



2024 HARVEST REPORT

STEPHEN SKELTON MW

WINE GB
WINES OF GREAT BRITAIN

HARVEST REPORT PRODUCTION

This report has been authored by Stephen Skelton MW using data from the WineGB Harvest Yield Survey 2024 and other cited sources. Insights and analysis were provided by Mark Laughton. For the first time, this report has been informed by a specialist working group comprising Cherie Spriggs (Nyetimber), Collette O'Leary (Henners), Jake Wicks (Roebuck Estates), Mary Bridges (Gusbourne), and Nicola Bates (WineGB). Editing and design by Phoebe French.

ABOUT WINEGB

Wines of Great Britain (WineGB) is the national association for the English and Welsh wine industry. It represents, leads, and supports the sustainable growth of the Great British wine sector. With over 500 members, it works to cultivate success across the industry. Its work supports its three key areas of activity: to ensure strong production and a skilled workforce, to increase sales and safeguard quality, and to enhance the reputation of English and Welsh wine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Skelton MW has been involved with growing vines and making wine since 1975. After working and studying in Germany, he returned to Great Britain in 1977 to establish the vineyards at Tenterden in Kent (now Chapel Down) and made wine there for 22 consecutive vintages. He now works as a viticultural consultant, setting up vineyards to produce both still and sparkling wines.



He is an award-winning author and has published over a dozen books, almost all on English and Welsh vineyards and wines. His latest book *The Knight Who Invented Champagne* is about the development of glass bottles in the early 1600s. He became a Master of Wine in 2003 and is a Liveryman of the Vintners' Company.

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT



Despite testing conditions, also experienced across Europe, a small but good quality crop was achieved in 2024. The WineGB Harvest Yield Survey 2024 showed the value of the experience and knowledge built up over the years in the UK's variable climate. As a cool climate wine region, significant vintage variation is common and brings a unique character and vibrancy to the wines produced on this island. While volumes were reduced this year, assiduous vineyard management and selective picking resulted in grapes with a high level of phenolic ripeness due to increased hang-time over a longer than average harvest period. A true 'winegrowers' vintage', the skills amassed by vine-growing and production teams in the UK worked in synergy with the variability of this year's harvest.

In keeping with wine-producing regions across northern Europe, 2024 proved to be a trying year, with inclement weather and recurrent rainfall resulting in higher disease pressure. French Government data revealed that wine production in France fell by 23% compared to 2023, and dropped by 46%, 38%, 29%, and 12% in Champagne, Burgundy-Beaujolais, Loire, and Bordeaux respectively with reports of lower sunshine levels, excess rainfall, mildew, and botrytis. Volumes were also reduced in Austria (-9% on 2023), Germany (-6% on 2023), and Switzerland (-20% on 2023) according to the OIV, with global wine production decreasing by 2% compared with 2023.

