



New Zealand Wine
Altogether Unique.

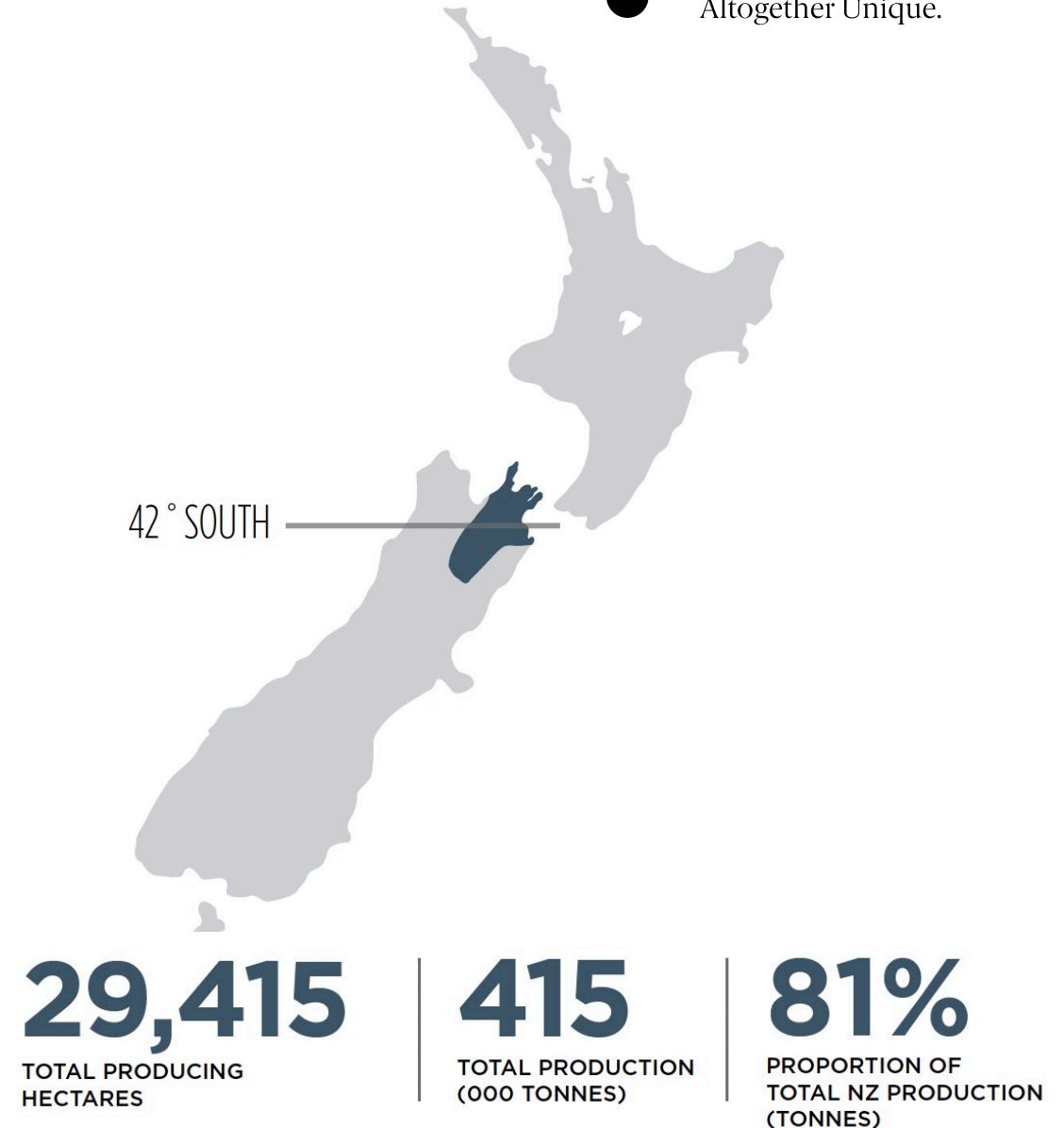
MARLBOROUGH

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FAST FACTS

- Located at the top of the South Island.
- New Zealand's largest wine region at almost 30,000 hectares.
- Produces vividly fruited wines with spine tingling acidity.
- Many wines are delicious on release but the premium examples have ability to age.
- Most famous for its acclaimed style of Sauvignon Blanc.
- Though much smaller in quantity, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are very highly regarded.
- The diversity of soils and climates means a wide range of other styles can be produced here, from Albariño to Zweigelt.



MARLBOROUGH

One of New Zealand's sunniest and driest regions, Māori referred to the Wairau Valley as 'Kei puta te Wairau' which translates as 'The place with the hole in the cloud'.

Plenty of sunshine, moderate temperatures and strong diurnal variation are the keys to Marlborough's piercing fruit intensity and strong varietal expression, as the grapes retain high acid levels over long ripening times.

The proximity to the coast means cooling sea breezes moderate the temperature. Mountain ranges give relief from extreme rain and wind. Long dry summers allow a wide range of wine styles to be produced.



CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE

2,409 HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

655 mm

SUBREGIONS

Marlborough is home to almost 30,000 hectares of vines, over two thirds of the national total

WAIRAU VALLEY

Old riverbed and riverbank soils, diverse aspect and rainfall give many different climates; from cooler, drier inland sites, barren stony, early ripening sites, to sea breeze-moderated coastal sites. Sauvignon Blanc is highly aromatic whilst retaining the purity, and many additional varieties also thrive.

SOUTHERN VALLEYS

The Omaka, Fairhall, Brancott, Ben Morven and Waihopai Valleys make up this important subregion. Soils tend to be heavier with more clay than Wairau and it gets cooler and drier further south into the valleys. An increasingly important source of concentrated, textured Pinot Noir.

AWATERE VALLEY

The most geographically distinct subregion, the Awatere is cooler, drier, and windier than the Wairau/Southern Valleys. Wines are cooler in character with crisp aromas and herbaceous mineral flavours.



GRAPE VARIETIES

SAUVIGNON BLANC – 23,834ha

Pungently aromatic, vividly pure fruit, herbaceous and exotically tropical. Usually produced without any oak influence, most are a cross regional blend, though single vineyard or subregional examples are to be found.

PINOT NOIR – 2,733ha

Displays dark cherry and plum aromas with a red-fruited, spicy flavour and mid-weight, fine tannins.

PINOT GRIS – 1,238ha

Pinot Gris styles range from dry to sweet, taut to lush, including late harvest and botrytised wines.

CHARDONNAY – 1,083ha

From complex and age worthy to simpler unoaked styles, Marlborough produces well-structured citrus and white stone fruited chardonnays that show intensity and focus.

