Water-saving initiatives for wineries and getting smarter with water sourcing in the face of climate change.

A trip to Adelaide, South Australia

Great Wine Capitals Knowledge Exchange



Investigate ways of reducing water use in wineries

Investigate potential for alternative water sources to help negate the effects of climate change



Wineries Visited

McLaren Vale

Mollydooker

Yangarra

Oliver and Press (Olivers Taranga, Hither & Yon)

Barossa

Treasury Wine Estate (Penfolds, Wolf Blass, ...)

Yalumba

Mollydooker

1400T Crush (2024)

Majority red wine production (Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Durif and Merlot)

3100 Barrels (American Hogsheads) only used for 3 years



Mollydooker Water Profile

Water supply: mains water (\$2.126-3.035/kL)

Ground water unsuitable for winery use due to high salt content

Waste water: Settled then irrigated to tree lot

Water use:

2022 5.95L/L wine produced,

2023 7.45L/L

2024 5.6 L/L



Yangarra

Jackson Family Wines

Biodynamic and organic certified

500T Crush (70% red/30% white)

Grenache, Shiraz, Roussanne

French oak barriques, puncheons and foudres (2500L, 4800L)

Ceramic eggs and amphoras



Yangarra Water Profile

Water Supply: rain water (general use), ground water (floors and non wine use)

500kL rain water storage

Must buy spring water via tanker if rain water runs out (\$80/kL)

Waste water: Settled, sand/gravel filter, reed beds and pH correction then irrigated to tree lot

Water use: 4L/L





Oliver and Press

Contract facility (ex Gemtree site)

Production for Oliver's Taranga, Hither & Yon

2000T Crush

Tank capacity 5 million litres

3500 barrels



Oliver and Press Water Profile

Water supply: Rain water, 440kL storage

Waste water: Full treatment and then irrigated to grazing lot or oats (used for cattle feed)

Water Use 2.4L/L

Chemical reuse programme (caustic IBC)

Floats in wash tubs to cut water per wash cycle





Treasury Wine Estate

Original Wolf Blass production site (Est 1975) 30 Ha site

Crush 60,000T (2024)

Fully automated red barrel hall with capacity for 130,000 barrels

Automatic barrel fill/empty and clean

Bottling for all TWE wines

New no/lo facility being built

Substantial waste water treatment plant



TWE Water Profile

Water supply: Mains water for process water (\$2.90/kL) Rain water: fire, gardening, tree lots Water use: 4.28L/L Waste water: Post treatment to vineyard and golf course Caustic neutralisation/rinse review Sanitisation only for low alc

Pigging for finished wine and premium









Yalumba Angaston

Not visited but an honourable mention

Est. 1849

10,000T

Reticulated Caustic System

Crusher water reuse program



Comparison

Winery	Tonnage Processed (2024)	Bottling plant onsite	Water use efficiency (L water/L wine)	Average NZ water use for similar winery (2023)
Mollydooker	1400	No	5.6	2.8
Yangarra	500	No	4	2.7
Oliver and Press	2000	No	2.4	2.8
Treasury Wine Estate				
Barossa	59100	Yes	4.28	2.1
Yalumba Angaston	11000	Yes	6	2.1

Different Issues, Same Solutions

Reducing a love affair with ground water and rain water utilisation If they can do it with 600mm, imagine what we could do with 800mm

Future Infrastructure projects

Adelaide water recycling project (irrigation)

25 million liters/day, \$1.47/kL