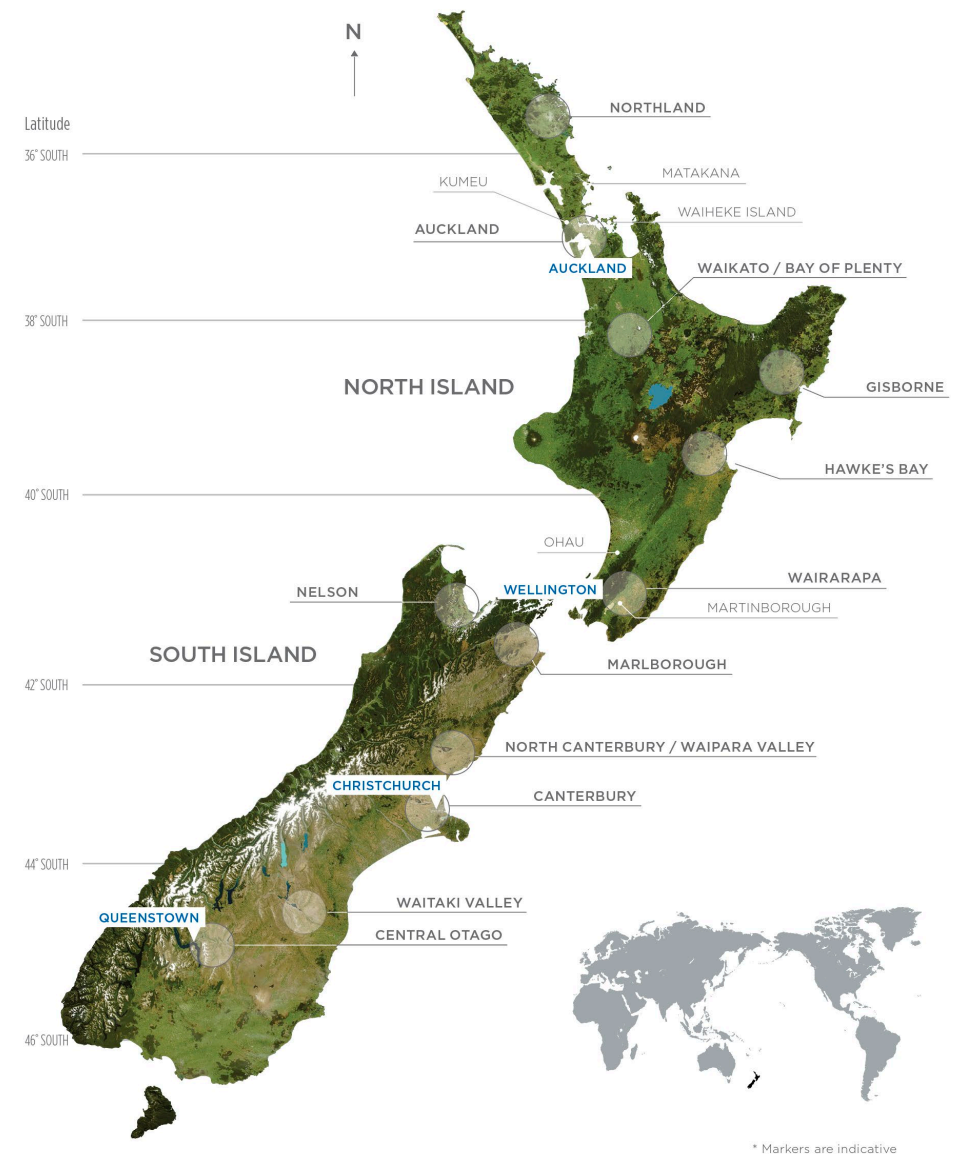


# SMALLER REGIONS



# FAST FACTS

- New Zealand is home to a number of small but important wine regions
- The climate becomes progressively cooler as you move down the country, from warm and sub-tropical in the north to cooler and drier further south.
- With a young energetic wine industry, new regions continue to be established such as Waitaki Valley in North Otago. Although volumes are very small, the potential is exciting.



# NORTHLAND

As the name implies, Northland is New Zealand's most northerly region and enjoys a subtropical climate with mild winters and warm summers. The soils are diverse with heavy clay loams and free-draining volcanic soils. A wide range of wine styles is produced. A very popular holiday destination, many Northland wineries produce a small amount of wine but have impressive cellar doors and winery restaurants.

**CHARDONNAY** Full-bodied, ripe melon, fig, stonefruit and citrus fruit.

**SYRAH** Medium-bodied with soft tannins and ripe, spicy berry fruit and plums plus a hint of florals.

**PINOT GRIS** Full-bodied with peach and gingerbread.

[OPTIONAL – Watch the Northland Regional Video](#)



**75**

TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**<1**

TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**<1%**

PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE

**2,037** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

**1,518** mm

# AUCKLAND

Historically an important wine region, Auckland is still home to a number of premium boutique producers, though most of the major wine companies have relocated to Hawke's Bay and Marlborough. The region is warm and relatively humid but proximity to two oceans means the temperatures never become too high. Waiheke Island lies in the Hauraki Gulf which gives it a particularly distinct climate, being both warmer and, assisted by cooling sea breezes, drier and windier than mainland Auckland.

**CHARDONNAY** A range of styles produced with Kumeu particularly renowned.

**RED BLENDS** Stylish reds with Merlot performing well on the heavier clay soils.

**SYRAH** Sophisticated, intense wines from Waiheke Island where the excitement is building about its aromatic, elegant, pure-fruited expression of the variety.

