

WINETALK

415

WINE CONNOISSEURS CLUB OF HAMILTON
Since 1965

May 2026

Coming Functions

May 10	AGM / QUIZ TIME
Jun 14	Bushmere Wines
Jul 12	Chardonnays and Cellar
Aug 9	Cellar Tasting – Karens mix...
Sept 13	Dancing Petrel

WINETALK May 2026



BROCKENCHACK WINES PRESENTATION IN APRIL

Rain, wind or cyclones could not stop our wine club members from attending an outstanding presentation by our first Australian winery, Brockenchack Wines, from Eden Valley in South Australia. Dean was absolutely enthralling with his story of their family winery with a great history behind it. Entertaining, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and the wines were delicious. Good to have a complete change from New Zealand wineries to our closest wine growing neighbours. The Club has organised a couple of trips to South Australia over the last few years. Perhaps it is time for another, including the Barossa and Eden Valley.

INDIA FTA GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW ZEALAND WINE INDUSTRY

The New Zealand–India Free Trade Agreement

This was signed on April 27, 2026, in New Delhi, providing New Zealand exporters access to 1.4 billion consumers and reducing tariffs on 95% of exports.



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Content - Gay Main, Graphical layout - Grumpy

23 April 2026

New Zealand Winegrowers welcomes strong cross party backing for the India Free Trade Agreement

New Zealand Winegrowers has welcomed the announcement of Labour's support for progressing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between New Zealand and India, reinforcing trade as a shared priority. Philip Gregan, CEO, said maintenance of bipartisan alignment on trade is very positive, it gives exporters certainty and reinforces New Zealand's reputation as a long-term trading partner.

"India represents a significant long-term opportunity for New Zealand wine, and sustained cross-party commitment will be key to delivering a high-quality agreement with real commercial outcomes." Gregan said.

New Zealand Winegrowers views the FTA as positive news for the industry. Wineries will be able to plan with confidence around a clear, decade-long tariff reduction pathway. While current exports to India are very modest, just under NZ\$300,000 (FOB) in 2025 due to the very high tariffs, improved market access under the FTA is expected to make India increasingly attractive to New Zealand wine exporters over the coming years.

"We value the constructive approach taken across Parliament and the shared recognition of trade as a driver of growth, jobs, and regional prosperity," Gregan said.

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. [nzwine.com](https://www.nzwine.com).

NEW ZEALAND WINE

- 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
- View reports and statistics [here](#)



New Zealand Wine
Altogether Unique.

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EMMA JENKINS, MW EXPLORES NEW ZEALAND'S WINE STYLES – PART 1

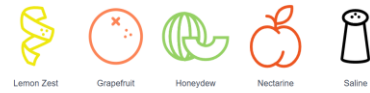
New Zealand has built a solid international reputation for its Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir while giving increasing recognition for varieties such as Chardonnay, Syrah, Bordeaux reds and aromatic whites. Our minority plantings offer an extra dimension for consumers, if they want to explore the country's regions, climate and producers. This, the first in a series to recognise our newer plantings from the Winegrowers 2026 Vineyard Report.

ALBARINO: 65ha plantings.

After hailing from Galicia in N/W Spain, Albarino has made a happy home in New Zealand and now found planted throughout the country, with concentrated plantings developing in Gisborne, Marlborough and Hawkes Bay.

Typically the wines are light and medium bodied and fruit focused with perfume aromatics. Dry fruity palates and fresh with citrus and peach with touches of fennel and lemongrass. Light and tangy. Great with our local seafood.

PRIMARY FLAVORS



TASTE PROFILE



SAUVIGNON GRIS: 59ha plantings.

No, not a combination of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris but a bona fide variety in its own right. (albeit from a clone mutation of Sav Blanc). Sauvignon Gris does show a similar vivacious fruitiness and a medley of fruity, fresh, herbal and ripe stone fruit aromas. Dry fruit-forward style. Mainly grown in Marlborough.



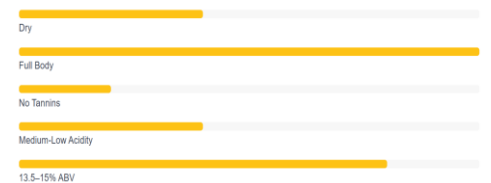
VIOGNIER 51ha plantings

This french variety has gained increasing popularity in New Zealand, providing an alternative for Chardonnay drinkers (whose fuller body it shares) while offering the attractive aromatics and hint of sweetness for those who enjoy Pinot Gris. Wines vary in style from light and fresh to full-bodied and textural, but generally display ripe apricot, peach orange blossom, jasmine and spice notes. Plantings are mainly concentrated in Hawkes Bay and Waiheke Island, where occasionally Viognier is added in tiny amounts to their Syrah, providing additional perfume and lift.

