

McLaren Vale

MCLAREN VALE VINTAGE OVERVIEW

Vintage report

The 2002 vintage in McLaren Vale is a stunner despite lower than average yields in many of the vineyards.

Poor set on most varieties from the cool windy spring weather as well as lower fruitfulness from the previous spring have left many of McLaren Vale's vineyards with yields between 20-40% lower than average. Despite this decrease the wines are looking to be outstanding. Flavour is the strong point of the vintage and intense flavours are evident in most varieties. This summer was South Australia's coolest on record and allowed for a cooler ripening period for all varieties, meaning flavour ripeness was gained at high sugar levels while good natural acidity was maintained.

Winemakers have noted that the region has not seen Shiraz like the 2002 in recent history. The wines have great colour and structured tannins, and the flavours and natural acidity make for well balanced wines, some of the best ever seen in McLaren Vale. The Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc varieties from 2002 will be more aromatic than wines from warmer vintages. The miracle of the long dry autumn means that conditions have been ideal for late ripening varieties like Grenache which is exhibiting intense colours and can be compared with some of the best vintages in McLaren Vale.

Jennifer Nicholl

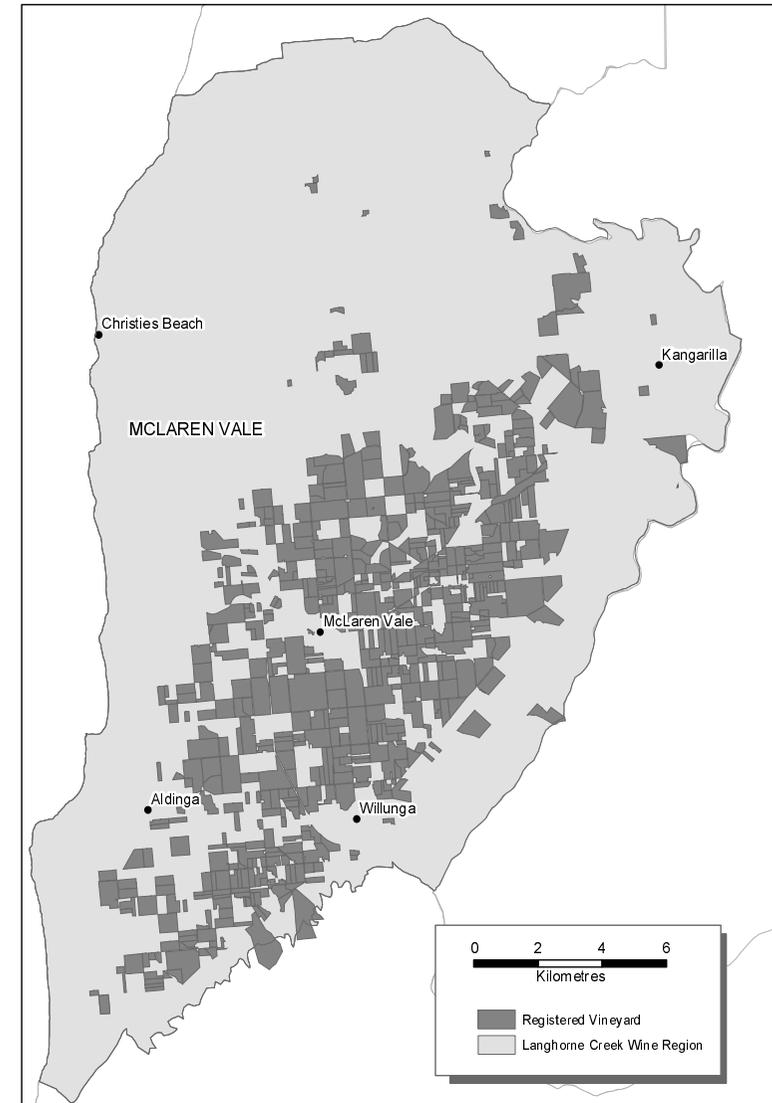
Overview of vintage statistics

There were 49,128 tonnes crushed from McLaren Vale vineyards in 2002 – a net reduction of 12% on 2001. Some of the effects of the low yielding vintage have probably been offset in terms of quantity by new plantings coming into production; however, the region lost its position as the largest producing of the cool climate regions to the Barossa Valley again this year.

