# YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2014 harvest produced a crop of 52,716 tonnes, comprised of 2,164 tonnes of juice grapes and 50,552 tonnes of wine grapes, valued at $62.3 million.

Grapes "naturally frozen" on the vine produce Ontario's premier Icewine. This year 3,751 tonnes were left hanging for Icewine, which may produce between 560,000 and 600,000 litres. Temperatures dipped below -8°C in early January 2015 creating ideal conditions for Icewine harvest.

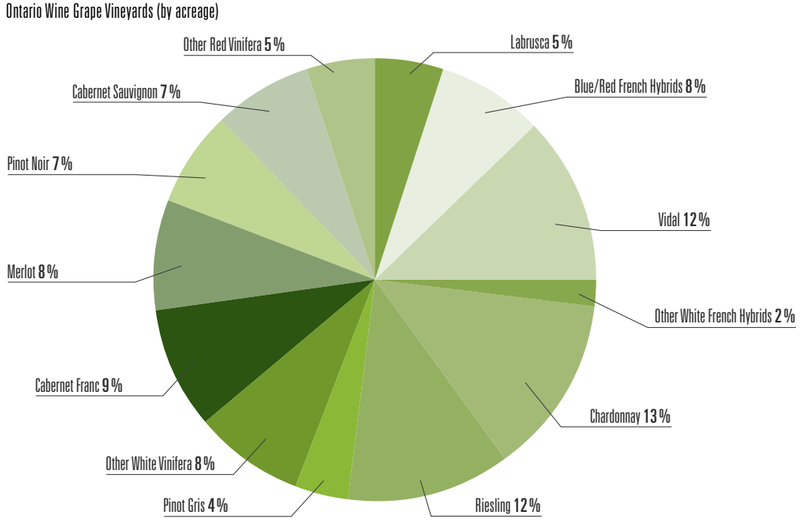
VQA wine sales in Ontario have reached 16.0 million litres and $280 million in annual sales in 2013-2014, up from 15.9 million litres the year before. Ontario's VQA wines account for 9.33% of sales and ICB/non-VQA wine adds another 29.36%, giving a total of 38.69% of wine sold in Ontario. Each year wineries are selling more 100% Ontario ICB/non-VQA wine.

## Ontario Wineries by Region

| | |
|---|---|
| Lake Erie North Shore | 17 |
| Niagara Peninsula | 98 |
| Prince Edward County | 37 |
| Emerging Regions | 26 |
| **Total Ontario Wineries** (including Virtual wineries) | **178** |

*53% of acres are white grapes*

*47% of acres are red grapes*






# 2014 WEATHER REPORT

2014 had characteristic growing degree day accumulation and comprised normal to slightly above normal seasonal rainfall. This growing season was noteworthy for its warm spring, cool summer, and warm autumn.

January through March was, on average, 3°C cooler than normal with some extreme cold temperatures reaching killing temperatures for primary buds. April temperatures started normal to slightly above and declined to below normal at the end of the month. Below normal temperatures continued through the first half of May. Temperatures from end of May through June were above normal. Overnight lows deviated less than daytime highs in spring.

Temperatures between July and August were below normal. September and October returned to above normal temperatures. Growing Degree Days (GDD) accumulated quickly and steadily during the warm spring. The cool summer temperatures slowed GDD accumulation to maintain near normal accumulated GDD for the season.

In terms of rainfall, the 2014 growing season commenced with above-normal April totals, except for the Lake Erie North Shore appellation which had near normal rainfall. The month of May brought slightly above normal rain to Ontario appellations.

Eastern Niagara and Prince Edward County received above normal rainfall during June, while rainfall in Western Niagara and Lake Erie North Shore was normal to slightly below. July rainfall was above normal for all appellations.

Niagara received below normal rainfall for both August and September. However, the Lake Erie North Shore appellation had above normal rainfall in September. The month of October returned to normal rainfall in Niagara West and Prince Edward County while Niagara East and Lake Erie North Shore received slightly below normal rainfall. Below normal rainfall led to more favourable harvest conditions for September and October compared to the wetter conditions last year.

2014 wrapped up with normal temperatures to start November followed by a period of below normal temperature in mid-November. December proved to be warmer than normal with daytime highs exceeding 5 degrees above normal. The accumulation of Nov-Dec 2014 icewine hours averaged 29 hours across Niagara, 51 hours across the Lake Erie North Shore appellation and 62 hours across the Prince Edward County appellation.

This season provided some challenges but the growing season still produced quality yields for wine and icewine from the many practiced viticulturalists and winemakers across the Ontario appellations.

For more detailed weather data, management tools and weather reports throughout the year, visit vineinnovations.com – sponsored by the Grape Growers of Ontario.