PRIMARY FLAVORS



TASTE PROFILE



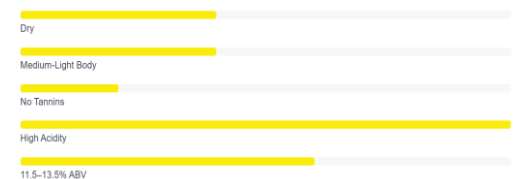
GRUNER VELTLINER 37ha plantings.

An Austrian native producing pale green wines with citrus, white peach and slight musky complexity. Gruner also has distinctive white pepper and herbal notes (most often dill, gherkin or cooked celery) and refreshing acidity. Grown from Gisborne to Central Otago and everywhere in between, New Zealand's style appears to be merging as fresh, fruit forward and varietally faithful with good depth.

PRIMARY FLAVORS



TASTE PROFILE

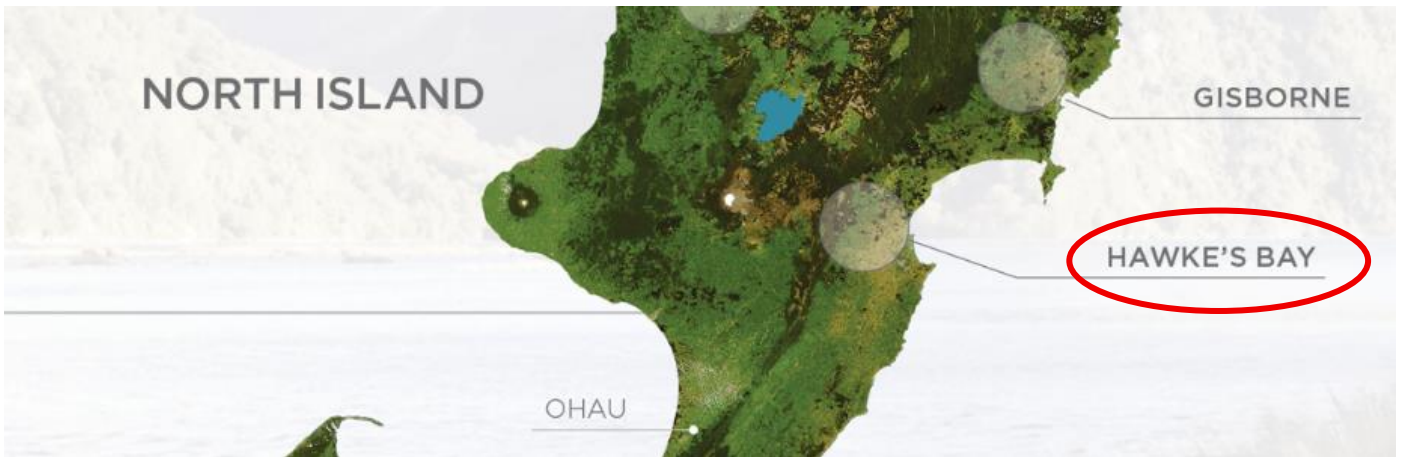


More from Emma next month with other New Zealand Wine Styles.

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NEW ZEALAND'S SECOND LARGEST WINE REGION - HAWKE'S BAY



New Zealand's second largest wine region, sunny Hawke's Bay has been an abundant source of fine wine since 1851. Vines were first planted in 1851 by Marist missionaries and Hawke's Bay enjoys a significant international reputation for producing some of the country's best wines, red and white.

A relatively large and diverse region capable of producing a wide range of varieties to a very high standard, Hawke's Bay is best known for its Red Blends and Chardonnay but aromatic whites are consistently good and Syrah is incredibly impressive. [Hawke's Bay's temperate climate and plentiful sunshine make the region ideal for fruit-growing.](#)

Hawke's Bay subregions



Coastal Areas

The two grape growing areas located directly on the coast enjoy the most dramatic effects of the temperate climate and long growing season. The gravelly soils of Bay View in the northern Esk River Valley area and Te Awanga in the South have achieved recognition for premium Chardonnay and early ripening reds, including Pinot Noir.

