



## *Grapes to Winery*

In 1990, interest in grape production resurfaced in the Rio Grande Valley and Rio Farms along with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service began to research and test varieties suitable for the RGV. Rio Farms put in a variety test block and together with **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service** provided educational trainings which encouraged producer interest. Several producers across the Valley have established small vineyards of less than ¼ acre. Many make their own wine, but do not sell it. Two producers are growing on a larger scale and one has recently opened a winery. At this time the cost of putting in grapes vines cost approximately \$15,000 per acre. Grapes from the Rio Farms block and these small vineyards have been sent to wineries in Central Texas and the Costal Bend to produce some of their better quality wines.

### *Varieties for the RGV*

Two varieties in the test block show promise for production in the Rio Grande Valley:

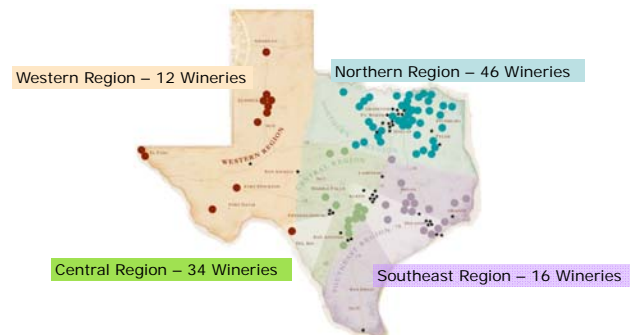
- Black Spanish – red wine
- Blanc Du Bois – white wine

The Mission winery is the first in the Rio Grande Valley

### *Mission, TX Vineyard*

- Planted February of 2009
- 1<sup>st</sup> commercial harvest in 2011
- 30,000 bottles of wine produced from 2011-2015 season
- Currently 8 acres of wine grapes
- Winery officially opened on September 6, 2012

### *Texas Wineries by Region*



### *Monte Alto, TX Vineyard*

- 4 acres of wine grapes
- First harvest from organic vineyard
- Construction plans ongoing after grapes come into production

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