



DHALL & NASH

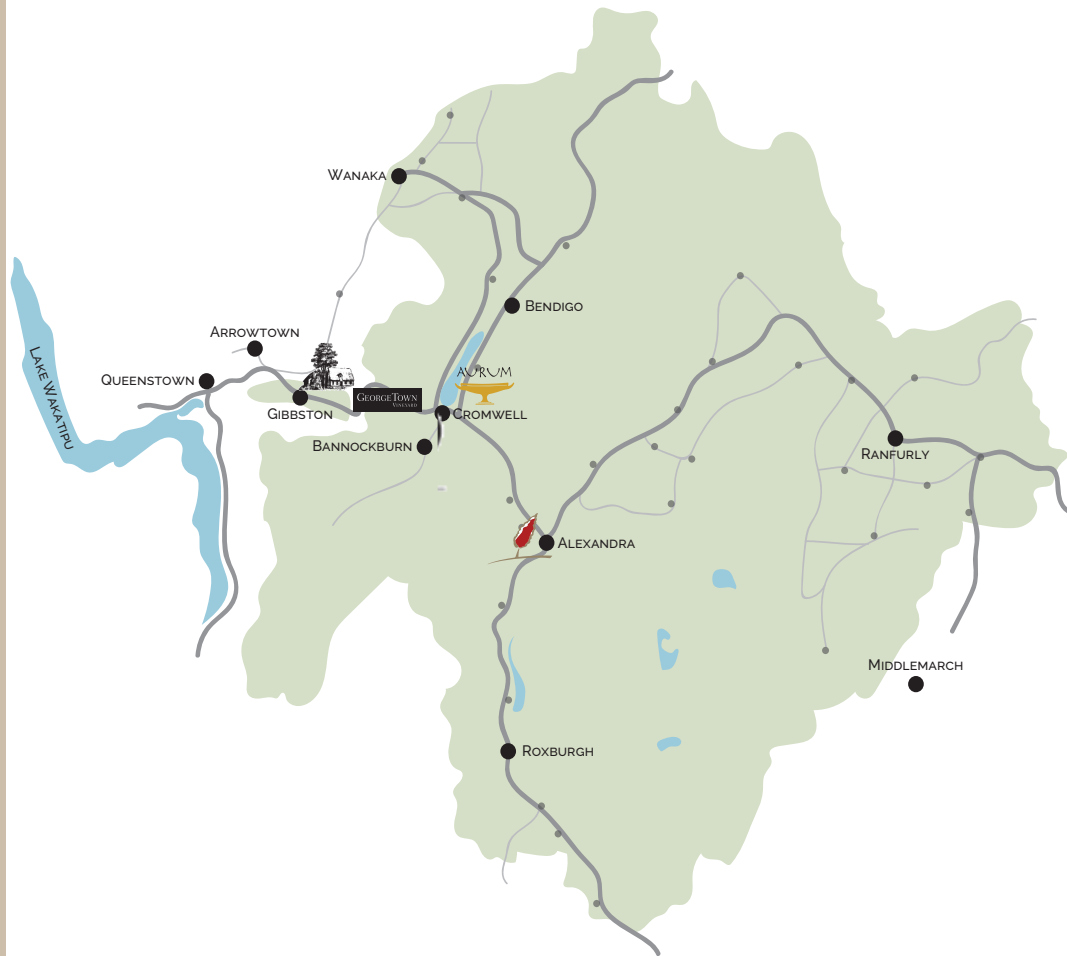
REGIONAL INFORMATION // NEW ZEALAND

# Central Otago

A Spectacular Landscape That Is Home To Some Of The World's Best Pinot Noir And Holds The Title Of The World's Southernmost Wine Region!



CENTRAL OTAGO  
NEW ZEALAND



## DHALL & NASH WINERIES IN CENTRAL OTAGO



DRUMSARA



AURUM



HAWKSHEAD



GEORGETOWN



- SIGNIFICANT TOWNS
- SMALL TOWNS
- RIVERS AND WATER BODIES
- MAIN ROUTES
- SIDE ROUTES
- REGIONS

# HISTORY & CULTURE

May 2, 1895, Italian viticultural expert Romeo Bragato told the Otago Chamber of Commerce that the region was “pre-eminently suitable” for winemaking. However the first grapes planted in the region were by Jean Feraud, a French gold miner, in 1864. The large number of European settlers in the area for the Gold Rush of the 1880’s clearly helped boost the demand for wine in the region over this period. The region even won its first gold medal for “Burgundy” in Sydney in 1881. However a rise in the popularity of stone fruit growing took the region by storm up until the late 1950’s.

The real growth in the wine industry in Central Otago was in the 1970’s. This was partially led by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture. The key pioneers in the region who are still producing are Chard Farm, Rippon, Black Ridge and Gibbston Valley. Since the 80’s there has been a continued growth in the area in both production and quality. The focus in the region has been predominantly Pinot Noir which many think has helped to put the region on the world map.

