Writing a Business Plan: 
A Guide for Small Premium Wineries

A workbook for agricultural entrepreneurs to follow in drafting their own small premium winery business plan

by

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# Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION** .............................................................................................................. 1

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS PLAN** ............................................................... 2

   *Executive Summary* ................................................................................................. 2

   *Business Description* ............................................................................................... 4

   *Plan of Operations* ................................................................................................. 6

   *Management Team* ................................................................................................. 8

   *Industry Analysis* .................................................................................................. 10

   *Competitor Analysis* .............................................................................................. 12

   *Marketing Plan* ...................................................................................................... 14

   *Financial Plan* ...................................................................................................... 20

   *Conclusion* ............................................................................................................ 32

   *Appendix* ................................................................................................................. 32

   *References* ............................................................................................................. 34
Writing a Business Plan:
A Guide for Small Premium Wineries

By Mark E. Pisoni and Gerald B. White*

INTRODUCTION

New York premium wineries have made considerable progress in the last decade or so when measured by several indicators: winning national and international wine competitions; growth in sales of ten percent or more annually, and increased winery visitation by both local wine consumers as well as out-of-state and Canadian tourists. Yet the state’s small wineries are still locked primarily into direct market sales at the winery and in-state distribution channels.

The development of ultra premium varietal wines made from varieties that have been shown to be adaptable to New York State’s climate and soil conditions would be a real boon to the New York industry. First, it would increase profits to both growers and/or vintners, thereby stimulating the local economy in terms of new investment in wineries and vineyards. Secondly, attaining such a premium position in the market would make possible the marketing of these wines in desirable, carefully targeted national and international markets, as well as the metropolitan New York City market which Finger Lakes wineries have yet to penetrate in any significant way. Thirdly, it would attract further attention to the still fledgling New York industry. The development of such premium quality wines marketed at higher prices would indeed signal that New York is a world class wine producer, a distinction that the state’s wine industry has avidly sought for the last three decades. It would also attract interest from outside investors who might start new vineyards and wineries or buy existing desirable properties.

This bulletin is intended as a guide to help current winery owners as well as potential investors and new winery entrants to develop a business plan for a small premium winery. The emphasis is placed on marketing at higher price points than have generally been attained in New York. The Guide is developed so that entrepreneurs can read a section that leads to the development of one part of the business plan. Then leading questions are asked and blanks are provided for writing the specifics of the plan for a particular firm and proposed winery. When all blanks are filled in, the document will constitute a business plan that may be taken to lenders, potential investors, and other financial advisors for evaluation and to attract capital for the venture.

*The authors are former Graduate Assistant, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University, currently with the management team of Pisoni Vineyards and Winery, Gonzales, CA; and Professor, Department of Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University. This project was funded by a grant from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets “Grow NY” Program and a subcontract through the Research Committee of the Finger Lakes Pinot Noir Alliance. Appreciation is expressed to Deborah Streeter for her review and helpful suggestions on an earlier draft of this publication.
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS PLAN
FOR A PREMIUM WINERY

Executive Summary

“An executive summary captures and presents succinctly the essence of the business plan. It is, in effect, a capsulated version of the entire plan. The executive summary is not simply a background statement, nor is it an introduction. It is in a sense the business plan in miniature. Because many business plan reviewers are inundated with proposals, they use the executive summary for a quick understanding of the total plan.”

www.entreworld.com

The executive summary should be brief (1-2 pages) and composed of short, focused paragraphs that contain a coherent and succinct version of the business plan. The writing of the executive summary should be one of the last steps of the business planning process, but it should be the first item in the final document.

Use these questions to help in writing your executive summary:

- Are you starting a new winery or has your winery been in business?
- What types of wines will you be selling?
- How much wine do you plan to produce and sell?
- How do you plan on selling your wine and who will buy your wine?
- What makes your winery different from your competitors?
- What are your key success factors? Key risk areas?
- Who is the management team and why will they succeed?
- What is the winery’s profit and growth potential?
- How much money do you need?
Your Executive Summary:

The business

_____________________________________________________________

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Business strategy and competitive advantage

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_____________________________________________________________

Key operation issues

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_____________________________________________________________

Management team

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_____________________________________________________________

Market opportunity

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Key markets and distribution issues

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Key risk factors

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Profitability

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Financial Request

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_____________________________________________________________
Business Description

Mission Statement

The mission statement describes the purpose of the firm and answers the question "What business or businesses are we in?" It is a short (two to five sentences), but broad statement of business scope, purpose, and operation. The mission statement reflects the core values and beliefs of the individuals who lead the business and distinguishes one company from another.

