



NEW ZEALAND WINE APPRECIATION TOUR

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+44 (0) 1636 813 544

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Silver Fern Holidays
The New Zealand Specialists





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PRICE ON REQUEST

Enjoy a combination of full day small group tours with local experienced winery guides from each of New Zealand's award winning winery districts including West Auckland, Waiheke Island, Hawkes Bay, Martinborough, Marlborough, Waipara and Central Otago. You will be able to taste New Zealand's main varieties of Cabernet, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Riesling, Pinot Gris and Shiraz and visit the well-known wineries such as Montana, Villa Maria and Corbans to many of our boutique wineries such as Mt Difficulty, Wooing Tree and Cloudy Bay. A taste extravaganza with a cruise on spectacular Milford Sound to finish.

Day 1 ARRIVE IN AUCKLAND; NEW ZEALAND

Arrive at Auckland International Airport where you will be met by our staff who will provide your final touring documents and vouchers. Transfer into Auckland City stopping en route to take in the views over the city and two harbours from Mt Eden, which is the tallest of the many extinct volcanic cones around which Auckland is sited. The balance of the day is free to rest.

Day 2 THE WEST AUCKLAND WINERIES

Today enjoy a full day guided tour of the West Auckland wineries. Most of the vineyards here were originally established early this century by immigrants from Europe. These include Corbans 1902, Babich 1916, Selaks 1934 and Soljans 1937. Because of the slightly warmer temperature than the southern vineyards the Chardonnays and Sauvignon Blancs which are arguably the best of the West Auckland wines have a noticeably different flavour than those produced further south. Enjoy a drive out to Muriwai Beach on the Tasman Sea coast to view the Gannet Colony.

Day 3 WAIHEKE ISLAND WINERIES

From Auckland it is 35 minutes by high-speed catamaran across the sparkling waters of the Waitemata Harbour and the Hauraki Gulf to Matiatia on Waiheke Island. You will be met, on arrival, by your guide for a tour of Waiheke Island with a special focus on the boutique wineries. Since the 1970s the island's Mediterranean climate has seen the growth of a flourishing wine industry with low quantities of high quality fruit. Among the better-known wineries are Goldwater, Mudbrick, Peninsula Estate and Stonyridge. Over the next 5 hours enjoy a private tour of the wineries with wine tasting included. You will also get to see some of the beautiful beaches, taste olive oil at one of the Olive Mills and visit one or two of the art studios for which Waiheke Island is so well known. Return by ferry to Auckland.

Day 4 AUCKLAND / ROTORUA + SIGHTS

This morning fly to Rotorua. You will be met on arrival and taken directly on a half day sightseeing tour of Rotorua which will include Rainbow Springs to see the large trout and rare kiwi birds, and a guided tour of Te Puia - Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve to see the geysers and other international thermal activity and Maori Arts and Crafts Institute where young Maori are being taught traditional carving and weaving skills.

In the evening enjoy a Hangi dinner and concert of Maori song and dance, including the famous Haka, on a local Marae (Maori Village site).

Day 5 ROTORUA / TAUPO / NAPIER

This morning travel south through vast pine forests to Wairakei and Taupo on the shores of New Zealand's largest lake stopping en route to view the spectacular Huka Falls on the Waikato River. Spend some time here and visit Scenic Cellars which is one of the best wine shops in New Zealand.

From Taupo drive east across the Kaimanawa Ranges into the sunny Hawkes Bay. This is an important fruit and vegetable growing area and boasts some of New Zealand's finest wineries.

We recommend dining this evening in the lovely old building that once housed the Marist Brothers at Mission Estate.

Day 6 THE HAWKES BAY WINERIES

Today enjoy a full day tour exploring some of the Hawkes Bay's finest wineries with an experienced local wine guide. Among them are: Mission Estate Winery, established by the Marist Brothers about 100 years ago; Esk Valley; Ngatarawa Wines; Sileni Estate; John Buck's Te Mata Estate Winery; Vidals; CJ Pask; Brookfields; Kim Crawford Wines; Sacred Hill; and Clearview Estate Winery. Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot are the main varieties. Picnic lunch is included.

Day 7 NAPIER / THE WAIRARAPA / MARTINBOROUGH

Napier was devastated by a huge earthquake in 1931 and has since been rebuilt in an art deco style of architecture. This morning take a walk around the city and along Marine Parade before driving south through Hastings and the picturesque Hawkes Bay sheep and cattle farmlands to the Wairarapa.

