total crush

The **total crushed** is the total tonnes of grapes reported to have been crushed from a particular source region, whether processed in that region, another region in SA or interstate. All wineries in Australia are included in the survey collection process. However, not all wineries respond to the survey - therefore the total tonnage reported may underestimate the true crush. It is estimated that the overall response rate for the survey in 2024 is 88 per cent; however, individual regions may vary. Generally, regions will have a higher response rate when there is a high proportion of purchased winegrapes within the region.

Reported fruit is separated into fruit produced from the winery's own, leased or associated vineyards ("own grown") and fruit purchased from other grape producers ("purchased").

Calculated average purchase value

The survey requests wineries to provide the total amount paid for each parcel of fruit purchased (or the price per tonne). This is the price paid for fruit of a particular variety at the point of receipt – not including specific amounts paid for freight. It includes any penalties or bonuses (eg Baumé) applied at the weighbridge, but DOES NOT INCLUDE other bonuses or adjustments such as end use quality bonuses, which are not available at the time the survey is conducted (May-June 2024).

The **calculated average purchase value** per tonne is the average amount paid per tonne of fruit across all wineries.

Winery grown grapes are not included in the calculation of average purchase value; nor are grapes grown by companies connected with the winery or under lease arrangements.

Average and total purchase values are not reported where there are fewer than three purchasers of a variety in a particular region. However, the values are included in the calculation of totals for each region.

Important note on average purchase value

There is considerable variation in the pricing arrangements made by different wineries. For example, some wineries make adjustment payments based on the average value per tonne reported in this survey and some pay quality bonuses based on the end use of the product. These additional payments are not included in the reported figures. The average price also does not give any indication of the distribution of prices (price dispersion), differences in quality or variables that go into individual contracts.

Price dispersion data

All purchases for each variety are grouped into price segments according to the price paid for that batch of fruit. The sum of tonnes in all the price segments may not match the total tonnes purchased where there are tonnes reported without an associated price.

Estimated total value of all grapes

The estimated total value of all grapes is calculated by multiplying the average purchase value per tonne by all tonnes crushed. If there is a variety where there are no purchases, then the average purchase value for the same variety across similar regions, or across all other varieties of the same colour in the same region is used to determine an estimated value for the own grown grapes.

Explanations and definitions - continued

PLANTING DATA

Source of planting data tables

Planting data is obtained from the vineyard register maintained by Vinehealth Australia.

Vinehealth Australia is required under the *Phylloxera and Grape Industry Act 1995* to maintain a complete and accurate register of vineyard owners in the state. Vineyard owners with plantings of 0.5 hectares or more are required to register with Vinehealth Australia, and provide details of any changes made to these vineyard plantings within three months of any such change. This information is kept strictly confidential and provided for this survey in a deidentified and aggregated manner.

For more information on the planting data in this report or about registration of vineyards, please contact the Vinehealth Australia office on (08) 8273 0550.

Explanatory notes for planting data tables

To protect confidentiality, the following rules are applied to reporting varieties:

- Where there are fewer than 10 registered owners with plantings of a particular variety across the state, that variety is not separately identified in either the state or the regional reports but is grouped with “other red/white”, AND
- Where there are fewer than three registered owners with a particular grape variety in a given region, that variety is not separately identified in the regional report but is grouped with “other red/white” unless it is a white variety listed in the top seven, or red variety in the top five by planted area for the state for the current year.
- Planting data tables are current as at 30 April 2024 and include all plantings from the 2023–24 planting season.
- Reference to “other varieties” includes rootstock, multi-purpose and table-grape plantings.

- Vines planted in a particular year may include top-worked or replaced vines, as well as new plantings in virgin ground. Where vines have been replaced or top-worked, the old variety record is removed. This explains why the area planted for earlier years may be different in the current report compared with previous reports.
- The totals by year planted may not align with the total areas, as new plantings without a year are captured in the pre-2021 bucket, but not against the individual reported years.
- Where a zero (0) appears in a table, this may indicate the presence of a planting of less than 0.5 hectares, or it may indicate zero plantings. Rounding may produce slight discrepancies in totals.



Acknowledgements

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL VINTAGE SURVEY

The information for this report has been collected and analysed by Wine Australia as part of the Australian wine sector National Vintage Survey. The SA Winegrape Crush Survey Report has been prepared by Wine Australia on behalf of the South Australian Wine Industry Association and Wine Grape Council SA.

The survey publication is available on the Vinehealth Australia website vinehealth.com.au and via links from the Wine Grape Council SA website wgcsa.com.au and the South Australian Wine Industry Association website www.winesa.asn.au.

Survey results from 2015 onwards are available on the Wine Australia interactive Vintage Survey Dashboard:

<https://marketexplorer.wineaustralia.com/vintage-survey>

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Note: data published in this report supercedes that in earlier reports. Minor variations in reported figures can occur due to data revisions.

Any questions about the report should be directed to:

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About Wine Australia

Wine Australia supports a competitive wine sector by investing in research and innovation, growing domestic and international markets, protecting the reputation of Australian wine.

Wine Australia is an Australian Commonwealth Government statutory authority, established under the *Wine Australia Act 2013*, and funded by grape growers and winemakers through levies and user-pays charges and the Australian Government, which provides matching funding for research development and adoption investments.

Credits

Image (Fleurieu vineyard) – Nigel Wood

GI maps – Vinehealth Australia

