# **Rendezvous with New Zealand:**

1<u>5 days/14 nights - Scheduled travel dates Spring 2013\*:</u> 26.January - 12.February / 5.March - 22.March

\* may be amended slightly / travel dates for autumn on request



Photo: Central Otago/Amisfield

New Zealand consists out of two islands with a distance of about 2000 km from north to the south. It produces 208 Mio. litres of wine on an area of about 30 000 ha under vine which is shared between 700 wine producers over 10 wine regions.

# **Itinerary:**

#### Day 1: Auckland

Address of welcome through our local tour operator. Transfer to the hotel Check-In 2 nights Grand Chancellor Hotel, Auckland. Dependent on your arrival time in Auckland, you might have time to look around "The city of Sails", and unwind after your journey. Prior to dinner, you are invited to a reception at the bar during which time there will be a brief introduction into New Zealand's wine industry, and the economy. Dinner in the Hotel

(D) Overnight Grand Chancellor Hotel

### Day 2: Waiheke Island

Following your first Kiwi breakfast, a short walk will take us over to the water-front from where we will take a 40 minute boat trip to Waiheke Island. There we will visit at least 3 of the best wineries of the island; i.e. Goldwater, Mudbrick, Obsidian, Hay Paddock, Poderi Crisci, Te Whau or Passage Rock. Later in the day we will return to the hotel, and after "freshening up", we will be provided with a delightful buffet style at the Sky Tower Observatory Restaurant. (B/D) Overnight Grand Chancellor Hotel

## Day 3: Waikato - Maori King Country

After an early breakfast, and Check-Out, we will head by bus on a trip towards Waikato. Amongst other the attractions, we will be "taking in" a 45 minute tour of the famous Waitomo Caves including "Glow worms", and if time allows, a visit to Woodlyn Park show. There will be a small snack in between. From there we will carry on a further trip towards Taupo, where we will visit the Huka Falls and later then Check-In at Hotel in Taupo. For dinner that evening it is hoped we will be able to organize a "Hangi" (traditional Maori meal) for us. (B/D)

Overnight Millennium Hotel Manuels.



Photo: Mills Reef

## Day 4: Hawkes Bay

Following breakfast and Check-Out, we will again "hit" the road by bus and head on a journey towards Hawkes Bay/Napier on the East Coast. Check-In at Hotel. There will be a wine tasting at Mission Estate (oldest winery of New Zealand) with some lunch. Following on from this we will head off for a tasting at Sacred Hill, and if time allows, another at Unison Vineyard. You will be free to spend the evening at your leisure. (B/L) Overnight Te Pania Hotel.

## Day 5: Napier

After breakfast, we will enjoy visiting some of the other Hawkes Bay area wineries such as Elephant Hills Estate, Clearview, Craggy Range (including winery tour) and Te Mata (plus cheese tasting). If time allows, we would also like to include Alpha Domus. During the evening the Milk & Honey restaurant will provide us with some lovely meal. (B/D). Overnight Te Pania Hotel.



Photo: Craggy Range

# **Day** 6: **Martinborough - Wairarapa**

After an early breakfast, and checking out we will journey on southward towards Martinborough in the Wairarapa province, with a short lunch en route. The day we spend there will give us a good chance to unwind and relax before reaching Wellington. Check-In at Hotel. There is an afternoon wine tour planned, which will probably include Schuberts winery and AtaRangi, Martinborough Estate, and if time allows, Escarpment Estate. A dinner will be served in the hotel's fine dining restaurant. (B/D) Overnight Peppers Martinborough Hotel.

#### **Day** 7: Wellington

After breakfast and checking out, there will be time to visit another 1-2 wineries in Martinborough, before departing on a road trip to Wellington via the Rimutaka Pass. Check-in at Hotel (opposite Te Papa Museum). Spend the rest of the day as you wish, but advisable try to get to bed early as Day 9 will be a very long day! **(B)** Overnight Museums Hotel.

