



Fast Facts/ Israeli Wine (2013)

VINEYARDS

Israel is usually regarded as being part of the Middle East. It may be more accurately considered as being situated in the Eastern Mediterranean, a region also referred to as the Near East or 'The Levant.'

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

SOILS: Volcanic in north; sandy red soils on coast & chalk & limestone on the hills.

HECTARES: 5,500 hectares (13,585 acres; 55,000 dunams).

HARVEST (METRIC TONS):

2012: 52,873 **2011:** 46,079 **2010:** 46,258 **2009:** 44,001 **2008:** 43,987
2007: 42,236 **2006:** 45,353 **2005:** 45,483 **2004:** 53,468
2003: 45,242 **2002:** 43,077 **2001:** 44,653 **(1995:** 31,668).

VINTAGE: August to end of October - (often begins late July & occasionally ends early November); Machine & hand harvested.

BEST VINTAGES:

2012; 2011; 2008; 2005; 2004; 2003; 2000; 1997; 1995; 1993; 1990;
1989; 1985; 1979; 1976

GRAPE VARIETIES

Israel's traditional volume varieties, Carignan & Colombard, apart from some quality old vine Carignans, are usually only used in inexpensive blends. They are gradually being replaced by international varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay & Sauvignon Blanc. Shiraz is proving both popular & suitable for Israel's climate. Bordeaux varieties have been most successful to date, yet Mediterranean varieties may be more suitable in the longer term.

MAIN VARIETIES:

Cabernet Sauvignon; Merlot; Shiraz / Syrah; Cabernet Franc; Carignan; Petite Sirah; Argaman; Petit Verdot; Malbec; Pinot Noir; Sangiovese; Barbera; Zinfandel. Chardonnay; Sauvignon Blanc; Gewurztraminer; Viognier; White Riesling; Emerald Riesling; Chenin Blanc; Semillon; Muscat Canelli; Muscat of Alexandria.

VARIETIES – METRIC TONS %:

Cabernet Sauvignon 21%; Carignan 15%; Merlot 14%; Shiraz/ Syrah 8%; Colombard 5%; Muscat of Alexandria 4%; Argaman 4%; Chardonnay 3%; Petite Sirah 3%; Sauvignon Blanc 3%; Petit Verdot 3%; Emerald Riesling 3%; Cabernet Franc 2%; Malbec 1%; Viognier 1% **LESS THAN 1%:** Pinotage; Muscat Canelli; White Riesling; Pinot Noir; Semillon; Sangiovese; Tempranillo; Gewurztraminer; Mourvedre; Barbera; Muscat Hamburg; Chenin Blanc; Zinfandel; Grenache; Nebbiolo.

OTHER VARIETIES:

Gamay Noir; Pinot Blanc; Roussanne; Ruby Cabernet; Tannat; Touriga Nacional; Tinto Cao.

WINERIES

The three largest wineries – Carmel, Barkan & Golan, (along with their respective subsidiaries: Yatir, Segal & Galil Mountain) account for 64% of the 2012 harvest. The top 5 wineries total 76 % of the harvest and the top 13 account for 94%.

NO. COMMERCIAL WINERIES: 40

NO. BOUTIQUE WINERIES & GARAGISTES: 250 +

LARGE WINERIES (> 2,500 metric tons / 2.1 million bottles):

1. **Carmel Winery** – Zichron Ya'acov, Rishon Le Zion, Kayoumi, Yatir
2. **Barkan - Segal** – Hulda
3. **Golan Heights Winery** – Katzrin
4. **Teperberg 1870** – Tzora
5. **Binyamina Winery** - Binyamina

MEDIUM SIZED WINERIES (> 1,000 metric tons / 840,000 bots):

6. **Tabor Winery** - Tabor
7. **Zion Winery** – Mishor Adumim
8. **Arza** – Mishor Adumim
9. **Jerusalem Winery** - Jerusalem

10. **Tishbi Winery** – *Binyamina*
11. **Galil Mountain** – *Yiron*
12. **Dalton Winery** – *Dalton*
13. **Recanati Winery** – *Emek Hefer*

SMALL WINERIES (100 – 800 metric tons / 90,000 – 450,000 bots):

Hebron Heights; Latroun; Hacormim; Ella Valley; Castel; Yatir; Mony; Tzora; Flam; Cremisan; Tulip; Odem Mountain; Or Haganuz; Psagot; Pelter

COMMERCIAL BOUTIQUE WINERIES (50 – 100 metric tons / 45,000 – 90,000 bots):

Saslove; Bazelet Hagolan; Chateau Golan; Shilo; Tzuba; Clos de Gat; Vitkin; Adir; Alexander; Amphorae; Kadesh Barnea; Gush Etzion

BOUTIQUE WINERIES – A SELECTION (15 – 50 metric tons /13,500 – 45,000 bots):

Agur; Assaf; Avidan; Ben Haim; Chillag; Gush Etzion; Hamasrek; Karmeï Yosef; Margalit; Midbar; Netofa; Ramat Naftaly; Sea Horse; Tanya; Vitkin. Yaffo;

GARIGISTES –A SELECTION (< 15 metric tons / 13,500 bots):

