



Marlborough

Marlborough is New Zealand's largest and best known wine growing region and is located on the north easterly area of the South Island with the small city of Blenheim at the centre. The adjacent Marlborough Sounds are known for their beauty, their aquaculture farms and also as the stopping off port, Picton, for the ferry to the nation's capital across Cook Strait, which separates the two main islands.

The first Marlborough vines were planted in 1973, and Sauvignon Blanc wines from the region soon attracted global interest due to the pungent zesty fruit aromas and flavours of the wine. Interest has continued to grow and New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region is in demand world wide.

There are now three distinct growing areas, all with interesting identifiable characteristics. The free-draining, alluvial loams over gravelled sub-soils in the area provide ideal growing conditions.

Land in the Wairau River Valley, the neighbouring Awatere Valley, and the gravels of the lower Wairau River in the Rapaura Rd area was formerly used for orchards and pastoral farming but over the last decade has been in high demand for conversion to vineyards.



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Sauvignon Blanc is the most planted varietal in the region, followed by Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Riesling in that order. Pinot Noir produced in the region is claiming attention and looks likely to become the second most popular varietal by demand.



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