

CENTRAL OTAGO WINES

**"A spectacular landscape and sophisticated tourist culture
also home to some of the world's best Pinot Noir..."**

Txanton presents to you a guide to the world's southernmost winemaking region, Central Otago, Renowned for its Pinot Noir. Ringed by mountains interlaced with lakes and deep river gorges Central Otago is one of New Zealand's most spectacular settings for vineyards. This unique terroir is also world renowned for producing premium quality wines.

It is New Zealand's only true "continental" region with greater extremes of daily and seasonal temperatures than those found in any of the country's maritime regions.

The summers are hot and dry, and the winters crisp and snowy. Soil structures are very different to those of New Zealand's other regions with heavy mineral deposits in silt loams.

Some of New Zealand's very best Pinot Noir wines are produced in this region. It is the dominant grape variety with most plantings in Cromwell around Lake Dunstan. Chardonnay comes in at number two with Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling taking up distant third and fourth places.

...not to mention, impressive and vivid white wines."





**TXANTON'S COLLECTION FROM CENTRAL OTAGO
VINEYARDS AND WINERIES**



facing land on the south bank of the Kawarau River. Gibbston is the coolest and highest of the sub-regions with vineyards between 320 and 420 metres altitude.

- **Gibbston** is a narrow valley enclosed by mountains where about 250 hectares of vines are planted on sloping, north



Founded by **Alan Brady** in 1997, Mount Edward Winery is nestled at the foot of the mountain from which it takes its name, in Gibbston, approximately 25 km east of Queenstown in Central Otago, New Zealand. The winery was a personal project by one of the region's pioneers aimed at growing limited quantities of premium Pinot Noir and Riesling; wines that would reflect the soils and climates of Central Otago. The vineyards are operated organically and are Bio Gro certified.

In 2004 Mount Edward expanded, taking on partners John Buchanan and Duncan Forsyth. John and Duncan brought similar passions for winegrowing, winemaking experience, and a drive to take Mount Edward to the next level. Their winemaking is traditional, they use natural yeasts and minimal intervention at all stages with their wines reflecting the vintage from which they came. These are hand-crafted wines, with only 6,000 cases produced annually on average. Mount Edward is still on that same path today; a small team of people dedicated to growing wines of the highest order.

"Great wine, wine that has personality, wine that reflects its origins, is always grown in the vineyard. We have taken this approach at Mount Edward and all that we do is based on this premise." – John Buchanan, Mt. Edward Vineyard



Giuseppe Valli immigrated from an Italian winemaking background to New Zealand in the 1870s. Five generations later, great-grandsons Grant Taylor and Tim Valli continue the tradition.

Born in Otago New Zealand and a local pioneering winemaker, Grant Taylor started his wine making career in California in the early 80's. Lured by big trout, clean air, fewer people and the potential he saw for Otago wines, Grant returned home later that year to become Gibbston Valley's winemaker.

Grant acquired a near perfect 10 acre block of land at the eastern end of Gibbston. However, Grant's first involvement in the area began a decade earlier as winemaker at Gibbston Valley, the original vineyard in the valley. Grant has made wine for Gibbston Valley for 13 years before leaving to concentrate on Valli. Throughout his career in New Zealand, he has made the first wines for a number of other very successful Otago wineries.

Driven by an ambition to have great Pinot Noir truly express its individual site, Valli slowly expanded its range of Single Vineyard Pinot Noir to include other sub-regions in Central Otago including Bannockburn, Bendigo and more recently the Waitaki Valley. Viticulture and winemaking is very much hands on with a full time viticulturist managing the Gibbston site and acclaimed winemaker, Jen Parr, now the principal winemaker.

"When you drink a Valli wine, you are enjoying more than just a wine—you are experiencing the place." – Grant Taylor, Valli Vineyards



• **Cromwell / Lowburn / Pisa** The Cromwell Basin contains the largest concentration of vines in an area bounded by the Ka-

warau River, Lake Dunstan and the Pisa mountain range. It is a warm, early ripening district dominated by semi-arid, flat to undulating high terraces and moraines and gently sloping fans.



A new state of the art wine showcasing premium Scott Base wines from Allan Scott Family Winemakers. These wines are made with all the experience and enthusiasm that comes with the many years of winemaking. These single vineyard wines are made only in small quantities, carefully crafted to give full expression to their regional characters.



Celebrating the Scott's adventurous spirit and their longstanding love of Central Otago region, the family went searching for the perfect spot to develop the new generation of Allan Scott wines. They wanted to create an aromatic wine that spoke of Central Otago and was distinctive in flavour. They found that perfect vineyard overlooking the Cromwell Township framed the Pisa mountain range.