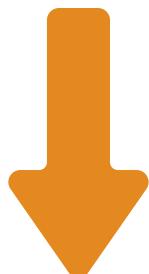
CONTEXT IN NUMBERS

UK IN 2024



6-7
million
bottles

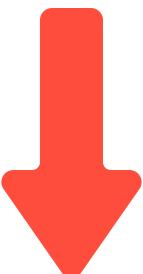
Down
30-40% on
10-year
average



GLOBAL WINE IN 2024



Lowest
since 1961

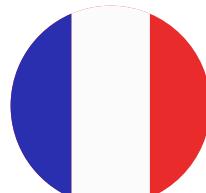


30.8
billion
bottles

OTHER WINE REGIONS / COUNTRIES IN 2024



CHAMPAGNE
-46%
on 2023

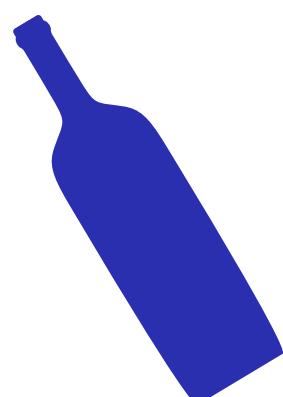


-23%
on 2023

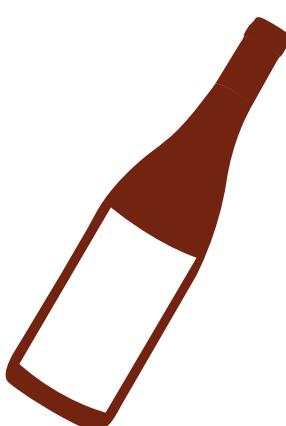


-9%
on 2023

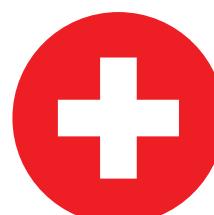
BORDEAUX
-12%
on 2023



-6%
on 2023



**BURGUNDY-
BEAUJOLAIS**
-38%
on 2023



-20%
on 2023

SUMMARY

FINDINGS

2024 can be summarised as wet to start with, wet in the middle and wet for harvesting. While a much-appreciated warm and dry spell in August made up for some of the poor weather, in general vines, weeds and diseases (especially Downy Mildew) proved difficult to control and there will have been many whose crops were severely impacted. 16 vineyards who responded to the survey reported that they had picked no grapes at all. Bird damage was much more prevalent than in previous years, with pigeons reported as being responsible in some vineyards. At the NIAB-EMR weather station in East Malling, Kent, there were only two days when the temperature rose to 30°C or higher. This year will be one with the lowest numbers of days of 30°C or more. GDD (growing degree days) at an average across the country of 911, were the lowest since 2018, with the eastern regions being down by around 5-7%, and western regions down by 13-15%. However, despite the poor weather conditions, some growers, especially those in the drier eastern regions, managed to harvest respectable crops with good sugar levels. Acid levels were higher than average, but ideal for sparkling wine. Our estimate for overall yield is around 6 to 7 million bottles, corresponding to a 30%-40% reduction on the 10-year production average of 10m bottles.

DISCLAIMER

The data for this report was collected via a voluntary survey to which 150 vineyard owners responded. Between them, these producers grow 2,074ha of vines with 1,700ha of vines in full production (four years old and above) and from which data was taken. This is around 44% of the anticipated national cropping area for 2024 of 3,900ha.

While efforts have been made to ensure this is representative of the UK as a whole, it is the very nature of indicative studies that they rely on the information gathered. We anticipate the production figures will be modified as other statistics are published by Wine Standards.

THE WEATHER

A photograph of a vineyard under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a weather station with a grey dome and a small black structure is positioned on the left. Two people are working in the vineyard; one is wearing a white shirt and dark pants, and the other is wearing a dark shirt and dark pants. The vines are trained in a high, dense, fan-like pattern, creating a textured green wall across the middle ground. The background shows rolling hills under the bright sun.



THE WEATHER JANUARY – MAY

The year started mildly with almost no frost, although there was a cold snap in the middle of January in some regions. By the end of the month, the weather was warming up, and the daffodils were out by mid-February. Valentine's Day was the hottest for 25 years. For the whole of February, the southern half of GB was 2.5°C above the LTA (1991-2020 Long Term Average) temperature. With the mild weather came rain, lots of it, and the rainfall for the south of GB was 200% of the LTA with flooding in many parts of the country. February was the wettest ever recorded (since 1871) with many places having three times the average rainfall. The warm weather continued into March and reached 22°C in East Anglia around the middle of the month and for the whole of the month the mean temperature was above average for most of the UK. The Met Office reported that the 18-month period up until the end of March 2024 was the wettest 18-month period since 1836. Despite this, by the end of March some vineyards were reporting budburst, one of the earliest ever. The wet weather at least kept the frost at bay and there were very few reports of frost damage in GB vineyards.

April continued in much the same vein as the first quarter of the year, alternating between warm and wet, and those with new vineyards to plant had problems with preparing their sites, the third year in a row that this has happened. May started wet but warmed up after the first week with 28°C being achieved on 13 May. This warm weather, alternating with rain, while playing havoc with the planting schedules, brought the vines into rapid growth. May for the whole of GB was the warmest on record (back to 1884) and was 2.4°C above the LTA. However, rainfall in some parts was almost double normal.



THE WEATHER JUNE–AUGUST

The beginning of June was colder than normal, but flowering started in some vineyards in the first week of the month. The cool weather continued for much of June (one vineyard in Kent recorded just 1.7°C on 13 June) during which time most vineyards flowered. The Met Office reported that the average for the first two weeks of June was 2°C below the LTA. This very cool flowering weather had an impact on both bunch size and berry numbers, and negatively influenced yields. Towards the end of the month however, the weather warmed up and 30°C was recorded at both Heathrow and Wisley, Surrey. June was drier than average with the south having between 33 and 50% of its normal rainfall. For viticulturists, the start of the growing season made both weed and disease control difficult and many growers were spraying both weeds and vines well after normal working hours to get the job done. Those growers who rely on weekends to look after their vineyards will have found it difficult to keep the weeds down, the vines under control, and diseases at bay.

