
THE ENVIRONMENT AROUND OUR WINE



Air

Being on the western range of the King Valley, the Redbank vineyards have constant airflow in and around the canopy of the vines, which lowers the risk of fungal disease. This enables us to harvest the grapes at the most opportune time.



Soil

The soil of the upper King Valley is ancient, decomposed volcanic lava flow soil. This deep red, granitic loam soils of the valley and mountains provide the basis for growing high quality grapes. Being free draining and deep, the vine can self regulate its moisture uptake to provide the perfect balance between leaf foliage and fruit. It is only in the driest of years or the hottest of periods where supplementary irrigation is required.



Altitude

The valley's continental climate provides warm days and cool nights, influenced by the katabatic breeze that sweeps northward down the valley from the high country. A range of microclimates are available from the slightly warmer valley floors to the bracingly cool upper slopes. This variance in elevation is why the King Valley region can produce such a wide range of wine styles. At altitude, cold nights and moderate days are perfect for ripening cool climate French and Italian varieties, like Pinot Noir.

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Land

There is an abundance of suitable land, with most vineyards established on relatively gentle slopes, typically facing north and north east. Notably, the King Valley is one of the highest altitude grape growing regions in Australia. The soil is mostly a deep red clay loam, at times tending more to grey or brown in colour, but with the same structure.



Rainfall

The King Valley is a very stable, high rainfall area and even in bad drought periods it receives enough rainfall to allow the vines to grow with very limited supplementary irrigation. The graph below shows the yearly average temperatures and rainfall in the King Valley. These conditions help to create vines with balance of foliage and fruit.



Sunshine

Whilst the King Valley has similar sunshine hours to many of Victoria's warmer climate regions, its altitude and aspect mean that there are not the high temperature peaks, as seen in these regions. This means that the vines suffer less stress during the ripening period which keeps the natural acidity and pristine fruit characters. These are desirable conditions for Redbank wines.