

BEER, WINE & SPIRITS

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Moneymaking Magic in Orlando!
Oct. 25-27, 2004 • See page 22.

By Fred Tibbitts Jr.

NEW ZEALAND

Home to the Trilogy and Lots of Fine Wine

What a beautiful country: The people, the climate and oh, those magnificent mountains. I recently spent a week in New Zealand traveling from south to north and I must admit, it was often quite difficult to remember that I was on business. I work more weeks a year than most, but I couldn't help but feel the tourist in New Zealand. The mountains, the mountains, the mountains.

Until this trip I pretty much thought of New Zealand in terms of Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir, but as a result of this first-hand update, I realize that Cabernet-Merlot, Riesling, Chardonnay and many other varietals and blends as well play a very important role in describing wine New Zealand.

New Zealand is composed of a North Island and a South Island and contrary to the northern hemisphere, the further south one ventures, the colder the climate.

According to the official Web site, www.nzwine.com: "New Zealand's small population, distant location and agricultural economy have earned the country a clean, green image. Visitors often describe it as an unspoiled paradise. New Zealand's winemakers and grape growers are determined to keep it this way. Innovative practices in the vineyard and winery, which deliver quality

in a sustainable and environmental manner, ensure that New Zealand meets a growing world demand for wines that have been produced in a 'clean and green' fashion."

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Fred Tibbitts Jr. is president of his own global beverage consulting agency, Fred Tibbitts & Associates Inc. You can visit him online at www.fredtibbitts.com.



The most important grape growing appellations on the North and South Islands and the grape varietals / blends for which they are best known are:

NORTH ISLAND

AUCKLAND & WAIHEKE ISLAND

(Chardonnay, Cabernet and Merlot)

GISBORNE

(Chardonnay)

MARTINBOROUGH

(Chardonnay
& Pinot Noir)

HAWKES BAY

(Chardonnay, Cabernet-Merlot — Bordeaux-style blended reds)

SOUTH ISLAND

MARLBOROUGH-BLENHEIM

(Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir)

WAIPARA

(Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Riesling)

CENTRAL OTAGO

(Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling and Pinot Gris)

Some of the better examples of New Zealand wine that I either-tasted and/or whose winery I visited while there on assignment that are exported to the United States would be:

WAIHEKE ISLAND Stonyridge Vineyard

MARTINBOROUGH Palliser Estate Wines

HAWKES BAY Te Awa Farm Winery

MARLBOROUGH Blenheim Saint Clair Estate Wines