**OPTIONAL – Watch the Auckland Regional Video**



**269**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**1**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**<1%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE  
**2,060** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL  
**1,240** mm

# GISBORNE

The first Gisborne vineyards were sited on lowland plains of the Waipaoa River. Today producers are moving away from these fine silt river loams to the better drained hillsides that surround the region. High sunshine hours and a warm climate means Gisborne's grapes are frequently the country's first to be harvested. Late summer/autumn rainfall can test producers though recent advances in techniques and site selection make this less of an issue.

**CHARDONNAY** Highly aromatic, with rich, lush palates bursting with fruit. The most intense wines have real longevity.

**SAUVIGNON BLANC** Riper than South Island examples, most are very tropical and bold with broad palates. Some producers are picking earlier to create more herbaceous and zesty wines.

**PINOT GRIS** Styles vary in sweetness and fruit intensity, with strong melon and spice aromatics, and rich mouth feel.

**OPTIONAL – Watch the Gisborne Regional Video**



**1,226**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**8**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**2%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE

**2,180** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

**1,051** mm

# WAIRARAPA

Wairarapa is a diverse region with premium producers specialising in very high quality, though small volume wines. The region experiences devigorating winds which cause the grape skins to thicken and creates wines, Pinot Noir in particular, of structure with a firm tannin profile. Pronounced diurnal differences (hot days and cool nights) give intense varietal characters and contribute to complexity. The three main subregions (Martinborough, Gladstone and Masterton) share broadly similar climate and soils yet also offer subtle differences in character.

**PINOT NOIR** is the flagship red; richly flavoured with a savoury undercurrent whilst retaining perfumed varietal character.

**SAUVIGNON BLANC** is intense and vivid with excellent perfume and poised, mineral textural palates. Good mix of herbaceous and tropical characters.

**CHARDONNAY** shows great complexity and flavour, with balanced acidity alongside citrus and savoury characters.

[OPTIONAL – Watch the Wairarapa Regional Video](#)



**1,105**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**5**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**1%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE  
**1,915** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL  
**979** mm

# NELSON

Mountains to the west give Nelson protection from strong winds and its proximity to the sea means milder temperatures than other South Island regions.

**MOUTERE HILLS** has weathered gravels from an ancient river system that sit beneath sandy-topped heavy clay-based soils, giving wines depth and richness. Pinot Noir shows structure with fine tannins, Chardonnay complexity and depth.

**WAIMEA PLAINS** Stony alluvial soils and a moderating maritime influence gives wines that tend to be lighter and fresher in style.

**SAUVIGNON BLANC** Restrained and elegant displaying lovely texture and minerality alongside vivacious tropical fruit with fresh herbal nuances.

**PINOT NOIR** Weighty from the Moutere Hills or pretty on the Waimea Plains, Nelson Pinot is always expressive, with fine, ripe tannins and complex depths.

**PINOT GRIS** Assured and fine textured with poised acidity and rich flavours.

The region also produces fine aromatics in a range of styles. Riesling and Gewurztraminer have a vibrant flinty mineral character.

[OPTIONAL – Watch the Nelson Regional Video](#)



**1,077**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**12**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**3%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE  
**2,405** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL  
**970** mm

# NORTH CANTERBURY

The Southern Alps lie to the west ensuring the region enjoys low rainfall, abundant sunshine and often very warm summers, helped by hot, dry nor'wester winds. There are three subregions; Waipara Valley, with surrounding hills that offer protection and a slightly warmer climate than the rest of the region. A number of premium producers produce vivid, elegant Riesling, distinctive Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in this area. Waikari, though very small, produces Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grown on limestone soils that have created much excitement. One to watch. Finally, Banks Peninsula and Canterbury Plains consists of predominantly flat land, free-draining gravel soils and a slightly cooler climate than more protected northern areas.

**PINOT NOIR** From perfumed and pretty to dark and brooding, the long growing season gives wines of finesse and depth, with supple structure and good complexity.

**SAUVIGNON BLANC** Aromatic with crisp, fresh acidity and a mineral core, wines show clear, juicy fruit and lovely texture with good weight.

**RIESLING** Abundant bright fruit across dry to dessert styles.

[OPTIONAL – Watch the North Canterbury Regional Video](#)



**New Zealand Wine**  
Altogether Unique.



**1,501**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**8**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**2%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL  
NZ PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE

**2,100** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

**648**mm



# WAITAKI VALLEY, NORTH OTAGO



The tiny North Otago subregion of Waitaki Valley is a newcomer to viticulture but the complex limestone/greywacke/schist soils and very cool climate with a long, dry growing season has attracted a handful of adventurous and focused producers. Similar in grape varieties and wine styles to nearby Central Otago, the subtle differences in climate and soils give a distinctly different personality to Waitaki Valley's wines. Carefully chosen vineyard sites and low cropping is essential. However Waitaki Valley wines have excited those lucky enough to find them, and it is clearly a region to watch.

**PINOT NOIR** is the only red variety producing aromatically intense, fine-bodied, varietally pure wines, rich in red cherry, raspberry, strawberry, wild herbs and spice, with fresh acidity and fine-grained tannins.

**PINOT GRIS**, **RIESLING** and **GEWURZTRAMINER** are highly aromatic, delicately structured wines with balanced acidity and very pure, expressive varietal character. A very small amount of extremely promising **CHARDONNAY** is made in very small amounts, and shows great promise.

[OPTIONAL – Watch the Waitaki Valley, North Otago Regional Video](#)



**50**  
TOTAL PRODUCING  
HECTARES

**0.3**  
TOTAL PRODUCTION  
(000 TONNES)

**<1%**  
PROPORTION OF TOTAL NZ  
PRODUCTION (TONNES)



## CLIMATE



AVERAGE ANNUAL SUNSHINE

**1,817** HOURS



AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL

**541** mm