July started with some very wet weather in many parts of the country, which continued until the middle of the month when temperatures rose. Wimbledon (1–14 July) was very much a 'roof on, roof off' year. Temperatures of 30°C or more were recorded across the south of the country at the end of July and in the middle of August, when 34.8°C was recorded in Cambridge, the year's highest temperature. Véraison started in some vineyards around the middle of August, late by the standards of the past few years, and in some vineyards and with late varieties was still in progress at the start of September. Rainfall for August was lower than average in the southern half of the country, a welcome change to the year so far.



THE WEATHER

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

September's weather reverted to normal for the year, warm and wet, getting cooler and wetter as the month proceeded. Overall for the month, temperatures across GB were only just below the LTA, but rainfall, especially in central England, was high with some counties have 300% over normal for the month. Picking of early varieties started in some regions in mid-September, but most growers waited until the first or second week of October. With yields at the lower level of expectations, most growers finished picking around two weeks after they started. 2024 saw more picking machines than ever working in GB vineyards with 13 to 14 machines in use, several bought new for this harvest.

October started wet and alternated wet and dry throughout the month, and picking was mainly conducted wearing wet-weather gear. Vineyards without good internal roadways and hard standing areas found themselves battling with deep mud. In vineyards still carrying healthy foliage, and with plenty of rainfall, their vines continued to take up water leading to both sugar and acid levels dropping. For some vineyards, more than in any other year, the weather conditions through the earlier part of the growing season proved too difficult, and with Downy Mildew having taken most of the leaves, it was decided that there was little of value to harvest. While we do not have overall data on the number of vineyards not harvesting, many small and small-medium sized vineyards did not harvest, having given up in mid-summer when leaf quality was destroyed. Some vineyards reported a frost on 11 October which forced them to pick.



THE WEATHER GROWING DEGREE DAYS

TABLE 1: GROWING DEGREE DAYS

GDD 2024 - April - October 10°C base									
County	Altitude (m)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average
Essex	85	1,089	948	987	906	1,129	996	921	997
East Kent	43	1,125	968	1,051	940	1,127	1,073	1,009	1,042
West Kent	39	1,107	949	1,037	957	1,091	902	881	989
East Sussex	65	1,107	950	1,059	951	1,128	1,089	905	1,027
West Sussex	20	1,109	887	998	917	1,106	1,027	910	993
Hampshire	80	1,103	885	959	911	1,119	1,010	862	978
Somerset	33	1,040	912	969	962	1,087	1,041	887	985
Average		1,097	928	1,009	935	1,112	1,020	911	1,002
Data supplied by Agrii weather stations.									

In terms of Growing Degree Days (GDD), 2024 was the lowest year since the yield surveys began in 2018, and on average they were just over 10 per cent lower than the 2018-2023 average GDD of 1,017. Only one region, East Kent, managed to break the 1,000 barrier this year.

See Annex 2 for additional GDD results.

YIELDS





YIELDS PERFORMANCE

TABLE 2: YIELD PERFORMANCE 2024

2024 All varieties, all regions (T/active ha)				
Vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older	Yields t-ha	Yields t-a	Potential alcohol %	Acidity g/l tartaric
Top yielding 25% of vineyards	5.9	2.4	8.9	13.7
Middle yielding 50% of vineyards	2.9	1.2	8.8	13.2
Bottom yielding 25% of vineyards	0.7	0.3	8.4	13.8
Av. All varieties, all vineyards	3.2	1.3	8.7	13.6

Source: 2022 & 2023 WineGB Yield Surveys; 2021 & prior years S. Skelton industry estimates (averages not weighted by tonnes produced)

While 2024 will go down in the annals of GB wine production as a challenging year, the top 25% yielding vineyards should be praised for managing to get an average of 5.9t/ha (2.4t/acre). Sugar and acid levels were better than most growers feared when véraison started. While there will have been some dilution because of the rainfall during the autumn, most growers picked clean fruit. Acid levels were considerably higher than the 2016-24 average of 10.2 g/l, better for sparkling wine than still.

