

# NEW ZEALAND - MARLBOROUGH WINE COUNTRY

## SELF-GUIDED EASY CYCLING HOLIDAY - 2004/05

*Marlborough is renowned as one of the World's top 10 wine regions. And what better way to experience the dramatic transformation of the 'fruit of the vine' into a bottle of wine, than on a Wine Trail tour by bicycle. While you are enjoying your leisurely cycling journey of just 20-30km per day, your luggage will be transported ahead to your next well-located accommodation, for a choice of superb dinner venues.*



### Day 1 Arrival in Blenheim

Blenheim, in the heart of New Zealand's Marlborough district, is a busy country town full of interesting shops and cafes. An hour's stroll will take you from historic buildings to modern architecture.

The Hotel d'Urville, is a fine and elegant boutique hotel situated within the historic Public Trust Building in the centre of Blenheim. Your bike will be waiting for you at Spokesman Cycles near your hotel. The d'Urville Wine Bar and Brasserie is a perfect place for an excellent evening meal in a delightful setting.

### Day 2 Blenheim - The Bell Tower (approx 25km)

Your destination today is the Bell Tower boutique lodge, situated amid stunning scenery overlooking Marlborough's vineyards. En route, why not cycle to the Wither Hills Walkway and enjoy a brisk walk to the Lookout where you have an excellent view over Blenheim and the Wairau Plains. Then cycle to the elevated location of Fran MacGuire's pottery studio. Fran is an artist with a passion for clay and food, which is reflected in her brightly coloured, unique tableware.

Visit Villa Maria, A State-Of-The-Art Winery. Your next stop is Matua Marlborough, where you can browse in the cellar shop or enjoy a walk through the olive grove. Next-door is Fromm Winery, which is one of the few producing Redmagic in Marlborough.

A late lunch at the Tuscan-styled Highfield Estate Winery and arrive at the Bell Tower early afternoon to relax in this beautiful setting.

### Day 3 Bell Tower - Old Saint Mary's Convent (20km)

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and prepare yourself for a day of quality wine tasting. Explore Grove Mill Winery with its award winning wines, extensive wine library & gallery, as well their wetland sanctuary. Seresin Estate in Bedford Road is another exciting and stylish winery. Only the grapes grown on the estate are used in the production of the wine. Framingham Wine Company is a must to see, with Rex Brooke Taylor being a terrific host. Then onto Cellier le Brun with its unique underground cellars.

Enjoy a nice lunch and then head to Forrest Estate, a winery not to be missed. John and Brigid Forrest, who make and market their own diverse range of wines, run it. Perhaps then call in at the Mud House & Hunters Winery before you head for your overnight accommodation at the charming and characterful Old Saint Mary's Convent built in 1901.

### Day 4 Old Saint Mary's Convent - The Peppertree (25km)

Your return journey to Blenheim will offer at least four other vineyards of note. At the family owned Allan Scott Winery taste premium award-winning wines in a unique setting. Just opposite is Cairnbrae and next door the winery that took New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc, "Cloudy Bay" from curiosity to respectability. Visit Drylands Winery, which offers State-of-the-Art wine production and Saint Clair Estate as your final stop and also a great place for a late lunch.

Meander your way back to Blenheim and leave your bikes at the Spokesman Cycle shop. You will be picked up and taken to a gracious Edwardian Villa, "The Peppertree". There are many good restaurants to choose locally or let your hosts Heidi and Werner know that you would like to have dinner at their place.

### Day 5 Departure from Blenheim

Enjoy a 'country style' breakfast in the rich ambience of the dining room and stroll around the lovely garden before your tour ends.

### 2004/05 Tour Cost in Australian Dollars:

**\$1575 per person (\$620 single supplement)**

#### Our Marlborough Self-Guided Cycling includes:

- 4 nights accommodation in 4-5-star hotels & boutique lodges
- 4 full breakfasts
- Luggage transfers between Hotels
- Multi-gear bicycle with helmet and small pannier
- Suggested route notes, map and regional information



**For Reservations Call 1800 331 582**

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