

## **Food & Wine Trails 17 days/ 18 nights**

Auckland – Waiheke – Hawkes Bay – Martinborough –  
Wellington – Marlborough – Central Otago



**ITINERARY:**

**B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner**

**Highlights:**

Auckland & Kumeu  
Waiheke Island  
Hawkes Bay  
Martinborough  
Wellington  
Marlborough  
Central Otago  
Queenstown & Dart River



Day 1

**ARRIVAL AUCKLAND**

(-/-/-)

You will be welcomed by a Maori Trails representative upon arrival. Private transfer in luxury vehicle to your selected Auckland City hotel.

The rest of day is at your own leisure to explore the ‘City of Sails’ as Auckland is known.

**Auckland**



*New Zealand’s largest city, also known as Tamaki Makaurau, is consistently rated as one of the most livable cities in the World. Auckland is one of the few cities in the World to have 2 separate bodies of water—the Manukau Harbour on the Tasman Sea and the Waitemata Harbour on the Pacific Ocean, making it the ultimate marine playground.*

*Auckland’s amazing geography and warm, humid climate has created a unique lifestyle with a vibrant multicultural mix of the region’s cuisine, music, art and culture. Auckland, also known as the “City of Sails”, hosted the 2021 America’s Cup which has added an infusion of exciting new restaurants, bars and hotels. In the stylish precincts of Parnell, Wynyard Quarter, Viaduct Basin and Ponsonby scores of new and*

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*trendy restaurants can be found. Auckland is also home to more than 80 vineyards and consequently, wine tasting is popular not only on jet setting Waiheke Island but also on the outskirts of West Auckland in Kumeu.*

The rest of day is at your own leisure

**Overnight:**

Grand Windsor Boutique Hotel 5\*, Luxury Room

**Day 2**

**AUCKLAND**

**(B/-/-)**

Spend the morning exploring Auckland City, and in the afternoon taste some of New Zealand's best wine, eat local food and drink in the dramatic scenery of Auckland's West Coast. Travel up Queens Street, Auckland's prime shopping mile, through the inner-city park, known as the Domain. Continue on through the picturesque suburb of Ponsonby with its historic buildings before heading over the Harbor Bridge to Auckland's North Shore. Stroll on one of our beautiful white sand beaches where there is time for a coffee before continuing up to the summit of Mt Victoria with its stunning panoramic views of Auckland City and historic Devonport. You then travel back over the Harbor Bridge to view Westhaven Marina, one of the largest marinas in the Southern Hemisphere.



After the morning city tour, a 30-minute drive from downtown Auckland takes you to the Kumeu Wine Country. Your first tasting is at Soljans Vineyard. Enjoy lunch at Soljans Winery restaurant which has been built with sunshine in mind and serves Mediterranean-style food

with a New Zealand twist, showcasing fresh, seasonal and local produce from around the region. Your journey then takes you to one of the few mainland gannet nesting sites in the world, situated on the clifftops overlooking the Tasman Sea where you have the chance to see one of the world's largest seabirds in their natural environment. The views extend for miles along the wild, black, iron sand beach of Muriwai. Your

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final tasting is at West Brook Winery. The West Brook cellar door looks across an idyllic duck pond and terraced picnic area to row after row of vines. Their wines reflect true varietal character and their unique regional origins

**Overnight:**

Grand Windsor Boutique Hotel 5\*, Luxury Room

Day 3

**WAIHEKE ISLAND**

**(B/L/-)**

After a scenic 45mins ferry ride across the Waitemata Harbor, your guide and wine experts awaits you upon arrival on Waiheke Island. Explore pretty Waiheke Island on this private and exclusive tour and discover beaches, vineyards and the rolling scenery. You will get an overview and orientation



of the island, stopping for great views and sandy beaches. Learn all about local wine production and visit 3-4 five cellar doors and enjoy tastings of premium Waiheke vintages. A shared grazing platter style lunch at a local winery is included. Return to Auckland by ferry in the late afternoon. This tour can be tailored by selecting your preferred cellar doors.