Alona; Amram; Ben Hanna; Bustan; Gustavo & Jo; Gvaot; Hans Sternbach; Lewinsohn; Meishar; Red Poetry; Ruth; Sde Boker; Smadar; Somek; Sorek; Shvo; Trio; Zauberman;

ISRAELI MARKET

WINE MARKET IN ISRAEL: US\$ 315 million annually

IMPORTS: 20%, mainly from 1. Italy; 2. Chile;
3. Argentina; 4. France; 5. Spain

CONSUMPTION: 4 liters a head

MARKET SHARE: 63% red; 16% white; 8% sparkling; 2% rose;
11% sweet (*moscato style, dessert & sacramental*)

EXPORT

EXPORT OF ISRAELI WINES (\$ m.)

2012: \$ 29,843m. **2011:** \$ 26.7m. **2010:** \$ 24.4 m. **2009:** \$ 19m. **2008:** \$ 26.7m.
2007: \$ 21.1m. **2006:** \$ 14.8m. **2005:** \$ 14.6m; **2004:** \$ 13.7m.; **2003:** \$ 11.3 m.;
(2001: \$ 8.01 m.)

MAIN IMPORTERS OF ISRAELI WINES

1. U.S.A; 2. France; 3. U.K; 4. Canada; 5. Poland, 6. Germany; 7. Holland

EXPORT SALES

55+% of exports to North America; 35+% to Western Europe; Remainder to more than 30 countries in 5 continents.

MAIN EXPORTING WINERIES

- Barkan, Carmel & Golan Heights each export over \$ 2.5 m. dollars worth of wine and have the majority of Israel's exports
- 90% of Israel's exports are from the following 12 wineries: Barkan; Binyamina; Carmel, Castel; Dalton; Ella Valley; Galil Mountain; Golan Heights, Recanati; Tabor; Teperberg; Tishbi.

ISRAELI WINERY RANKINGS

HUGH JOHNSON'S POCKET WINE BOOK 2013

FOUR STARS:

Castel

THREE TO FOUR STARS:

Yatir

THREE STARS:

Clos de Gat, Golan Heights, Margalit

TWO TO THREE STARS:

Carmel, Chateau Golan, Flam, Pelter, Recanati, Tzora

TWO STARS:

Barkan-Segal, Chillag, Dalton, Lewinsohn, Galil Mountain, Saslove, Tulip, Vitkin

ONE TO TWO STARS:

Agur: Avidan, Binyamina, Ella Valley, Galil Mountain, Sea Horse, Tabor, Tishbi, Teperberg

ROGOV'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO ISRAELI WINES

1. Golan Heights
2. Margalit
3. Yatir
4. Castel
5. Clos de Gat

6. Flam
7. Chateau Golan
8. Pelter
9. Carmel
10. Sea Horse
11. Recanati
12. Tzora
13. Vitkin

ISRAELI WINE SCORES

ROBERT PARKER'S WINE ADVOCATE – SCORES OF 91+

Yatir Forest 2003	93 points
Castel Grand Vin 2008	93
Margalit Cabernet Sauvignon Sp. Res. 2007	93
Clos du Gat Sycra Muscat 2007	93
<u>Yarden El Rom Cabernet Sauvignon 2003</u>	<u>93</u>
Castel Grand Vin 2004	92
Castel Grand Vin 2009	92
Yatir Forest 2008	92
Castel Grand Vin 2009	92
Clos du Gat Sycra Syrah 2007	92
Yarden El Rom Cabernet Sauvignon 2008	92
<u>Tzora Or 2006</u>	<u>92</u>
Carmel Limited Edition 2007	91
Carmel Limited Edition 2008	91
'C' Blanc du Castel 2005	91
Castel Grand Vin 2007	91
Yatir Forest 2004	91
Yatir Forest 2006	91
Yatir Forest 2007	91
Yatir Forest 2009	91
Margalit Kadita Cabernet Sauvignon 2007	91
Recanati Special Reserve 2009	91
Yarden HeightsWine 2005	91
Yarden Katzrin 2003	91
Tzora Or 2011	91

WINE REGIONS

HECTARES OF VINEYARDS BY REGION (%)

- **GALILEE** 41% - mainly Upper Galilee & Golan Heights
- **SAMSON** 27% - vineyards in central coastal plain, Judean Lowlands, Judean Foothills
- **SHOMRON** 17% - southern Mt. Carmel - mainly in valleys around Zichron Ya'acov
- **JUDEAN HILLS** 10% - Jerusalem mountains, Gush Etzion & Yatir Forest - southern Judean Hills
- **NEGEV** 5% - mainly Ramat Arad, Sde Boker & Mitzpe Ramon

OFFICIAL WINE REGIONS

<u>Region in Hebrew</u>	<u>Name in English</u>	<u>Vineyard Areas</u>
Galil	Galilee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upper Galilee• Lower Galilee• Golan Heights
Shomron	Samaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt. Carmel• Sharon• Shomron Hills
Shimshon	Samson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Coastal• Judean Lowlands• Judean Foothills
Harey Yehuda	Judean Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jerusalem• Gush Etzion• Yatir Forest
Hanegev	Negev	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NE Negev• Central Negev

Wine regions in bold type are registered with the TTB (USA) and the European Community.