The stunning geography also is a large drawcard for tourism which has created an added boost to the region and allowed for a high level of recognition.

## TERROIR

### GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, GEOLOGY, SOIL & HUMAN ENDEAVOUR

The overall landscape is dominated by sweeping mountain ranges, rivers, lakes and semi-arid inland basins, not to mention it is the only non-marine wine region in New Zealand. The structure of the land is based around 7 stratifications of terraces - all of which have differing soil types but share a free draining gravel at the base. The terraces vary from young floodplain at the lowest elevation moving to ancient river terraces at the foot of the mountains. The overall geography is split into 6 sub areas; Wanaka, Gibbston, Bannockburn, Alexandra, Bendigo & Cromwell Basin (which includes Lowburn and the Pisa ranges). The other major shared element is the semi-continental climate, meaning a very large diurnal climate shift. The region is simultaneously the hottest, driest and coldest in New Zealand. **Wanaka**; is the northernmost sub-region and is separated from the rest by a mountain range. It’s the coolest and wettest part of the region but benefits from the reflected heat off Lake Wanaka.

**Gibbston**; is east of Queenstown and runs along the Kawarau Gorge. The vineyards here tend to be north-facing and are at a higher elevation than the others so picking occurs later.

**Bannockburn**; sits on the south bank of the Kawarau River at the southern end of the Cromwell Valley. These sites are the hottest and driest in the region producing very distinctive Pinot Noir.

**Alexandra**; is the oldest and southernmost growing area in the region. It’s soils are particularly heavy in schist.

**Bendigo**; Northeast of Cromwell, is the warmest site. The stony soil and extreme temperature variation has led to large scale plantings.

**Cromwell/Lowburn/Pisa**; Runs parallel to the Pisa Ranges along the edge of Lake Dunstan. The bulk of the planting here is situated in the lower river terraces and floodplains.

## WINE STYLES & VARIETIES

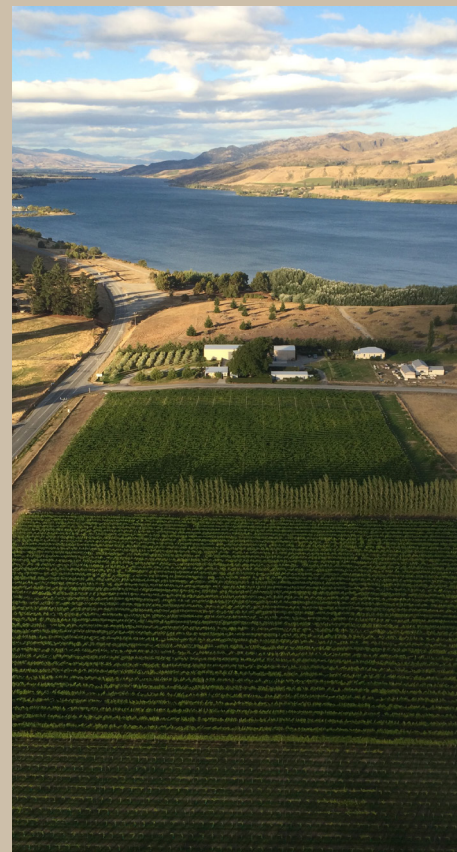
**Pinot Noir**: is the flagship varietal for the region making up over 75% of the plantings. The wine from the area tends to be opulent and lush with a tight structure, rich intensity and smooth finish.

**Pinot Gris**: the second most heavily planted variety. Varies everywhere from crisp and acidic homages to this Italian after-thought through to richly layered Alsatian styled wines.

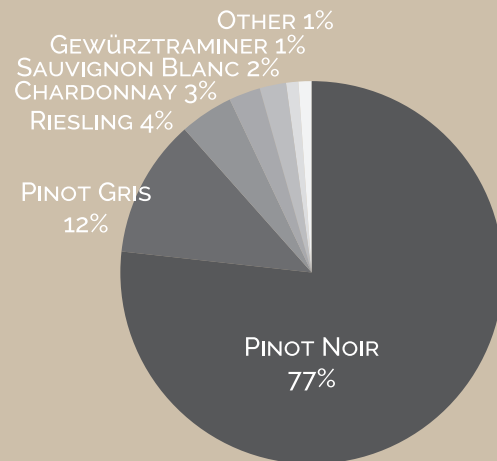
**Riesling**: With the striking similarities in terrior to that of Alsace and Mosel it makes complete sense that this variety flourishes here. The whole spectrum is covered from gripping dry mineral wines to those at the sweet and rich end of the scale.

**Chardonnay**: Pinot Noir’s Burgundian brother, generally citrus focused with a fine structure and layered mineral notes

**Méthode Traditionelle**: Complex and delicate, mirroring the finesse of both the Pinot Noir and the Chardonnay grown in the region.



AURUM VINEYARDS IN  
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