Use the following questions to help in writing your mission plan:

- What business are you in?
- Why does your winery exist?
- What customer needs does your winery serve?
- What values are most important to you and your winery?

Business Description:

The business description outlines your winery’s basic background information, current stage of development, and future plans. It explains who you are, what you do, and why you do it. The section also describes the legal ownership structure.

Use the following questions to help in writing your business description:

- What is your winery’s history?
  - How long have you been in business?
  - Why was your winery founded?
  - How has your winery changed over time?
  - What is your winery’s sales, profit, growth, etc. record?
- What is your winery’s current position?
  - Where are you located?
  - What resources do you have - physical, financial, human?
  - What are your key products and services?
  - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What is your winery’s future plans?
  - What are your goals?
    - Goals are more general, longer-term desires of the owners/operators that help clarify the firm’s purpose.
  - What are your objectives?
    - Objectives are quantifiable and straightforward strategies that are selected to permit management to reach the specific goals. Each objective should have two characteristics: (1) it can be measured, and (2) there is a given time in which to accomplish it.
- What is your ownership structure?
  - Are you an LLC, Corporation, sole proprietorship, or partnership
  - Why did you select this ownership structure?
Your Business Description:

Your Mission Statement:

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Your Business Description:

History
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Current position
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

Future plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal # 1:</th>
<th>When?</th>
<th>Who?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ownership structure
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
Plan of Operations

The plan of operations explains how your winery will work on a daily basis. It explains where the grapes will come from, where the wine will be made, how the wine will be processed, and how it will be sold. Flow diagrams are often included to show how the wine moves through the production process and ultimately reaches the customers. The section lists the facilities, equipment, and personnel needed for operating your winery.

Use the following questions to help in writing your operating plan:

- Where will the grapes come from?
  - Will you grow grapes or purchase them?
  - If purchasing grapes
    - Do you have contracts?
    - Are you buying by the ton or by the acre?
    - How can you ensure high quality?
    - How will you transport grapes to the winery
- Where will you make your wine?
  - Do you have a winery or custom crush location?
  - What facilities and equipment do you need?
- How will the wine be made?
  - Describe the winemaking process from fermentation to bottling and give time estimates for each phase of the process.
  - Where is the wine being stored?
    - Do you have room in your winery or do you rent storage space?
- How is the wine sold?
  - Will you sell your wine through the tasting room, directly to restaurants & wine shops, or through distributors?
  - How is billing handled?
- How many employees will you need?
  - Where will you find your employees?
  - How much will they be paid?

The following references may help in developing a plan of operations for your winery:


### Your Plan of Operations

#### Grape source

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varietal</th>
<th>Tons needed</th>
<th>Tons grown</th>
<th>Tons purchased</th>
<th>Location of purchased grapes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Winery facilities

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#### Additional Equipment needs

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#### Winemaking process

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#### Wine storage & shipment

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#### Sales outlets

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#### Employee needs

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Management Team

The management section of the business plan should consist of a brief narrative for each member of the management team. The narrative should begin by describing the duties and responsibilities of the position, and then describe the individuals past experiences and achievements as they relate to the area of responsibility. The most recent information should be listed first, and educational and/or professional backgrounds should be mentioned only briefly. If the winery uses a board of advisors and/or other consultant they should be mentioned in this section.

Remember that investors are looking for balanced management teams with a history of success in the appropriate fields.

The management section should resemble the format on the next page.
Industry Analysis

The industry analysis describes forces taking place in the wine industry that will affect your winery. The section presents background industry information, distribution patterns, historical trends, current consumption patterns and other factors affecting the wine industry and your firm. The goal is to show the opportunities and threats that your winery will be facing.

