



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
WINE INSTITUTE**

*Our land, revealed.*

**B.C. GRAPE ACREAGE REPORT**  
August 2008

Information compiled by:  
Mount Kobau Wine Services  
[Lynn & John Bremmer](#)  
Tel: 250-498-4781

- There are 9,066.32 acres (3,626 hectares) of wine grapes planted in B.C.
- 49 % White grapes / 51 % Red grapes
- 97.1 % Vinifera grapes / 2.9 % hybrids
  
- Most planted varieties in order of acres
  - Merlot
  - Pinot Gris
  - Chardonnay
  - Pinot Noir
  - Cabernet Sauvignon
  - Gewurztraminer
  - Syrah
  - Sauvignon Blanc
  - Cabernet Franc
  - Pinot Blanc
  
- There are 144 licensed grape wineries in B.C. and 20 more proposed grape wineries with licenses pending;
  
- There are 710 vineyards in B.C. (both winery and independently owned), with acreage distributed as follows:
  - 84.3 % in the Okanagan Valley
  - 6.4 % in the Similkameen Valley
  - 7.3 % in the Coastal Areas
  - 2.0 % in Other areas of B.C.
  
- 63.1 % of wine grape acreage is winery owned or controlled
- 36.9 % of wine grape acreage is owned by independent grape growers

## B.C. WHITE WINE GRAPES

WHITE VARIETY	ACREAGE	% of WHITES	% of TOTAL GRAPES
Pinot Gris	928.29	20.89 %	10.24 %
Chardonnay	866.26	19.49 %	9.56 %
Gewurztraminer	643.77	14.49 %	7.10 %
Sauvignon Blanc	438.76	9.87 %	4.84 %
Pinot Blanc	369.14	8.31 %	4.07 %
Riesling	367.14	8.26 %	4.05 %
Viognier	164.48	3.70 %	1.81 %
Ehrenfelser	73.66	1.66 %	0.81 %
Semillon	71.91	1.62 %	0.79 %
Bacchus	52.30	1.18 %	0.58 %
Ortega	50.60	1.14 %	0.56 %
Auxerrois	42.72	0.96 %	0.47 %
Blattner Whites	42.50	0.95 %	0.47 %
Muscats	39.44	0.89 %	0.44 %
Siegenerbe	37.55	0.85 %	0.41 %
Kerner	32.51	0.73 %	0.36 %
Schonburger	27.51	0.61 %	0.30 %
Chenin Blanc	18.10	0.41 %	0.20 %
Vidal	17.57	0.39 %	0.19 %
Madeleine Sylvaner	16.03	0.36 %	0.18 %
Muller Thurgau	14.55	0.33 %	0.16 %
Optima	14.46	0.32 %	0.16 %
Scheurebe	14.08	0.32 %	0.16 %
Madeleine Angevine	13.42	0.30 %	0.15 %
Chasselas	12.87	0.29 %	0.14 %
Reichensteiner	11.50	0.26 %	0.13 %
Sovereign Opal	7.00	0.16 %	0.08 %
Roussanne	6.59	0.15 %	0.07 %
Marsanne	4.84	0.11 %	0.05 %
Trebbiano	4.03	0.09 %	0.04 %
Verdelet	3.50	0.08 %	0.04 %
Traminer	1.74	0.04 %	0.02 %
Miscellaneous Whites	35.00	0.79 %	0.39 %
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	<b>70.57</b>	<b>1.59 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	<b>4,368.95</b>	<b>98.41 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL WHITE</b>	<b>4,443.52</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>49.01 %</b>

NOTE: Informed estimates have been included for those wineries/growers unwilling to reveal their varieties/acreages.

