

Annual exports of Australian produced wine

Exports of Australian produced wine has increased steadily over the last fifteen years. In 1990-91, 54.2 million litres of wine were exported in 1990 -91. Less than 10 years later the amount of increased almost sixfold. By 1999-2000 Australia exported 284.9 million litres. Wine exports reached 722.0 million litres in 2005 -06.

Source the Australian Bureau of statistics data for the “Australian wine and grape industry” at <http://abs.gov.au> and in “Search” enter 1329.0 for a free download. The report here has a mass of data you could use.

For example:

A graph of Australian exports and imports 1993-2006 can be found on page 8.

Destination of Australian wine exports

The major regional destination for Australia’s wine export in 2005-06 was the European Union. It accounted for over half of the volume of wine exported from Australia. Exports to Northern America accounted for about a third of the volume. The United Kingdom was the major country of destination for Australian wine, taking more than one third (36.2%) of the Australian wine exported during 2005-06. The top three destinations for Australian wine exports were the United Kingdom, followed by the United States of America and Canada. See graph on page 11.

To look at the quantity of wines produced see the table on page 39.

For the 2004–05 period Australia imported 22.1 million litres of wine, compared to the 669.7 million litres exported.

To look at the countries to which Australia exported wine look at page 41.

The 2006 wine vintage is expected to be low due to:

- a) the drought affecting many parts of Australia
- b) frosts in late spring throughout South Australia and Victoria
- c) major bushfires in Gippsland, the King Valley and Tasmania
- d) scattered hail damage which affected vines.

Questions

1. Using the concepts of region and movement, describe Australia’s wine export trade in 2005-06.
2. Identify and describe one example of each of the following factors which could explain the patterns you noted in question 1
 - a) a social factor
 - b) a political factor
 - c) an economic factor
3. Why would Australia both import and export wine?

4. Compare the countries and the volumes involved in Australia's wine export and import trade.
5. Classify the four factors responsible for Australia's decreased wine production in 2006.

Wineries of the Yarra Valley

Enter the website of the Yarra Valley Winegrowers Association www.yarravalleywine.com and using the tool bar on the left for "Touring" locate the "Yarra Valley detailed map" to show the location of vineyards. Blue print indicates wineries that provide accommodation.

6. Describe the distribution of wineries in the Yarra Valley.
7. Identify the location of the 9 wineries that offer accommodation in the Yarra Valley. Describe the distribution of these wineries. Why might so few wineries offer accommodation in the Yarra Valley?
8. Construct a map to show the distribution of the 34 wineries with a restaurant or a café. To what extent is it true to say that these wineries tend to be located within 2 kilometres of another?

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries and Resources (DPI) confirmed the presence of grapevine insect pest Phylloxera in the Yarra Valley wine growing region early in December 2006.

Phylloxera is an aphid pest that feeds only on the roots of non-resistant grapevine root-stock. The pest causes gradual deterioration of vine health but does not affect the quality of wines and is not a risk to people or livestock. Strict quarantine restrictions were put in place on the affected vineyard. Vines from infected areas were removed and destroyed. Wine production is one of Victoria's oldest primary industries, but the early vineyards were decimated by Phylloxera by 1890. The discovery of phylloxera has the ability to destroy this industry in the Yarra Valley due to the number and concentration of vineyards there. The Yarra Valley Wine Growers Association has responded with a number of strategies to reduce this risk.

From the Home page of the Yarra Valley Winegrowers Association www.yarravalleywine.com enter the section on "Best practice guidelines and protocols for pest and disease and Phylloxera management in the Yarra Valley".

Refer to the strategies suggested for tourism by using page 2 Winery cellar door/tourism - Actions

Questions

9. Identify three social and three economic impacts these strategies may have.
10. Which do you believe may be the *least* effective strategy. Justify your choice.
11. State a policy that these strategies seem to be aiming to achieve.
12. Predict likely impacts of a phylloxera outbreak on wineries of the Yarra Valley.

Further information on Phylloxera is available on the Department of Primary Industries website.