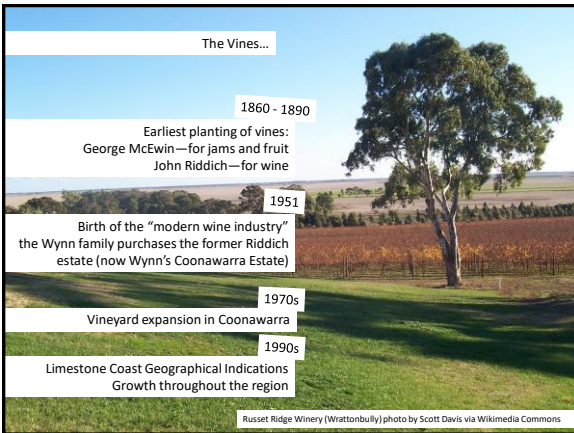




Vines



The Vines...

1860 - 1890

Earliest planting of vines:
George McEwin—for jams and fruit
John Riddich—for wine

1951

Birth of the "modern wine industry"
the Wynn family purchases the former Riddich
estate (now Wynn's Coonawarra Estate)

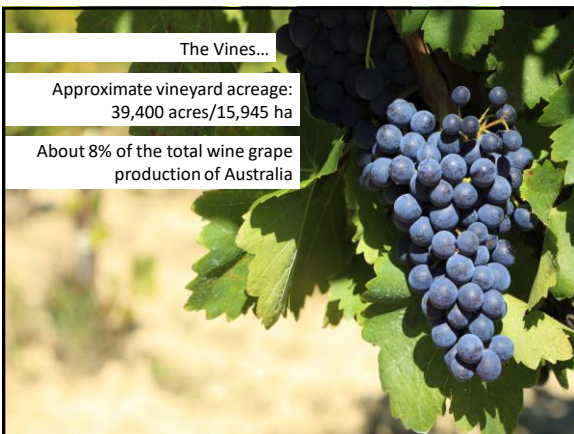
1970s

Vineyard expansion in Coonawarra

1990s

Limestone Coast Geographical Indications
Growth throughout the region

Russet Ridge Winery (Wrattenbully) photo by Scott Davis via Wikimedia Commons



The Vines...

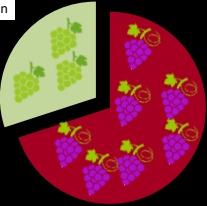
Approximate vineyard acreage:
39,400 acres/15,945 ha

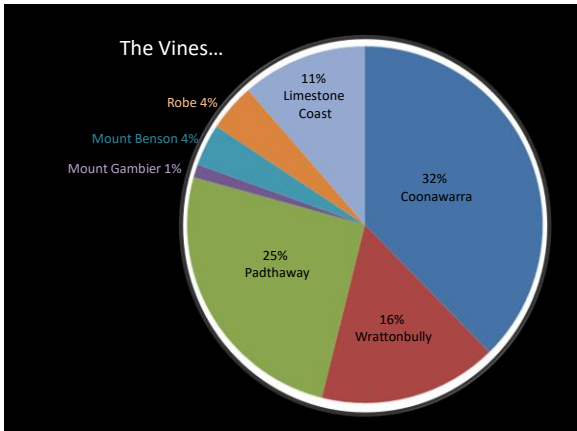
About 8% of the total wine grape
production of Australia

The Vines...

About 70% red grapes:
led by Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot

About 30% white grapes:
led by Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris,
Riesling, Semillon





The Regions



- Coonawarra
- Padthaway
- Wrattenbully
- Robe
- Mount Benson
- Mount Gambier

Coonawarra GI

Located about 50 miles (80 km) inland, the Coonawarra Region enjoys a cool, maritime climate with warm, dry summers reflecting some Mediterranean influences.

The area is fairly flat—its elevation tops out at about 165 feet (50 m).



Map via: Phyloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

John Riddich arrived from Scotland in 1861, and immediately began to acquire land, graze sheep, and plant orchards.