YIELDS IN CONTEXT



TABLE 3: AVERAGE YIELDS 2016-2024

2016-2024 Average Yields - all varieties, all regions (T/active ha)										
Vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average 2016-2024
Top yielding 25% of vineyards	8.8	9.6	10.5	9.6	7.6	9.1	8.8	13.9	5.9	9.3
Middle yielding 50% of vineyards	4.4	4.1	6.2	5.3	3.6	5.2	4.6	8.9	2.9	5.0
Bottom yielding 25% of vineyards	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.8	0.9	2.2	1.4	4.2	0.7	1.7
Av. All varieties, all vineyards	4.5	4.7	7.1	5.9	4.2	5.4	5.0	9.6	4.2	5.6

Source: 2022 & 2023 WineGB Yield Surveys; 2021 & prior years S. Skelton industry estimates (averages not weighted by tonnes produced)

Across the country, yields in 2024 were the lowest recorded in the nine years since these surveys were started, with even the best performing vineyards (top quartile) suffering a 39% yield reduction compared to the 2016-23 average. However, this should be taken in context and while the top performers had a poor year, the rest of GB vineyards suffered even more. The middle yielding group were down by 55% compared to the previous 8-year average and the bottom quartile were down by 39%, from 1.80t/ha to 0.70t/ha. These were the lowest since 2017 when widespread spring frosts devastated many vineyards.

YIELDS BY VARIETY

TABLE 4: MAJOR VARIETIES AVERAGE

2024 Major Varieties av. yields	Chardonnay	Pinot Noir	Meunier	Bacchus	Average t-ha	Average t-acre
Top yielding 25% of vineyards	7.2	7.2	6.5	8.5	7.4	3.0
Middle yielding 50% of vineyards	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.0	3.4	1.4
Bottom yielding 25% of vineyards	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.3
Average all regions	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.1	2.5	1.0

Source: 2024 WineGB Yield Survey (weighted averages by tonnes produced)

The four major varieties grown in GB – Chardonnay, Pinot noir, Meunier, Bacchus – which together account for just over 77% of the vineyard area, performed quite well given the year's growing conditions. This is due in part because, with a very few exceptions, all of the largest vineyards, which have more staff and equipment to carry out the annual work in the vineyard in both a timely and efficient manner, mainly grow these varieties. The top quartile of growers averaged 7.4t/ha (2.97t/acre) which in the circumstances must be considered as very respectable.

This shows that faced with climatic adversity, the best growers are able to rise to the challenge, employ the resources available to them – effective canopy management and effective pesticide use – and produce reasonable yields. It also shows that our four major varieties can produce good yields, even in very challenging years. However, 75% of those growers that returned data will have lost money on their 2024 harvest.

YIELDS BY VARIETY

TABLE 5: MAJOR VARIETIES 2016-2024

Tonnes per active Ha	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average 2016-24	Av. 2016-24 t-acre
Chardonnay	5.6	4.4	8.7	6.6	6.3	4.8	5.5	9.8	4.3	6.2	2.5
Pinot Noir	3.0	4.3	7.9	6.2	5.2	5.7	6.0	9.2	3.9	5.7	2.3
Meunier	5.9	5.2	9.5	6.2	5.4	4.7	6.6	10.5	3.5	6.4	2.6
Bacchus	3.1	4.2	5.5	7.1	3.5	5.9	6.7	9.9	6.2	5.8	2.3
Average of above varieties	4.4	4.5	7.9	6.5	5.1	5.3	6.2	9.9	4.5	6.0	2.4