## B.C. RED WINE GRAPES

RED VARIETY	ACREAGE	% of REDS	% of TOTAL GRAPES
Merlot	1585.46	34.31 %	17.49 %
Pinot Noir	793.41	17.17 %	8.75 %
Cabernet Sauvignon	680.87	14.73 %	7.51 %
Syrah (Shiraz)	516.27	11.17 %	5.70 %
Cabernet Franc	391.18	8.46 %	4.31 %
Gamay Noir	143.69	3.11 %	1.59 %
Marechal Foch	121.55	2.63 %	1.34 %
Malbec	71.87	1.55 %	0.79 %
Petit Verdot	55.69	1.20 %	0.61 %
Zweigelt	43.23	0.93 %	0.47 %
Blattner Reds	42.50	0.92 %	0.47 %
Pinot Meunier	16.13	0.35 %	0.18 %
Pinotage	14.05	0.30 %	0.16 %
Zinfandel	12.06	0.26 %	0.13 %
Baco Noir	10.70	0.23 %	0.12 %
Chancellor	10.01	0.22 %	0.11 %
Tempranillo	9.92	0.21 %	0.11 %
Lemberger	9.59	0.21 %	0.11 %
Dunkelfelder	8.11	0.18 %	0.09 %
Agria	7.51	0.16 %	0.08 %
Mourvedre	6.66	0.14 %	0.07 %
Sangiovese	4.87	0.11 %	0.05 %
Grenache	4.60	0.10 %	0.05 %
Castel	3.82	0.08 %	0.04 %
Leon Millot	3.50	0.08 %	0.04 %
Barbera	3.32	0.07 %	0.04 %
Rotberger	2.95	0.06 %	0.03 %
Dornfelder	2.47	0.05 %	0.03 %
Michurinetz	2.28	0.05 %	0.02 %
St.Laurent	1.48	0.03 %	0.02 %
Carmenere	0.40	0.01 %	0.00 %
Miscellaneous Reds	42.65	0.92 %	0.47 %
<b>TOTAL RED</b>	<b>190.54</b>	<b>4.1 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL RED</b>	<b>4,432.26</b>	<b>95.9 %</b>	
<b>TOTAL RED GRAPES:</b>	<b>4,622.80</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>50.99 %</b>

NOTE: Informed estimates have been included for those wineries/growers unwilling to reveal their varieties/acreages.

**PRIMARY VARIETIES by REGION**  
(by acreage planted)

<b>REGION</b>	<b>PRIMARY VARIETIES</b>
SIMILKAMEEN	1. Merlot 2. Cabernet Sauvignon 3. Chardonnay 4. Cabernet Franc 5. Pinot Gris
OSOYOOS	1. Merlot 2. Cabernet Sauvignon 3. Chardonnay 4. Sauvignon Blanc 5. Syrah
OLIVER	1. Merlot 2. Chardonnay 3. Cabernet Sauvignon 4. Pinot Gris 5. Sauvignon Blanc
OKANAGAN FALLS	1. Merlot 2. Chardonnay 3. Cabernet Sauvignon 4. Sauvignon Blanc 5. Gewurztraminer
KALEDEN	1. Merlot 2. Gewurztraminer 3. Chardonnay 4. Pinot Noir 5. Pinot Gris
PENTICTON / NARAMATA	1. Merlot 2. Pinot Gris 3. Chardonnay 4. Pinot Noir 5. Sauvignon Blanc
SUMMERLAND / PEACHLAND	1. Gewurztraminer 2. Pinot Gris 3. Pinot Noir 4. Chardonnay 5. Merlot

WESTBANK / KELOWNA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pinot Noir</li> <li>2. Merlot</li> <li>3. Pinot Gris</li> <li>4. Chardonnay</li> <li>5. Gewurztraminer</li> </ol>
LAKE COUNTRY / VERNON	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pinot Gris</li> <li>2. Riesling</li> <li>3. Gewurztraminer</li> <li>4. Pinot Noir</li> <li>5. Pinot Blanc</li> </ol>
SPALLUMCHEEN / SHUSWAP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ortega</li> <li>2. Foch</li> <li>3. Siegerebe</li> <li>4. Gewurztraminer</li> <li>5. Kerner</li> </ol>
LOWER MAINLAND	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blattner Reds</li> <li>2. Blattner Whites</li> <li>3. Bacchus</li> <li>4. Pinot Noir</li> <li>5. Madeleine Sylvaner /Reichensteiner</li> </ol>
VANCOUVER ISLAND / GULF ISLANDS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pinot Noir</li> <li>2. Pinot Gris</li> <li>3. Foch</li> <li>4. Chardonnay</li> <li>5. Gewurztraminer</li> </ol>
OTHER AREAS OF B.C.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pinot Noir</li> <li>2. Gewurztraminer</li> <li>3. Foch</li> <li>4. Pinot Gris</li> <li>5. Chardonnay</li> </ol>

