

ISRAELI WINE

At a Glance

HISTORY

Ancient History

5,000 years of winemaking. A golden age in Biblical times.

Modern History

700 CE onwards: Wine trade forsaken.

1840's

First family wineries opened in the Old City of Jerusalem.

1880's

Modern wine industry founded by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, owner of Château Lafite, with French expertise.

1980's

New World technology introduced to Israel, with Californian expertise.

1990's

Beginnings of a small winery boom.

2000's

Israeli wine receives international recognition at the highest level.

VINEYARDS

Climate

Mainly Mediterranean. Long, hot dry summers; short wet winters; snow on higher ground. Semi-arid & desert conditions, in the Negev.

Soils

Volcanic (north); sandy red soils (coast); chalk & limestone (hills.).

Hectares

6,500 hectares (16,055 acres; 65,000 dunams).

Harvest

50,000 metric tons.

Vintage

August to end of October (often beginning late July).

REGIONS

Galilee, Golan, Mt. Carmel, Rift Valleys, Coastal Plain, Foothills, Central Mountains, Negev.

Main Sub Regions

Upper Galilee, Upper Golan, Hanadiv Valley, Jezreel Valley, Judean Lowlands, Judean Foothills; Samarian Mountains, Judean Hills, Yatir Forest, Negev Highlands.

VARIETIES

R Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Shiraz/ Syrah , Carignan, Petite Sirah, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Marselan, Grenache. **W** Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Gewurztraminer, Muscat, Colombard, Viognier, Roussanne, Chenin Blanc, Riesling.

Local Interest

R Argaman, Bittuni, Yael. **W** Be'er, Dabouki, Hamdani/ Marawi, Jandali.

WINERIES

350.

PRODUCTION

40-45 million bottles.

Consumption

5-6 liters a head.

EXPORT

US\$ 60 million (60+ % North America; 35+ % to Western Europe).

% of Production

20%.

Main Importers

1. U.S.A, 2. France, 3. U.K.

BEST VINTAGES

2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2026.

