

Wine Regions in Australia



Australians love their wine. Although we have a reputation as a nation of beer lovers, wine has become an integral part of our relaxed social lifestyle. We have a huge diversity of wine regions and wine types/styles – everything from beachside wineries to cool climate wines, and our glasses overflow with everything from the hearty Shiraz wines of the Barossa and Clare Valleys to the elegant dry whites of south west Western Australia, regarded as some of the best in the world. And, we're winning awards and medals in droves at international wine competitions. Our winemakers produce everything from the ever popular Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, to the newer varieties such as Pinot Noir, Viognier, Merlot and Marsanne.

Apart from wine tastings and cellar door sales, many of our wineries offer food – everything from platters to full-blown gourmet feasts. And, being Australian, we like to offer you more than just wine. Many wineries can satisfy your hunger, put you up at night and even entertain you with music or other cultural events ranging from monthly jazz concerts to spectacular opera and musical events. You can learn about wine through tasting, talking with the winemakers and touring the facility. Wander through vines, sample regional delicacies in the produce store, experiment with wine and food matching in the wine bar or restaurant, or sit in the sun or beside a river or lake and take in the views and vistas.

KEY FACTS

- ▶ Australia is ranked as the world's seventh-largest wine producer, and the finest Australian wines are among the best in the world – a judgment that is consistently reinforced at international wine shows.
- ▶ Australia is the number four wine exporting country in the world and the number 16 wine drinking country.
- ▶ Australian wines are now sold in around 100 countries and likely to be found in the finest restaurants the world over.
- ▶ The United Kingdom imports more wine from Australia than it does from France.
- ▶ Around 78% of wineries have cellar doors, 29% on-site dining, 11% accommodation and some offer opera theatre and festivals.
- ▶ Australia has some of the oldest grape vines in the world. Many of Europe's established vineyards were destroyed by disease (phylloxera) in the 1800s. The only survivors were the vines brought to Australia.