In 1890, Riddich founded the Pensacola Fruit Colony and, along with 26 independent farmers, grew vines along with fruit trees



Riddich also produced wine and built a distinctive triple-gabled winery

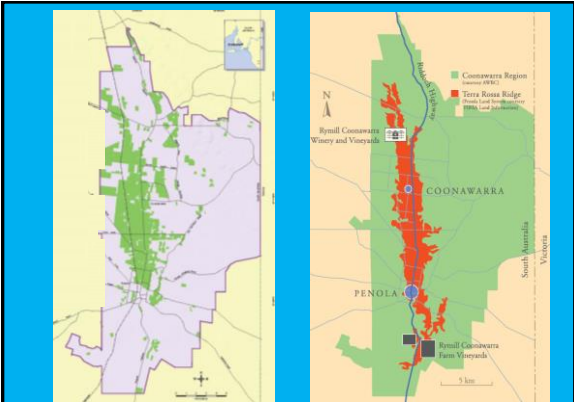
WYNN'S COONAWARRA ESTATE



Image via: <https://www.wynns.com.au/en/>

Today, Coonawarra is well-known for its rich vein of terra rosa soils...





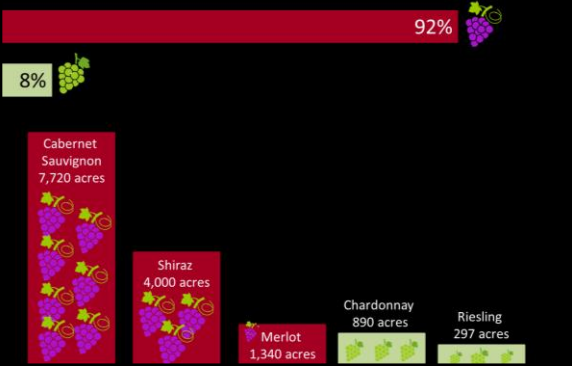
Coonawarra map via: Phylloera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

Terra Rosa map via <http://www.rymill.com.au/>

The vineyards (and the area's reputation) are led by Cabernet Sauvignon...



The Coonawarra GI 14,840 acres/6,005 ha



Coonawarra is home to the oldest vines in the Limestone Coast, including the Laira Vineyard—three hectares of Shiraz originally planted by Captain Henry Stentford in 1893.



Photo: [tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/02/cc/40/5c/brand-s-laira.jpg](https://www.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/02/cc/40/5c/brand-s-laira.jpg)
This photo of Brand's Laira is courtesy of TripAdvisor

Coonawarra was confirmed as a GI in 2003.
 Leading producers include:



Padthaway GI

Padthaway is located to the north of both Coonawarra and Wrattonbully, about 40–45 miles (64–72 km) inland from the coast.



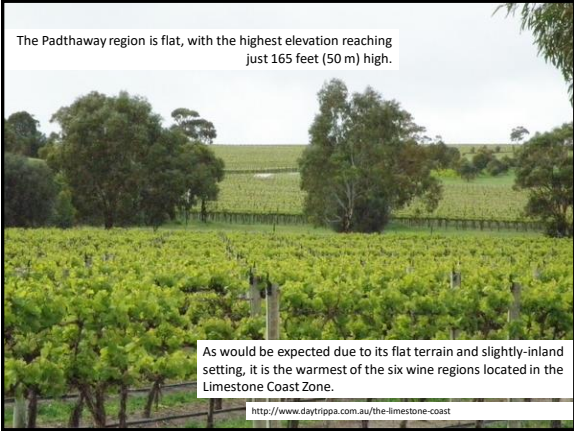
Map via: Phyloera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

The area is long and narrow, stretching for over 38 miles (62 km) following the Riddoch Highway.

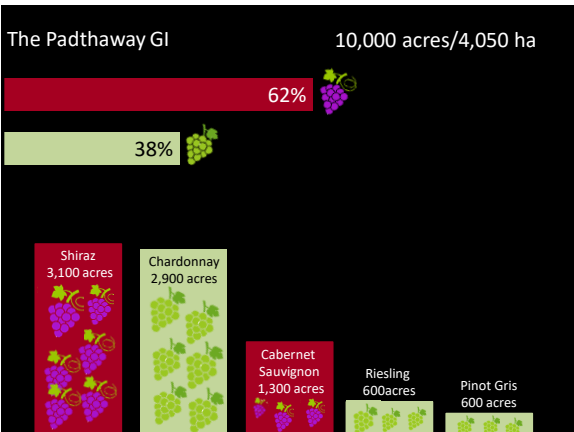
The region's widest point is just 5 miles (8 km) across.



Padthaway map via: Phyloera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia







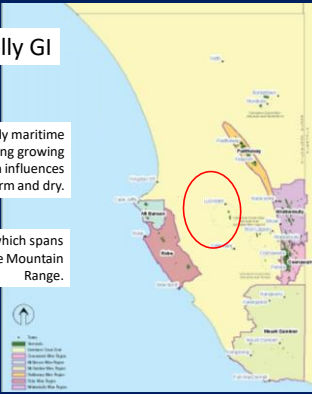
Padthaway was confirmed as a GI in 1999.
Leading producers include:



Wrattonbully GI

Wrattonbully enjoys a mostly maritime climate—which allows for a long growing season—with some Mediterranean influences that keep the summers warm and dry.

