

KIWI FRUITS

New Zealand may be better known for its lamb, butter and small flightless birds, but Keith Wilson finds some wonderful organic wines to savour while watching the rugby world cup

As an Australian, I was brought up with a healthy disrespect for New Zealand and all things pertaining to that group of islands. With such a high ratio of sheep to people New Zealanders were the subjects of countless woolly and wellie-related jokes from my fellow countrymen. We even described it as the southernmost county of England – for a group of die-hard Aussie nationalists, there could be no greater insult than placing our Antipodean neighbours in the same part of the universe as those whinging poms. Alas,

every winter New Zealand got its own back when 15 man-mountains pulled on their fabled black jerseys, ran onto a verdant pitch, spat out the Haka, and proceeded to run roughshod over Australia's finest. Never mind lamb or butter, whenever the All Blacks tour, rugby instantly becomes New Zealand's finest export. So, with a rugby world cup about to kick off in France and the All Blacks installed as favourites, Wine Time concentrates on a half dozen organic wines from New Zealand that prove to be far more welcoming than the All Black front row.



Seresin 2004 Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc
13% £13.99

New Zealand wine makers have produced some delicious Sauvignon Blanc in recent years and this example from the Seresin Estate is the product of a long cool summer, typical of the north east corner of the South Island.

This wine has a very fruity bouquet,

good body, plenty of fruit on the middle of the palate, and a long citrus finish.

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Seresin 2003 Marlborough Pinot Noir
13% £16.99

The long warm summer of 2003 helped provide a harvest of beautiful Pinot Noir, and Seresin's wine deserves comparison to some of the finest vintages from this complex grape. With a deep colour reminiscent of Shiraz, this wine has a voluptuous body but

remains as smooth as silk with a luscious finish of berries and vanilla. A beautiful Pinot Noir.

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