

13 Day New Zealand Wine & Food, Art & Sculpture

{For the foodies, wino's & art lovers among us!}

Price: From USD 3680.00 per person twin share 2015 through March 2016

*based on current rate of exchange, subject to change

Includes: Intermediate size car & 5 star boutique hotels

Indulge in a sensational 13 day self-drive itinerary. This tour offers a variety of unspoiled landscapes and welcoming people. Combined with great New Zealand wine and food, accommodations and activities to enhance your experience of New Zealand.

Explore the delightful seaside towns of Kaikoura and Picton with ample opportunity to sample Marlborough's crisp Sauvignon Blanc and seafood from the 'Sounds'. The vibrant arts capital of Wellington is just a ferry ride over the Cook Strait. Travel to pristine Northland, explore the views and cultural heritage.

Food & Wine Cruise Marlborough Sounds, Gourmet Walking Tour Wellington, Exclusive Hawke's Bay Wine Experience, Waiheke Island Wine and Art Tour, Brick Bay Vineyard Sculpture Trail, Classic Day Sailing Bay of Islands

Day 1 - Arrive in Christchurch 'The Garden City'

Christchurch – 'A city rebuilding'. The gateway to the South Island, is recovering from devastating earthquakes. Witness as the city creates its future – combining restoration of damaged historic icons; today's highly praised temporary 'cardboard cathedral' and 'Re:Start' shipping container shopping precinct; understand the vision of how the new vibrant city will be more of a joy to visit than ever before. Christchurch is an ideal base for day excursions to view Kaikoura's whales, scenic French settlement Akaroa or the mountain scenery at Arthur's Pass.



Travel 4 hrs 30 mins to Blenheim – The Heart of Marlborough’s Wine making district

Blenheim – heart of the wine region. Vineyards embrace Marlborough’s central town of Blenheim with rows of changing colours through the seasons. Enjoy the vineyards and gourmet food, museum and a short drive to the beautiful Marlborough Sounds for cruising, hiking or cycling.



Stonehaven Vineyard Homestay - 2 nights

This homestay B&B is set amongst the vines, just outside Blenheim, in Marlborough (premium wine country). This modern stone and cedar homestay and Bed and Breakfast accommodation is nestled in 20 acre’s (8 Hectares) of sauvignon blanc vineyard. You can hire bicycles and make the most of exploring the Marlborough plains which are jam packed with wineries with welcoming cellar doors.



Day 2 - Icon ½ Day Wine Tour & ½ Day Mussel Cruise

Today experience the three icons of Marlborough – Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, the Marlborough Sounds and Marlborough Mussels

Visit two of Marlborough's icon wineries in the morning to sample the award winning wines of Marlborough. Then depart the wine region for the short drive (30 minutes) through to the Havelock Marina. Enjoy a nice lunch right on the waterfront at the Slip Inn Café (lunch at own cost). Depart Havelock on the Marlborough Travel launch for a cruise through the Marlborough Sounds. Take in the natural beauty of the native bush and the tranquility of the Sounds. Learn from your experienced skipper the history of the Marlborough Sounds and the history of the pioneering families who have settled in the Sounds over 6 generations. Visit a Greenshell™ Mussel farm and learn the intricacies of growing this delicacy in the Sounds. Taste a personal favourite – freshly steamed mussels matched perfectly to a complimentary glass of Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc.



Day 3 - Cook Strait Ferry Crossing – Picton to Wellington

The three hour journey across Cook Strait which connects New Zealand's North and South Islands is one of the most scenic in the world. For one third of the crossing you cruise through the majestic Marlborough Sounds a haven of sheltered inlets, coves and crystal clear waters. For visitors and locals alike cruising into the Sounds is breathtaking.



Wellington – Arts Capital

Nestled between a dramatic harbour and bush clad hills, Wellington was recently dubbed as ‘the coolest little capital city in the world’. The city is the country’s centre for culture, politics, and home to the National Museum, Te Papa. Wellington’s thriving cafe scene is globally recognised by coffee cognoscenti, and of course is a centre for movie production with Lord of the Rings taking centre stage.



