

Varietal intensities and similarities of the world's wine regions

Kym Anderson

School of Economics
University of Adelaide
Adelaide SA 5005
Phone +61 8 8303 4712
kym.anderson@adelaide.edu.au
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This paper examines empirically two distinguishing aspects of the world's wine regions: their degree of specialization in certain varieties, as measured by a varietal intensity index; and their similarity with other regions' varietal mix, as measured by a varietal-based regional similarity index. The sample includes twelve of the most important wine-producing countries that together account for all but one-eighth of the world's winegrapes, and the data refer to 2000 (or 1999 for EU member countries, since that is their most recent census data). These data and indexes provide a baseline against which to compare data for more recent or future vintages as producers respond to climate changes and market developments.

Keywords: terroir, regional winegrape varietal specialization,

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