Scott Base wines are made with all the experience and enthusiasm that comes with many years of winemaking.

"Quality is the mission, we are not just taking the cream of the crop, but the cream that sits on top of the cream of the crop"—Josh Scott, Allan Scott Family Wine Makers



• **Bannockburn** on the southern banks of the Kawarau near Cromwell is a very warm, dry district where grapes ripen early on sandy, silty

loam soils. The altitude here ranges from 220 to 370 metres in an area known by miners as "the Heart of the Desert".



GATE 20 TWO

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Gate 20 Two is owned by Pauline and Nigel McKinlay, who fell into the business purely by the accident of purchasing a house site in Felton Rd. Bannockburn in Central Otago. If Bannockburn is regarded as the jewel in Central Otago's wine-producing crown, then Felton Rd. is the star.

Established between 2001 and 2004, they have three hectares of Pinot Noir and two hectares of Pinot Gris. It sits on an almost square site surrounded by conservation land on steep to rolling land with views towards the striated cliffs of the old gold-mining reserve to the South, up the Kawarau gorge to Queenstown to the West. Across the river, the Clutha valley stretches to the Lindis with the spectacular Pisa and Dunstan ranges flanking West and East. The homestead sits in the midst of the vines, ensuring close attention to vineyard management.

Viticulture practice is to give hands on attention, limited irrigation and low cropping to produce exceptional fruit. Their grapes are single estate and so are fully representative of our individual soils, and each particular growing season. The resulting wine is blended each season from selected clones within the vineyard.

Hand work is predominant – pruning, shoot and bunch thinning, bud rubbing, leaf plucking, and harvesting are all by hand. Gate 20 Two is a certified sustainable vineyard and all due care is taken to adhere to those independent standards.

"The intimate relationship with the vines and the work involved in production is deeply satisfying. It's a place that we love, - to wake up each morning to such superb vistas is an experience well beyond the ordinary." – Nigel Mckinlay, Gate 20 Two Vineyard



It all began when the owners of five newly-planted and separate vineyards in Bannockburn shook hands and decided to work together to produce wine under one label, Mt. Difficulty. Established in 1992, the vineyards are situated in south of the Kawarau River in Central.

The handshake bound the owners of Molyneux, Mansons Farm, Verboeket Estate and Full Circle until 2004 when Mt Difficulty Wines Ltd was formed, and the majority of the individual vineyards passed into the ownership of the company.





Led by Matt Dicey as the winemaker, today Mt Difficulty Estate is comprised of six vineyards; Templars Hill, Pipeclay Terrace, Menzies Terrace, Mansons Farm, Target Gully and Long Gully - total plantings of 40 hectares protected by the rain shadow of Mount Difficulty in Bannockburn, Central Otago.

The region provides New Zealand's only "continental" style climate combined with unique soils ideally suited for growing Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. As a result, Mt Difficulty Wines Ltd now owns some of the oldest vineyards in the Bannockburn sub-region of Central Otago in New Zealand's rugged South Island.

"There's an evolutionary relationship with the vines. You never stand still. There will be a lot more understanding, a lot more precision, more substance, tension, and flow." - Matt Dicey, Mt. Difficulty Vineyards

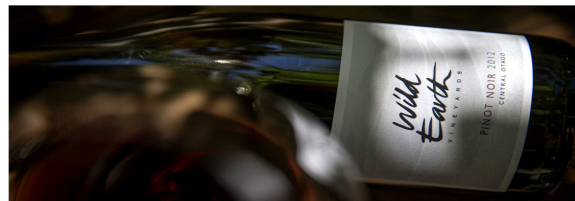
The vines are tended on a low input, environmentally sustainable basis, guided by a near-organic approach commenced in 2006. Picking is all by hand in their vineyards, with yields maintained at an extremely low level after intensive canopy and crop management.

"Our production methods are an honest expression of the land"



It was the sea and not the land that originally held Wild Earth's owner Quintin Quider's heart. A commercial diver, he fell in love with New Zealand's rugged landscape and moved with his partner and young family to Stewart Island, wishing to escape the rat-race that was life in his Southern California birthplace.

Wild Earth Wines is a family owned winery with 35 hectares of estate vineyards in two of Central Otago's finest locations in Bannockburn at the very end of Felton Road and in the north Lowburn district. In the vineyard and through harvest and winemaking, the Wild Earth philosophy is careful- gentle handling of the fruit and a true expression of terroir.



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2294 CHINO ROCES AVE. EXTENSION, 2ND FLOOR, ALEGRIA ALTA BUILDING, MAKATI CITY, PHILIPPINES
Telephone No.: +63 3 812 2040 local 112