



Central Otago

Central Otago, New Zealand's highest and the world's most southerly wine region, is in the central southern area of the South Island. It is a region of heart stopping beauty, with majestic mountains piercing the sky, ice blue lakes and rushing rivers. Tourists flock in for summer adventures and winter skiing, for the amazing scenery and now for the wine.

The region offers New Zealand's only true continental climate with diurnal temperature fluctuations. Dramatic soil structure variations from the rest of New Zealand's growing regions, with heavy deposits of mica and schists in silt loams produce a wide variety of wine styles. They tend to feature a purity, intensity, and vibrancy that are harmonious with this mountainous region.

Vineyards and wineries can be found in the Gibbston Valley, throughout the tiny Bannockburn region, around Lowburn, in Bendigo, the Waitaki Valley, Wanaka and from Clyde to Alexandra.



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Pinot Noir is the dominant grape variety and many of the wineries, particularly in Gibbston Valley and the Felton Road area produce outstanding examples. Chardonnay is the second most planted variety followed by Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling in that order.



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