



COLORADO WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD
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Fast Facts about the Colorado Wine Industry

❖ **Our wine industry is older than you might think:**

The first recorded wine production in Colorado was 1899. It was Colorado Governor George A. Crawford, the founder of Grand Junction in 1881, who first saw the Grand Valley's potential for grape production and planted 60 acres of wine grapes and other fruit on Rapid Creek above Palisade, the current site of the state's largest annual wine festival: Colorado Winefest.

www.coloradowinefest.com. Colorado is currently home to 64 licensed wineries.



❖ **Two AVAs and five total distinct wine regions:**

Colorado possesses two federally designated American Viticultural Areas (AVAs): the Grand Valley along the Colorado River between Palisade and Grand Junction and the West Elks along the North Fork of the Gunnison River between Paonia and Hotchkiss. Together these regions produce 90% of the wine grapes grown in Colorado. The Front Range, Delta and Montrose Counties, Rocky Mountains, Grand Valley and the Four Corners make up the five distinct wine regions in Colorado. For more information on each area, please visit

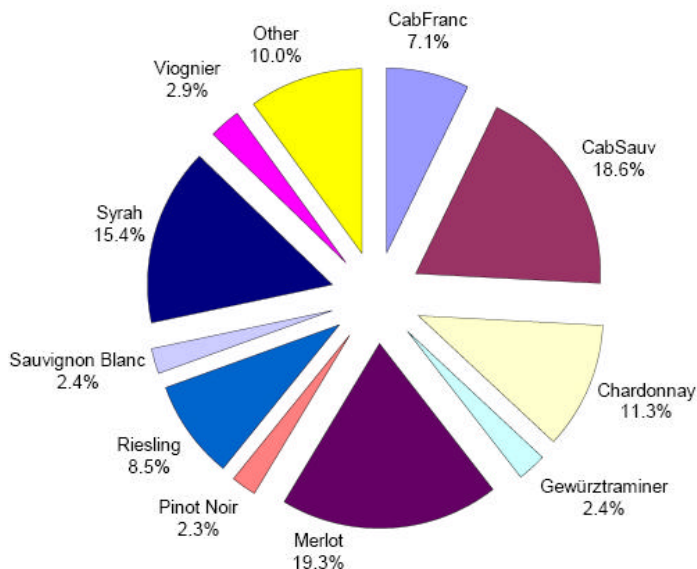
www.coloradowine.com

❖ **Vineyards with an altitude:**

Colorado's grape growing regions range in elevation from 4,000 to 7,000 feet and are thus amongst the highest vineyards in the world.

❖ **Our terra and terroir:**

Colorado's soils, similar to the soils of Europe, are generally more alkaline. Consequently, Merlots often taste more like Bordeaux here than in California, and Syrahs are more like Rhone Valley reds than like Australian Shiraz. The extremely dry climate keeps pest and disease pressures very low, so applications of pesticides and other necessary chemicals are almost unnecessary compared with more humid climates.



❖ **Our portfolio of varieties:**

Premium *vitis vinifera* varieties account for virtually all of the vineyard acreage in the state. Merlot is the most widely planted variety, accounting for 22 percent of the state's acreage. Cabernet Sauvignon follows closely at 18 percent. Chardonnay, Shiraz/Syrah, Cabernet Franc, Riesling, Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc, Viognier and Gewurztraminer represent other significant plantings. The chart on the previous page is production percentages for the 2005 harvest.

❖ **Double-digit growth:**

Colorado has an estimated 120 grape growers tending 750 acres of vineyards and more than 64 licensed commercial wineries and wine tasting rooms which **generated more than \$14 million of retail value during the fiscal year of 2005-2006**. In the last three fiscal years, there has been an increase of over 16 percent in production with an average increase of more than 20 percent over the last 14 years. In fact, the Colorado wine industry is now the fastest growing agricultural segment in the state.


❖ **Award Winning Wines**

At the 2006 Denver International Wine Competition, Colorado won the top honor in the Chardonnay category as well as two silver medals for Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon and Bronze medals for Dry Riesling and Rose. And Colorado wines received double gold medals at the International Eastern Wine Competition in 2006 for Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Port, plus a Colorado Riesling was one of the category finalists in the World Riesling Cup in that same competition, an award Colorado also won two years earlier.



For more information about Colorado wines or the Colorado Wine Industry Development Board visit www.coloradowine.com or contact Doug Caskey at 720.304.3406.

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 Community	AVA or Area	Elev.	Avg. Last Spring Frost of 32° F.	Avg. First Fall Frost of 32° F	Growing days, 32° and above	Avg. Annual Precip	Degree Days
Cedaredge	Surface Creek	6180	17-May	3-Oct	139	11.58	2525
Delta	Delta Co.	5120	14-May	29-Sep	138	7.3	2893
Grand Jet	Grand Valley	4850	23-Apr	20-Oct	180	7.96	3560
Powderhorn	Grand Mesa	8090	10-Jul	14-Aug	35	10.69	n/a
Palisade	Grand Valley	4720	21-Apr	21-Oct	183	9.11	3822
Paonia	West Elks	6200	28-May	4-Oct	128	12.43	2404
Boulder	Front Range	5400	3-May	1-Oct	152	19.71	2920
Cañon City	Front Range	5340	3-May	4-Oct	154	13.4	3264
CO Springs	Front Range	6170	4-May	3-Oct	152	17.6	2439
Fort Collins	Front Range	5200	4-May	2-Oct	151	15.9	2335
Cortez	Montezuma V	6180	25-May	30-Sep	126	12.99	2423
OR	Willamette V	150	1-May	16-Oct	168	41.14	2157
St. Helena, CA	Napa Valley	230	30-Mar	12-Nov	232	35.08	3707