In recent years the area around the town of Martinborough has emerged as a leading wine region. Among the better-known wineries are Palliser Estate, Lintz Estate, Margrain Vineyard, and Te Karangi Wines. Chardonnays, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Gris are among the leading varieties produced here. In the afternoon visit selected wineries and the Martinborough Wine Shop.



Day 8 MARTINBOROUGH / PICTON / BLENHEIM

This morning drive across the Rimutaka Ranges and through the Hutt Valley into Wellington City for a short sightseeing tour of New Zealand's capital city including a visit to Te Papa - the National Museum where there are some wonderful exhibits and inter-active displays.

In the afternoon depart Wellington on a 3 hour ferry cruise across Cook Strait to Picton on the South Island. The last part of the cruise through the Marlborough Sounds is especially scenic. On arrival travel across the hill to Blenheim in the heart of the Marlborough Wine Region.

Day 9 THE MARLBOROUGH WINERIES

The Marlborough district is the top wine producing area in New Zealand with its wines winning awards around the world. Spend the day visiting the leading wineries on a small group tour. Among the wineries enjoyed here are; Wither Hills, Forrest Estate, Herzog, Grove Mill, Framminghams, Cloudy Bay, Highfield Estate, Lawson's Dry Hills, Allan Scott Wines, Brancott- Montana, Nobilo, Villa Maria, Shingle Peak, Cellier Le Brun, and Wairau River Wines. .

In the evening dine at one of the top wineries such as Hunters Winery, Herzog, or Allan Scott Wines.

Day 10 BLENHEIM / KAIKOURA / CHRISTCHURCH

This morning travel south to Kaikoura for a Whale watch cruise. Sperm whales, which are the largest of all the toothed Whales and grow to about 66 ft in length are seen in these waters 95% of days year round. There are also pods of Dolphins to be seen and Seal colonies around the rocky shoreline.

In the afternoon continue south to the Waipara Wine Region north of Christchurch for a visit to Canterbury House Winery and / or Pegasus Bay, which are two of the largest in the area. Then drive on down the Pacific Coast and across the sheep and cropping farmlands of the Canterbury Plains into Christchurch.

Day 11 CHRISTCHURCH / QUEENSTOWN

This morning fly south to Queenstown. On arrival you will be collected from the airport for a small group tour of Queenstown which takes you up Queenstown Hill to enjoy the panoramic views. Then continue to the Kawarau Bridge where you can watch the daring bungee jumping to the river below. Enjoy wine tasting at the Gibbston Valley Winery, and drive on past pretty Lake Hayes to historic Arrowtown. Gold was discovered here in the 1860s sparking a huge gold rush. After a stroll through the streets return to Queenstown crossing the famous Shotover River.

Day 12 THE CENTRAL OTAGO WINERIES

Today take a small group tour with local expert guides exploring some of the very good Central Otago wineries. This is a relatively young wine growing area, but in 1999 there was an 80% increase in the grape harvest and wine making has really taken off. Among the leading wineries are Amisfield, Chard Farm, Peregrine, and the Gibbston Valley Winery, which are located in the Lake Hayes/ Gibbston Valley areas. The tour takes you through the Kawarau Gorge to Bannockburn where Akarua, Carrick, Mt Difficulty Wines and Olssens are located. The Central Otago Pinot Noirs are especially good. A platter lunch is included.

Day 13 MILFORD SOUND DAY EXCURSION

This morning travel by coach around Lake Wakatipu and across the picturesque Southland countryside to Te Anau and Fiordland National Park. The scenery is stunning with high mountains and deep valleys carved out by Ice Age Glaciers. There are clear rushing streams and cascading waterfalls set in magnificent native rainforest. Stop en route to view the Mirror Lakes and The Chasm. On arrival at Milford Sound board the MV Milford Monarch and cruise down the fiord past Mitre Peak to the open sea. Seals, penguins and dolphins are often seen. Lunch is served aboard. After the boat berths, transfer to the Milford Sound air strip for a wonderful scenic flight back to Queenstown (40 minutes). From the air there are amazing views over Fiordland and Aspiring National Parks with their high snow-capped mountains, glaciers and lakes high in the mountains, tumbling waterfalls and rivers set amidst dense natural rain forest.

Day 14 DEPART QUEENSTOWN

Free until transfer to Queenstown Airport; and check in for your flight.

Important Note

The itinerary is just a guide and summarises our favourite places, sights and experiences. Any or all of them may be enjoyed as part of a tour.

Have a look at our recommendations, highlight places you wish to include and get in touch with us: together we can create a unique and unforgettable holiday experience.