

# WINETALK

414

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON  
Since 1965

April 2026

## Coming Functions

Apr 12	Brockenack Wines ( AU )
May 10	AGM
Jun 14	Bushmere Wines
Jul 12	Chardonnays and Cellar
Aug 9	Cellar Tasting – Karens mix...

## WINETALK April 2026

Excellent bubbles tasting last month by Karen

The aluminium “bottle” was an interesting development – its weight compared to glass was unbelievable. Is it an item we will see more of ?



## NEW ZEALAND WINE WELCOMES EARLY HARVEST.

NZ Winegrowers Association reports Harvest is underway across New Zealand wine regions as the industry prepares for the 2026 vintage..

As always this is an exciting and highly anticipated time of year with indicators pointing to grapes that offer regional diversity, distinctive flavours and ripeness. Ongoing changes in weather patterns have seen harvest dates move forward by several weeks in recent years, and 2026 is shaping up to be the earliest yet.

Northland kicked off on 23<sup>rd</sup> January followed by Hawkes Bay and in more recent weeks, Marlborough and North Canterbury. Central Otago is looking slightly later this year.

“January to March are critical months for growing ripening grapes. We are looking forward to a nice warm March with cooler autumn nights that are important for flavour development.. Winemakers are feeling optimistic as they look forward to crafting wines for both domestic and international consumers, continuing New Zealand’s reputation for wines that are distinctive, refreshing, sustainable and premium,” said Philip Gregan, CEO New Zealand Winegrowers.

New Zealand Winegrowers Inc. is the national organisation for the country’s grape and wine sector, with over 600 grower members and 700 winery members.

New Zealand Wine is exported to more than 100 countries. New Zealand produces just over 1% of the world’s wine. New Zealand wine is New Zealand’s seventh largest export good. New Zealand wine exports for 2025 were \$2.10 billion.

## MARLBOROUGH – NEW ZEALAND’S LARGEST WINE REGION



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# Marlborough subregions



## A. Southern Valleys

Wrapping around the surrounding hills the Omaka, Fairhall, Brancott, Ben Morvan and Waihopai Valleys make up this important sub-region. Soils and meso-climates vary, but tend to be heavier and contain more clay than Wairau. It also becomes cooler and drier further south into the valleys. A broad range of varieties are grown according to the merit of each site, with particularly good Pinot Noir and aromatics being produced by the area.

## B. Wairau Valley

Old, gravely riverbed soils, and diverse aspects and rainfall create numerous meso-climates within this sub-region. Broadly, it covers a range of cooler, drier inland sites; barren stony, early-ripening sites; and sea-breeze moderated coastal sites. Across the sub-region wines reflect the strengths of individual vineyards and vignerons, but all have the hallmark fruit intensity and body.

## C. Awatere Valley

The Awatere Valley is the most geographically distinct sub-region, lying south of the Wairau Valley and stretching inland from the sea, and climbing towards the inland Kaikoura ranges. Cooler, drier, windier and often with a degree of elevation, sites with typically lower yields produce bright, aromatic Pinot Noir and dramatic, distinctive Sauvignons, both of which are attracting increasing international acclaim.

# Regional winestyles and plantings

## Sauvignon Blanc

Pungently aromatic, vividly pure fruit, herbaceous and exotically tropical, plus mineral depths, Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is an international brand in its own right.

## Pinot Noir

Going from strength to strength as committed growers refine both clones and sites. Displays dark cherry and plums with a red-fruited spicy background, mid-weight, fine tannins.

## Aromatics

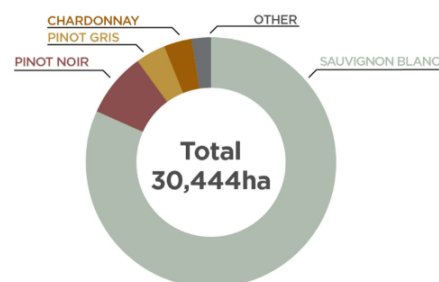
Riesling, Pinot Gris and Gewurztraminer reflect the region's purity and vivacity. Styles range from dry to sweet, taut to lush, including late harvest and botrytised wines.

## Chardonnay

From all the bells and whistles to unoaked styles, Marlborough produces well-structured Chardonnay with excellent intensity and complexity. Stonefruit and citrus abound.

## Other

Grüner Veltliner shows promise, Viognier and Syrah have their champions too; everything from Arneis to Tempranillo is being explored as Marlborough continues to push its boundaries. Production of high-quality Méthode Traditionelle wines is small but critically renowned. Bright citrus fruit with fine body and acidity; excellent value for the first-rate quality.



**SAUVIGNON BLANC**  
25,157ha

Pungently aromatic, vividly pure fruit, herbaceous and exotically tropical, plus mineral depths. Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is an international brand in its own right.

**PINOT GRIS**  
1,258ha

Pinot Gris reflects the region's purity and vivacity. Styles range from dry to sweet, taut to lush, including late harvest and botrytised wines.