Consistent with the trend in most regions this year, weighted average weighbridge prices were generally similar to last year with the exception of Cabernet Sauvignon, which was down by \$100 per tonne.

The forecast is for only slight growth in red varieties and a small reduction in white varieties over the next five years, with demand outstripping supply by around 12,000 tonnes in 2007. An estimated additional 600 hectares would need to be planted by 2004 to meet the anticipated requirements in 2007 (see table 1.10); however, external restrictions on expansion (water, land) may prevent this. Shiraz will continue to increase its share of the region's production, rising from just over 20,000 this year to over 30,000 tonnes in 2006.

MCLAREN VALE WINE REGION



MCLAREN VALE TONNES CRUSHED BY VARIETY - VINTAGE 2002

Table 11.1

Variety	Total winery grown	Total other growers	Total crushed	Total preferred	Tonnes from other growers as % of total	% of demand supplied	Number of wineries reporting tonnages (> 0) for		
							Own	Purchased	Preferred
RED									
Barbera	17	0	17	3	0%	558%	2	0	1
Cabernet Franc	78	417	495	420	84%	118%	5	11	13
Cabernet Sauvignon	2375	6933	9308	10142	74%	92%	32	33	47
Chambourcin	24	0	24	0	0%		1	0	0
Cinsaut	0	12	12	15	100%	82%	0	2	2
Durif	0	0	0	2	0%	15%	1	0	1
Grenache	1084	2275	3359	3616	68%	93%	16	21	29
Malbec	40	12	52	52	24%	100%	2	4	3
Mataro	57	10	67	86	14%	78%	5	4	7
Merlot	648	1331	1978	2229	67%	89%	20	22	34
Nebbiolo	35	11	46	35	24%	133%	4	1	3
Petit Verdot	112	231	343	204	67%	168%	4	9	10
Pinot Noir	89	699	789	1134	89%	70%	5	8	8
Ruby Cabernet	13	0	13	13	0%	99%	1	0	1
Sangiovese	138	47	185	134	25%	138%	7	1	6
Shiraz	4352	17074	21426	25194	80%	85%	34	41	56
Tempranillo	37	9	46	46	19%	100%	3	4	5
Zinfandel	3	7	9	10	72%	93%	1	1	1
Total RED	9101	29069	38169	43335	76%	88%			
WHITE									
Chardonnay	1109	4967	6076	7826	82%	78%	20	26	35
Chenin Blanc	71	125	196	282	64%	70%	2	5	5
Marsanne	8	69	78	100	89%	78%	1	1	1
Muscat Blanc	1	10	11	11	91%	103%	1	1	2
Other white	0	34	34	15	100%		0	1	0
Pedro Ximenes	25	49	74	86	66%	86%	1	1	2
Riesling	137	741	878	1049	84%	84%	9	9	13
Roussanne	10	0	10	20	0%	49%	1	0	1
Sauvignon Blanc	291	782	1073	1275	73%	84%	14	15	21
Semillon	260	2025	2285	1866	89%	122%	12	16	20
Traminer	0	15	15	102	100%	15%	0	1	1
Verdelho	74	58	132	158	44%	83%	5	4	7
Viognier	31	66	98	122	68%	80%	3	2	4
Total WHITE	2017	8941	10959	12912	82%	85%			
Grand Total (red and white)	11118	38010	49128	56247					