## **Day** 8: **Picton**

After an early breakfast and checking out, we will be taking a 3 ½ hour ferry trip across the Cook Strait to the South Island. (There are snacks available in the shop on board). Following disembarking in Picton, and a road trip toward Blenheim in Marlborough, we will be popping into Fromm and No.1 Family Estate, which is well-known producer of sparkling wine. If time allows, we would also like to include Clos Henri. The final "leg" of the day, 2 hour trip via mountain passes, will see us reaching Nelson in the late afternoon Check-in at Hotel.A tasteful dinner will be prepared in the Boat Shed Restaurant (B/D) Overnight Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco

### **Day** 9: **Nelson - Moutere**

After breakfast we will be taking in a wine tour (at least 3 wineries) Seifried Estate then doing some tastings at Himmelsfeld maybe at Blackenbrook and Neudorf vineyards, in the Moutere Valley. On the return "leg" to Nelson, we will drop in to Waimea Estate for more tastings and a late lunch. During the evening we will be enjoying a few drinks and some meal at the Honest Lawyer Country Pub!(B/L/D). Overnight Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco

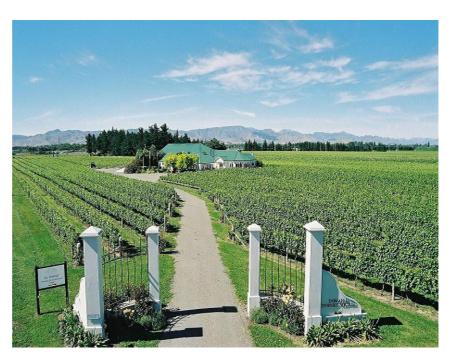


Photo: Domaine Georges

#### Day 10: Marlborough - Kaikoura

After a full breakfast, and checking out of the hotel, we will call in at Greenhough Estate, before heading back towards Marlborough – another 114 km trip. Once there, we will visit Cloudy Bay and Yealand, before heading south along the East Coast for Kaikoura with lunch en route. Check-In at Hotel. An original Kiwi Roast dinner will be provided in the relaxed atmosphere of the Pier's Hotel restaurant on the waterfront (B/D) Overnight Aspen Court Hotel.

# Day 11: Waipara

After breakfast, there is an option to go on a whale watching tour until late morning. After checking out, we will head south on a trip taking the highway to the North Canterbury wine region around Waipara, where we plan to visit Daniel Schuster, Muddy Water and if enough time Torlesse Estate. Check-in at Hotel in the Waipara village. A "home-cooked" dinner will be provided for us. **(B/D)** Overnight Old Glenmark Vicarage Hotel.

#### Day 12:Tekapo

After Breakfast, and checking out, there may be time for two more winery visits at Waipara with some lunch at Pegasus Bay Winery before heading inland on a trip via the West Canterbury scenic route and the McKenzie country to Tekapo. Check-In at Resort.

For the remainder of the day you will be free to do as you wish. **(B/L)** Overnight Lake Tekapo Scenic Resort Hotel.

## Day 13: Wanaka

After breakfast and a good look around Lake Tekapo, we will be heading off to Wanaka where we will be visiting Rippon Estate, and then a further 54 km onto Cromwell where we Check-in at the Lodge. During the afternoon we will visit Rockburn and Quartz Reef Estates. For dinner you will decide by yourself if you wish one (B). Overnight Golden Gate Lodge Hotel.

# **Day 14: Cromwell - Central Otago**

After breakfast we will be having a look at some of the best wineries in Central Otago, firstly Felton Road and Mt Difficult, where we will lunch, and going on from there to Peregrine and Chard Farm in the afternoon. In the evening we will be dining at one of the best restaurants in the country, "Saffron" (B/L/D).

Overnighter Golden Gate Lodge Hotel.

#### **Day** 15:

After breakfast and checking out of the hotel, we will be heading to Christchurch, from where we will be flying back home.



Photo: Martinborough flowers

#### **Services:**

- All transfers in modern and luxury bus with air conditioning and chauffeur.
- Wine tours and Tastings according to the programme.
- Side trips, Tickets according to the programme.
  - Ferries
  - Boat ride in the Waitomo Caves
  - Woodlyn Park Kiwi show
  - Huka Falls
  - Sky Tower
  - Sailing over Cook Strait (Wellington Picton)
- · Accommodation and catering for the chauffeur.
- 14 nights in middle class hotels with breakfast **(B)** included, based on two people sharing.
- 3 lunch, without drinks (L).
- 10 dinner dinner in selected Restaurants & Taverns (**D**) without drinks.
- Private tours and tastings on 33 selected wineries.
- The services of a sommelier/wine expert guide throughout the wine tour.
- All taxes included.

#### **Whats Not Included:**

- Flights
- Meals and Drinks not Specified
- Personal Expenses such as Telephone, Minibar, etc.
- Tips and Gratuities (Guides, Restaurants, etc)
- Travel Insurance (Strongly recommended)
- · Cancellation Insurance

Travel: Meet at Vienna/Auckland: (on the basis of 15 People)

€ 4134,--per person double occupancy € 5038,- single occupancy

Due to limited availability, please make your travel arrangements as soon as possible.

Operator: COLUMBUS Reisen GmbH, Vienna