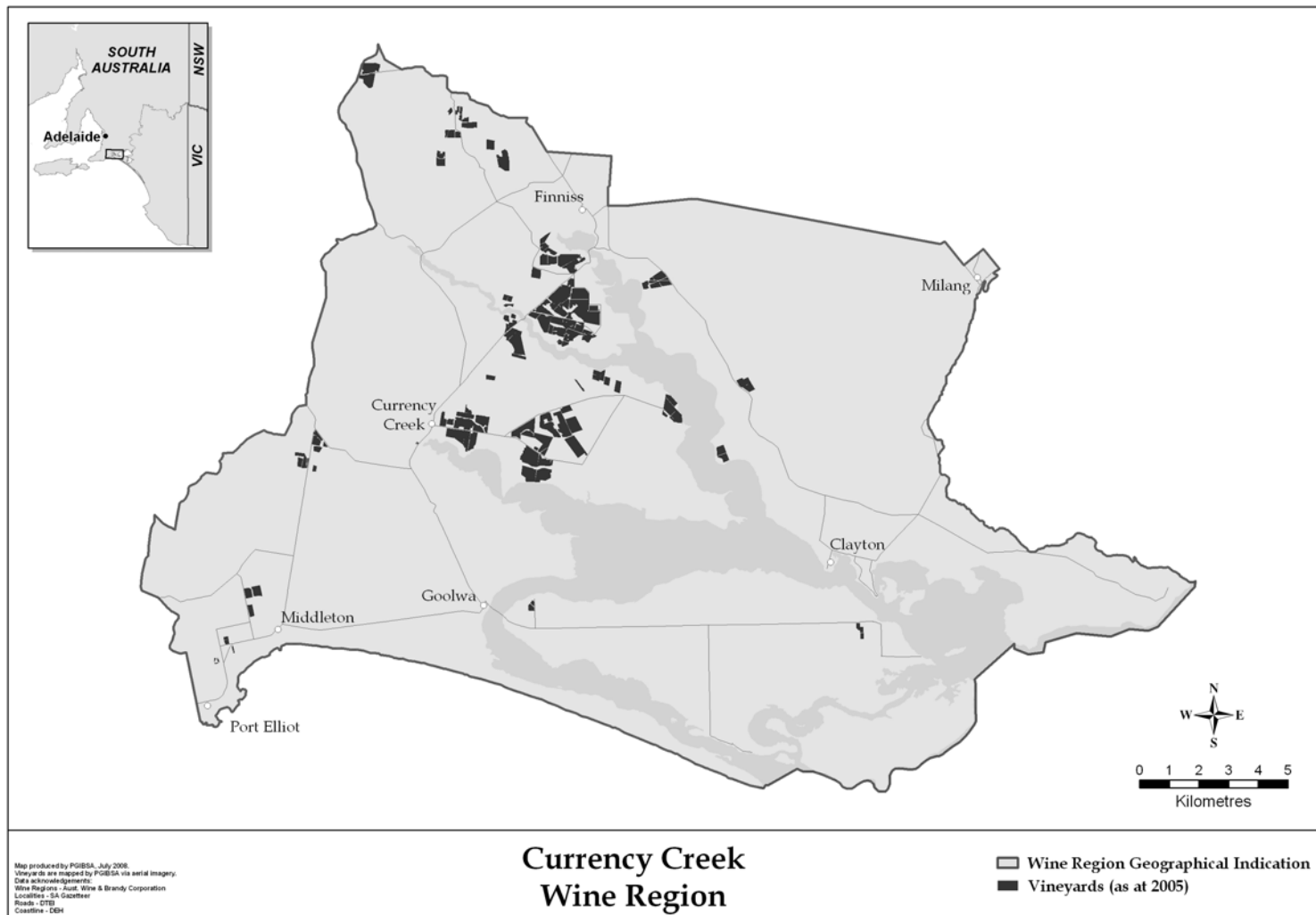


Currency Creek Wine Region

Regional summary report 2008



Currency Creek

Vintage overview

Vintage report

The 2008 growing season commenced with cool spring weather, and relatively dry soil profiles. Early spring growth was somewhat inhibited by these conditions; however warmer early summer weather produced well balanced canopies with excellent fruit set and bunch numbers particularly across red varieties.

