

ISRAELI WINE TIMELINE

ANCIENT HISTORY

The Eastern Mediterranean was the cradle of the grape. The Canaanites, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Israelites, Judeans, Greeks, Romans and Byzantines all contributed winemaking skills and wine culture to the Southern Levant.

9000 BCE	Grape vine domesticated in the Levant.
3000 BCE	Noah planted first recorded vineyard. Oldest ancient wine press found in Jezreel Valley.
2000s BCE	Golden Age for wine in Canaan.
1900 BCE	Isaac blessing to Jacob for “plenty of grain & wine”
1850 BCE	Jacob gives Judah wine blessing.
1800 BCE	Joseph and the Egyptian cupbearer's dream. Largest & oldest Canaanite wine cellar unearthed in Galilee.
1400 BCE	Spies returned to Moses with a large cluster of grapes.
1350 BCE	Biblical agricultural laws. Oldest codified wine laws.
1300-500 BCE	Golden Age of wine in Ancient Israel.
1050 BCE	Psalms written, inc. “Wine gladdens the heart of man.”
1000 BCE	King David had officials to care for his vineyard & cellar.
750 BCE	Amos predicts “my people Israel will plant vineyards.”
700 BCE	Isaiah's Song of a Vineyard.
400 BCE-100CE	Nabateans create successful Negev wine industry.
25 CE	Miracle of turning water into wine in the Galilee.
200 CE	The beginnings of 'Jewish wine' (kosher.)
300-600 CE	Byzantine wine industry. Oldest Byzantine winery uncovered at Yavne
650 CE	Muslim period. Decline of wine production.
900 CE	Oldest varieties identified from grape pips found in Avdat
1200-1800 CE	Domestic winemaking only, by Jews and Christians.
1200 CE	Crusaders take Holy Land vines back to Europe.



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MODERN HISTORY

The founding of the modern Israel wine industry by Baron Edmond de Rothschild used French expertise.

1839	Sir Moses Montefiore urged Jews to return to agriculture & plant vines.
1840	Ginio Winery founded in Old City of Jerusalem.
1848	Shor family founds winery in Old City (Zion Winery.) OLDEST EXISTING WINERY.
1855	Moses Montefiore purchased the first land to encourage agriculture.
1870	Mikveh Israel Agricultural School opened. Teperberg founded in Jerusalem.
1871	Founding of Templar winery at Sarona.
1882	Baron Edmond de Rothschild (Ch. Lafite) founded Carmel. ISRAEL WINE INDUSTRY.
1887	Cuttings of Bordeaux varieties sent from Chateau Lafite..
1890-92	Rishon Le Zion & Zichron Ya'acov Cellars built.
1890	Founding of Latroun Monastery.
1895	Founding of Cremisan Monastery.
1896	Carmel Wine Co. founded for Europe and America.
1902	Carmel Oriental founded for Ottoman Empire.
1906	'Société Coopérative Vigneronne des Grandes Caves' (SCV) formed.
1907	David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, worked at Rishon.
1915	Levi Eshkol, 2nd prime minister, managed vineyards at Rishon.

STATE OF ISRAEL

The quality revolution began in the 1980's, with imported expertise from California.

1950	Founding of Askalon Wines (Segal.)
1954	Founding of Eliaz (Binyamina.)
1957	James Rothschild donated Rishon & Zichron Cellars to S.C.V. The Israel Wine Institute founded.
1962	Israel Wine & Grapes Board founded.
1968	First varietal wines. CLASSIC VARIETIES.
1976	First grapes planted on the Golan Heights. HIGH ELEVATION V'YDS. Carmel Special Reserve aged in small oak barrels.



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- 1983 Golan Heights Winery established. **NEW WORLD TECHNOLOGY.**
- 1987 Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon 1984 - Trophy at IWSC.
- 1989 Margalit Winery founded. **BOUTIQUE WINERY BOOM.**
- 1990 Barkan Winery founded.
- 1992 Domaine du Castel founded.
- 1995 Serena Sutcliffe MW 'discovered' Castel Grand Vin.
- 1999 Yarden invited to the New York Wine Experience.
- 2001 Barkan purchased Segal Wines.
- 2003 Handcrafted Wines of Israel founded.
- 2004 Tempo Beverages purchased Barkan winery.
- 2005 CBC Israel purchased Tabor Winery.
- 2007 Tasting by Robert Parker's Wine Advocate. **INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.**
Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon in Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines.
- 2008 Castel - 4 stars Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book.
Cremisan pioneer indigenous varieties.
- 2010 Carmel Kayoumi Shiraz 2006 - International Trophy, Decanter.
Last harvest at Rishon Le Zion Cellars.
- 2012 Founding of IPEVO.
- 2013 Golan Heights Winery - Best New World Winery, Wine Enthusiast.
Carmel purchased by Kedma Capital.
- 2016 Eran Pick (Tzora Vineyards) becomes Israel's 1st MW.
Founding of W - Wine & Spirit School (WSET), Tel Aviv.
Wine Spectator publishes cover page feature on Israel.
- 2017 Judean Hills Quartet formed. **QUEST FOR IDENTITY.**
- 2018 Visit to Israel by The Institute of Masters of Wine.
Updated Israel Wine Standards introduced..
- 2020 IPEVO launch new wine map. Ido Lewinsohn - 2nd Master of Wine.
Judea Region officially registered as appellation.
- 2022 Carmel Corp (parent company of Carmel Winery) goes public.
- 2025 Carmel Winery at Alon Tavor fully operational.
- 2026 Negev Region officially registered as appellation.
Israel Wine Map with regions and sub-regions launched.

