

WINES OF AUSTRALIA

- A prolific wine-producing country.
- Most consumed domestically.
- Some exported to North America, England, and now to more countries.
- Captain Arthur Phillip brought vine cuttings when he landed in Australia on 26. 01. 1788 (He, in fact, founded the colony of New South Wales).
- Now there are more than four hundred wineries.
- Initially most of the wines were fortified (Port, Sherry, etc.).
- Table wines are also very popular now.
- Many rival the best of European wines but are much cheaper.
- A wide range of climates and soils.
- Vineyards are as much as 2500 miles apart.
- Major districts are on the eastern coast, such as the Hunter River valley (north of Sydney).
- Hunter valley produces only 5% of all wines, but the highest quality.
- Other areas:
 - Barossa valley, Clare valley and Coonawara in South Australia.
 - Swan valley on the distant west coast (near Perth).
- Most have generic names (sometimes even without any proper likeness). For example – Claret, Burgundy, Chablis, Sherry, etc.
- Many marketed by district names. For example – Barossa, Hunter valley, Coonawara, etc.

- Some are sold by varietal names. For example – Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Riesling, etc.
- Some have combinations of the district and the grape names.
- Better to buy by shipper's name.
- All classes and types are produced:
 - table wines (many of them vintage).
 - dessert wines
 - most sparkling wines are made by méthode champenoise.
 - a few by Charmat and impregnation methods also.
- Strict government and industry regulations exist.
- Very rigidly controlled by PFDR (Pure Food & Drug Regulations).
- Appellation system varies from state to state.
- Some regulations are standard.
- For example:
 - Varietal – 80% from the specified grape.
 - Region – 80% from the specified region.
 - Vintage – 100% from the specified year.

Names of some famous shippers:

- Penfolds
- McWilliam
- Lindeman

- Orlando
- Yalumba
- Hardy
- Hamilton
- Tulloch
- Best
- Seppelt



IHM NOTES