Use the following questions to help in writing your industry analysis:

- What are the historical and current trends affecting the wine industry?
  - Consider consumption, production, distribution, consolidation, technological, social/cultural, demographic, and economic trends.
- What governmental regulations affect the wine industry?
  - Environmental regulations- wastewater disposal, chemical usage
  - Legal regulations- shipment of wines, product labeling
  - Taxes- state and federal excise taxes, property & school taxes, employee withholdings
  - Permits- winery bonds, farm winery license, sales licenses

The following references may help in writing your industry analysis:

Wine institute.  www.wineinstitute.org

Bureau of Labor and statistics.  www.bls.gov

Motto, Kryla, and Fisher  www.mkf.com

Gomberg, Fredrickson, & Associates


United States Department of Agriculture.  www.nass.usda.gov/ny
Your Industry Analysis:

Wine consumption trends

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Product mix trends

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Growth trends

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Economic trends

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_____________________________________________________________

Demographic changes

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Social/cultural changes

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_____________________________________________________________

Environmental regulations

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Legal regulations

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Taxation issues

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_____________________________________________________________

Permits/licenses

_____________________________________________________________
Competitor Analysis

The competitor analysis is an objective comparison between your winery and your competitors. Direct and indirect competitors are identified and their strengths and weaknesses pointed out. Each competitor’s product mix, production history, reputation, location, marketing strategy, customer base, etc. should be identified. The goal is to accurately describe your competitors and show how your winery fits in the market.

Use the following questions to help in writing your competitor analysis:

- List and describe other your competitors- both direct and indirect
  - What are their general characteristics?
    - Location, years in business, managers, philosophy
  - What is their marketing strategy?
    - Target market, product mix, promotion campaign, tasting room
  - What is their financial position?
  - Why are they successful?
- How is your winery different from your competitors?
  - What is your sustainable competitive advantage?
  - Why will customers buy your wine

The following references may help in writing your competitor analysis:

Uncork New York  www.uncorkny.com

Your Competitor Analysis

Names of competitors

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
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General characteristics of competitors

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Competitors marketing strategy

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Competitors financial position

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Competitors strengths

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Competitors weaknesses

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Your fit in the marketplace

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Your sustainable competitive advantage

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Marketing Plan

Many wine makers' view marketing as an inconvenience and secondary to the production process. Wineries spend large sums of money on grapes, equipment, barrels, etc., but are reluctant to allocate sufficient funds, time, and personnel towards marketing their wines (Vine, et al., 1997). The common saying that “a good wine will sell itself” is not a viable marketing strategy and, unlike many vintners believe, marketing is as important as the production process.

The ultimate purpose of the marketing plan is to explain how you will get your wines known and purchased by customers. The section begins by identifying the target market or group of customers to whom the firm aims its marketing effort. The target market is not simply whoever is buying or will buy your products, but rather those individuals or businesses that you identify as your most desirable customers.

Use the following questions to identify your target market:
- Who are your most desirable customers?
- Is this segment of the market profitable and does it offer growth potential?
- Does your firm have a competitive advantage in meeting the needs and wants of customers in this segment?
- Is your competitive advantage sustainable?

Marketing strategies are presented following the traditional four P's of marketing: Product, Price, Promotion, and Place. Product strategy examines the products being sold, packaging, and position in the market. Pricing strategy discusses various methods of formulating price strategy and looks at the impact prices have on customers and profitability. Promotion strategy focuses on getting your product known. It examines promotional techniques such as advertising, public relations, sales promotions, and networking. Place strategy examines various distribution channels and discusses activities involved in moving goods from the producer to customer.

Use the following questions to help formulate your marketing strategies:
- Product
  - What type of wine or combination of wines will you sell?
    - Vinifera varietals, French American hybrids, or Native American varieties
  - How is the wine packaged?
    - Volume- 750 ml, 325 ml, or 1.5 liter
    - Glass-color, weight, style
    - Cork- traditional or synthetic
    - Capsule- wax, foil, plastic, or none
    - Label- design, style, and message
    - Box- cardboard 12 bottle cases, cardboard 6-packs, wooden 12 bottle cases, wooden 6 packs, cardboard 2-packs
    - Will you wrap bottles with tissue paper?
  - How much wine will you make?
    - What is your five-year production plan?
Will you produce a 1st and a 2nd label wine?
- How much volume goes into each label?
- Will both labels carry the same brand name?

Will you vineyard designate?

Why would a consumer buy your bottle of wine instead of competitors?

