



HAWKE'S BAY WINE
NEW ZEALAND

WINE TASTING ETIQUETTE

Here are a few tips to Hawke's Bay wine tasting to help you make the most of your wine tour....

Choose the wineries you want to visit and plan your route

Hawke's Bay is one of the biggest wine regions to travel around and all the wineries have something different to offer. Don't try to see everything in one day – perhaps pick a part of Hawke's Bay and check opening times in the Hawke's Bay Winery Guide.

Tasting Charges & Purchases

This is at the discretion of the individual winery – some do, some don't and it may depend on the size of your group. Currently many wineries do not charge tour operators for your visit. There is an expectation you will purchase wine and this small charge recoups some of the costs associated with providing a tutored tasting or tour. Many of the wines you experience are only available at the cellar door or a limited release, so don't miss the opportunity to take something special home.

Trying the Wine

Each winery will have someone to host your tasting and guide you through the wines available to taste. Wait for them to pour the wines rather than helping yourself and feel free to ask questions. If you only wish to try one or two of the wines please wait until those wines are poured as part of the tasting. Remember, this is a "taste" not a time to gulp a glass down!

White before Red?

Wines are generally tasted with white wines first, red wines to follow and dessert wines last. This allows you to taste the range of wines on offer without confusing the different flavours on the palate. If you don't wish to try a particular wine that's fine – although you may have to wait before you are able to try the wine you are interested in.

Spit or swallow?

This is absolutely a personal choice – although if you want the day to last it's probably a good not to swallow everything you taste! The winery will have a vessel for this purpose called a "spittoon" or will indicate where you may spit.

How much do I need to know?

Wine tasting is subjective and there are no right or wrong answers, so have a go even if it's new to you. Consider the others tasting with you and allow everyone to take their time and think about the wine. Be courteous to your hosts – they provide you with this experience and are passionate about the wines they produce.

Groups are welcome but let the winery know in advance.