



## Wine

New Zealand is known for quality fine wines produced in spectacular and beautiful wine regions. Sauvignon Blanc has been the leading varietal, and is considered a world benchmark. Recently, Pinot Noir has gained worldwide acclaim with export markets firmly pushing the trend. Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Syrah, Merlot blends, and sparkling wines are further cementing New Zealand's reputation as a world class wine producing nation.

The industry is small, and comprised of 550 wineries which produced 133 million litres in 2006. Export sales, driven on a focus on quality rather than price, rise annually, and are now worth NZ\$512 million.

World class wines are achieved in New Zealand through influence of a temperate, maritime climate, vineyard management, winemaking expertise, and growing regionality. The cooling sea breezes and strong sunlight influences, combined with a slow ripening period create distinctive varietal characteristics and delicious fruit driven flavours.



Vineyard practices bolstering wine quality include modern clone selection, vineyard management techniques and sustainable growing practices. The quality focus impacts on all aspect of winemaking.

New Zealand is the most isolated wine making country and wine regions flourish throughout both North and South Islands across latitudes 34°-47° south. The wide array of soils and climatic variations impact on regional subtleties. New Zealand wines in North America are a fast-growing niche in the industry, especially in aromatics. Fine examples of Riesling, Gewürztraminer and Pinot Gris,

and the range of Pinot Noir can be sourced from both islands of New Zealand, due to the country's diurnal temperature variations and cooler climate status.



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