



The Rainier Club  
Wine Tour 2006



**"Vineyards & Vistas of New Zealand"**  
February 17 - March 5, 2006 (17 days)

**Main tour land only cost: \$5,645 per person** based on double-occupancy and 13 paying passengers. Should the group size be less than 13 paying passengers the tour cost may be adjusted slightly.

**Main tour land only Single Supplement: \$1,325 per person**

**Airfare: Please enquire for current fares.**

**MAIN TOUR:**

**United States to Auckland**

**Friday, February 17**

Depart on an overnight flight to Auckland. Lose a day as you cross the International Date Line.  
*Meals aloft*

**Auckland**

**Sunday, February 19**

Arrive Auckland and after completing entry formalities you will be transferred to the Northern Club before having dinner at the Harbourside Bar and Grill in the old Ferry Building on the waterfront. **The Northern Club. D**

**Auckland**

**Monday, February 20**

This morning enjoy breakfast at the Northern Club before departing Auckland by coach for a day visiting wineries in the West Auckland District with Alan Clarke. Visit Babich Wines for a tasting and meet Joe Babich. Continue to lunch and tasting at Soljans Winery, where you will be met by Tony Soljans. Next visit Kumeu River Winery for tasting and meet Michael Brajkovich. Return to Auckland in the late afternoon and enjoy dinner at the Northern Club. *B/L/D*

**Auckland (Waiheke Island)**

**Tuesday, February 21**

Have breakfast at the Northern Club before transferring to the ferry terminal. Depart by Fullers ferry to Waiheke Island (45 minutes) and visit a selected winery (TBA) before enjoying a tasting and lunch at Stonyridge Winery with Stephen White. Then visit Goldwater Estate with Kim Goldwater. Later this afternoon depart Waiheke Island and return to Auckland. Have dinner at Hammerhead Restaurant in Okahu Bay Restaurant overlooking the Waitemata Harbour. *B/L/D*

**Auckland / Taupo / Napier**

**Wednesday, February 22**

Enjoy breakfast before departing early this morning by coach to travel south through the rich farmland of the Waikato. Drive through the Kaingaroa State Forest, one of the largest planted forests in the world, to Wairakei. Here steam ensuing after contact with hot rocks beneath the earth's crust is harnessed to generate electricity at two power stations. Enjoy lunch at Huka Lodge or another local restaurant located on the banks of the Waikato River. In the afternoon pass Lake Taupo and travel across the Rangitaiki Plains to Hawke's Bay, and the seaside city of Napier. Napier was devastated by an earthquake in 1931 and was rebuilt during the period when Art Deco Architecture was fashionable. The area is also one of New Zealand's top grape growing regions with some of the country's best-known wines coming from Hawke's Bay. Spend the next two nights at the **County Hotel**. The hotel is a boutique property in downtown Napier. This evening have dinner at Craggy Range Winery. *B/L/D*

**Napier**

**Thursday, February 23**

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning before visiting selected wineries in Hawkes Bay with Malcolm Reeves. Lunch and a tasting will be at Esk Valley Winery. Visit Te Mata Estates for tasting with Larry Morgan. Dinner this evening will be at Vidals. *B/L/D*

**Napier / Martinborough**

**Friday, February 24**

Have breakfast at the hotel before departing Napier and travelling south through the rolling farmland of Hawkes Bay and into the Wairarapa Valley. Lunch today will be at Mynthurst Farm with Annabelle and David Hamilton. Arrive at the **Pepper's Martinborough Hotel**. Dinner will be at the hotel. *B/L/D*

**Martinborough**

**Saturday, February 25**

Following breakfast at the hotel visit Dry River Wines for tasting with Neil McCallum before having lunch and tasting at Margrain Vineyard. Next visit Ata Rangī and Alana Estate for tastings. Dinner this evening will be at Aylstone Boutique Hotel. *B/L/D*

**Martinborough / Wellington**

**Sunday, February 26**

Breakfast this morning is at the hotel. Drive over the Rimutaka Ranges then down the Hutt Valley to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. Enjoy a short city sightseeing tour before having the remainder of the day at leisure. We suggest a visit to Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum. Spend the night at **Hotel James Cook Grand Chancellor**. *B*

**Wellington / Picton / Blenheim**

**Monday, February 27**

Have breakfast this morning before transferring by coach to the Interislander Terminal. At 8:45 a.m. depart on board the Interislander Ferry for the 3-hour cruise to Picton. The city of Wellington is set around a magnificent harbour and there is no better way of appreciating its grandeur than from the ferry as it cruises south towards Cook Strait. The ferry is only in the Strait for a short time before entering Queen Charlotte Sound through Tory Channel. The cruise down the calm waters of Queen Charlotte Sound to Picton are sure to be a highlight as the hills surrounding the Sound are particularly picturesque. Arrive around 12:30 p.m. and enjoy lunch at Le Café Picton. Travel the short distance south to Blenheim and **Vitners Retreat Villas**. Later this afternoon visit Wither Hills Vineyard for a tasting. Have dinner at Montana Brancott Winery in the private Brancott Lounge. *B/L/D*

