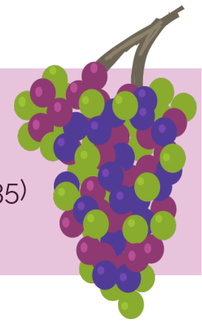
Winegrape Phenology in the Okanagan Valley

Historical trends in phenology of winegrapes in the Okanagan Valley, BC

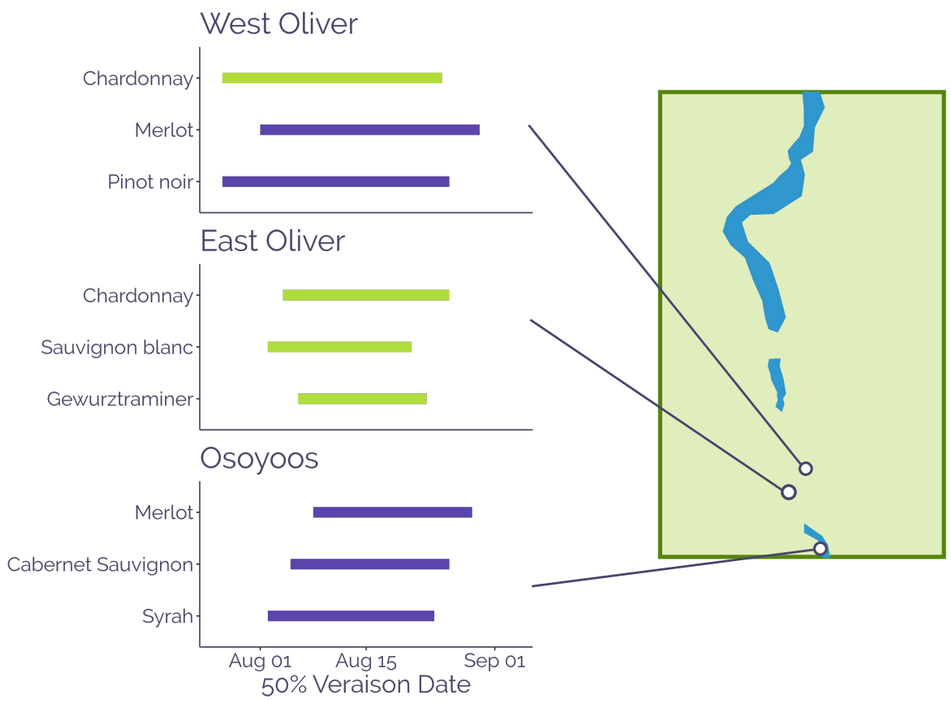
Veraison

When 50% of berries soften and change colour (Eichhorn-Lorenz Stage 35)

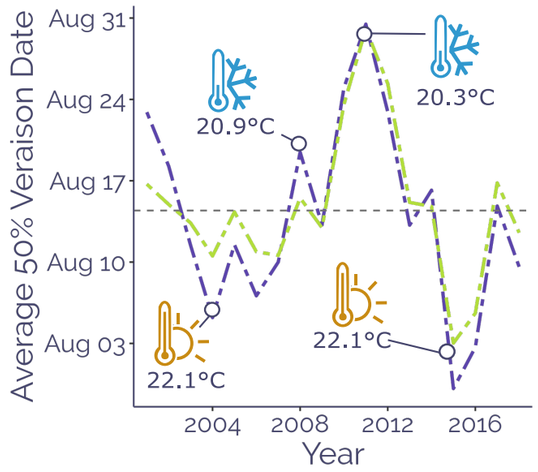


Differences across the Okanagan Valley

Veraison dates vary across the Okanagan Valley, but less so than between years or varieties. Below are veraison ranges for commonly grown varieties in vineyards at each location.



Veraison trends over time



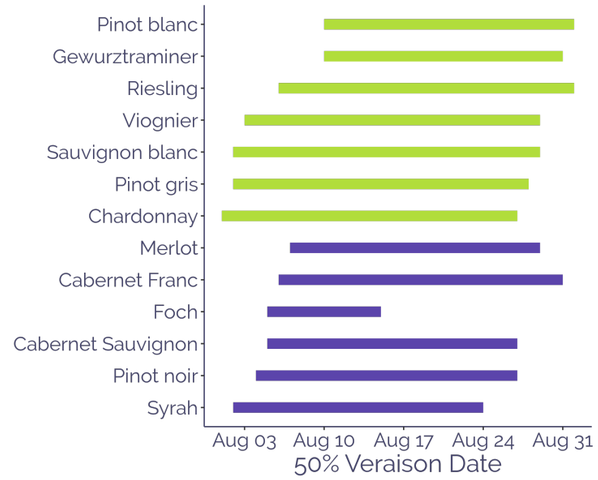
Winegrapes generally veraise (berries soften and change colour) during August in the Okanagan Valley. Average veraison dates across sites varied between 2002 and 2018 by up to 4 weeks.

This graph shows the average veraison dates for Merlot (purple), Chardonnay (green), and the overall average across all sites and years (horizontal grey line), with average daily temperatures in July and August in Penticton, BC, shown for extreme years. Both Merlot and Chardonnay on average veraise earlier during warmer years (2004 and 2015) in comparison to colder years (2008 and 2011).

Varieties have different veraison date ranges

Varieties have different veraison date ranges, as shown for a selection of commonly grown varieties.

Syrah, Chardonnay and Pinot gris are the earliest veraising varieties. Gewurztraminer and Pinot blanc are the last varieties to veraise. Merlot is the last of the red varieties to veraise. Foch has a much shorter date range for veraison than other varieties.



Project information

Data for this project was generously donated by Arterra Wines Canada, Quails' Gate Winery and Sebastian Farms. We analysed historical phenology data for vineyards spanning companies and locations to compile historical trends. All bars displaying date ranges show the date where 10% to 90% of vines had undegone veraison.

Additional factsheets on growing degree days, Brix and more to come. For further information please visit ***stateofwine.org***.