MCLAREN VALE PRICE AND BAUME DATA - VINTAGE 2002

Table 11.2

Variety (1)	Grower grown	Total crushed	weighted average		estimated total value		lowest price (2)	highest price (2)	weighted average	
			baumé		purchased grapes	total grapes			weighbridge price (3)	
RED										
Cabernet Franc	417	495	13.8	100%	\$487,950	\$578,832	\$885	\$2,316	\$1,169	100%
Cabernet Sauvignon	6,933	9,308	14.1	98%	\$12,516,892	\$16,803,935	\$220	\$3,190	\$1,805	100%
Cinsaut	12	12	12.3	100%	\$10,544	\$10,544			\$861	100%
Grenache	2,275	3,359	14.5	100%	\$3,867,484	\$5,710,327	\$600	\$3,000	\$1,700	100%
Malbec	12	52	13.5	100%	\$23,532	\$98,143	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$1,889	100%
Mataro	10	67	13.5	69%	\$15,180	\$104,722	\$900	\$2,500	\$1,570	100%
Merlot	1,331	1,978	13.7	98%	\$2,417,282	\$3,593,570	\$1,000	\$3,250	\$1,817	100%
Nebbiolo	11	46			\$14,524	\$61,252			\$1,320	100%
Petit Verdot	231	343	14.0	100%	\$354,246	\$525,735	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$1,533	100%
Pinot Noir	699	789	11.5	100%	\$815,007	\$919,322	\$450	\$1,500	\$1,166	100%
Sangiovese	47	185			\$49,829	\$196,335			\$1,060	100%
Shiraz	17,074	21,426	14.3	95%	\$32,559,727	\$40,857,803	\$750	\$4,842	\$1,907	100%
Tempranillo	9	46	14.2	100%	\$12,462	\$66,042	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$1,447	100%
Zinfandel	7	9	15.8	100%	\$13,045	\$18,115			\$1,950	100%
Total RED	29,069	38,115			\$53,157,704	\$69,544,676				
WHITE										
Chardonnay	4,967	6,076	13.1	100%	\$6,980,063	\$8,538,381	\$960	\$2,000	\$1,405	100%
Chenin Blanc	125	196	11.4	72%	\$93,028	\$145,733	\$450	\$900	\$742	100%
Colombard	15	15			\$9,109	\$9,109			\$628	100%
Crouchen	14	14	13.6	100%	\$9,674	\$9,674			\$701	100%
Doradillo	5	5	13.2	100%	\$2,139	\$2,139			\$404	100%
Marsanne	69	78	13.3	100%	\$124,560	\$139,680			\$1,800	100%
Muscat Blanc	10	11	12.5	100%	\$5,190	\$5,690			\$500	100%
Pedro Ximenes	49	74			\$27,142	\$40,893			\$550	100%
Riesling	741	878	12.1	100%	\$850,032	\$1,007,049	\$700	\$1,500	\$1,147	100%
Sauvignon Blanc	782	1,073	12.2	99%	\$915,610	\$1,257,019	\$841	\$1,650	\$1,172	100%
Semillon	2,025	2,285	12.3	99%	\$1,960,076	\$2,211,533	\$577	\$1,320	\$968	100%
Traminer	15	15	11.6	100%	\$19,318	\$19,318			\$1,300	100%
Verdelho	58	132	13.6	100%	\$71,150	\$162,388	\$1,000	\$1,498	\$1,232	100%
Viognier	66	98	14.1	100%	\$124,743	\$183,499			\$1,876	100%
Total WHITE	8,941	10,949			\$11,191,834	\$13,732,104				

(1) Only includes varieties where some fruit was purchased. Varieties where all fruit is winery grown are not shown in this table.

(2) The absence of lowest and highest prices means that fewer than three wineries supplied pricing data for each variety.

(3) This price does not include end use or other bonuses paid after the weighbridge.

