

California is the 4th largest wine producer in the world



California wines are well known for their high quality, reliability and diversity. California is one of the most diverse wine regions in the world, with almost 100 grape varieties grown in almost 100 viticultural areas, including dozens of different microclimates and soil types, as well as a very individualistic set of winemakers, many with international experience, which adds to and deepens that diversity.

Source: California Wine Institute



## California at a glance

<b>Size</b>	404.000 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Capital</b>	Sacramento
<b>Population</b>	37 million
<b>State nickname</b>	Golden State
<b>Official state animal</b>	Grizzly Bear
<b>Wineries</b>	1,605
<b>Grape growers</b>	About 4,500
<b>Vineyards</b>	208.000 hectares
<b>Crush</b>	2,7 million tons (2004)
<b>Production</b>	2 billion liters (almost 3 billion bottles) per year. California is the fourth largest wine producer in the world, behind Italy, France and Spain.





## Most important Red varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon  
Merlot  
Zinfandel  
Pinot Noir  
Syrah



## Most important White varietals

Chardonnay  
French Colombard  
Sauvignon Blanc  
Chenin Blanc  
Pinot Gris



## Appellations of Origin

In the United States, an appellation of origin can be either the name of:

- a state
- a county (or counties)
- an American Viticultural Area (AVA)

If a wine label mentions an AVA, 85 percent of the grapes in that wine must come from that area. There are currently 157 AVA's in the US, 94 of which are in California.

## The Climate



California's climate is dramatically shaped by two mountain ranges, both running roughly north south.

The Coast Range is a series of rugged forest covered ranges, often tumbling right to the edge of the Pacific. It's a relatively low range with few peaks over 1200 meters.

The second range is the Sierra Nevada, which also parallels the coast, some 160 to 200 kilometers inland.

In between the two ranges is the Central Valley, home to many of the grapes that go into the state's value wines. Along the western side of the Coast Range, the climate is dominated by the Pacific Ocean. California has almost 2000 kilometers of Pacific coastline. Warm winters, moderately warm summers, small daily and seasonal temperature ranges, and high relative humidities are characteristic of this area.

## California's wine regions



### Northern California Coast

- Mendocino
- Lake County
- Sonoma County
- Napa County
- Los Carneros

### Central California Coast

- Livermore Valley
- Santa Cruz Mountains
- Monterey County
- Paso Robles
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Barbara County.

### Southern California

- Temecula

### Sierra Nevada

### Central Valley