

FIRST TASTE

IWC Kiwi winners

New Zealand's Wairarapa region may be small, but its wines are making a big impact

With New Zealand steadily increasing its IWC medals over the past three years, the Wairarapa wine-growing region may be one of the country's smallest, but it is also growing in popularity.

According to Kaylene Moore, general manager of Wines From Martinborough, proportionately it is outperforming the rest of New Zealand in growing export earnings, maintaining export prices in the face of production rises and finding new markets.

David Cox, European director of New Zealand Winegrowers, says: "The Martinborough/Wairarapa region only represents about 3% of total production in New Zealand, but there are some exciting wineries gaining excellent reputations way ahead of its proportionate size, especially for Pinot Noir." Here's a selection to try.



Wine from the Wairarapa region in New Zealand is growing steadily in popularity



New Zealand Chardonnay Trophy Ata Rangī, Craighall Chardonnay 2007

Intense nose of butter and green beans. Lovely, creamy mouthfeel, with good length and stone-fruit. A hint of toffee on the finish. Lots of acidity.



Wairarapa Pinot Noir Trophy Gladstone Vineyard Pinot Noir 2007

Strawberries, cream and spice notes, complexity that lasts. Saturated with flavour; spice cranberry, rhubarb. Lots of red fruit, persistent earthiness.



Craggy Range Pinot Noir, Te Muna Road Vineyard 2007

Rich raspberry and red cherry nose, with juicy fine fruit, as well as good, savoury tannins and a long finish.



Martinborough Vineyard, Sauvignon Blanc 2008

Fresh, leafy, spicy green plum on the nose. Quite full on the palate but showing fresh green fruit and acidity.



Gladstone Vineyard Pinot Gris 2008

An elegant, perfumed wine with spicy peach. Refreshing acidity, persistent minerality and a very good concentration of fruit.



Escarpment Kupe Pinot Noir 2005

Lush red cherry, with spicy new oak and good, dry fruit. This is a slightly bitter wine, but with a youthful savoury character.