MCLAREN VALE ESTIMATED AND PREFERRED FUTURE INTAKE OF GRAPES 2003 TO 2007

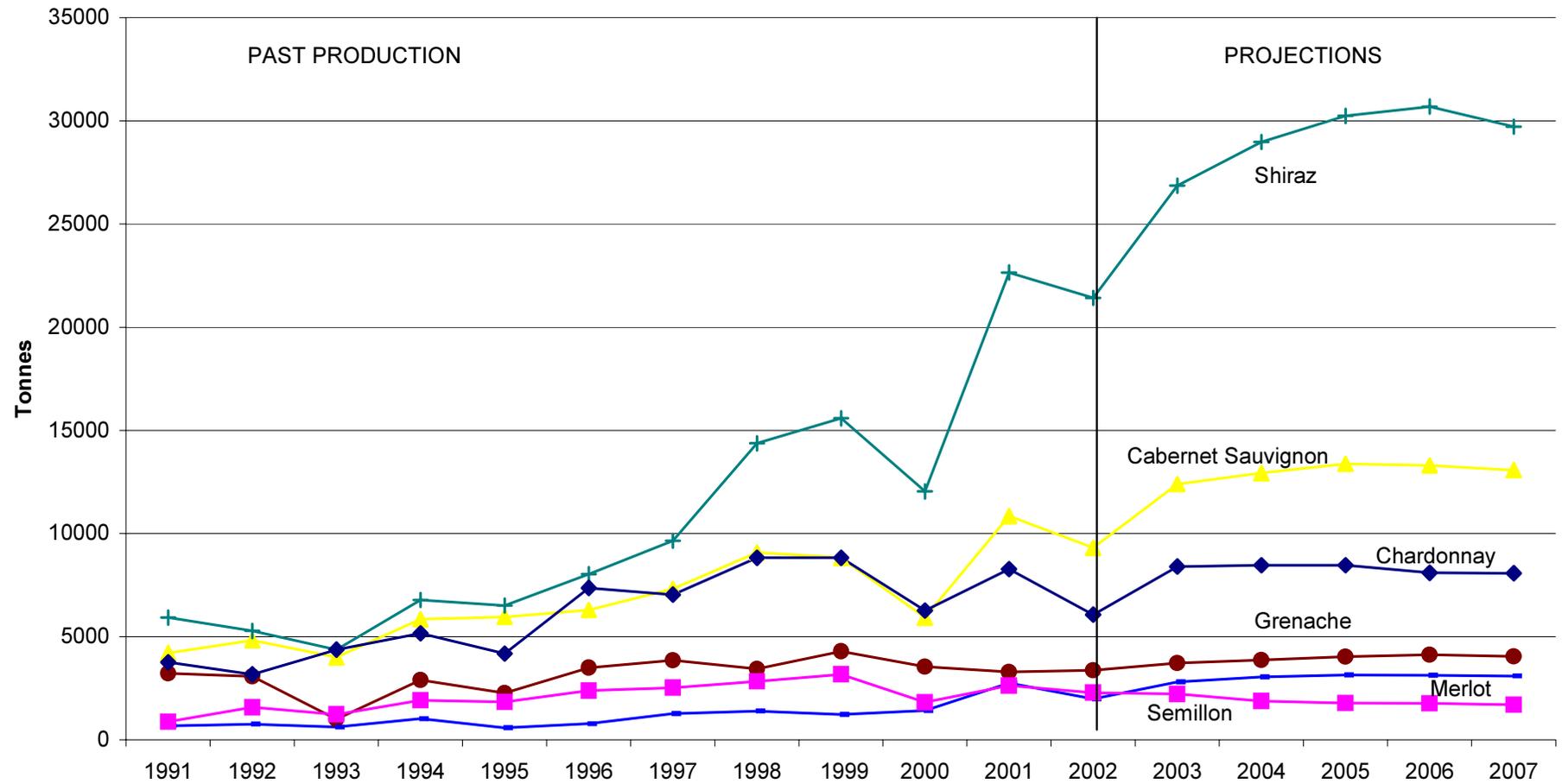
Table 11.3

Variety	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	estimated	preferred								
RED										
Barbera	38	24	47	29	53	35	59	41	62	44
Cabernet Franc	475	358	450	363	455	368	433	368	433	368
Cabernet Sauvignon	12402	11267	12923	12348	13387	13025	13300	13621	13072	13865
Durif	1	5	2	5	5	5	8	8	8	8
Grenache	3726	3535	3872	3784	4034	4051	4119	4342	4049	4640
Malbec	49	30	53	30	53	30	53	30	53	30
Mataro	96	68	119	75	125	81	130	86	133	89
Merlot	2797	3011	3040	3347	3137	3580	3117	3732	3093	3782
Nebbiolo	76	59	94	80	90	91	92	103	94	105
Other red	34	1	35	1	35	1	18	2	18	2
Petit Verdot	431	263	498	328	547	379	553	388	536	370
Pinot Noir	1000	875	856	892	881	910	859	913	862	924
Sangiovese	270	200	313	240	311	243	317	254	320	262
Shiraz	26864	28233	28983	30579	30237	32526	30689	33928	29725	34713
Tempranillo	100	62	145	104	147	122	154	129	160	135
Tinta Cao	4	4	7	7	9	9	12	12	13	13
Tinta Molle	4	4	7	7	10	9	12	12	14	13
Touriga	4	4	6	6	10	9	12	12	14	13
Zinfandel	13	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Total for RED	48413	48018	51464	52240	53542	55489	53953	57996	52674	59392
WHITE										
Chardonnay	8406	9422	8468	10089	8464	10837	8083	11412	8072	12139
Chenin Blanc	419	289	419	304	431	319	318	334	279	349
Colombard	16	16	17	17	18	18	18	18	20	20
Marsanne	92	102	101	106	106	106	111	106	116	106
Muscat Blanc	20	2	21	3	22	4	22	4	22	4
Other white	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0
Pedro Ximenes	86	86	86	86	86	86	37	37	37	37
Riesling	980	1102	1005	1143	1002	1184	1003	1083	991	1085