**Overnight:**

Grand Windsor Boutique Hotel 5\*, Luxury Room

Day 4

AUCKLAND – HAWKES BAY

(B/-/-)

Private transfer from your hotel to Auckland Airport for your domestic flight to Napier/Hawkes Bay (domestic flight not included)



Private transfer to Napier downtown where you will be met by your local driver guide, in Art Deco costume, who will provide a fascinating commentary as you are driven in style through Napier and surrounding areas. You will learn about the earthquake that destroyed the city, hear stories of the people that led

the rebuild, and discover the Art Deco style. En route you will stop at the majestic Napier Municipal Theatre - a unique experience available through the local Art Deco Trust, where you will get to have a look inside the beautiful interior. Then on to Ahuriri where you will visit one of the most photographed buildings in New Zealand, the National Tobacco Company building. You will then step back in time as you drive through the residential suburb of Marewa, meaning 'gift from the sea' in Māori. This suburb was built entirely on land that rose from the sea in the 1931 earthquake and is filled with 1930s style homes. You will return to the Art Deco Centre in Central Napier, filled with a new appreciation for the city and the people who survived New Zealand's worst natural disaster in modern times.

***Napier & Hawkes Bay***

*Napier is the world's Art Deco capital, rebuilt in the architectural styles of the time following the devastating 1931 earthquake. By the end of the decade, Napier was the newest city on the globe! Today, nowhere else can you see such a variety of buildings in the styles of the 1930's, most of them greatly preserved and protected by a local trust.*

*Blessed with fertile soils and some of the best weather in the country, Hawkes Bay is among New Zealand's leading producers of world-class wine, primarily red wines including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. Hawkes Bay is the first stop on the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail, popular among visitors for its 30+ cellar doors, many of them offering world class cuisine supplied by artisan producers. Nearby iconic Cape Kidnappers is home to the world's largest mainland colony of gannets and Te Mata Peak offers the best 360 degree views of Hawkes Bay.*



**Overnight:**

Scenic Te Pania Napier 4\*, 1 Bedroom Suite

Day 5

**HAWKES BAY**

(B/-/-)

**Full Day Private Hawkes Bay Food & Wine Tour**

This exclusive tour starts with collection at your Napier or Hastings accommodation. From there, your eyes will feast upon the marriage of architecture and New Zealand's natural landscape when you visit three local wineries. Hawkes Bay is renowned as a locavore's haven. Before lunch, an insight into running an organic orchard on stunning grounds will give you a private insight into how high-quality produce is grown. Mission Estate Winery is New Zealand's oldest winery, established by monks in 1851. Mission Estate is famed for its Cabernet Blends and their Chardonnay.

Craggy Range, beneath the majestic Te Mata peak, is one of New Zealand's premium wineries. Craggy Range has won a multitude of international awards, most prominently for their Merlot & Shiraz cultivated on the famed 'Gimblett Gravels' patch of vines in Hawkes Bay.

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Black Barn Winery is a small boutique wine producer, nestled in the hills of the charming town of Havelock North. Their Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc are among the best in New Zealand.

After a leisurely lunch at one of three premium wineries, you will be driven to the lookout above Te Mata Peak and cast your eyes over the Pacific Ocean and back over the rolling hills of Central Hawke's Bay.



**Overnight:**

Scenic Te Pania Napier 4\*, 1 Bedroom Suite

Day 6

**NAPIER - MARTINBOROUGH**

**(B/-/-)**

Your driver-guide will pick you from your hotel after breakfast for a scenic overland transfer to Martinborough (driving time approx. 4hrs)

Stop at the small town of Dannevirke with its proud heritage of Scandinavian settlers or stop at Pukaha National Wildlife Center (formerly known as Mt Bruce Wildlife Center), 942-hectare forest and wildlife conservation center. Masterton is the first of 5 quaint and charming towns in the Wairarapa, one of New Zealand's best Pinot Noir wine producing regions.

The afternoon is at your own leisure in Martinborough

### **Martinborough & Wairarapa**



*Packed with colonial charm, Martinborough features over 20 boutique, family owned wineries. Some of New Zealand's best Pinot Noir comes from Martinborough and it is therefore no surprise it is a 'must stop' on the Classic New Zealand*

*Wine Trail. Most of these wineries have open cellar doors and there is no need for appointments.*

*World class wine and excellent restaurants promise to ease you into a very happy state of mind!*

*The surrounding Wairarapa region is as rural and 'off the beaten track' as it can get, the archetypal Kiwi sheep country with wool-flecked green hills stretching into the distance. In recent years, the Wairarapa has become synonymous for boutique hotels, innovative restaurants, wine and olive oil production, all a short one-hour drive from the Capital, Wellington.*

### **Overnight:**

The Martinborough Hotel 4\*, Heritage Suite

Day 7

MARTINBOROUGH - WELLINGTON

(B/L/-)

In the morning, **private Martinborough Food & Wine Tour**



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**ITINERARY:**

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This ultimate Wine & Food Tour showcases the best the Wairarapa region has to offer. You hear a brief history of Martinborough townships and its vineyards and wine-making. You will visit a number of premium vineyards and taste a selection of Martinborough's best wines along with your choice of other tasting options such as locally produced cheeses, chocolate, olive oil, gin, beer and a barrel tasting. The lunch courses are matched with local wine and followed by dessert or a chocolate tasting. At the end of the tour, you will also receive some samples of Martinborough's food & wine to take home to remember this special day.