Hillsides

Increasingly explored for the differences offered in soil and altitude; they are predominately planted in red varieties. Long established around Havelock North, hillsides in the Maraekakaho and Bay View subregions produce stellar wines and as vines march inland.

Alluvial Plains

Shaped by rivers and crisscrossed with gravel beds, free-draining alluvial soils and stony terraces, the plains fan out between Havelock and Napier, covering the pioneering vineyards of Taradale and Meeanee plus the Gimblett Gravels and Bridge Pa Triangle area, home to some of the region's best wines.

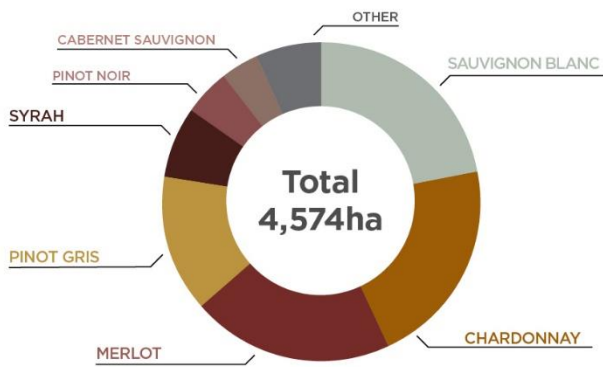
River Valleys

Running across Hawke's Bay are four rivers which have over time created a huge diversity of grape growing sites. These sites have provided sheltered environments, with variations in altitude, aspect to the sun and variations in soil type. Fine examples of premium Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir are sourced from the higher altitude sites.

Central Hawke's Bay

Inland at an altitude of up to 300 metres Central Hawke's Bay vineyards are characterised as being cooler areas showing potential for Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir.

Winestyles, planting & production information



SAUVIGNON BLANC 1,035ha

Very tropical, ripe and bold styles with broad palates though early picked styles can be lighter, herbaceous and zesty.

CHARDONNAY 1,034ha

Wines are full-bodied, lengthy, almost opulent but with finely-tuned acidity balancing the richness.

MERLOT 844ha

Can be challenging in the climate but drier years give fleshy, flavoursome wines that enjoy success in carefully chosen sites.

PINOT GRIS 657ha

Aromatic, spicy, bold ripe wines with balanced acidity and good body.

SYRAH 317ha

Wines are perfumed, elegant with ripe fruit, supple tannins and lingering spice.

PINOT NOIR 221ha

Varietal aromatics of cherry, berry fruits, plum, florals and spice, through to more savoury and earthy examples, all with beautifully soft and supple tannins and great richness of flavour.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 174ha

Impressive structure, with classic dark fruit and spice.

OTHER 292ha

Made up of 32 varieties

Chardonnay

Wines are full-bodied, lengthy, almost opulent but with finely-tuned acidity balancing the richness.

Sauvignon Blanc

Very tropical, ripe and bold styles with broad palates though early picked styles can be lighter, herbaceous and zesty.

Merlot

Can be challenging in the climate but drier years give fleshy, flavoursome wines that enjoy success in carefully chosen sites.

Pinot Gris

Aromatic, spicy, bold ripe wines with balanced acidity and good body.

Syrah

Wines are perfumed, elegant with ripe fruit, supple tannins and lingering spice.

Pinot Noir

Varietal aromatics of cherry, berry fruits, plum, florals and spice, through to more savoury and earthy examples, all with beautifully soft and supple tannins and great richness of flavour.

Cabernet Sauvignon

Impressive structure, with classic dark fruit and spice.



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NEXT MEETING; SUNDAY 9TH APRIL AGM AND 'DAVID'S VERY, VERY HARD QUIZ'

AGM MEETING



QUIZ



David has been researching since the last quiz for the members to get their thinking caps on, researching Wine Almanacs, studying wine labels and wineries from around the world to bring us his annual brain teaser quiz. However, not to worry, as long as you have been studying the same, reading WineTalk and drinking lots of wine, you will be fine.



Cellar Master Karen Nixey has 6 mystery wines from who knows where, all wrapped in newspaper for us to taste and be tested on. No sweat, we've been drinking plenty of styles and types to put us all ahead!! We should be able to distinguish between white and red wines anyway.

AGM TIMER



and counting.....

Oh, and of course we will be having our Annual General Meeting, hopefully traditionally short, where we will be looking at remits, financial report and other things that you already have copies of. And for people to go on the committee. If you would like to join the coolest committee in Hamilton please email our wonderful Secretary, Aimee Burness on aimee.burness@gmail.com.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Cheers,

Gay Main