WineBase

User's Guide for

WineBase

Version 2.6

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Trademarks

What is WineBase?   **1.1**

Overview.

WineBase is a Database system designed with a specific task in mind. That task, is not only to make keeping track of the wines in your cellar easier, but to provide you with information that no other Cellar Management System program can. In a form that's easy to understand.

With the addition of Winery Files, Winery information, Regional information, Maps and the GoldBook, the program also becomes an excellent reference tool.

WineBase isn't limited to set lists of Wineries, Varieties or Regions. It grows as your cellar does. You do not have to customise this program to suit the wines available in your region or the wines you collect. It does it for you.

I don't like typing. To be more correct, I don't mind typing several thousand lines to write a program, but I really dislike typing in data that I have already got somewhere else in a database.

If you collect wines from only thirty different Wineries, once you have entered those thirty, you will never have to type them in again. Not to add new wines from that Winery, or modify an existing file, not even to search for that Winery or the wines it makes.

This is a Mouse orientated Database. Menus and List Boxes reflect the current format and contents of your cellar, and they grow as your cellar does. You simply click on what you want.

Features.

WineBase produce's detailed sorted lists (you choose the sort order) to screen or printer. You can search on any of eight fields including Vintage, Winery, Label, Variety, Region, Location, Comment as well as Health. Both single and multiple field search's are provided. Five Graphs and four Tables provide easy to read information on all aspects of the cellar. A one page report screen graphs the overall Maturity of the Cellar, as well as all totals and average age. The size and value of your cellar is plotted against time and will continue to do so until the year AD 2012 (by which point the program would have been extended to 2032).

Limits.

WineBase can store information on 1200 different wines (per file), and keep track of the last eight transactions (bottles coming and going, price changing) for that wine. Eight lines of General Notes and another eight lines of Tasting Notes, with dates that you can search on (future dates that is, to remind you to taste a wine at a certain date).

Needs.

WineBase is a Windows based program, so you will need Microsoft Windows version 3.1 I make the assumption that you have a computer capable of running Windows well. ie. at least a 386SX with 4Mb of memory. The program uses 900K of memory and about 3.5Mb of hard disk space. Running a disk cache will improve performance considerably.

Whilst the program will run in standard VGA mode (640 X 480) or SVGA (800 X 600), it is written for XVGA (1024 X 768), and looks its best when run at this resolution.

Like all Windows programs, the better your computer, the better WineBase will run.

Program Structure.

Overview.   WineBase is laid out in much the same way as a book is.

CONTENTS   **The Front of the Book.**

The main window which ties the program together.

INDEX   **The Back of the Book.**

The results of any search are listed to this scrollable screen.

PAGE DISPLAY   **The Pages in between.**

Detailed information for a wine selected from the INDEX.

A diagram that hopefully shows how the different parts of
Winebase fit together.

WineBar.   1.3

A WineBar?

At the top of the screen, below the Menu is a row of buttons that perform the most commonly used WineBase functions. Various software manufactures have called these rows of buttons all sorts of things (SpeedBar, ToolBar etc, and usually trade marked). In keeping with the nature of this product, I have decided to call WineBase's row of buttons, a **WineBar.**

There are in fact, two WineBar's. The first one has the Editing and Search functions on it, the second contains all the Graphs, Tables, Reports and Maps.

We will call these the Main and Graph WineBar's.

Main WineBar.

1   Going around in circles   Swaps the WineBars (applies to both)

        1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   .   .1415   16 17 18   19   20

2	Lines of Text	List all Wines in Cellar	11 Green Bottle	List all Young Wines
3	Look / Screen	Search and Sort options	12 Cyan Bottle	List all Improving Wines
4	Coloured Squares	Multiple Field Search	13 Yellow Bottle	List all Mature Wines
5	Plus Sign	Add a new Wine to Cellar	14 Red Bottle	Wines turning to vinegar
6	Bottle	Search by Stock Level	15 Floppy Disk	Backup Data Files
7	Pouring Bottle	All Wines good to drink now	16 Clock/Calendar	Preferences Dialog
8	Arrow	List all 'At Best' in future	17 The World	Winery to Region Data
9	Tasting Glasses	List all wines due for tasting	18 Gold Book	The GoldBook for WineBase
10	Blue Bottle	List all 'Non Vintage' Wines	19 Information	What all the buttons do
			20 Question Mark	Help

Graph WineBar.