The 08 vintage was looking like returning to “normal” after several condensed vintages, with the whites harvested under ideal dry and mild conditions. Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling produced above average yields while maintaining excellent quality. Chardonnay and Pinot Gris yields were average but quality was strong.

South Australia's record heat wave then precipitated the fastest red harvest in the region's 35 year history. Currency Creek's cooling maritime climate buffered the temperatures to some degree, and the timing of the heat wave meant that varietal fruit characters were well developed before the rapid rise in Baume levels took effect.

Cabernet Sauvignon was the most affected and was harvested much earlier than usual, even while the whites were still coming off. Shiraz was less affected and Merlot less again due to its naturally later maturation cycle. Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon yields were down slightly on average while Merlot yields were around average.

A cool and wet finish to the vintage brought some relief for the later varieties; Grenache and Petit Verdot seemed unaffected by the earlier heat.

As with most regions, the compressed nature of the 2008 vintage posed logistical difficulties for the Currency Creek Wine Region but the end result has been pleasing wine quality in difficult circumstances.

David Watkins and Nathan Shaw
Currency Creek Wine Region Association

Overview of vintage statistics

The harvest from Currency Creek was 7,228 tonnes in 2008, compared with around 6,500 tonnes in 2007. The total value of grapes from the region is estimated to be around \$7.5 million, compared with \$6.5 million in 2007. The average purchase value for Cabernet Sauvignon increased by around \$70 per tonne despite the higher tonnage; however, Shiraz decreased by around \$100 per tonne – against the trend in most regions this year.

New plantings in Currency Creek in spring 2007 (including top-working and replacements) were negligible.

The estimated production from Currency Creek vineyards for 2009 is around 7,500 tonnes – similar to the 2008 crush but well below the record crush of over 10,000 tonnes in 2006. The amount of fruit already committed to the wineries is over 8,000 tonnes – suggesting that the supply forecast may underestimate production, and also indicating that there is unlikely to be any surplus fruit from the region next year.

By 2013, the estimated production is expected to decline to around 6,200 tonnes, of which less than 20% (1,000 tonnes) is already committed. This picture is quite different from the committed intake and demand forecasts reported in the 2007 survey for this region. The PGIBSA vineyard register indicates that there are nearly 10,000 hectares of vines planted in this region, suggesting that the ABARE supply forecast may be too low if growing conditions return to “normal”.

Across the state, even if growing conditions do return to “normal”, there is expected to be little or no overall surplus compared with demand in 2013 (see State Summary section).

Currency Creek

Winegrape intake summary - vintage 2008

Variety	Tonnes purchased	Lowest price ¹	Highest price ¹	Total value purchased grapes	Calc avg. purch. value per tonne	Winery grown fruit	Total crushed	Est total value ALL grapes
Red winegrapes								
Cabernet Sauvignon	2,063	\$800	\$1,734	\$2,100,134	\$1,018	602	2,665	\$2,712,636
Grenache	91			\$72,968	\$800	33	124	\$99,448
Merlot	356	\$800	\$1,400	\$366,134	\$1,028	158	514	\$528,613
Petit Verdot	0					8	8	\$7,861
Pinot Noir	29			\$46,240	\$1,600	19	48	\$77,184
Sangiovese	28			\$41,130	\$1,453	7	35	\$50,809
Shiraz	1,581	\$500	\$1,734	\$1,648,287	\$1,043	247	1,828	\$1,906,159
Tempranillo	12			\$17,490	\$1,500	0	12	\$17,490
Total red winegrapes	4,161			\$4,292,383		1,074	5,234	\$5,400,201
White winegrapes								
Chardonnay	40			\$35,154	\$871	1,141	1,182	\$1,028,825
Pinot Gris	6			\$10,440	\$1,800	103	108	\$194,940
Riesling	28			\$28,517	\$1,002	56	85	\$84,970
Roussanne	0					3	3	\$3,010
Sauvignon Blanc	137	\$1,314	\$1,800	\$207,591	\$1,516	354	491	\$744,628
Semillon	29			\$24,701	\$850	41	70	\$59,458
Traminer	50			\$30,150	\$600	0	50	\$30,150
Viognier	4			\$5,280	\$1,200	0	4	\$5,280
Total white winegrapes	295			\$341,833		1,698	1,993	\$2,151,261
Total all winegrapes²	4,456			\$4,634,217		2,772	7,228	\$7,551,461