**PINOT NOIR**  
2,491ha

Going from strength to strength as committed growers refine both clones and sites. Displays dark cherry and plums with a red fruited spicy background, mid-weight, fine tannins.

**CHARDONNAY**  
1,077ha

From all the bells and whistles to unoaked styles, Marlborough produces well structured Chardonnay with excellent intensity and complexity. Stonefruit and citrus abound.

**OTHER**  
720ha

Made up of 35 varieties

## BUBBLES TASTED AT MARCH CELLAR FUNCTION

**BROWN BROTHERS**, Australia, Premium Brut, Prosecco, 11%. Limited Edition in aluminium bottle. \$19.99 Pak n Save.

**CAMPO VIEGO**, Cava, Spain, Brut. 11.5%. \$24.95 Woolworths.

**CLOUDY BAY**, Pelorous, Methode Traditionelle, New Zealand. 12.5%. \$38.99 Pak n Save.

**VEUVE CLICQUOT**, Brut, Champagne, France 12.5%. \$84.99 Pak n Save.

**ASKERNE NV Brut**. New Zealand, 13%. \$23.90. From Club visit from Askerne Hawkes Bay.

**PIRRAMIMMA Sparkling Shiraz**, Australia. 13.5%. From Primo Vino.

## WINE OF THE MONTH:

Please let me know if you have discovered a gorgeous wine in the last couple of months. Something special that members would like to try and may not know about. Or if you have been away on a trip which included wines (!), let me know and I will put it in WineTalk. Also let members know about the trip! Here is my special wine I discovered:

**MT DIFFICULTY**. Long Gully, CHENIN BLANC, 2024, New Zealand.

From the Bannockburn, Central Otago Vineyards. Has beautiful aromas of honeysuckle and Peach with lovely rich texture. Quince flavours on the palate, complex with honey notes. Good body, long finish. Fermented in concrete eggs for added weight and texture. Top gorgeous Chenin Blanc.

Best I have had in a long time. Bought for mid \$20's Hamilton Beer and Wine.



## BEERESCOURT BOWLING CLUB

The Beerescourt Bowling Club, has been our 'home' for many years and have always given the Wine Club plenty of support and help to make our meetings run smoothly and helpful in many ways if we request anything extra.

They are at present having a few problems with falling membership and green problems. They are therefore raising funds for a new all-weather bowling green, which will mean they will be able to play 12 months of the year.

They offer all ages, young and old, to come along to learn and play bowls. They will provide the bowls and teachers, so if you are a beginner, don't worry they will get you on the way,

They are encouraging anyone to get in touch with them. School children through to whatever age to come along and learn all about the fellowship of the Bowling Club and bowling and help or offer ideas for them to raise funds for their new all-weather bowling greens.

The Bowling Club also rents out their premises for any type of events.

For further information on the Club please phone Carl on 0274307258.



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## AGM AND MAY MEETING AND QUIZ.

We will be having our AGM as usual in May and we will be looking to having new Members on the committee. It is not onerous, just helping at meetings and a committee meeting once a month. We have a lot of fun and discuss lots of wine “things” and plan the months ahead for the Club.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member and sharing your ideas with a great bunch of people, let Aimee, our secretary, know before the next May meeting.

## NEXT MEETING APRIL 12th: BROCKENCHACK WINES, Eden Valley, Barossa, South Australia.

Nestled between world-renowned Henksche and Yalumba vineyards in what is known as Australia’s “Golden Triangle”, you will find family owned [Brockenchack Wines](http://www.brockenchack.com.au) - steeped in viticulture history.

The Barossa’s beautiful high country, Eden Valley is one of Australia’s premier cool climate wine growing regions, characterised by its rugged beauty and varied topography.

With a wine-making history dating back to 1847, Eden Valley is home to some of the world’s oldest Shiraz and Riesling vines. Brockenchack will be bringing beautiful whites and reds for us to taste from their vineyards in the Eden Valley.

Now also based in Queenstown, New Zealand, they bring their story to the wine club as the Barossa is brought to Hamilton. “Direct from our family to you”.



See you there  
Cheers,

*Gay Main*



We'd love to invite you to join us in Gisborne this May for The Chardonnay Affair Weekend (22-24 May) a three-day celebration of exceptional wine, food, and place.

Set across some of the region's most beautiful locations, the weekend brings together a collection of 8 unique events, each offering a different way to experience Chardonnay from relaxed, social moments with friends through to more intimate, hosted dining experiences.



It's been thoughtfully designed for Chardonnay lovers, showcasing the depth and character of the varietal, while still offering plenty of variety, so whether you're keen for something casual and fun or a more elevated experience, there's genuinely something for everyone.

This is about more than just great wine - it's about connecting with people, discovering the region, and being part of a weekend that feels a little bit special.

To explore the full programme and start planning your weekend:

<https://www.thechardonnayaffair.co.nz/>

Tickets are limited across a number of events and are already starting to move.

We'd love to see you there.

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