**Marlborough**

**Tuesday, February 28**

After breakfast this morning visit Cloudy Bay Winery with Kevin Judd. Then have a tasting and lunch at Alan Scotts before continuing to Forrest Estates for a tasting with John Forest. Next visit Fromm Winery before having a pre-dinner tasting with Hanz Herzog and dinner at Herzog Restaurant. *B/L/D*

**Blenheim / Christchurch**

**Wednesday, March 1**

After breakfast this morning travel south down the east coast of the South Island to Christchurch. Pass the popular whale watching area of Kaikoura and travel along the thin ledge of land pinned between the Pacific Ocean and the rugged Kaikoura Ranges before crossing the fertile North Canterbury Plains to arrive in Christchurch. En route stop in the Waipara Wine district to visit selected wineries. Then have a tasting and lunch at Pegasus Winery with the Donaldson family. Visit Muddy Water Fine Wines for a tasting with Jane East. Continue to the **George Hotel** overlooking Hagley Park and the River Avon and close to the CBD. The remainder of the day is at leisure. *B/L*

**Christchurch**

**Thursday, March 2**

Breakfast is at the hotel before enjoying a day at leisure in Christchurch. *B*

**Christchurch / Queenstown**

**Friday, March 3**

After breakfast at the hotel transfer to Christchurch airport for a flight to Queenstown. Upon arrival board the coach and visit selected wineries. Have lunch at Amisfield Winery before visiting Peregrine Wines for a tasting. Continue to the **Heritage Hotel**, which overlooks Lake Wakatipu. Dinner this evening is at Boardwalk Restaurant. *B/L/D*

**Queenstown**

**Saturday, March 4**

Following breakfast at the hotel travel south through the Kawarau Gorge to visit Felton Road Winery for a tasting. Lunch will be at Mt Difficulty Winery before visiting Olssens Garden Vineyard. Then visit Quartz Reef Winery with Rudi Bauer. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at Gantleys Restaurant. *B/L/D*

**Queenstown - USA**

**Sunday, March 5**

Following breakfast at the hotel depart for the Queenstown Airport in order to check in for the first of your homebound flights. *B/Meals aloft*

**DOUBTFUL SOUND POST-TOUR EXTENSION:**

**Post-tour land only tour cost: \$500 per person based on double-occupancy and 10 paying passengers**

**Post-tour land only Single supplement: \$150 per person**

**Queenstown / Doubtful Sound  
Sunday, March 5**

This morning depart the hotel and transfer to Manapouri via motorcoach. Upon arrival board a high-speed launch and cruise across lake Manapouri, generally regarded as the most beautiful of all the southern lakes, to West Arm. Then drive across Wilmott Pass, the most remote road in New Zealand with stunning scenery, to Deep cove and board the MV Fiordland Navigator for afternoon / evening cruising on Doubtful Sound. D

**Doubtful Sound / Queenstown  
Monday, March 6**

Disembark this morning and return by coach and high-speed launch to Manapouri and bus to Queenstown arriving back in the afternoon. Overnight at the Queenstown Park Royal Hotel. B

**Queenstown / United States  
Tuesday, March 7**

Following breakfast at the hotel depart for the Queenstown Airport in order to check in for the first of your homebound flights. B/Meals aloft

**MAIN TOUR INCLUDES:**

- Three nights at the Northern Club in Auckland
- Two nights at the County Hotel in Napier
- Two nights at the Peppers Martinborough Hotel in Martinborough
- One night at the Hotel James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel in Wellington
- Two nights at Vitner's Retreat in Blenheim
- Two nights at the George Hotel in Christchurch
- Two nights at the Heritage Hotel in Queenstown
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch February 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and March 1, 3, 4
- Dinner February 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and March 3, 4
- Tea and Coffee with meals
- Wine tastings as indicated in the itinerary
- Transportation via motorcoach with English-speaking driver/guide
- Inter-island ferry from Wellington to Picton
- Hotel portorage

**DOUBTFUL SOUND TOUR INCLUDES:**

- One night aboard the MV Fiordland Navigator
- One night at the Queenstown Park Royal Hotel
- Breakfast on March 6 & 7
- Dinner on March 5
- Sightseeing in Doubtful Sound
- Transportation via motorcoach and high-speed boat
- Hotel portorage
- One-way transfer to the Queenstown Airport

**TOUR COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:** Round trip airfare from the United States; U.S. departure taxes; international departure taxes; passport fees; entry visa fees; cost of personal, trip-cancellation, and baggage insurance; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone, mini-bar, etc.; portorage at airports; meals not mentioned; beverages other than coffee or tea; gratuities to drivers, porters, waiters, guides, and any other service personnel; passport; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; and any item not specifically mentioned as included.