

Sparkling production

2011 saw an increase in sparkling wine production, predominantly reflecting increase market demand, although a small percentage of the increase resulted from risk management in the face of unfavourable weather. 2011 saw a slight increase in Pinot Noir made into sparkling wine, around 9% of total Pinot Noir compared with 6.5% in 2010.

Variety	Total Tonnage	Sparkling (Tonnes)	Varietal Total (%)	Variance on 2010 (%)
Pinot Noir	3,425	1,412	32.4	+8.9
Chardonnay	2,164	1,485	72.5	+2.3
Pinot Meunier	45	45	100.0	0
Other varieties	2,157	149	0	0
Total (including other varieties)	7,791	3,091	39.6	+13.0

Historical Production

Vintage	Bearing Area (Ha)	Tonnes
1986	47	154
1994	283	1,116
1995	318	2,154
1996	322	1,874
1997	369	1,448
1998	445	3,113
1999	463	3,199
2000	507	3,263
2001	618	4,645
2002	712	2,496
2003	978	6,390
2004	1,048	7,861
2005	981	6,136
2006	999	5,571
2007	1,196	5,058
2008	1,315	9,628
2009	1,549	5,045
2010	1,388	7,388
2011	1,392	7,791

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WINE TASMANIA

2011 Tasmanian Vintage Report



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TasUnbottled



Tasmania Unbottled



Overview

Whilst the 2011 vintage was the wettest on record for a number of Australian wine regions, it was just the 17th wettest vintage period in Tasmania, according to meteorologists.

The growing season was cool and moist, promising delayed maturity but potentially strong yields due to consistent soil moisture availability. Mild weather and frequent rainfall encouraged vegetative growth and full bunches, but also brought disease pressure.

The strong vegetative growth meant increased shoot thinning and leaf plucking to keep canopies open. Unseasonal heavy rain in mid January over some important growing areas, followed by three further heavy rains in February, March and April increased disease pressure as fruit was ripening.

As veraison was delayed and ripening took longer than usual, due to cool, cloudy and wet weather, growers reassessed their crop loads and started bunch thinning to ensure the fruit could be ripened before the onset of senescence.

Disease management was undertaken with great care and forethought, as it usually is in Tasmania, and this inherent skill has resulted in 2011 wines of high quality. The majority of fruit in Tasmania is hand-harvested from small patches, so picking was not problematic.

The ripening conditions led to full flavour development at lower sugar levels than expected, with high natural acidity. Growers were left with a harvest of delicate yet concentrated fruit of superior quality, great acidity and lower Baumé.



Areas & Yield by Variety

Variety	Bearing Area (Hectares)	Non Bearing Area (Hectares)	Yield (tonnes)
Pinot Noir	584	46	3,425
Chardonnay	327	25	2,164
Sauvignon Blanc	155	24	776
Riesling	105	5	550
Pinot Gris	105	8	517
Cabernet Sauvignon	46	1	162
Merlot	19	0	66
Traminer	19	1	60
Other Varieties	32	12	71
Total (including minor varieties)	1,392	122	7,791

Sauvignon Blanc has leapt ahead of Pinot Gris and Riesling to become the third most popular variety planted in Tasmania.

Yield by Wine Growing Area

Area	Bearing Area (Hectares)	Yield (Tonnes)
Tamar Valley	473	2,649
East Coast	265	1,480
North East	251	1,402
Coal River Valley	237	1,325
Derwent Valley	84	468
Huon / Channel	70	390
North West	14	78
Total	1392	7,791

Regional differences have not substantially altered, however there has been a large increase in the bearing area on the East Coast.

Tasmania's Wine Growing Areas

There are seven recognised wine growing areas in Tasmania, with significant variations in climate and soil conditions enhancing the varietal characters of the state's wines. The areas are: North West, North East, Tamar Valley, East Coast, Derwent Valley, Coal River Valley and the Huon/Channel in the south.

Wine Regions of Tasmania