After your Martinborough Wine Tour, scenic private transfer to **Wellington** (driving time approx. 1.15hrs)

*Wellington, New Zealand's Capital, was recently named "the coolest little capital in the world". Nestled between a sparkling harbor and rolling green hills, Wellington is a small, compact city that can easily be explored on foot. It boasts of a powerful mix of culture, history and nature. Over the last couple of years, Wellington has also made itself a name for an outstanding, vibrant gastronomy scene from coffee roasters to world-class craft beer to great restaurants and food trucks.*



*Wellington is home to New Zealand's most pulsing cultural scene, including excellent art galleries and theatre shows. The best views of Wellington can be enjoyed by taking the cable car up to Kelburn Hill. No*

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*visit to Wellington is complete without seeing our National Museum, Te Papa – one of the world’s best interactive museums.*

**Overnight:**

Ohtel Boutique Hotel Wellington 5\*, Suite

**Day 8**

**WELLINGTON**

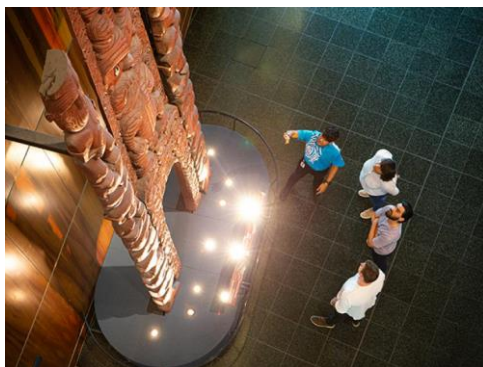
**(B/L/-)**

With your knowledgeable and entertaining local ‘foodie’ guide, explore Wellington’s foodie quarters and favorite food places on this delicious introduction to the culinary capital of New Zealand. You



will visit a famous local coffee roaster, talk to owners and meet local, passionate food producers. Sample their culinary, artisan offerings as you go. Enjoy tastings at Wellington’s best specialist food places including sampling regional cheeses, honey, chocolates and much more – tastings at every stop. You then savor a delicious lunch expertly matched with New Zealand wines or local craft beer at a top Wellington restaurant with more time to learn about Wellington or New Zealand in general with your knowledgeable guide.

In the afternoon, explore New Zealand’s National Museum – **Te Papa**, on a guided introduction tour



He toi whakairo, he mana tangata – Where there is excellence, there is human dignity. Experience the living and breathing culture of the Māori people through the taonga (treasures) in New Zealand’s national museum Te Papa. Experience the living and breathing taonga of te iwi takekate (first peoples of the land). From great journeys across vast oceans to

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hopeful visions for the 21st century, these taonga speak to historical and contemporary Māori perspectives. This is the ideal tour for those looking for an introduction to Māori culture and to hear intimate stories and gain a deeper understanding of New Zealand's indigenous people.

**Overnight:**

Ohtel Boutique Hotel Wellington 5\*, Suite

**Day 9**

**WELLINGTON - MARLBOROUGH**

**(B/L/-)**

Private transfer from your hotel to Wellington Airport for your domestic flight to Blenheim/Marlborough (domestic flight not included)

Upon arrival in Blenheim, you will be met by your private driver-guide for your **Regional Marlborough Tour**.



From the flat fertile Wairau plains, home of the world-famous Marlborough wine region through to the steep mountainous hill ranges of the Marlborough Sounds, this tour offers wonderful photo opportunities around every corner. Take in the best the area has to offer including a boutique brewery, Makana chocolates, local olive oils, arts, crafts and more. Enjoy a short walk at Rarangi beach to the Monkey Bay lookout, wonderful coastal views across the beach, Cloudy Bay, Cook Strait. Tour through the township of Blenheim and have a stroll in the sprawling gardens of Pollard Park. After lunch, enjoy the drive through the rolling hill country to the small seaport township of Havelock, the Greenshell Mussel capital of the world. From Havelock take the scenic Queen Charlotte Drive through to Picton with stunning

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**ITINERARY:**

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views of the Pelorus Sound. Explore the township of Picton before returning back to Blenheim in the afternoon.

