

## The great wine regions

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Australia now has over 60 wine regions from which certain wines have gradually acquired an excellent international reputation. The country is a land of wide open spaces, many with an ideal climate for vine plantations worthy of the greatest vintages. The vine was introduced in the late eighteenth century in New South Wales and then spread to the rest of the southeast and extreme south, which has a mediterranean climate.

There are two major regions in **Western Australia** known for their grape variety. **Margaret River** is one of them and is today **one of the most prestigious wine regions** in the world with about **50 different vineyards**. The area is south of Perth and is a landscape of green hills and high forests bordered by a wild coastline. It is the white wine that has given Margaret River its reputation with some of the best **Semillon**, **Sauvignon Blanc** and **Chardonnay**, as well as some great Merlot and Syrah. The Swan Valley, just north of Perth, is the oldest wine region in Western Australia and is known for its Cabernet, Syrah, Chenin Blanc and Verdelho wines.

There are many good wine areas in **South Australia** and **Victoria**. Enjoy travelling by **van**, **motorhome** or **4x4** to explore these unique landscapes and discover many of the southern vineyards. Barossa Valley and Clare Valley, respectively northeast and north of Adelaide, and McLaren Vale, south of the city, are the oldest wine regions in the country and the most famous. The grapes grown in these regions are Chardonnay, Semillon, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot and Grenache on the McLaren Vale side.

In Victoria, don't miss the **Mornington Peninsula**, south of Melbourne, with grape varieties of **Pinot Noir** and **Chardonnay**. The Yarra Valley, northeast of Melbourne, is known for its Pinot Noir and some sparkling wines. These regions also offer excellent fresh produce so rest and enjoy some wonderful fruit while also admiring the ocean views.

Closer to Sydney and **New South Wales** is **Hunter Valley**, the oldest wine region in the country. Its emblematic grape variety is Semillon, but others are also produced here, such as Syrah, Chardonnay and Verdelho. The region is rich in wonderful **local food and produce**.

Tasmania also has its share of good vineyards, thanks to its relatively **mild climate**. Take a tour and enjoy some excellent wine tasting!