Rolling hills dominate the region, which spans across a portion of the Naracoorte Mountain Range.



Map via: Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

The first grapevines in the area—about five acres of Muscat—were planted by George McErwin in 1885.

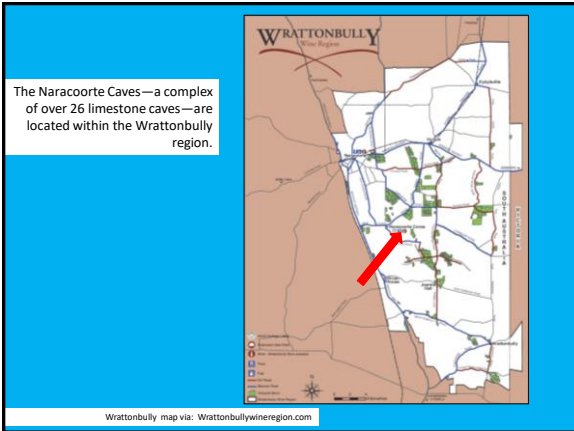
Winegrapes were first planted 1969

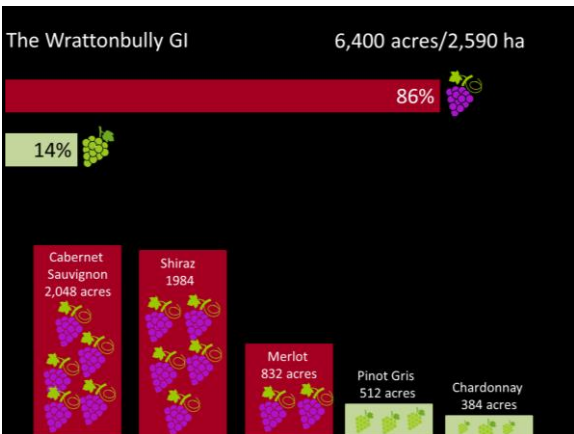
The area experienced rapid growth along with Australia's "boom" in export wine production beginning in the 1980's



Photo via: <http://www.colliers.com.au/14284/>





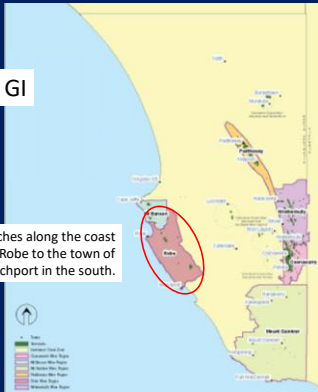


Wrattonbully was confirmed as a GI in 2005.
Leading producers include:



Robe GI

The Robe region stretches along the coast from the town of Robe to the town of Beachport in the south.



Map via: Phyloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

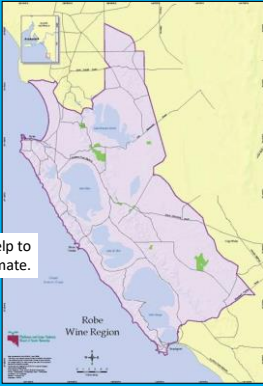
The Robe Region's coast-side location makes for a cool climate...



Photo of the seaside town of Robe by Kym Farnik via Wikimedia Commons

However, the area's commercial vineyards are planted on the eastern (inland) side of the Wokewine Mountains, which provide a bit of a barrier to the cool ocean breezes.

The area's large lakes also help to moderate the climate.



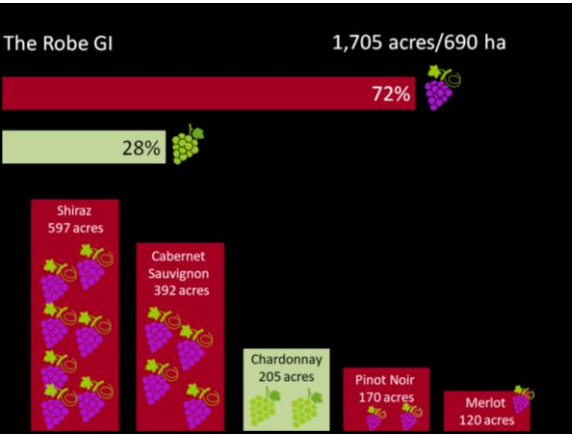
Robe Wine Region map via: Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

The area has a wide range of soil types, including the famous terra rosa.

