

**Gianquinta Vineyard** is located in one of the coolest pockets of the Russian River valley along the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed area just west of U.S. Highway 101 in Santa Rosa, California. The area is known by local residents as "Willowside". This gently sloping vineyard, coupled with a cool climate, is ideal for producing quality Sauvignon blanc. As the fruit ripens, the profile shifts from herbaceous green bell pepper flavors to wonderful tropical notes of lemon, pineapple, and grapefruit.



Ripening Sauvignon blanc. Photo by Kim Loos.  
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**Sonoma County AVA / Russian River Valley AVA** includes a series of low hills through which the Russian River meanders on its way to the Pacific Ocean. Marine fog raises the moisture in the air and lowers the temperature when it flows into the vineyard. More importantly, it blocks the direct rays of the sun. The role of the fog in this appellation is crucial for slow, even ripening of ultra-premium Sauvignon blanc grapes.

The boundaries veer sharply inland just east of Bodega Bay, and spread southward and eastward into the Petaluma Watershed. It meets the northern tip of Sonoma Valley just outside Santa Rosa. The edge of the AVA is more than 20 miles east of the coastline proper, and even further from the inland bays east of San Francisco.

Sonoma County covers more than 500,000 acres which includes about 4% under vine. Far from contiguous, this 4% is scattered around the area in various terroirs, typically capitalizing on the cooling influences of the Pacific Ocean. As a result of the cool climate, the distribution of grape varieties differs noticeably from that found in the drier, warmer climates inland such as Dry Creek Valley or Rockpile AVAs, for example.