

# MENDOCINO COUNTY

## AMERICA'S GREENEST WINE REGION<sup>SM</sup>

### KEY FACT SUMMARY

Mendocino County's authentic "green" credentials are unsurpassed by any other wine region in the world. The region is dominated by family farmers, many of whom have lived for two or more generations on their land—some tracing their roots to the first settlers in the 1850's. The entire farming community has a rare appreciation of the connection between man and earth. These farmers, grapegrowers and winemakers among them, were at the forefront of the sustainable, organic, biodynamic, and fish friendly farming movement long before it gained the attention of the general population. "America's Greenest Wine Region" is not a marketing slogan: it is the true reflection of all that this vast and varied county offers those who seek healthy foods and beverages and accessible yet pristine travel destinations.

**Wineries:** Mendocino County is home to 72 bonded wineries. Of these:

- 6 wineries are certified biodynamic
- 10 wineries are Fish Friendly Farming certified
- 20 wineries have certified organic vineyards
- 8 wineries have un-certified organic vineyards
- 22 wineries report sustainable winegrowing practices
- One winery uses 100% solar power
- One winery is the first to be certified carbon neutral

**Vineyard Entities:** 343 vineyard entities grow winegrapes in Mendocino County

**Acreage:** Mendocino County encompasses a total area of 2.24 million acres. Of these:

- 16,084 acres are planted to winegrapes (.67%, < 1% of total acres)
- 275.8 acres of vineyard are certified biodynamic (1.71% of total winegrape acreage)
- 413.7 acres of vineyard are pending biodynamic certification (2.57% of total winegrape acreage)
- 2,947 acres of vineyard are certified organic (18% of total winegrape acreage)

**Appellations and AVAs:** An appellation is a winegrowing region with officially recognized boundaries. In the U.S., there are three classes of appellations: states, counties, and regions more specifically defined by actual growing conditions, known as American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). The Mendocino County appellation is within the larger North Coast appellation. Within Mendocino County there are eleven approved and pending (\*) AVAs.

Anderson Valley (approved Sept 1983):	land area: 58,532 acres	vineyards: 2,050.5 acres
Cole Ranch (May 1983):	land area: 187 acres	vineyards: 60 acres
Covelo (2006):	land area:	vineyards: 2 acres
Dos Rios (Nov 2005):	land area: 15,500 acres	vineyards: 6 acres
McDowell Valley (Feb 1987):	land area: 2,225 acres	vineyards: 540 acres
Mendocino (July 1984):	land area: 327,430 acres	vineyards:
Mendocino Ridge (Dec 1997):	land area: 87,466 acres	vineyards: 75 acres
Potter Valley (Nov 1983):	land area: 28,805 acres	vineyards: 1,000 acres

Redwood Valley (Feb 1997):	land area: 32,046 acres	vineyards: 2,497 acres
Sanel Valley (application pending):	land area:	vineyards: 2,288 acres
Ukiah Valley application pending):	land area:	vineyards: 5,862 acres
Yorkville Highlands (June 1998):	land area: 40,000 acres	vineyards: 401 acres

*Vineyard acreage from 2006 State of California Crop Report*

**Top Five White Varietals by Acreage**

- Chardonnay 4,275.2
- Sauvignon Blanc 756.1
- Gewurztraminer 183
- Viognier 133.6
- Chenin Blanc 100.7

**Top Five Red Varietals by Acreage**

- Cabernet Sauvignon 2,479.6
- Zinfandel 1,862.8
- Pinot Noir 1,783.7
- Merlot 1,719.3
- Carignane 458.6

**Overall Agriculture:**

19,274 acres are planted to various agricultural crops

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Total Acreage</u>	<u>Certified Organic</u>	<u>% Certified Organic of Total</u>
Winegrapes	16,084	2,947	18%
Apples	284	167	59%
Pears	2,115	231	10.9%
Vegetables	320	97	30%
Fruit	400	110	27.5%
Nursery and Cut Flower	71	18	25%
Pasture	310,000	3,247	1%
Total (less pasture)	19,274	3,570	18.8%

**Watersheds:**

The entire county is watershed for the Russian and Eel Rivers and various creeks and springs

**Length of Mendocino Coastline:** 120 miles

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