**Marlborough** is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the finer things in life. The region is all about world-famous Sauvignon Blanc, delicious fresh seafood and diverse landscapes. Marlborough is home to New Zealand's largest wine growing region with more than 65 wineries, many with open cellar doors and exquisite on-site restaurants. The main town of Blenheim and its surroundings are blessed with a year-round sunny climate and regularly records the highest sunshine hours in New Zealand. For those more into the outdoors, Marlborough's fame lays with its sounds-sunken valleys. The highly picturesque Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds can be explored by boat, ferry, on a chartered luxury yacht or by a simple kayak. Queen Charlotte Track, 67km long, passed through lush coastal forest, around coves and inlets, and along skyline ridges offering breathtaking views of the Queen Charlotte Sound.



**Overnight:**

Marlborough Vintners Hotel 4\*, Vineyard View Suite

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ITINERARY:

B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner

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Day 10

MARLBOROUGH

(B/-/-)

**Private Luxury Marlborough Wine Tour**

With over 100 wineries in the region, a host of primary food producers, cafes and restaurants galore, Marlborough really is a gourmet province. Take the luxury approach to the Marlborough Region with a personalized wine tour. This tour is ideal for the avid wine lover who



would like take in a nice selection of Marlborough wineries. Tour through a vineyard and a winery, learn the process of making fine wines and taste special reserve grade wines in some unique settings. This is a fabulous tour to meet the people behind the wines, learn more about brand values, the processes and of course tasting the end result.

**Overnight:**

Marlborough Vintners Hotel 4\*, Vineyard View Suite

Day 11

MARLBOROUGH - CHRISTCHURCH

(B/-/-)

Private transfer from your hotel to Blenheim/Marlborough Airport for your domestic flight to Christchurch (domestic flight not included)

Upon arrival in Christchurch, you will be met by your private driver-guide for a **Christchurch City Introduction** tour, followed by a transfer to your hotel.

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**ITINERARY:**

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Christchurch reemerges as a fresh and new city after the devastating 2010/11 earthquakes. The destruction of several landmark historic buildings such as the Christchurch Cathedral has led to the development of new city plans like newly designed Avon River waterfront, a bold

public art program and innovative use of public space. Experience the beauty of Hagley Park, the Avon River and Botanic Gardens and the recently reopened Regent Street with its distinctive Spanish Mission style architecture. Time permitting, head to the Port Hills which overlook Christchurch and presents stunning views of the city, Canterbury Plains, Lyttelton Harbor and the Southern Alps.

**Christchurch**, dubbed the “Garden City” is New Zealand’s third largest city and the largest on the South Island. The city is constantly evolving, filled with cutting-edge architecture alongside some of the oldest buildings in New Zealand. Christchurch has almost completed its rebuild after the devastating 2010 and 2011 earthquakes and is now one of the newest cities in the world filled with street art, innovative projects and a bustling hospitality scene. The city boasts many parks, rivers and a typically English-style layout of central square and parallel streets. Christchurch is surrounded by mountains, the Canterbury Plains, beautiful coastline, and the Port Hills, which provide a dramatic backdrop to the city.

**Overnight:**

The George Christchurch 5\*, Premium Executive Room

Day 12

**WAIPARA WINE REGION**

**(B/L/-)**

Later in the morning, leave busy Christchurch behind and head north towards the boutique wine region of the Waipara. This region is renowned for producing aromatic whites and Pinot Noir. You will visit a selection of wineries for tastings which will demonstrate why New Zealand wine, and its makers, are so highly regarded around the world. Canterbury also prides itself in being serious about food and promoting local produce. Lunch at a local winery and tastings are included.



**Overnight:**

The George Christchurch 5\*, Premium Executive Room

Day 13

**AKAROA & BANKS PENINSULA**

**(B/L/-)**



A day tour to **Akaroa**, the only settlement attempted by the French in New Zealand, passes through the beautiful landscapes of the Banks Peninsula. This region was formed following violent eruptions of volcanos over 6 million years ago and the picturesque town of Akaroa itself sits in an

ancient volcano crater. You will travel to Akaroa over the beautiful Banks Peninsula on a high summit route which gives glorious views of farmlands, the Canterbury Plains and the distant Southern Alps as well as remote bays indenting the coastline. From the main wharf in Akaroa boats depart for a Nature Cruise on the harbor. See Hector Dolphins, little blue penguins, fur seals and local bird life. Learn more about the local history from your boat skipper and be awed by the volcanic cliffs that act as sentinels to the harbor entrance. You will have an opportunity to wander around the charming 175 year old French harbor side village of Akaroa with its museum of settler's history, art and craft shops and studios before enjoying lunch at an award winning

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**ITINERARY:**

**B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner**

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café. Stops along the way will include, time and weather permitting, Barry's Bay Cheese Factory, Little River Art Gallery and Birdling's Flat.

