The Sonoita American Viticultural Area

An American Viticultural Area (AVA) is a federally registered grape-growing region that is relatively unique in its climate, geology, soils, and other relevant physical features, distinctively named after the local geography, and delineated by a specific, albeit sometimes arbitrary boundary.

Established in October 1984, the Sonoita AVA in southeastern Arizona covers an area in extreme west-central Cochise, extreme southeastern Pima, and northeastern Santa Cruz counties between the Santa Rita, Huachuca, and Whetstone mountains.

The Sonoita AVA covers an area of about 319 square miles. About 126 square miles (39%) of the AVA is privately owned land. Federal and state entities manage the remainder. The perimeter of the AVA follows the boundary description as published in the Federal Register and based on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps.


The AZGEO Clearinghouse provided the city and public land ownership data layers, the U.S. Census Bureau provided the county and road data layers, and the National Agriculture Imagery Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency provided the aerial imagery.