What other products or services will you offer to customers?
- Tasting room & gift shop, wine trails, wine tastings, educational events, winery & vineyard tours, winemaker dinners, barrel tastings, harvest parties, other local attractions, etc.

**Price**

What pricing strategy do you follow: high price/high quality, low price/high quality, or low price/low quality?
- Prestige pricing vs. value pricing

How much does it cost to produce your product?

What are your competitors prices?

What are the prices you receive at each distribution channel?
- Tasting room- Retail prices
- Direct to Retailers- Wholesale prices (2/3 of retail)
- Through a Distributor- FOB prices (1/2 of retail)

**Promotion**

What are your promotion goals?
- Provide information, stimulate demand, differentiate, counter competitors, attract customers to the winery

Who are your promotion activities targeting?
- Tasting room visitors, direct mail purchasers, distributors, restaurant owners, wine shop owners

What media will you use to reach your target market?
- Radio, newspapers, newsletters, flyers, posters, e-mails, billboards, website, word of mouth, yellow pages, magazines, brochures

Will you have a tasting room?
- Free tastings, winery tours, special events, gift shop, food

How much wine will you allocate for promotional purposes?
- Poured in the tasting room, given to investors, owners, & staff, saved for the library program, donated to charity, given to wine writers

Will you use sale promotions?
- Full case purchase discounts, monthly sale specials, shelf talkers

Will you travel to promote your wines?
- Attend wine competitions, winemaker dinners, tastings, or visit accounts

**Place or Distribution**

Where will customers purchase your wines?
- Tasting room, direct mail, restaurants, wine shops, liquor stores
- What are the advantages, disadvantages, and costs associated with selling through the various distribution channels.

What is your five-year distribution strategy?
• How does volume affect your distribution strategy
  o Will you place a limit on how many bottles a customer may purchase?
• Marketing Budget
  o How much money will you allocate towards marketing your wines?
    ▪ So many dollars per case, a percentage of sales, a fixed amount each year
  o Who is responsible for marketing your wines?

The following references may help in writing your industry analysis:


Your Marketing Plan

Target Market

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Product

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Price

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Promotion

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Place or Distribution

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Marketing Budget

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Financial Plan

“In order to make a small fortune in the wine industry, start with a large one.” This common wine industry quote highlights the financial difficulties many wineries face.

Wineries are capital intensive and an accurate financial plan is vital for the success of a start up winery. Wineries must pour large sums of money into capital assets such as crushers, presses, stainless steel tanks, bottling lines, etc. that are only used a few weeks out of the year. Cash flow constraints arise because of the long lag time from production to sales. Premium wineries are required to age wines one to two years prior to releasing them, and this aging process ties up a great deal of capital in inventory. This lag time is even more of a problem for growing wineries because only when they level off production are sales able to catch up with production volumes. It takes time to get a successful marketing plan in place. It usually takes five years before a growing winery is into a positive cash flow situation, and most often it is even longer.

A detailed financial plan can help wineries avoid financial difficulties. The financial plan is usually the longest and most critical section of the business plan, and it begins with a three to four paragraph narrative. The first paragraph should state how much money you are seeking and how you plan to use it. The second paragraph should note which financial statements and documents are included in the financial plan. The next paragraph should describe the exit strategy for investors (when they can expect to withdraw their funds).

The financial plan should consist of the following sections:

Balance sheets
- Quarterly projections for the first year
- Annual projections for years 2 and 3
- Existing business should provide balance sheets from the past 3 years

Income statements
- Monthly projections for the first year
- Annual projections for years 2 and 3
- Existing business should provide balance sheets from the past 3 years

Cash flow statements
- Monthly projections for the first year
- Annual projections for years 2 and 3
- Existing business should provide balance sheets from the past 3 years

Start up costs
- Here you list the various capital assets necessary for you operation
- Include costs for buildings, equipment, machines, etc.

Financial assumptions
- Here you list all the financial assumptions used in generating your pro forma (projected) balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements.
- You should also explain how you arrived at the various assumptions.

Break even analysis
The break even analysis is usually presented in a graph and shows how many cases of wine must be sold to cover the variable and fixed costs. The break even point is where you begin to become profitable.

Sources and use of funds
- Here you list how much money you need, who is supplying the money, and how you intend on using the funds.