        1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8 9   10 11   12 13   14 15 16 17 18 19   20   21

2	Bar Graph	Health Report	12 Bar graph / Grapes	BestAt by Variety
3	Bottle and Dollar	Value and Stock report	13 A Winery	Winery Distribution
4	Squiggly Lines	Ageing Graph	14 Scenic Landscape	Region Distribution
5	Horizontal Bars	TimeLine	15 Grapes	Variety Distribution
6	Label and Hourglass	'Label' vs 'Health' Table	16 Blue W	Wines only
7	Label and Bottle	'Label' vs 'Bottles vs Vintage	17 Blue and Cyan +	Wines and Bottles
8	Grapes and a V	Variety vs Vintage vs Bottles	18 Cyan B	Bottles only
9	Grapes and a B	Variety vs BestAt vs Bottles	19 Printer	Print the current Graph
10	Bar Graph	Vintage Distribution	20 Map of the World	Display Map List
11	Bar Graph	'Best at' Distribution (ALL)	21 Map of Australia	Australian Reference map

Status Line.

At the bottom of the screen is a Status Line which shows from left to right the following information

- What screen your looking at   "Contents"
- What Cellar File you are using   "Your Cellar"
- How many wines in this Cellar   "182 Wines"
- The Sort Order for Index listings "Sort by Winery"
- The Date   "Saturday, 31 July 1993"

Options / Preferences / Fonts.

Currency and Date.

You can set WineBase up to work with any Currency and the more common Date formats by using this Dialog box. It is found in the Options menu under Preferences.

'User1' and 'User2'.

These fields can be defined by you. Suggestions are Type (ie Red, White etc), Food, Index Number, Shipper, Ranking etc. As an added bonus you can Search and Sort on these fields.

See also **Section 5.6 Being Creative.**

Transactions.

WineBase tracks all changes to the main data file on a monthly basis in a Transaction file. This file includes a Reference field (supplier, cheque number, order number, invoice etc). With **Always Prompt for Reference** on (the default is off), whenever a wines stock level changes (or a new wine is added) you will be prompted to enter a reference note.

Dialog Background Colour.

By default WineBase uses Gray Dialog Boxes, but you can select 7 other colours. Click on 'Show Colour' to see what they look like. Candy, Ice and Sky are my favourites. These are the new Borland Dialog Boxes, which are much smarter looking than the standard Microsoft ones.

Screen Type.

There is now support for LCD Mono Screens. You have to Exit WineBase and restart the program to make this change take effect.

Variety.

The Main Edit Window includes a default list of Varieties. If you do not wish to use these, select 'Your File Only'. This way WineBase will use only the varieties that are in your cellar.

Use Default Values.

This button resets all entries to the default settings.

Fonts.

WineBase now uses as default a Times New Roman font. You can use any True Type font on your system. Style can be changed, size is ignored. The selected font is used for Display and Printing.

You can change the Font that WineBase uses from the Options menu. Select Fonts and then use the dialog box to select a suitable font.

Depending on your monitor resolution, some fonts will display better than others. If you are using standard VGA (640 X 480) then stay away from decorative fonts. Plain fonts like Arial seem to work well.

When is a wine suitable to drink ?   1.5

Wines suitable to drink NOW, (and how to find them).

WineBase has a search function that finds all wines suitable to drink this year. It is assigned to the button on the WineBar that has a '**Pouring Bottle and Glass'** on it.

Clicking on this button leads to this dialog.

All Wines.

To list all wines in your cellar 'at their best' click on the **All Wines** button.

By Variety.

WineBase also allows you to narrow the search down to a particular variety of wine. Click on any of the varieties shown in the scrollable list which shows all varieties in your cellar, and then click the **by Variety** button (or double click a Variety).

BestAt Tolerance.

Picking just one year as the **'best year to drink'** for a wine is a bit fine, so Winebase includes the ability to use just the BestAt date or a range of years based on the BestAt date and the spread between the GoodFrom and GoodTo dates.

ie A red wine with a cellaring potential of 20 years will have a bigger spread than a white wine with a useful life of only 5 years.

You have a choice as to how you set this up.

The default is an **'Auto'** setting, which uses the spread of years between GoodFrom, BestAt and GoodTo dates to determine a suitable range of years. Unless you have a particular reason for narrowing the search down to a Single year or One year either side of this year, it is suggested that you use the 'Auto' setting.