The Bolton Hotel - Luxury Boutique accommodation - 2 nights

Centrally located, the Bolton is walking distance to the city’s many theatres, restaurants, cafés, bars, retail hub, waterfront and stadium. The Bolton Hotel provides the perfect base for our guests to explore the city and discover what’s on in Wellington.

All Rooms and Suites are stylishly decorated in calming neutral tones and feature artworks by local artists and historical photographs of early Wellington. Luxurious white cotton bedding and velvety soft bathrobes ensure that guests can repose in comfort.



Day 4 - Walking Gourmet Tour of Wellington

Explore Wellington's favourite food places in this compact city. Known as New Zealand's café capital, Wellington is ideal for our Walking Gourmet tour. Visit a boutique coffee roaster and café. Enjoy tastings at Wellington's best specialist gourmet food stores. Meet owners, baristas, coffee roasters and chefs. Savour a delicious, light, three course tasting lunch with matched New Zealand wines at a top Wellington restaurant or café.



Day 5 - Travel 2 hrs to Martinborough (The capital of the Wairarapa wine region)

Martinborough is just over an hour drive north of Wellington (New Zealand's capital and centre of government) is the heart of the Wairarapa wine region. The Wairarapa region is characterised by rolling hill country sandwiched between rugged coastlines and bush-clad mountains. As you drive through the region you will see grazing sheep, sheltered river valleys and lots of grapes and olives. It is by no means a large wine producing region, but what it lacks in size it makes up in quality. Some of New Zealand's best and most expensive wines come from this region. The key attraction of Martinborough (apart from its high number of sunshine hours and low rainfall) is wine and all that goes with wine - tastings, buying, talking with winemakers, walking through vineyards and generally absorbing the atmosphere. But It's scale is perhaps it's greatest advantage - everything is boutique, the big wine producers are absent so park your car in the Square and stroll to the vineyards, the nearest is only five minutes away with more than twenty vineyards to choose from.



Continue a further 2hrs 30 mins to Napier - Art Deco City set in a Coastal Wine Region

The Pacific Ocean provides a stunning backdrop to the Hawke's Bay, framed to the south by the dramatic Cape Kidnappers and the Tukiuki hills. From natural disaster was born a celebration of early twentieth century architecture - Art Deco, Spanish Mission and Stripped Classical buildings pepper Napier, Hastings and the region's small towns. Explore celebrated vineyards, the supreme Cape Kidnappers golf course, architecture, birdlife and Maori culture.



Mon Logis Boutique Hotel - 2 nights

A little piece of France nestled in the heart of the beautiful wine growing region of Hawke's Bay. Originally built as an English terrace house in the 1860's this colonial building was extended into a private hotel. Only a few minutes walk to the city centre, this grand two storey colonial villa overlooking the Pacific ocean has a fascinating history as a private hotel since the early 1900's. Mon Logis is one of the buildings which survived the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake. In 1991 it became Mon Logis meaning "My Dwelling. Now lovingly renovated, Mon Logis will cater to a maximum of eight guests and is modelled on the small privately owned French Hotel. Charm personal service and French cuisine are the specialities. Upstairs there are individually furnished rooms, two have queen size beds and two have twin beds and all have their own private facilities. Owner Frenchman Gerard decorated each guest room differently but in a style in keeping with the original charm of the building. Iron bedsteads, feather duvets, lace covers and fine cotton linen all create a special elegance and one room is totally furnished with pieces bought from France.



Day 6 - An Exclusive Hawkes Bay Wine Experience

There is only one way to experience Hawkes Bay wine and that is by taking a private tour with local wine expert in the luxury of a top-of-the-range 4wd vehicle. On your half day Wine Tour you'll be taken to a selection of the most well known wineries such as The Mission, Church Road, Brookfields, Craggy Range, Kim Crawford and Te Mata Estates as well as visiting some of the boutique, under-the-radar vineyards such as Black Barn, Unison, Zepelin Estates and Sileni. You'll be able to meet the winemakers, be treated to behind-the-scenes tours, and barrel tastings that are normally off-limits to the general public. A popular option is lunch at one of the award-winning winery restaurants where your guide will answer any questions you might have about the region, its wines, its food and its people. By the close of the day, you'll have sampled some of the best wines in the New World under the expert tutelage of our staff and winemakers themselves.



