



Canterbury/Waipara

Canterbury/Waipara is on the east coast in the centre of New Zealand's South Island. The Canterbury region, New Zealand's fourth largest wine region can be separated into two major wine areas.

The first is on the plains around the city of Christchurch, where grapes were first planted in the late 1970s. Wineries in this part of the region are well dispersed, planted in soils that are mainly alluvial silt loams over gravel subsoils, and can be found amongst farms that raise the well known Canterbury lamb.

North of the region, an hour's drive from Christchurch, plantings in the Waipara area are more intensive, planted on chalky loams that are often rich in limestone. Recent extensive investment in vineyards is apparent alongside State Highway 1. Many of the wines from Waipara have won international acclaim.



Long, dry summers, abundant sunshine and relatively cool growing conditions are features in both areas; although Waipara, which is sheltered from the coast by a low range of hills can be significantly warmer. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are the most widely planted grape varieties, together making up nearly 60% of the region's vineyard. Riesling is the third most popular variety with Sauvignon Blanc in fourth place.



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