TABLE 6: MAJOR VARIETIES 2016-2024

Tonnes per active Ha	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average 2016-24	Average t-acre
Bacchus	3.07	4.21	5.48	7.14	3.48	5.91	6.70	9.92	6.20	5.79	2.34
Chardonnay	5.58	4.42	8.67	6.61	6.33	4.75	5.54	9.83	4.30	6.23	2.52
Dornfelder	No data	No data	No data	3.47	4.37	N/A	6.57	6.27	2.30	4.60	1.86
Madeleine x Angevine 7672	6.05	5.64	6.70	6.44	5.22	5.05	8.28	7.17	3.50	6.01	2.43
Meunier	5.88	5.24	9.53	6.23	5.36	4.66	6.56	10.49	3.50	6.38	2.58
Ortega	No data	No data	No data	6.53	3.38	3.75	6.30	8.41	3.30	5.28	2.14
Pinot Blanc	No data	4.86	7.85	No data	No data	No data	8.88	7.60	3.10	6.46	2.61
Pinot Gris	No data	No data	No data	2.21	4.02	4.82	5.26	10.46	3.50	5.04	2.04
Pinot Noir	3.00	4.31	7.93	6.18	5.25	5.70	6.01	9.20	3.90	5.72	2.31
Friburgunder (PN Précoce)	1.81	3.50	6.62	4.32	3.55	5.34	5.59	6.97	1.80	4.39	1.78
Regent	No data	5.70	11.09	4.12	3.10	6.25	8.09	9.94	2.50	6.35	2.57
Reichensteiner	8.36	4.37	16.60	7.50	2.34	N/A	8.20	8.70	3.20	7.41	3.00
Rondo	No data	9.24	7.30	2.66	5.17	6.09	7.01	9.18	2.60	6.16	2.49
Seyval Blanc	6.40	11.24	9.38	3.36	4.61	7.39	6.73	9.13	2.50	6.75	2.73
Solaris	No data	No data	No data	2.66	1.99	4.39	4.90	6.45	1.70	3.68	1.49
Other varieties - see table	4.26	3.68	4.10	3.35	3.65	N/A	5.57	7.92	3.21	4.47	1.81
Average of above varieties	4.93	5.53	8.44	4.85	4.12	5.34	6.64	8.60	3.19	5.67	2.29

Source: 2024 WineGB Yield Survey (vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older - averages not weighted by tonnes produced)

YIELDS BY VARIETY

TABLE 7: MINOR VARIETIES

Minor Varieties 2024 T /active Ha	Yield
Huxelrebe	2.80
Orion	1.50
Phoenix	5.10
Sauvignon Blanc	3.30
Schönburger	1.70
Siegerrebe	1.50
Note: Smaller sample numbers may give less reliable results	

Yields of the individual varieties for which good data was available show the usual variations between the major and minor varieties. Bacchus led the field with a yield of 6.20t/ha (2.51t/acre) which given the year is surprising, and most other varieties were around half that figure. Chardonnay was next in line with 4.30t/ha (1.74t/acre) and these were the only two of the more widely planted varieties to yield over 4t/ha.

The four most widely planted non-viniferas (hybrids and PIWIs), which one would imagine might fare better in a wet disease-riddled year, in fact all cropped quite lightly. Regent and Seyval Blanc managed to average 2.5t/ha (1.01t/acre) and Solaris, the most widely planted PIWI, only 1.7t/ha (0.69t/acre). Of the lesser grown varieties, only Phoenix, a first generation PIWI, had anything to shout about, with 5.1t/ha (2.06t/acre).

YIELDS BY VARIETY AND REGION

TABLE 8: MAJOR VARIETIES BY REGION

Major Varieties - 2024 Tonnes per Active Ha	Midlands & North	East	South East	Thames and Chilterns	Wales	Wessex	West
Chardonnay		4.3	4.9	4.3	Insufficient data	3.4	3.4
Pinot Noir		3.9	4.8	4.6	0.9	3.1	3.3
Meunier		4.1	4.7	4.7	Insufficient data	2.4	3.5
Bacchus		1.7	7.2	4.5	Insufficient data	1.1	2.9
Seyval Blanc	2.2		3.5	2.0	0.2		1.8
Blauer Früburgunder (PN Précoce)		0.3	2.5			2.9	2.9
Average	2.2	2.9	4.6	4.0	0.6	2.6	3.0
Source: 2024 WineGB Harvest Survey (vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older - averages not weighted by tonnes produced) Smaller sample numbers may give less reliable result for some data points							

TABLE 9: YIELDS BY REGION 2016-2024

Yields by Region Tonnes- active ha	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2016-24 t-ha	2016-24 t-acre
East	6.89	4.35	6.92	6.09	5.82	6.58	4.03	10.45	3.79	6.10	2.47
Midlands & North	N/A	5.22	N/A	3.82	5.82	4.63	3.13	5.73	2.04	4.34	1.76
South East	4.31	4.61	9.90	6.43	6.43	5.10	5.55	9.69	4.60	6.29	2.55
Thames and Chilterns	2.59	5.62	N/A	6.83	5.82	5.56	4.97	8.50	4.29	5.52	2.23
Wales	No data	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	0.46	0.46	0.19					
Wessex	2.08	3.44	9.93	5.66	6.61	5.09	4.40	9.12	2.20	5.39	2.18
West	3.95	5.82	5.52	5.35	3.54	5.75	4.78	7.46	3.04	5.02	2.03
Av. all regions, all varieties	3.97	4.65	8.92	5.77	6.10	5.39	5.30	9.40	4.10	5.95	2.41
Source: 2022, '22 & '24 WineGB Yield Surveys; 2021 & prior years S. Skelton industry estimates (vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older - averages not weighted by tonnes produced)											