Day 7 - Fly to Auckland “The City of Sails”, transfer to hotel

Auckland – ‘City of Sails’ is regularly voted one of the best lifestyle cities in the world. Set on the shores of the Waitemata Harbour (meaning ‘sparkling waters’ in the Maori language), New Zealand’s largest city boasts a diverse Pacific Rim and European cultural mix with opportunities to sample outstanding restaurants, shopping and nightlife. Explore cultural experiences at museums, galleries and Waiheke Island’s idyllic food, wine and scenery tours; through to adventurous excursions such as sailing an Americas Cup yacht or exploring its rugged west coast for mountain biking, hiking trails or surfing at black sand beaches.



The Sebel Suites Auckland - 2 nights

The Sebel Auckland Viaduct Harbour is an apartment hotel in Auckland which epitomizes style and sophistication in an atmosphere alive with genuine warmth and hospitality. On one side the majestic city centre with a multitude of theatres, art galleries and shops beckons, while on the other the sun sets over languid yachts anchored in the Viaduct Harbour. The heart of the entertainment precinct is on our doorstep offering an array of dining experiences.



Day 8 - Waiheke Island - A Quiet Tropical Paradise in the Hauraki Gulf

Waiheke Island is an eclectic mix of cultures, activities, vineyards, cafes, restaurants, art galleries, beautiful beaches, scenic walking tracks and much, much more. It's a perfect relaxing, romantic escape; family holiday at the beach or weekend away. There are many outdoor activities and plenty to see and do, no matter what your interests or energy levels.

Just 35 minutes by ferry from Auckland, across the beautiful Hauraki Gulf, Waiheke Island seems a million miles away in pace and beauty. Waiheke has a special charm and seaside holiday atmosphere. The laid-back, independent island lifestyle epitomises the traditional Kiwi way of life. There is a great range of activities on Waiheke. Options include sightseeing, mountain biking, sea kayaking, a relaxed vineyard tour and much more. The delectable cuisine on offer is complemented by a range of award-winning wines produced at the island's many wineries.



Waiheke's Combined Wine and Art Tour

Since the late 1970's Waiheke's benign Mediterranean climate has seen the growth of a flourishing wine industry. A "small is beautiful" philosophy yields low quantities of extremely high quality fruit, which is made into international award-winning wines. The big Bordeaux-style reds of Stony Ridge, Goldwater Estate and Peninsula Estate are now appreciated by wine lovers all over the world, and more than 30 vineyards have followed in the footsteps of the original three.

Visit up to 4 premium vineyards on a 5.5 hour exclusive tour. We'll tailor this tour to suit your needs and timeframe. There is also an option to replaced one of the vineyards with an olive oil tasting and/or an artist studio on request. May include sculpture gardens or Zipline tour for an additional cost.



Day 9 - Collect rental car and travel 1hr 40 mins to Matakana Village – Farmers Market, Vineyards and Art and Crafts

Just one hour north of Auckland lies an area of remarkable beauty and diversity. Under Mt Tamahanga, nestled in a verdant valley, Matakana grew up around the river which provided trade and access for a range of local industries: orchards, dairying, stone quarries, brick kilns, flax processing, sawmills and shipbuilding. Today, Matakana is undergoing a renaissance. It has become the home of artists, writers, craftspeople and others seeking lifestyle changes. Recent development has given a new face to the locality. On Saturday the vibrant farmer's market is a focal point for locals and growers to meet. Luscious produce from the area fills the stalls - fruit and vegetables, delicious home baking and Italian-style sausages, divine organic chocolate, fine wines and boutique olive oils, locally-brewed beer, the all-important morning coffee and live music as an accompaniment. Matakana is surrounded by an area of diverse attractions - beautiful white beaches, Goat Island marine reserve, Tawharanui Park bird sanctuary, native forest with Kawau Island and the majestic Little Barrier directly offshore. Slow down and enjoy what Matakana has to offer...



