

## **ISRAELI WINE – AT A GLANCE**

### **HISTORY**

ANCIENT HISTORY: 5,000 years of winemaking. A golden age in Biblical times.

MODERN HISTORY:

700 CE onwards: Wine trade forsaken; Prohibition of alcohol. Vineyards uprooted.

1880's-90's Modern wine industry founded by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, owner of Ch. Lafite, with French expertise.

1980's New World technology introduced to Israel with Californian expertise.

1990's Beginnings of a small winery boom.

2000's Israeli wine receives international recognition at the highest level.

### **VINEYARDS**

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: 55,000 metric tons

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

### **GRAPE VARIETIES**

VARIETIES – METRIC TONS %:

Cabernet Sauvignon 18%; Carignan 17%; Merlot 13%; Shiraz/ Syrah 7%; Petit Verdot 5%; Colombard 4%; Muscat of Alexandria 4%; Argaman 5%; Chardonnay 3%; Petite Sirah 2%; Sauvignon Blanc 2%; Emerald Riesling 2%; Cabernet Franc 2%; Malbec 2%; Tempranillo 1%; Mourvedre 1%

VARIETIES WITH LOCAL INTEREST: Argaman, Baladi Asmar, Hamdani/ Marawi, Jandali

### **WINERIES**

NO. COMMERCIAL WINERIES: 70

NO. OF WINERIES: 300 +

### **ISRAELI MARKET**

PRODUCTION: 40-45 million bottles of wine

CONSUMPTION: 5 liters a head

### **EXPORT**

EXPORT OF ISRAELI WINES: US\$ 42 million

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.

## **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
- NEGEV 5% - mainly Ramat Arad, Sde Boker & Mitzpe Ramon