The **'Single Year'** setting will only list wines that have a BestAt date of this year.

The **'Plus Minus One'** setting will give you a spread of three years with this year as the centre value.

You can select the BestAt Tolerance from this dialog, or from the **Options** menu which has a selection called '**Best At' Tolerance**, which has three further selections of **Single**, **PlusMinus** and **Auto**.

When is a wine suitable to drink ? (cont.)

Page Display 'Maturity Curve' The range of years is shown graphically on the Page Display of a wine, by a row of glasses under the maturity graph.

Any wine where the current date line intersects the glasses is deemed to be drinkable, with the Auto setting giving the best indication.

Danger + Decline. As searching for wines that have already reached 'Danger', gives little indication of wines that are about to reach this stage, the options menu has a selection marked Danger + Decline. When you list all 'Danger' wines (Red Bottle on the WineBar), all wines in the last stage of decline are listed as well. The last part of the decline area in the above graph will have a red shaded region when this option is on.

The 'BestAt' in future years graph.

This is another area where the spread of years that a wine is drinkable has to be considered. This graph uses the **BestAt** date to determine how many Wines and Bottles will be 'at their best' in future.

Because it uses a single year and ignores the fact that a red wine 'at is best' in the year 2000, with an expected life of 25 years, will be just as suitable in 1995 and 2005. So it is possible to have two towering peaks at 2004 and 2006 with an apparent hole at 2005.

That hole might not be there, in fact I guarantee it isn't, because with so many wines 'at their best' each side of it, most will be just as good the year after or before, so filling the hole.

'BestAt' for a Variety. To help determine if these holes exist, and as an aid to planning your cellar, the BestAt graph has been extended to be able to plot a single variety of wine. Select a Variety from the scrollable list.

Installing WineBase. 2.1

What's on the disk. The disk contains the 11 files that WineBase needs to run.

- WINEBASE.EXE   The main program file.
- WINEBASE.HLP   The Windows help file.
- WINELINK.DLL   Used by the main program.

- DLL.EXE   SFX archive containing the various DLL's WineBase needs.
- MAP&FILE.EXE   SFX archive which contains Maps, Sample and Winery Files.
- WBMANUAL.EXE   SFX archive which contains Word for Windows .DOC files.

- README.TXT   latest information on the program.
- EXPAND1.BAT   Expands the Archived Program files (used by DECANT).
- EXPAND2.BAT   Expands the Archived Document files (used by DECANT).
- DECANT.EXE   Copies files and Installs in Windows Program Manager.

- THISFILE.WBS   For people upgrading from versions prior to v1.9

First time installation.

1. From Windows Program Manager
2. Select Run from the File Menu.

   Type A:DECANT in the Command Line Edit field (or B:DECANT if your 3.5" drive is B:)

   Click on **OK** or press the **ENTER** key

   This is a Windows Application that ...

   - Creates a directory (C:\WINEBASE is the default and recommended).
   - Copies all the files on the floppy disk to this directory on your Hard Disk
   - Expands the archived files and then Deletes the Archives
   - Creates a WineBase Program Group in Program Manager
   - Installs Icons for WineBase and the Documents

   You can install just the program files if you do not require a manual.

3. Click on **INSTALL** and when its finished click on **SETUP**.

Upgrading to a Registered or Updated version.

   You can also use the SETUP program to update an earlier version of Winebase or to upgrade to a Registered version. Select the **INSTALL** option, if WineBase is already installed in C:\WINEBASE the program will inform you of this, click on YES.

   Your existing data files are used and will not be replaced.

   INSTALL will copy all the required files to C:\WINEBASE, and will expand the archives. If a file already exists you will be prompted as to whether you wish to replace it. As any or all of the files may be more recent than the ones you have now, enter 'Y'.

   OR

   Copy all the files on the disk to the directory where WineBase now resides, replacing the existing files. You will have to expand the files MAP&FILE.EXE and DLL.EXE (and if you require a Manual, the file WBMANUAL.EXE). You do this by running it, either from the DOS prompt ie C:\WINEBASE\ MAP&FILE or from Program Manager by selecting RUN from the FILE menu and typing C:\WINEBASE\ MAP&FILE.

Installing WineBase.   2.2

First time its run.

The first time you use WineBase it will inform you that it cannot find the Data, Schedule or Note files. You will be prompted to create these files.

Click on Yes or OK.