WINE TOURISM

There is a great deal of domestic and international wine tourism. Larger wineries are more likely to have visitors' centers. Smaller wineries are more likely to be open on Shabbat-Saturdays.

The main wine routes are the Upper Galilee & Golan, the Mount Carmel and Judean Hills & Foothills regions.

North

Galilee (Tabor, Dalton, Adir, Ramat Naftaly, Galil Mountain)

Golan Heights (Chateau Golan, Golan Heights Winery, Bazelet Hagolan, Odem Mountain)

Coast

Mount Carmel (Binyamina, Margalit, Tishbi, Carmel–Zichron Ya'acov, Somek, Amphorae, Tulip)

Center

Judean Plain (Barkan-Segal, Latoun, Karmeit Zion – Bravdo, Clos de Gat)

Judean Foothills (Mony, Teperberg, Tzora, Flam, Ella Valley)

Judean Hills (Castel, Tzuba, Sea Horse, Gush Etzion)

Central Mountains

Shomron Hills (Psagot, Shilo, Gvaot, Tanya, Tura, Har Bracha)

South

Negev (Yatir, Midbar, Carmey Avdat, Kadesh Barnea)

THIRD PARTY RECOMMENDATION

"The corner has clearly been turned qualitatively. Israel has a real wine industry that deserves consumer attention. There are attractive wines with typicity and some distinction....Many are classic and charming and the best will impress anyone."

Mark Squires, Wine Advocate

"The...wines are getting better all the time and some of them are superb"

Robert Parker, Business Week

"New vineyards with classic varieties and a focus on cool climate, high altitude regions has transformed Israeli wines, as has modern technology and internationally trained winemakers."

Hugh Johnson, Pocket Wine Book

"Improvements in quality and consistency since the mid 1990's have been remarkable."

Jancis Robinson MW, World Atlas of Wine

"The country's entire wine industry has gained global recognition."

Tom Stevenson, Sotheby's Wine Guide

"Israel is on track to make wines with a distinctive style and taste. Its an amazing turnaround for a nation that has been mostly overlooked in the world wine sweepstakes."

Kim Marcus, The Wine Spectator

"Israel's best Cabernet Sauvignons and Merlots are exceptional"

Andrew Jefford, Wine Magazine

Israel has developed a wine industry that will confound preconceptions."

Mark Squires, Wine Advocate

"Israel is a rising star of the wine world"

Oz Clarke, Wine

"Israel wine has been transformed in the last 20 years by producers who have imported wine expertise to go with their existing technological and agricultural prowess."

Hugh Johnson, Pocket Wine Book

“ In such a climate, tending vineyards and producing wine is an act of courage and of optimism. I have enormous admiration for the majority of Israel’s winemakers.... Surrounded by anger, dogma, devastation, deprivation, mutual suspicion and....politics, they offer the possibility of hope for a better future.”

Tim Atkin MW, *The Observer/ Off Licence News*

“Once, recommendation of Israel wines was mostly of a sentimental nature. That is no longer necessary.”

Frank Priol, *New York Times*

“No-one should avoid wines simply because they have kosher certification. It seems generally irrelevant.”

Wine Advocate

SOURCES

www.wines-israel.com

www.wines-israel.co.il/en/

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Israel Wine Institute; Israel Export Institute (both Ministry of Trade & Industry);

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Rogov’s Ultimate Guide To Israeli Wines, Daniel Rogov (Toby Press)

Wines of Israel, Eliezer Sacks, Adam Montefiore (Cordinata)

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The Bible of Israeli Wines, Michael Ben-Joseph (Modan)

The Book of New Israeli Food, Janna Gur (Al Ha’Shulchan)

Divine Vintage, Randall Hesketh & Joel Butler MW (Palgrave Macmillan)

Parker’s Wine Buyer’s Guide No. 7, Robert Parker (Simon & Schuster)

Hugh Johnson’s Pocket Wine Book 2013, Hugh Johnson (Mitchell Beazley)

The Oxford Companion To Wine, Jancis Robinson MW (Oxford)

The Vine & Wine in Archaeology of The Land of Israel, Prof. Amos Hadas (Kronenberg)

Drink & Be Merry, Michal Dayagi-Mendels (The Israel Museum, Jerusalem)

Rogov’s Ultimate Guide To Kosher Wines, Daniel Rogov (Toby Press)

The Kosher Grapevine, Irving Langer (Gefen)

Features on Israeli Wine In Wine Magazines/ Journals / Websites

Wine Advocate written by Mark Squires; **Wine Spectator** by Kim Marcus; **The Wine News** by Howard Goldberg; **Decanter** by Stephen Brook; **Wine Business International** by Adam Montefiore

i-winereview.com by Mike Potashnik, Don Winkler; **Wine & Spirit** by Tim Atkin MW

Wine Magazine by Andrew Jefford; **Harpers W & S** by Adam Montefiore; **Drinks International** by Adam Montefiore; **Sommelier Journal** by Benjamin Weinberg