Sensitivity analysis
- Sensitivity analysis is a means of evaluating the uncertainty of an investment by varying the underlying assumptions. It helps investors identify key variables and risks associated with various projects. When performing a sensitivity analysis one should alter various variables, one at a time, and record their affect on the businesses profitability.

Exit strategy
- Here you describe how and when investors will get their money back.

The following references may help in writing financial plan:


Financial Statements

The balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cash flows are three financial statements used in financial analysis. A further description of each of these financial statements follows.

The balance sheet shows the value of the items owned (assets), all claims against the business (liabilities), and the resulting difference is net worth or owner’s equity. Assets- Liabilities= Net Worth or Owner’s Equity. The balance sheet is a “snapshot” of the business financial position at any one point in time, usually at the end of the fiscal year (for most businesses, December 31). Assets are simply those items that the business owns. Assets are broken down into two classes: current and non-current assets. Current assets are cash and other assets that can be converted into cash through “normal” operation of the business during the year. Non-current assets “can be liquidated”, but generally would require more time to attain a fair price and sale would drastically alter the business’ ability to operate. Assets can be valued according to their current market value or according to their cost, or “book” value. Many balance sheets list both values. The cost value reflects the undepreciated balance of assets while market value reflects the value of assets according to current market conditions.

Liabilities are what you owe, and are divided into current and non-current liabilities. Current liabilities are those obligations that need to be repaid within one year. Non-current liabilities are obligations that have repayment schedules in excess of one year.

The income statement is a “flow concept” that determines the business’ profitability over a given time period. Net income is used to evaluate the business’ profitability and it is calculated by subtracting the firm’s expenses from the revenues. Revenues are the money the firm makes and expenses are the costs it incurs in the process of earning revenue. Income statements may be either be accrual based or cash based. Cash based income statements are the simplest of the two. With cash based accounting, revenue is considered earned when cash is received and expenses are considered incurred when cash is paid. Accrual accounting is preferred to cash based accounting because it most accurately reflects what is happening to the business. Under accrual accounting, revenue is considered earned in the period the revenue transaction takes place, and expenses are considered incurred when goods or services are used or consumed. Thus in addition to cash receipts and expenses, accrual accounting also considers changes in accounts receivable, accounts payable and inventories of product, input, supplies, etc.

The statement of cash flows is a summary of the cash inflows and outflows of the business over a given time period. The statement of cash flows addresses the issue of whether the business can meet its financial obligations. It examines the amount of cash available to the business and shows how this cash was used. Only cash transactions are recorded on the statement of cash flows. The information comes from the projected income statement. Of course, projections are easier to make if the business plan represents an on-going business. Start up businesses will have to rely on available published studies and hypothetical projections.
## Balance Sheet

**Name of business:**

**Date:**

### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash, checking, &amp; savings</td>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks and Bonds</td>
<td>Wages payable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>Operating debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>Short term debt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production supplies</td>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging supplies</td>
<td>Other: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled wine inventory</td>
<td>Other: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk wine inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: ________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: ________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-current Liabilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; equipment- owned</td>
<td>Notes payable: Real estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery &amp; equipment- leased</td>
<td>Notes payable: Mach. &amp; equip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperage</td>
<td>Leases payable: Mach. &amp; equip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Other: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>Other: ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vineyards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: ________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: ________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-term Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Long-term Liabilities</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Liabilities

**Total Liabilities & Owner’s equity**

| **Total Assets** | **Total Liabilities & Owner’s equity** |
# Income Statement

Name of business:___________  
Date:_____________________

## Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wine sales- Retail</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine sales- Wholesale</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine sales- Distributor</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasting room merchandise sales</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grape sales</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grapes</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging materials</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
<td>______</td>
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<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gasoline, fuel, and oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance (other than health)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest expense</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental or lease expenses</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>______</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
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</table>

 Gain or loss on sale of assets  
 Net Income Before Taxes  
 Income Tax expense  
**Net Income after taxes**
## Statement of Cash Flows

