



Inform. Inspire. Connect.

# EMBRACING CHANGE & SUSTAINING GROWTH

28 August 2025



## The Programme

8.00am

REGISTRATION

08.30am

MORNING SESSIONS  
Embracing Change

### Forum Opening

*Hon Todd McClay - Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Forestry,  
Minister for Trade and Investment and Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs*

### The Wine Shift: Turning Change Into Opportunity

*Lulie Halstead - Founder and former CEO, Wine Intelligence*

### Falling Sales, Growing Challenges: Rising to the Occasion?

*Rob McMillan - Silicon Valley Bank, Wine Division*

10:20am

MORNING TEA BREAK

### Embracing Asia, The Future of its Wine Markets

*Natalie Wang - Hong Kong-based Wine Journalist*

### Wine in the Digital World - The DTC Opportunity

*Benjamin Gibson, Founder and CEO of Winehub.io*

12:30pm

LUNCH BREAK

1:30pm

AFTERNOON SESSIONS  
Sustaining Growth

### Young Viticulturist of the Year Speeches

Contestants for Young Viticulturist of the Year 2025 take to the stage to deliver their topical speech. Following the competition at Greystone, this is the last of their challenges before the national winner will be announced at the dinner this evening.

### Sustainability - Do Consumers and Retailers really Care?

*Meagan Littlejohn – Programme Manager – Sustainable Winegrowing NZ,  
featuring Barry Dick MW – Waitrose*

### What's the payback on sustainability credentials?

*Belinda Jackson - Sales and Marketing Manager of Lawson's Dry Hills*

**New Zealand's Sustainable Future - How our green reputation on the global stage stacks up in our key export markets. What do our markets of the future look like?**

*David Downs, CEO of New Zealand Story*

Closing Remarks

NETWORKING

4:00pm

An opportunity for participants to reflect and collaborate on the day's presentations, network with your peers and presenters, and engage over casual drink

**Te Pae Convention Centre | Ōtautahi Christchurch**  
**Thursday 28 August 2025**

*Please note the programme is subject to change*