Roussanne	17	22	26	31	36	41	46	51	56	56
Sauvignon Blanc	1235	1723	1226	1754	1227	1803	1169	1803	1171	1819
Semillon	2221	1517	1878	1579	1773	1637	1769	1670	1703	1678
Traminer	25	81	25	90	25	98	25	107	25	107
Verdelho	175	132	175	132	175	135	155	135	155	135
Viognier	106	119	148	158	175	190	182	192	182	192
Total for WHITE	13809	14613	13605	15492	13551	16458	12949	16953	12839	17727

MCLAREN VALE PAST PRODUCTION AND PROJECTIONS FOR MAJOR VARIETIES 1991 - 2007

Figure 11.1

Past production and projections (major varieties)



MCLAREN VALE CURRENT PLANTINGS BY VARIETY AND YEAR PLANTED

Table 11.4

Variety	Year planted - area in hectares					Total	% planted in 2001
	Pre-98	1998	1999	2000	2001		
RED WINEGRAPES							
BARBERA	0	1	0	8	-	9	0%
CABERNET FRANC	32	3	1	1	-	37	0%
CABERNET SAUVIGNON	907	105	101	63	35	1211	3%
GRENACHE	338	8	30	10	5	391	1%
MATARO	6	4	1	3	-	15	0%
MERLOT	189	28	50	12	6	284	2%
NEBBIOLO	0	2	4	2	-	8	0%
PETIT VERDOT	19	8	14	7	11	58	18%
PINOT NOIR	92	-	7	-	-	99	0%
SANGIOVESE	5	-	10	5	1	21	6%
SHIRAZ	1488	351	319	188	134	2480	5%
TEMPRANILLO	0	1	6	5	6	18	35%
OTHER RED	18	1	0	4	0	24	2%
TOTAL RED WINEGRAPES	3095	512	544	307	198	4655	4%
WHITE WINEGRAPES							
CHARDONNAY	586	1	2	-	13	603	2%
CHENIN BLANC	21	-	-	-	-	21	0%
MARSANNE	12	-	-	-	2	14	11%
RIESLING	88	0	-	-	3	91	4%
ROUSSANNE	0	4	-	0	2	5	29%
SAUVIGNON BLANC	123	1	0	1	2	127	2%
SEMILLON	137	-	-	-	1	138	0%
VERDELHO	13	3	3	5	-	24	0%
VIOGNIER	15	3	1	2	1	22	6%
OTHER WHITE	19	3	0	1	0	23	0%
TOTAL WHITE WINEGRAPES	1014	15	6	9	24	1068	2%
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	4109	527	550	316	222	5723	4%