Brick Bay Vineyard Sculpture Trail

Seemingly floating next to the vineyard, the unique Glass House building provides the gateway to the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, the start of your exploration of the very best of contemporary New Zealand sculpture. The trail map will guide you along a journey of discovery, through a remarkable landscape of towering native trees, majestic palms, along sinuous boardwalks, past lakes and ordered vineyard rows and the farm pasture beyond. Sensitive to the environment, around 45 carefully chosen sculptures are given room to breathe in a stimulating interaction between the natural environment and the artistic impulse. Smaller works are to be found in our Shrunk courtyards, a perfect setting for their more intimate scale. All sculptures are for sale and change regularly as works are sold. On your return to the Glass House, ponder the options of a wine tasting, coffee or a shared food platter with a glass of wine as you reflect on your experience of 'art and wine entwined' at Brick Bay.



Sugarloaf Lodge - 1 night

Sugarloaf Lodge offers a 4Star+ B&B accommodation in Matakana, under an hour from Central Auckland or one and a half hours from Auckland Airport... With exquisite views out to the Hauraki Gulf, awake and watch the amazing sunrise over the horizon & islands from your bed. Just a 5 minute drive to the nearest beach, or a 3 minute drive to Matakana, your stay at Sugarloaf Lodge bed and breakfast in Matakana will be pleasurable and most definitely memorable. Sugarloaf sits on a 5-acre site surrounded by olives, silver birches, oaks, elms, magnolias and fruit trees. Sheep and cattle graze the nearby fields and plentiful birdlife, including pheasant, duck, tui, plover, kingfisher and heron can be seen and heard all around. You won't find a more serene spot to liberate the senses. This really is a very special place.



Day 10 - Visit the 'Lord of the Forest' Tane Mahuta - Waipoua Forest (2 hour 45 min drive)

Waipoua Forest is one of Northland's great treasures and is one of the best examples of kauri forest in New Zealand. Waipoua is famous for having the two largest living kauris (Tane Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere). Ring counts confirm that some of the largest existing trees are over 2000 years old and the massive Mercury Bay tree was possibly 4000 plus years old. (Unfortunately the Mercury Bay tree was destroyed by fire) Native forests of New Zealand are among the closest living relatives of the ancient forests of Gondwana. The ancestry of some tree species such as kauri, kahikatea and southern beech has been traced back without discontinuity to the Jurassic period, 100 million or more years ago. The beauty, unique character, and significance of this forest will always inspire those who visit.



Continue north to the Karikari Peninsula stay tonight at Carrington Resort (1 hour 45 mins) - 1 night

Carrington Resort is located in Northlands Karikari Peninsula. With four spectacular kilometres of secluded white sand coastline, incorporating a Matt Dye designed tournament-standard 18 hole golf course, an acclaimed Northland vineyard and winery, a working Black Angus beef stud farm, and 900 acres of restored wetlands on site. Facilities include a heated infinity swimming pool and spa pool, Restaurant & Bar, two championship tennis courts, Olympic standard clay and skeet target shooting range and a gymnasium.

The hotel rooms provide both lodge and villa accommodation. Lodge contain a California King sized bed, ensuite bathroom and satellite TV with each room opening onto a wide verandah with views to the ocean, golf course or native bush and vineyard.



Day 11 - The Historic Town of Russell in the Bay of Islands (1 hour 10 mins)

A quick ferry ride across the water from Paihia is Russell. This is a small, historic seaside village on a peninsula in the eastern Bay of Islands. Since the 1700s it has provided a haven for visitors, offering shelter and hospitality. Because of its relatively remote location it retains an island quality and a charm that reflects the tranquillity of earlier times. Despite this, it is a vibrant, cosmopolitan community that attracts visitors from New Zealand and all over the world. Russell was the first capital of New Zealand and one of the first European settlements. The town's Victorian atmosphere has been carefully preserved, for here you will find two of New Zealand's oldest buildings, Christ Church (1836) and Pompallier House (1841). The Russell Police Station built in 1870 originally as a Customs House is still in use today. On a more relaxing note there are numerous waterfront cafes and restaurants, making this a great place to soak up the atmosphere and really enjoy a most memorable holiday.