WineBase will create eight blank data files called...

WINEBASE.DTA	Main data file.
WINEINFO.DTA	Your information sheet.
NETWORTH.DTA	For Value and Stock graph.
WINENOTE.DTA	Comments file for each wine.
SCHEDULE.DTA	Tasting Schedule for each wine.
MAPFILE.DTA	Cellar Mapping for each wine.
MYCELLAR.DTA	Rack layout file.
RACKFILE.DTA	Cellar rack definitions.

This takes a second or two.

If the preferences file **INTNAT.WBS** is missing then a file containing default values will be created.

A Transaction File [Month][Year].PAU will also be created.

You will also be presented with a Dialog box asking you to enter details about your winery. If you are using WineBase to manage your own home cellar, you can ignore this Dialog. If you choose 'Save this File' or 'Exit, without filling in any fields, a blank file will be created. Its password is CR (carriage return or Enter). This file is not used when you are looking at 'Your Cellar', but it must be present. You can edit this information file from the Files Menu / Make Winery Files / Edit Winery Information File, option when you are using 'Your Cellar'.

If WINEINFO.DTA goes missing at any stage, the above process will be repeated.

If you are a Winery, and wish to create Data Files of your products, please fill in the fields with the relevant information. This topic is covered further in section 4.2 Make Winery Files.

Adding a new wine / editing a wine.

The EDIT Window.

All new files are entered and existing files modified by using the one Window (or Dialog Box). This is called the Main Edit Window.

To add a new wine.

Select **Edit / Add a New Wine...** from the main menu bar, or click on the **'Plus'** button on the 'WineBar'.

To modify an existing wine.

Select **Edit / Edit existing Wine** from the main menu bar, then **Right Click** on any wine listed in the INDEX listing.

You can edit any wine from any Index listing.

This Dialog remains on the screen until you click on **Cancel** or **Finished Adding Wines**

Fill in Vintage first.

If you fill in the Vintage field first, followed by the Variety, then the Good From, Best At, and Good To dates will be filled in with default values for that wine. These are only a rough guide. Edit to suit your needs. If you change the vintage , these dates will be updated once a Variety is selected.

Lookup GoldBook.

If you have the **GoldBook for WineBase** you can use the data from the book to fill in the Good From, Best At, and Good To dates, as well as Value, Ranking etc. In order to use this, you have to enter a Vintage, Winery and a Variety (and maybe a Label) that matches the entries in the book. If the wine is found a Dialog Box will show the search results, and give you a choice as to whether to use the values supplied.

Non Vintage Button.

Next to the Vintage scroll arrows is a button marked **NV.** When clicked, 9999 is placed in the Vintage, Good From, Best At and Good To date fields. This signifies that the wine has no vintage (ie a fortified wine that has no definite shelf life) and is treated as such in all Listings, Graphs and Tables. In the scrollable display screen wines of this type are marked as NVin (which is shown in blue, as is the Age box). In graphs and tables there is a separate column on the left hand side marked Nv. In the full screen display mode the vintage will be listed as 'Non Vintage' and there will be no ageing graph shown.

Adding a new wine / editing a wine.   3.2

Drop down Lists.

Besides the Winery, Label, Region, 'User1', 'User2' and Cellar Location Edit Boxes are down arrows, when clicked on, these produce a drop down list of all current Wines in your cellar. Click on anyone to select and place in the Edit Box.

Cross Reference Files.

Next to the Winery Edit Box are additional buttons marked **List** and **Find Region**. The **List** button presents you with a Dialog Box with Wineries listed. Current entries include Australia, France, USA and Germany. When you select one of these by Double clicking on it or Single clicking and pressing Enter or clicking on OK. This Winery is placed in the Winery Name field and the Region is placed in the Region Field.

If the Winery Name field is filled in manually, then clicking on **Find Region** will update the Region field. If the Winery Name does not match anything in the list, a ? is entered.

'User1, User2' Fields.

You can change the title of both these fields using the File / Preference option. **You can Search on this field**. Suggested other choices are 'Supplier', or 'Food'. Using 'Supplier' you could list your wines according to where you got them. 'Food' could be used to cross reference wines that go well with various foods. You could then Search on a particular food and all wines that are suitable would be listed.

See also **Section 5.5 Being Creative.**

Selecting Wine Varieties.

To select a **Variety** use the scroll arrows to browse the list and left click on the required one. The list contains the 33 predefined types and any that you might have added. The selected choice will appear above the List Box.