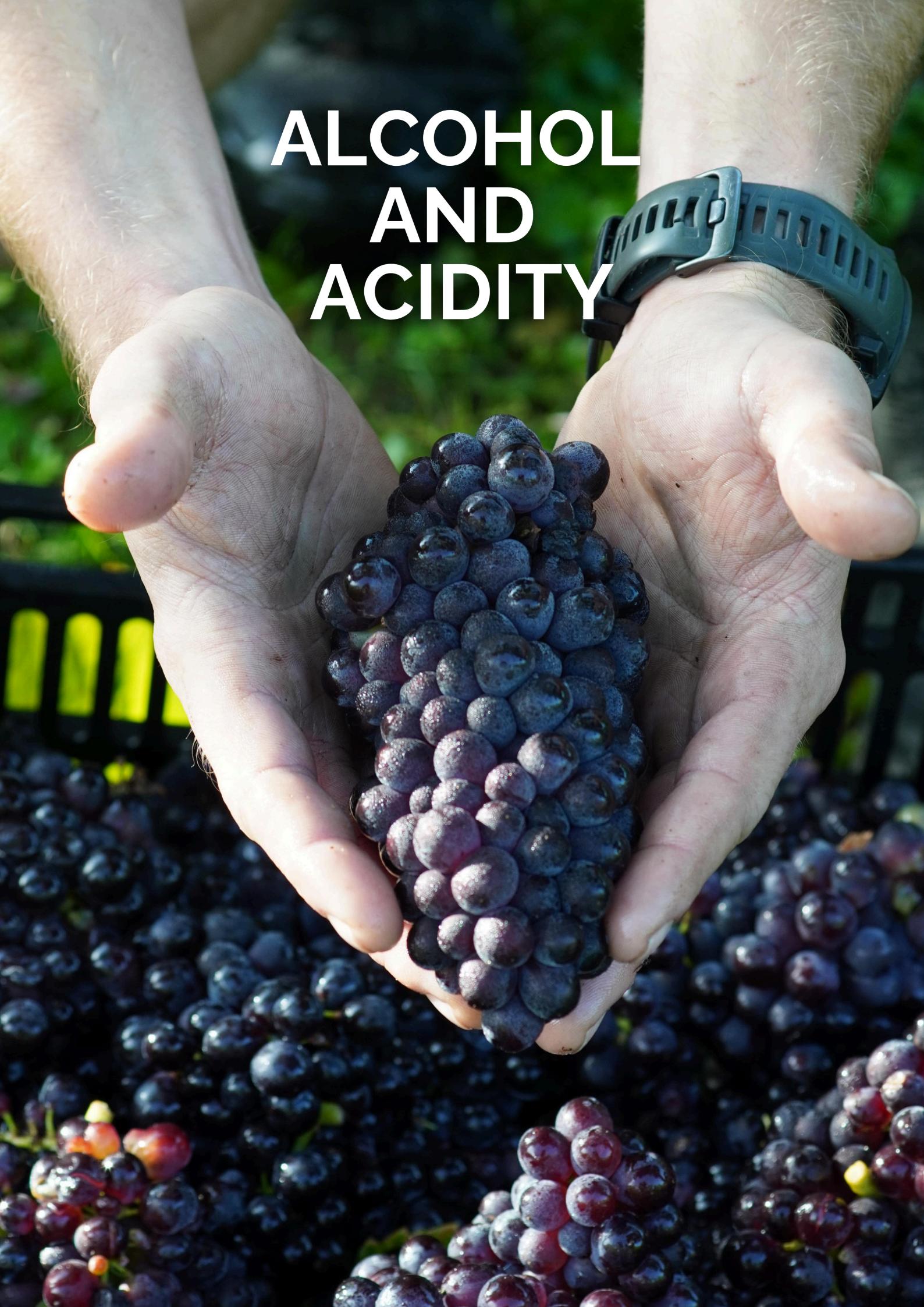
YIELDS BY REGION

As might be expected in a weather affected year such as 2024, the more westerly regions suffered more than the drier eastern regions such as the Southeast and East Anglia. As ever, these figures need to be read with consideration that samples sizes in the smaller regions can lead to anomalies in the results. Another factor might be that some growers had thinned their grapes for still wine production. With nine years' worth of data, the differences in regional yields over time are clear to see with a distinct east-west bias in favour of the drier regions.