**Name of business:**

**Date:**

### Cash Flows from Operating Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash winery receipts</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash winery expenses</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax payments</td>
<td>(-)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Cash Operating Income</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Cash Flows from Investing Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash received from sale of capital assets</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid to purchase capital assets</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash provided by Investing Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash Flows from Financing Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash received from operating loans</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash received from term loans</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash inflows from financing</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash repayment on operating loans</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle payments on term loans</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle payments on lease obligations</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash outflows from financing</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash Flows from Equity Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash received from equity investors</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash disbursements to equity investors</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Flows from Equity Activities</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### Cash Flow from Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning cash, checking, &amp; savings account balance</td>
<td>(+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending cash, checking, &amp; savings account balance</td>
<td>(-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net provided from reserves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imbalance (Error)</td>
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</table>
## Monthly Cash flow estimates

**Name of business:** __________

**Date:** ________________

### Cash in flows

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wine sales- Retail</td>
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<td>Wine sales- Wholesale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wine sales- Distributor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift shop/merchandise sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash received from new loans</td>
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</table>

### Cash out flows

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<th>March</th>
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<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Gasoline, fuel, oil</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Assumptions

Financial Assumptions (Examples)

Interest rate on borrowed capital _________%
Expected rate of inflation _________%
Cost of capital in financial analysis _________%
Tax rate (state & federal) _________%

Wine retail bottle prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>1st label price ($ per bottle)</th>
<th>2nd label price ($ per bottle)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

Grape Prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>$ per ton</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Production and Distribution:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5+</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual production volume (cases)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual sales volume (cases)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of sales directly to consumers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of sales directly to retailers</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of sales to distributors</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of wine not sold</td>
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</table>
## Premium Winery Start-up Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of expenses</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fermentation/Storage equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellar equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remodeling costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees, licenses, permits, certifications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special one time only legal/accounting/consulting fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-production labor/training expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning inventory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office supplies (letterhead, forms, paper)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers, furniture, fax, phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing expenses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Start-up Expenses</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Break Even Analysis

$\begin{align*}
&\text{Sources and Use of funds} \\
&\text{Source of funds} \quad \text{Use of funds} \\
&\text{Founders} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Investors} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Bank financing} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Total} \quad $\phantom{1000}
\end{align*}$

$\begin{align*}
&\text{Winery} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Tasting room} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Wine making equipment} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Grapes} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Packaging supplies} \quad $\phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Other: } \phantom{1000} \phantom{1000} \phantom{1000} \phantom{1000} \phantom{1000} \\
&\text{Total} \quad $\phantom{1000}
\end{align*}$


**Sensitivity Analysis**

*Possible variables to adjust in the sensitivity analysis:*

Initial Start-up Costs

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

Operating Expenses

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

Product Prices

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

Production Volume

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

Distribution Channels

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

**Exit strategy**

Most people investing in the wine industry are doing so because they enjoy the lifestyle and want to be a part of a winery operation. Investors realize they are making a long term commitment to your winery, and do not expect to withdraw their capital in the near future. However, investors will want to know your long-term plans for operating the winery, when they could possibly withdraw their capital, and what type of rate of return they should expect.

*Your Exit strategy*

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________
Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes prior sections and makes final statements regarding the firms profitability and long run prospects. It prioritizes tasks and sets a schedule for what needs to be accomplished in the next one, three, and five years.

Use the following questions to help in writing the conclusion:

- Can your business be profitable?
- What are the keys to your businesses success?
- What are the long-term plans of your business?
- What tasks must be accomplished in the next, one, three, and five years?

Appendix

The appendix section should include information or documents that further explain any aspects of the business plan or the business. Entrepreneur resumes, property layouts, new product designs, credit reports, licenses and permits, historical business records are commonly included in the appendix. Note: the information included in the appendix will vary according to the audience.

Use the following questions to help in completing the appendix section:

- Who will be reading the business plan?
  - What additional information will interest them?
- Do any aspects of the business plan need further explanation?
- Are all the necessary supporting materials included?
Your Conclusion

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Your Appendix

Attach any additional documents

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<td>2002-05</td>
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Every business needs to have a written business plan. Whether it’s to provide direction or attract investors, a business plan is vital for the success for your organization. But, how do you write a business plan? A business plan, as defined by Entrepreneur, is a written document describing the nature of the business, the sales and marketing strategy, and the financial background, and containing a projected profit and loss statement. However, your business plan can serve several different purposes. As Entrepreneur notes, it’s also a road map that provides directions so a business can plan its future and helps it avoid bumps in the road.