

WEATHER // WINE GRAPE SMOKE TAIN // PRODUCT PROFILE // AUSTRALIA

Protecting wine grape growers from bushfire smoke taint

When vineyards and grapes are exposed to smoke, this can result in wines with undesirable sensory characteristics such as smoky, burnt, ashy or medicinal flavours.

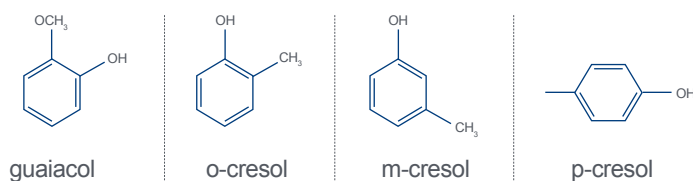


Wine grape growers can protect themselves from financial loss if their grapes take on smoke taint caused by a nearby bushfire.

How does it work?

Smoke taint from bushfire poses a significant threat to wine industry worldwide, but its impact on the Australian varieties has been particularly pronounced. The devastating losses experienced during the 2019 bushfire events have highlighted the need for specialised insurance solutions. In response, we have developed a solution that enables Australian vineyard owners and winemakers to help protect their investments from smoke taint damage.

Instead of relying on subjective claims processes, our approach is based on objective scientific research¹ and laboratory testing. We specifically focus on the four main volatile phenols that have been proven to have a significant effect on the “smokiness” of the flavour on the sensory assessment:



These compounds have been shown to be key indicators of smoke exposure and wine taint levels in grapes. This provides a robust basis for determining coverage and the loss payable under the policy will be determined by the combined amount of these compounds found in the grapes from testing conducted by Affinity Labs (the commercial testing arm of AWRI) and also the type of grape which has been smoke tainted.

We have a streamlined claims process so once a sample of the grapes has been collected, sent for testing and we have the test results, it is a simple process to determine coverage with no further involvement from a loss adjuster required.

1. Parker, Mango, et al. “Modelling Smoke Flavour in Wine from Chemical Composition of Smoke-Exposed Grapes and Wine.” Australian Journal of Grape and Wine Research (2023).

Tailored solutions

Our smoke taint insurance cover provides a protection tailored to the needs of Australian vineyard owners and winemakers considering regional variations, grape varieties, and vintage considerations that are unique to Australia's diverse wine regions. We provide protection for your revenue by compensating for lost production or diminished quality caused by smoke taint, helping to ensure that your investment remains secure, even in the event of a smoke-tainted harvest.

Our smoke taint insurance solution reflects our dedication to the Australian market, providing you with confidence as you pursue your passion while protecting your investment.

Global reach. Financial strength. Local authority.

Distinct, complex and constantly evolving – every business is as unique as their insurance needs. To confidently progress in the face of risk and uncertainty requires a level of security you can only achieve through working with specialists.

Liberty Specialty Markets offers a breadth of world-class insurance and reinsurance services to brokers and insured clients. We bring value and solutions to more than 26,000 of Asia Pacific's most significant business and government organisations – helping protect what they earn, build and own.

We're part of the global Liberty Mutual Group, a Fortune 100 company that's been in business since 1912 with a Standard and Poor's 'A' (strong) rating.

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