In terms of production of course, with over 70% of vineyards located in the broader south-east – the counties of Essex, Kent, East and West Sussex and Surrey – the effect of smaller yields in the south-west and Wales is much less marked on the size of the overall production of wine in GB. Taken over the nine years, the Southeast and East Anglia combined (with very similar yields) have averaged 6.20t/ha (2.5t/acre), compared to 5.31t/ha (2.2 t/acre) for the Thames & Chilterns, Wessex and the West, and 4.34t/ha (1.76t/acre) for the Midlands & North. Wales has been excluded from these figures as the available data is not sufficient enough to be accurate.



ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY



ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY NATIONAL

TABLE 10: POTENTIAL ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY BY VARIETY

Variety	2024	Average 2016-24	2024	Average 2016-24
	% Potential alcohol		Acidity as g/l tartaric	
Alzey 7672 (Mad Angie)	9.5	9.2	8.8	9.2
Bacchus	8.9	9.1	9.3	9.0
Blauer Frühburgunder (PN Précoce)	10.2	10.1	8.3	8.3
Chardonnay	8.8	9.2	14.7	13.0
Meunier	8.8	9.0	13.8	12.2
Ortega	10.5	9.6	10.7	8.9
Phoenix	8.0	8.5	11.1	10.3
Pinot blanc	8.8	9.4	11.9	10.9
Pinot gris (Ruländer)	9.9	9.7	11.1	10.1
Pinot noir	9.1	9.3	13.3	12.0
Regent	10.0	9.3	9.1	8.9
Reichensteiner	9.7	9.6	9.3	9.0
Rondo (GM 6494/5)	10.5	9.0	10.8	9.8
Sauvignon blanc	9.9	9.6	12.6	13.6
Seyval Blanc	8.0	8.3	11.1	11.3
Solaris	11.0	10.4	10.1	8.7
Average all varieties	9.5	9.3	11.0	10.3

ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY

NATIONAL

Despite the cool growing season, with barely a day over 30°C in many regions, the potential alcohol levels were surprisingly normal and with a few exceptions, very close to the 2016-24 averages and all of them higher than in the high-yielding 2023 vintage. Early varieties – Pinot Noir Précoce, Ortega, Regent, Rondo, and Solaris – all recorded potential alcohols higher than their long-term averages which is surprising given the season. Bunch sizes were generally reported to be much smaller than average which quite possibly helped with raising sugar levels.

Acidity levels, as might be expected, were almost all higher than average, a reflection of the growing season temperatures and long, protracted ripening. All but two of the varieties where data was available had acidity levels higher than the 2016-24 average. All of the Pinots plus Chardonnay were around 1.3 to 1.7g/l higher than the average, fine for sparkling wine, but not so good for still wines. Varieties such as Bacchus, Pinot Noir Précoce and Sauvignon Blanc, mainly used for still wines, were all around their 2016-24 averages, but Ortega, usually a lower acid variety with a long-term average level of 8.9g/l, clocked in at a surprising 10.7 g/l, the highest level ever recorded for this variety. One possible explanation is that growers picked this botrytis-prone variety early before rot set in.



ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY REGIONAL

TABLE 11: POTENTIAL ALCOHOL AND ACIDITY BY REGION

2024 Major varieties	East	South East	Thames and Chilterns	Wessex	West	All regions
Potential alcohol levels % abv						
Chardonnay	9.3	8.0	8.5	7.6	7.6	8.2
Pinot Noir	9.9	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.5	8.7
Meunier	9.3	8.5	8.5	8.3	8.0	8.5
Bacchus	8.7	8.6	8.9	8.3	9.0	8.7
Acidity levels as tartaric in g/l						
Chardonnay	12.8	13.7	12.8	14.8	13.1	13.4
Pinot Noir	11.5	12.8	12.8	12.3	11.6	12.2
Meunier	10.5	13.0	12.3	14.3	12.0	12.4
Bacchus	9.7	9.4	8.7	11.7	9.7	9.8

Source: 2024 WineGB Harvest Survey (vineyards 0.10 ha or larger and 4 years and older - averages not weighted by tonnes produced) Smaller sample numbers may give less reliable result for some data points

Potential alcohol and acidity levels across the regions showed quite clearly the differences between the eastern half and the western half of GB. The East, the driest region in GB, for the three most widely grown varieties, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Meunier, recorded the highest potential alcohol levels and lowest acidities. Some of this was no doubt due to some growers thinning their grapes in order to produce good still wines.