Arcadia Lodge - 2 nights

Accommodation is in three spacious suites with private decks and magnificent views of the bay while upstairs are a charming queen room with water views and a super-king room. One of the suites has two bedrooms, making it suitable for a couple, two friends or up to four people traveling together. The house is furnished in a relaxed blend of the traditional and contemporary with English and American Arts and Crafts furniture on 100 year old, honey-coloured kauri floorboards. A mixture of western and Pasifika art adds to the house's warm, comfortable feel, creating a relaxing space in which to unwind.



Day 12 - "Vigilant" Classic Day Sailing in the Bay of Islands

Aboard this classic single mast sailing yacht you can get up close and personal with the stunning Bay of Islands. There is nothing quite like the sound of the ocean lapping against the hull and the smell of salt air to make you feel invigorated. Take the day to cruise sparkling waters and discover one of the richest sailing areas in New Zealand. With over 140 islands and bays to choose from disembark to kayak, swim, snorkel, or go for a walk on one of the secluded sandy beaches. Perhaps visit the iconic "Hole in the Rock" or drop anchor and have lunch in historic Russell. We understand that this is your day so we can be completely flexible or offer you a prearranged itinerary to cater to your needs. We meet clients who love to sit back and relax, while others get a real thrill out of taking an active part in the sailing of this beautiful vessel.



Day 13 - Fly back to Auckland and depart New Zealand

Driving Distances - North Island

167	657	457	203	119	205	275	241	534	233	357	417	642	325	508	133	493	181	435	Auckland
268	1092	901	638	554	640	710	676	969	218	797	861	1086	110	943	568	939	285		Cape Reinga
58	838	647	384	300	386	456	422	715	124	541	598	823	169	689	312	683			Dargaville
660	538	464	453	402	298	332	293	390	739	585	215	446	818	175	396				Gisborne
300	532	333	70	108	108	152	108	411	366	231	295	520	458	398					Hamilton
675	724	640	451	417	303	375	296	565	741	616	391	621	833						Hicks Bay
158	982	781	528	444	530	600	566	859	108	681	742	967							Kaitia
809	103	182	449	574	525	356	448	108	879	342	231								Masterton
584	323	249	305	340	307	139	218	175	661	409									Napier
526	353	162	173	339	308	296	299	234	597										New Plymouth
66	890	699	436	352	438	518	474	777											Pahia
701	145	74	341	465	416	259	339												Palmerston North
408	460	302	160	167	86	79													Rotorua
442	377	223	166	201	156														Taupo
372	546	439	151	114															Tauranga
286	578	479	176																Thames
370	470	268																	Waitomo
633	191		Wanganui																
824			Wellington																
			Whangarei																



																				Alexandra	
																				Blenheim	785
																				Christchurch	308 455
																				Collingwood	509 251 964
																				Dunedin	871 362 670 190
																				Franz Josef	563 582 400 486 373
																				Greymouth	177 558 384 258 324 661
																				Haast	318 148 421 720 535 643 231
																				Invercargill	433 775 575 217 1088 579 887 202
																				Kaikoura	762 710 338 550 545 380 183 129 656
																				Milford Sound	956 278 539 860 684 411 1232 773 1081 370
																				Mount Cook	550 514 444 356 510 498 331 840 331 639 242
																				Nelson	755 1146 245 1003 609 290 469 786 135 424 116 865
																				Oamaru	671 216 526 430 332 376 443 506 115 756 247 555 223
																				Picton	583 110 667 1108 157 915 671 352 531 698 245 336 28 791
																				Queenstown	822 319 693 263 291 669 187 262 83 404 283 961 486 794 93
																				Te Anau	170 988 405 1025 433 121 835 157 418 739 560 290 1117 652 960 249
																				Timaru	489 335 499 84 587 211 610 346 416 418 350 493 199 672 163 471 307
																				Wanaka	273 273 117 773 231 587 211 394 607 288 145 469 287 276 839 424 745 86
																				Westport	558 497 830 664 288 580 226 664 975 340 869 437 101 276 695 320 333 264 761

Driving Distances - South Island