Tasmania's Wine Growing Areas

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

Figure 4. Tasmanian wine growing areas



The approximate breakdown of vineyard plantings by wine growing area is as follows:

Tamar Valley - 33% (550 ha)

East Coast - 19% (322 ha)

North East (Pipers River) - 19% (322 ha)

Coal River Valley - 16% (271 ha)

Derwent Valley - 7% (115 ha)

North West – 1.5% (26 ha)

Huon / Channel - 5% (83 ha)

Value and Demand

The 2014 Winegrape Price Dispersion Report emphasises both the quality and consistent demand for Tasmanian fruit, with highlights including the following:

Table 3: 2014 Price Dispersion Results

Variety	Average Price Bracket	Weighted Average Price (WAP)	Percentage of Fruit - Tasmania	Comparative Results - Other Regions
Pinot Noir	>\$2,000	\$2,672	100%	Yarra Valley: 13% above \$2,000; WAP = \$1,623
Chardonnay	>\$2,000	\$2,564	100%	Yarra Valley: 7% above \$2,000; WAP = \$1,474
Sauvignon Blanc	>\$2,000	\$2,156	89%	Yarra Valley: 0% above \$2,000; WAP = \$1,131

The weighted average prices and the proportion of Tasmanian fruit attracting high prices indicates a very high demand for Tasmanian wine, particularly when compared to regions competing in the same high quality, cool climate market.

Table 4: Tasmanian vintage history

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	1,349	5,045
2010	1,388	7,388
2011	1,392	7,791
2012	1,498	7,366
2013	1,538	11,392
2014	1,611	6,624
2015	1,691	10,015

Wine Tasmania



2015 Tasmanian **Vintage Report**



The 2015 Tasmanian wine vintage will be a much sought after one, based on high quality and moderate yield.

Rainfall during the Spring and Summer months kept vegetative growth moving especially in the southern areas, where vineyard swards and surrounding paddocks were green well into the new year. Some inclement weather in the south around flowering and fruit set reduced the potential crops for some areas and some varieties, but overall the vintage was 3% higher than the long term average (Figure 3) due to Northern and Eastern vineyards producing higher yields than the State average.

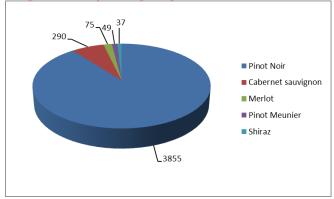
Reports from wine producers indicated they were very pleased with the quality of fruit from the 2015 vintage, though the yield was lower than desired. Tasmanian vineyards produced clean fruit at low to moderate Baumé with high natural acidity, exhibiting excellent varietal characteristics.

Pinot Noir as the dominant variety has the highest area of increased planting, closely followed by Chardonnay. This reflects the versatility of use for both table and sparkling wines for these varieties and the high proportion of sparkling wine produced from the Tasmanian vintage.

Table 1: Areas and yields by variety

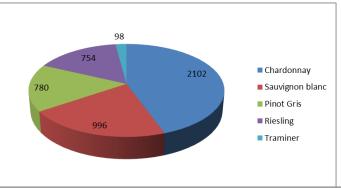
Variety	Bearing Area	Yield	
	(Ha)		
Pinot Noir	660	3855	
Chardonnay	355	2102	
Sauvignon Blanc	165	996	
Pinot Gris	132	780	
Riesling	109	754	
Cabernet Sauvignon	46	290	
Merlot	19	75	
Traminer	19	98	
Total (including minor varieties)	1,691	10,015	
Non-bearing vineyard area	189 (11%)		

Figure 1: Tonnes produced for major red varieties



The non-bearing vineyard area includes new plantings from 2014 as well as young vineyards not yet producing fruit and vineyards undergoing reworking to new clones or varieties. This number fluctuates over time but a positive number indicates continued new plantings by wine growers with confidence in the Tasmanian wine sector.

Figure 2: Tonnes produced for major white varieties



Sparkling Production

The amount of sparkling wine produced in Tasmania represents a large proportion of the total harvest. Over 31% of Tasmania's fruit was made into sparkling wine in 2015, about 9% lower than 2014. The absolute volume, however, was greater by about 42%. This indicates that supply of sparkling wine fruit as well as table wine fruit was critically low in 2014, and winemakers have taken advantage of the improved yield in 2015 to increase production.

Table 2: Tasmanian sparkling wine production

Variety	Total tonnes	Sparkling tonnes	%
Pinot Noir	3855	1600	42
Chardonnay	2102	1464	70
Total (including other varieties)	10015	3132	31



Figure 3: Annual Tasmanian Production vs. Averaged Production

