



Hawke's Bay

Located centrally on the eastern coast of New Zealand's North Island, Hawke's Bay is the second largest wine growing region with a 100 year heritage in wine. Three cities, Napier, Hastings and Havelock North can be found in the region, which has traditionally been known as the 'food bowl' of the country. Large sheep stations, orchards and vegetable growing have provided the region with a buoyant economy.

Varied topography and a wide range of soil types, from fertile silty loams to free-draining shingle, produce a considerable range of wine styles. The summers can be very warm, and ripening dates for a single grape variety can vary by as much as three weeks between the hot, shingle soils of the Gimblett Road area to the cool, higher altitude vineyards of central Hawke's Bay. Growers in the Gimblett Road area have joined together to promote the strongly branded Gimblett Gravels appellation in recognition of the special nature of that sub-region.



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Chardonnay is the most widely planted varietal, with a high percentage of later-ripening red grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon; Merlot; Cabernet Franc; and Syrah. Pinot Noir is equally represented, and is early ripening like the region's Chardonnay. Recently Hawke's Bay Syrah has become widely recognised as being well suited to the region, and currently the plantings of Syrah vines are increasing in response to market demand.



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