**Overnight:**

The George Christchurch 5\*, Premium Executive Room

Day 14

**CHRISTCHURCH - QUEENSTOWN**

**(B/-/-)**

Private transfer from your hotel to Christchurch Airport for your domestic flight to Queenstown (domestic flight not included)

Upon arrival in Queenstown, you will be met by your private driver-guide for a short transfer to your hotel.

The afternoon is at your leisure to discover Queenstown.

**Queenstown & Central Otago**

*The alpine resort of Queenstown is exciting, sophisticated and fantastically scenic. Queenstown sits on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, one of the clearest and coldest lakes in the world, captivated by the majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains*



*and rivers. Queenstown has also been dubbed as the Adventure Capital of the world and with this title comes a plethora of adrenaline-inducing, heart stopping and hair-raising activities. The region around Queenstown is characterized by jagged mountains, deep canyons, wild cascading rivers, crystal-clear lakes, rainforest, tussock grassland and fresh mountain air.*

*Central Otago's scenery is wild and untamed. Barren brown mountains, historic gold mining towns and dry hot summers mixed with frigid winters make Central Otago a commanding forceful land. In the 1860's this was a place of gold but today that gold is wine. Pinot Noir, the most fickle of grape varieties, excels in these southernmost vineyards and*



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**ITINERARY:**

**B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner**

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*most of the wineries offer tastings and guided tours, some are home to world-class fine dining establishments.*

**Overnight:**

The Rees Queenstown 5\*, 1Bedroom Lakeview Apartment

Day 15

**QUEENSTOWN & CENTRAL OTAGO**

**(B/L/-)**

Your private local guide will pick you after breakfast for your exclusive **Mt Difficulty, Cloudy Bay & Gibbston Wine Tour**

Experience some of Central Otago's most exclusive wine tasting experiences on this all-inclusive escape. First you drive to Bannockburn, the heart of the Central Otago wine region. Visit the charming town center before indulging in a wine tasting at one of the region's top wineries, Mt Difficulty. Enjoy dramatic views across Lake Dunstan and the Cromwell Basin over lunch. Next, you arrive at the multi-award winning Cloudy Bay winery for a private 45-minute tasting in the exclusive Lakeview Room. Meet the people behind the wine and delve into their winemaking philosophy.



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**ITINERARY:**

**B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D-Dinner**

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You then go to Gibbston wine region, known as the ‘Valley of the Vines’ where you will sample more world-class Pinot Noir before enjoying the scenic drive back to Queenstown.

**Overnight:**

The Rees Queenstown 5\*, 1Bedroom Lakeview Apartment

**Day 16**

**QUEENSTOWN & CENTRAL OTAGO**

**(B/L/-)**

Enjoy a day of personal exploration through one of New Zealand’s most spectacular regions; from the history-rich gold rush town of Arrowtown to the vast wilderness of Glenorchy and Paradise. Wander through the historic cobblestoned streets of Arrowtown, a township with a vivid history. From here experience a spectacular drive along the shores of Lake Wakatipu towards Glenorchy , recently recognized as ‘one of the most beautiful drives in the world. Stop at the famous Bennet’s Bluff lookout for sweeping views across Lake Wakatipu. After lunch, embark on the exhilarating Dart River jet boat venturing deep into the world-renowned Mount Aspiring National Park. Enjoy a unique combination of breathtaking landscapes and a thrilling ride as you explore the braided, glacier-fed Dart River. Disembark and your guide will talk you through the region’s rich history and Maori legends and wander amongst ancient beech forests. On the way back to Queenstown, take a leisurely stroll around beautiful and historic Bob’s Cove.



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**ITINERARY:**

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**Overnight:**

The Rees Queenstown 5\*, 1Bedroom Lakeview Apartment

Day 17

**QUEENSTOWN DEPARTURE**

**(B/-/-)**

After breakfast, private transfer from your hotel to Queenstown Airport for your international flight back home (or individual extension)