

VARIATION IN GRAPE YIELD AND QUALITY IN A COONAWARRA VINEYARD



SOUTHCORP WINES



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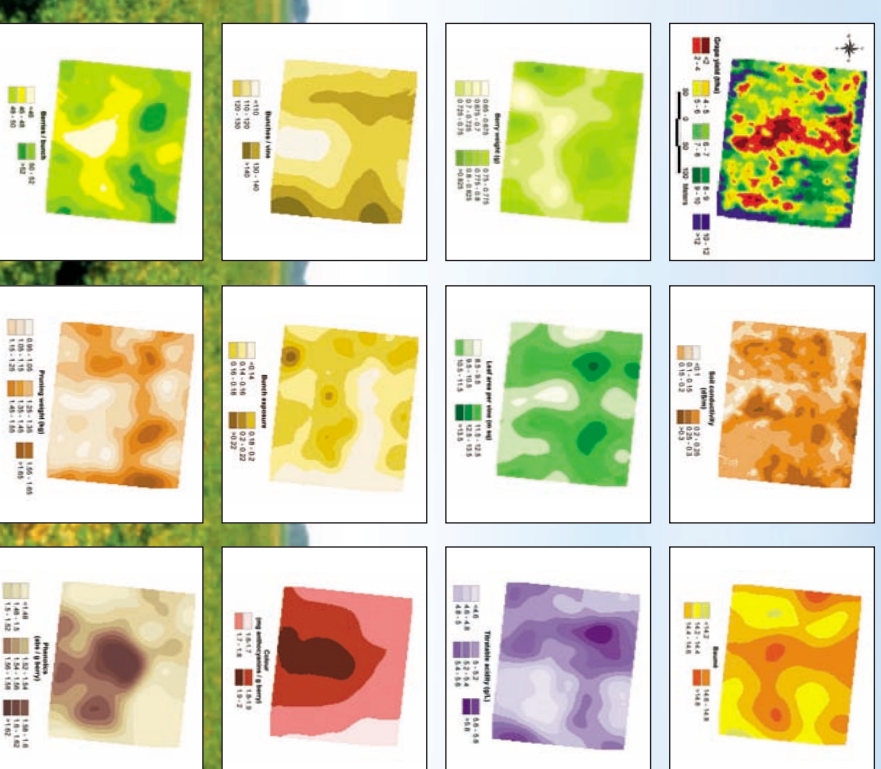
Background The availability of accurate positioning systems and yield monitoring technology makes *precision viticulture* a real possibility. However, an important question with implications for targeted management within vineyards is:

Does spatial variation in fruit quality follow the same pattern as spatial variation in yield and/or soil properties ?

A 6.5 ha block under 13 year old Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested using a Gregoire GI20 harvester fitted with a HarvestMaster™ grape yield monitor. Close to harvest, several vine and fruit quality indices were assessed on 190 vines located on a regular grid within the same vineyard; an EM38 survey of the vineyard soils was also conducted.

Conclusions Careful soil management may promote greater control over variation in grape yield and some aspects of quality. However, because covariation of soil and vine/grape indices does not appear to be constant in space, an improved understanding of the relationships between the inputs to grape production systems and their outputs will be required if targeted management is to be successful.

Results



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