B.C. VINEYARDS / GRAPE ACREAGE by REGION  
(Wine grapes only)

<u>REGION</u>	<u># of VINEYARDS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>% of TOTAL</u>
Oliver	138	3,398.27	37.5 %
Osoyoos	74	1,407.96	15.5 %
Penticton / Naramata	145	863.46	9.5 %
Kelowna / Westbank	68	835.55	9.2 %
Similkameen Valley	36	579.89	6.4 %
Okanagan Falls	32	549.61	6.1 %
Vancouver Island	45	347.38	3.8 %
Peachland / Summerland	48	335.74	3.7 %
Lower Mainland /Fraser Valley	23	204.10	2.2 %
Lake Country / Vernon	25	158.78	1.8 %
Gulf Islands	13	114.94	1.3 %
Other B.C. Regions - Creston, Grand Forks, Kamloops, Lillooet/Lytton, West Kootenays, etc.	28	104.55	1.2 %
Kaleden	23	90.09	1.0 %
Spallumcheen / Shuswap	12	76.00	0.8 %
	<b>710</b> <b>vineyards</b>	<b>9,066.32</b> <b>acres</b> <b>(3,626 hectares)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## POTENTIAL B.C. WINE PRODUCTION

- Actual plantings prior to 2005 = 5,506.90 acres
- 2005 actual plantings = 415.19 “
- 2006 actual plantings = 711.72 “
- 2007 actual plantings = 1,076.05 “
- 2008 actual plantings = 1,356.46 “
- 2009 estimated plantings = 800.00 “
- 2010 estimated plantings = 700.00 “

YEAR	ACREAGE at FULL PRODUCTION + THREE YEAR OLD + TWO YEAR OLD	POTENTIAL TONNAGE Full Prod. @ 4.0 tons/acre Three year @ 3.0 tons/acre Two year @ 2.0 tons/acre	POTENTIAL LITRES of WINE @ 550 litres/short ton
2008	5,922.09 + 415.19 + 711.72	26,357	14,496,350
2009	6,337.28 + 711.72 + 1,076.05	29,636	16,299,800
2010	7,049.00 + 1,076.05 + 1,356.46	34,137	18,775,350
2011	8,125.05 + 1,356.46 + 800.00	38,170	20,993,500
2012	9,481.51 + 800.00 + 700.00	41,726	22,949,300

**NOTE:** Percentage increases in newly planted acreage is predicted to slow over the next few years, especially in the Okanagan region, due to scarcity of premium grape growing land. More marginal areas are being planted each year or tree fruit crops are being removed for grapes.

### **Survey Notes:**

- The biggest percentage increases in planted acres are in the Similkameen Valley, Penticton/Naramata and Other B.C. regions. The fastest growing appellation is the Similkameen Valley.
- Pinot Gris has replaced Chardonnay as the most planted white grape in B.C.
- Merlot continues to be the most popular red for planting.
- The average vineyard size for wineries and independent growers is decreasing due to difficulties in acquiring larger tracts of good grape planting land in B.C. attributable to price and availability. As well, smaller vineyard operators are applying for winery licenses.
- The number of proposed wineries is decreasing.
- Independent grower acreage is increasing due to higher grape prices, the proliferation of wineries over the past five years and therefore more competition for wine sales, and the increased costs of constructing and operating a winery.
- Other B.C. regions are in an exploratory phase at this time, experimenting with various grape varieties.
- The largest percentage decreases in plantings were for:
  - Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc for white grapes;
  - Cabernet Sauvignon, Gamay for red grapes.
- The largest percent increases in plantings were for:
  - Viognier, Pinot Gris, Blattner whites for white grapes;
  - Merlot, Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Blattner reds for red grapes.