Adding new Wine Varieties.

Next to this is a button marked **Add New Variety,** if you click on this the **Add new Wine Variety** Dialog Box will appear. You can enter any type you like in the Edit Box. Click Add to place your selection in the Grape Variety / Wine Class Edit Box in the main Edit Screen. The List Box is also updated, but you must save the file with this Variety to store it.

With any custom Grape Variety or Blend that you enter the Good From, Best At, and Good To dates will be set at default values of 2,3,5. Edit these based on your (or someone else's) knowledge of that wine.

Deleting a Wine Variety.

You can delete the 33 pre defined Wine Varieties from the list, using the Preferences option on the Options Menu.

Notes, Tasting and History ...
The group of buttons below the Variety field allow you to edit the additional files for each wine.

Notes.
The **Notes** button leads to a Dialog where you can enter eight lines of text. You can enter any detailed information on the wine in this file. Each line is a separate field, and you can use the TAB key to move down the fields.

Tasting Schedule.
WineBase includes the ability to 'Flag' a wine for tasting. The **Tasting** button, brings up the following Dialog Box.

You can also access this directly from the TimeLine.

This has eight lines of three fields. The first two are for the Month and Year. These must be a number...

ie. 6   1996

The third field is for any notes, and are best entered after the wine has been tasted. There is not much point in putting in something like "Taste this now" when you enter the dates.

An empty notes field is used in conjunction with a month and year that is prior to the current date to find "Wines that have not been Tasted".

When you search for wines that are due for tasting, by clicking on the 'Two Tasting Glasses' button in say the month of March 1994. The entire cellar is searched and any tasting note entries that match 3 1994, 4 1994 or 5 1994 are listed.

You can also search for wines that have not been tasted (or you forgot to comment them).

You can print this list, and tasting notes are printed along with general notes when you print the Page Display of a wine.

History.
The **History** button lists the 'History Fields' for the Wine, at which point you can Edit them.

A new wine has no History, so you cannot edit it.

Adding a new wine / editing a wine.   3.4

Detailed Notes.

You can attach a text file of up to 8000 characters in size, to each wine via the **Page Display Screen**. Select **Text File** from the Menu Bar. If the file exists it will be displayed, if not, a new blank file is created. You can use Cut and Paste to exchange data between the Windows ClipBoard and this file.

Purchased.

Clicking on **Add Date** enters the current system date in the Purchased field. You can also use this field for the 'Supplier' of the wine and add the date to the end. Suggest you use short date format

Bottle Price.

You can enter the price in any format you like, WineBase strips any characters out, and uses only the numbers for calculations, but it displays what you enter when listing wines. The default value is $10.00 and you can change this in steps of one by using the scroll arrows. You must enter at least one digit, even if its a zero. The button to the left of the scroll arrows enters a price of $0.00 which will be displayed as ? in the Index Window.

Value.

For the current market value of the wine.

The small button with a '>' on it, between the Price and Value fields places the Price in the Value field.

Stock.

1 case = 12 Bottles.
Default bottle size is 750 ml.
Maximum bottles = 251 (20 cases and 11 bottles).

If you have 32 bottles of a Wine you would enter this as ...

2 Cases + 8 Bottles = 32 Bottles Total Stock.

Cellar Location.

The INDEX page only lists the first seven characters of the Cellar Position field. Therefore choose your descriptions accordingly. Eg. BULK, RACK 12, Ra3Sh11 (Rack 3 Shelf 11) etc. If you wish to sort on this field you need to make each entry the same length, or pad numbers with leading zero's.
ie A01 .. Z99 or AA001 .. ZZ999 will sort, while A1 .. Z99 or A1 .. ZZ999 will not.

Map Button.

WineBase allows you to store the same wine in up to four different locations.

This topic is covered in full in sections 8.1 and 8.2.

Entering similar Wines.

Because this Dialog stays on the Screen after you click on **Save this Wine,** you can edit any of the fields (such as Vintage and the Good From, Best At and Good To dates, or the Location) and click on **Save this Wine** again.

Save this Wine.

Saves the current information.

Finished Adding Wines

When you have finished adding new Wines to your cellar, click on this button to close the Main Edit Dialog.

Deleting Wines.

You can delete a Wine from the **Page Display Screen**. List the required wine in an Index listing, left click to display the Page Display and then Delete it.