Many vineyards are planted on *rendzina* soils, a specific type of darkly-colored clay-and-humus-rich *terra rosa* found mainly in mountainous regions.



Photo via: <https://www.governorobe.com.au/robe-wine-region/>



Robe was confirmed as a GI in 2006.
Leading producers include:



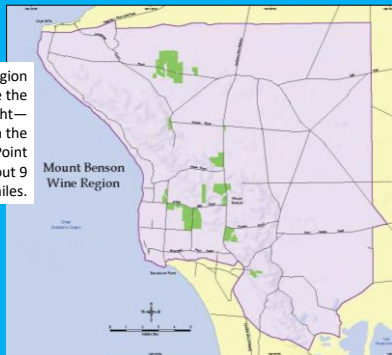
Mount Benson GI

Mount Benson was the first region in the Limestone Coast Zone to be approved as a Geographical Indication (1997).



Map via: Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

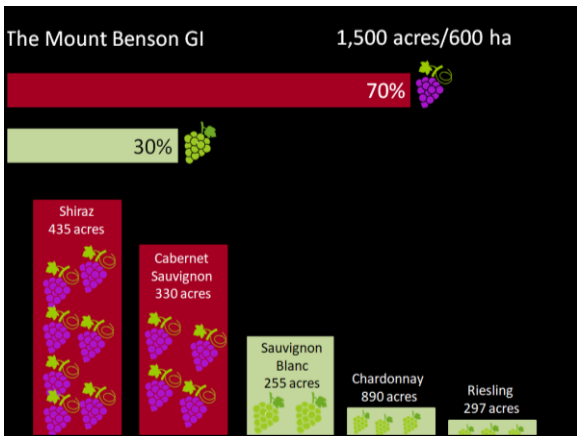
The Mount Benson Region stretches alongside the Great Australian Bight— from Cape Jaffa in the north to Boatswain Point in the south—for about 9 miles.



Mount Benson map via: Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia







Mount Benson was confirmed as a GI in 1997.
Leading producers include:



Mount Gambier GI

The Mount Gambier GI is located in the southeast corner of the state of South Australia, bordering the state of Victoria to the west, the Coonawarra Region to the north, and the ocean to the south.

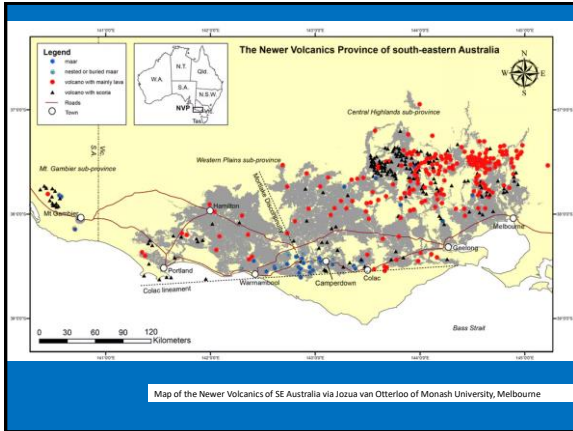


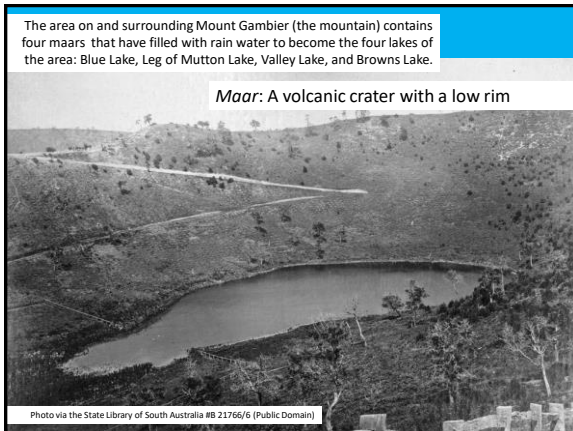
Map via: Phyloera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia

Mount Gambier (the mountain), considered a young and not-quite-dormant volcano, rises to a height of 620 feet (190 m).



Mount Gambier map via: Phyloera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia









Mount Gambier was confirmed as a GI in 2010.
Leading producers include:

The Wines of Australia's Limestone Coast

Thank you for joining us!

References/for more information:

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- <https://coonawarra.org/>
- <https://www.padthawaywineregion.com/producers.htm>
- <http://www.mountgambierwines.com/>
- <http://www.mtbensonwineregion.com.au/>