*Data for the Midlands & North and for Wales was not available.

PRODUCTION ESTIMATIONS



With such extreme variation between the highest yielding vineyards and the lowest yielding ones in 2024, estimating what the total national production will be is more guesswork than science. The production in 2023 was based upon 3,661ha of vineyards in production and with between 385ha and 440ha of vines planted each year in the years 2021 to 2023, the area in production in 2024 might well have risen to around 3,900ha. Taking this figure as the 'in production' total, the national yield was around 13hl/ha in 2024 equating to between six and seven million 75cl bottles.

Future yields

Yields per hectare have been rising gradually over the last three decades from 19.26hl/ha at the end of the 1990s, to today's ten-year average (including 2024) of 28.22hl/ha. This rise in yields has been driven by three factors: climate change, vineyard size and professionalism in the industry. Climate change is obvious and warmer winters, warmer nights and more days over 30°C are all helping to increase yields. I cannot see anything that will reverse this in the short term (next 50 years) and therefore it would not surprise me to see average yields over the next decade rise to 35hl/ha. Taking this figure, and applying it to current plantings, future yields will rise. Of course there will be annual variations, perhaps not as great as the difference between 2023 and 2024 (44hl/ha in 2023 and c.13hl/ha in 2024) so one can only look at average yields.

ANNEX 1

PLANTINGS

VARIETIES PLANTED IN GB IN 2023

Vine varieties planted in GB 2023			
Variety	No:	2023	% planted
Chardonnay	1	1320.88	32.27%
Pinot noir	2	1143.10	27.93%
Meunier	3	376.39	9.20%
Bacchus	4	315.81	7.72%
Seyval Blanc	5	111.91	2.73%
Solaris	6	108.12	2.64%
Frühburgunder, Blauer (PN Précoce)	7	71.10	1.74%
Pinot gris (Ruländer)	8	68.78	1.68%
Reichensteiner	9	61.78	1.51%
Rondo (GM 6494/5)	10	61.56	1.50%
Pinot blanc	11	51.31	1.25%
Ortega	12	43.90	1.07%
Alzey 7672 (Mad Ang)	13	34.20	0.84%
Müller-Thurgau	14	30.36	0.74%
Sauvignon blanc	15	29.82	0.73%
Regent	16	29.78	0.73%
Phoenix	17	28.57	0.70%
Schönburger	18	18.76	0.46%
Siegerrebe	19	18.52	0.45%
Dornfelder	20	16.49	0.40%
Others		151.94	3.71%
Total Ha planted 2023		4,093.08	100.00%
Source: Wine Standards Team at the Food Standards Agency 2024			

Note: The Wine Standards figures for plantings show a lag as new planting data often takes 2 to 3 years before it is reflected in the figure for 'total planted area'. We therefore focus on the figures for 'area in production' and yields.

ANNEX 2

GROWING DEGREE DAYS

The GDD figures below were supplied by WineGB growers and are very close to the data supplied by Agrii, which are in the body of this report. The average GDD of 899 closely mirrors the 911 GDD of Agrii's data.

County	Altitude	GDD
Kent	78	989
Kent	49	984
Kent	63	975
Kent	85	965
Worcs	88	917
Norfolk	30	911
Kent	100	907
Surrey	80	896
Gloucs	103	877
Herefordshire	110	867
E. Sussex	85	857
Dorset	133	847
Norfolk	30	833
Norfolk	30	768
Average		899

ANNEX 3

SURVEY RESPONSES

	2024	2023
Did spring frost affect your yield?	7%	6%
Did you harvest any of your grapes by machine?	8%	13%
Did you get as many pickers as you wanted?	89%	87%
Did you lose any of your crop to mildew of any type?	54%	27%
Did you lose any crop to botrytis?	46%	40%
Bird damage significance: worse than recent years	36%	4%
Bird damage significance: about the same	12%	2%
Was your vineyard affected by spotted wing drosophila this year?	14%	49%

ANNEX 4

IMAGE CREDITS



- Image front cover: Phoebe French
- Image p2: Stephen Skelton MW
- Image p3: Angelina Howe
- Image p6: Hungerhill Vineyard
- Image p7: Phoebe French
- Image p8: Phoebe French
- Image p9: Amber Valley Vineyard / Sam Bernacki
- Image p10: Rathfinny / Vivienne Blakey
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