¹ Lowest and highest prices are only reported when there are at least three purchasers. Very low prices may relate to extremely small parcels of fruit or fruit delivered that was over the contract amount or penalised for other reasons.

² The estimated non-response rate for Currency Creek is 0%.

Currency Creek

Current plantings by variety and year planted

Varieties	Current area in hectares				Total area	% planted in 2007
	Pre-2005	2005	2006	2007		
Red winegrapes						
Cabernet Sauvignon	283	0	0	0	283	0%
Grenache	11	0	0	0	11	0%
Merlot	65	0	0	0	65	0%
Nebbiolo	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Petit Verdot	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Pinot Noir	3	0	0	0	3	0%
Sangiovese	4	0	0	0	4	0%
Shiraz	316	3	2	0	321	0%
Tempranillo	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Total red winegrapes	691	3	2	0	696	0%
White winegrapes						
Chardonnay	118	0	4	0	122	0%
Pinot Gris	11	5	0	0	16	0%
Riesling	15	0	0	0	15	0%
Roussanne	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Sauvignon Blanc	38	3	15	3	58	5%
Semillon	6	0	1	1	9	15%
Traminer	6	0	0	0	6	0%
Vermantino	0	3	0	0	3	0%
Viognier	4	0	2	0	6	0%
Total white winegrapes	200	10	22	4	236	2%
Unknown variety	27	0	0	0	27	0%
Total all varieties	919	13	24	4	959	0%

Currency Creek

Estimated supply and committed intake 2009 - 2013

Variety	2009				2011				2013			
	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake		Available supply	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake		Available supply	Est Supply ¹	Total committed intake		Available supply
		Winery grapes	Contract purchases			Winery grapes	Contract purchases			Winery grapes	Contract purchases	
Red winegrapes												
Cabernet Sauvignon	2,631	331	1,708	591	2,188	331	1,568	289	2,199	100	50	2,048
Grenache	94	15	92	0	81	15	92	0	81	15	0	65
Merlot	808	201	444	163	517	201	399	0	517	0	50	467
Other Red	1	0	7	0	1	0	24	0	1	0	0	1
Petit Verdot	11	20	0	0	14	20	0	0	14	20	0	0
Pinot Noir	27	20	0	7	21	20	0	1	21	20	0	1
Sangiovese	18	0	35	0	18	0	0	18	18	0	0	18
Shiraz	2,470	1,838	1,497	0	2,073	376	1,306	391	2,084	345	50	1,689
Tempranillo	7	0	21	0	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	7
Total red winegrapes	6,067	2,425	3,805	0	4,921	963	3,389	569	4,943	501	151	4,291
White winegrapes												
Chardonnay	750	1,004	50	0	709	1,064	0	0	709	161	0	548
Other White	0	0	17	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Pinot Gris	35	151	15	0	78	151	0	0	78	0	0	78
Riesling	79	60	50	0	90	60	0	29	90	10	0	79
Roussanne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sauvignon Blanc	412	161	213	38	337	161	50	126	337	161	50	126
Semillon	83	36	0	47	69	36	0	32	69	36	0	32
Traminer	19	0	98	0	12	0	98	0	12	0	0	12
Viognier	9	0	0	9	9	0	0	9	9	0	0	9
Total white winegrapes	1,387	1,412	444	0	1,302	1,472	161	0	1,302	368	50	884
Total all winegrapes	7,454	3,837	4,249	0	6,223	2,435	3,550	0	6,245	869	201	5,176

¹ Supply forecast produced by ABARE based on the ABS Vineyard Survey 2007

² Where total committed intake is greater than estimated supply, the available supply is recorded as zero.