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## Beyond Napa: Emerging Wine Regions

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You want a getaway that celebrates all things wine, but you've been to the obvious destinations, including Napa and Bordeaux. Where to now? For the oenophile traveling off-the-beaten-path, several emerging wine regions are producing a quality product, while maintaining a newcomer's hubris. Get there soon, before the crowds do.

**Canterbury Region of New Zealand.** Canterbury is the oldest grape-growing region in the South Island of New Zealand, known especially for its award-winning, cool-climate Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Riesling, and Sauvignon Blanc. There are two major wine areas; the plains near the city of Christchurch, and Waipara Valley. Several wineries – including Point Bush Estates Vineyard & Lodge, Marble Point, and Ngapuarata Vines & Wines – are open for tours and tastings.

**Hudson Valley in New York State, U.S.** The Hudson River Valley was designated as an AVA (American Viticultural Area) in 1982, but wine production here has a much longer history. Brotherhood Winery in Washingtonville, NY became the first commercial winery in the United States in 1829. Award-winning vintages include classic European varieties, regional hybrids and even fruit wines. Conveniently located just north of New York City, the region has several wine trails dotted by winery tasting rooms.

**Lebanon.** You can trace Lebanon's wine production to 7000BC, among the earliest in the world. While the Bekaa Valley is an established wine region, two newer areas are Batroun in the north and Jezzine in the south. You'll find varietals from French grapes, particularly Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, but also native grapes like Obaideh and Merwah. Lebanon offers visitors history, culture, and a diverse landscape with mountains where you can ski, as well as warm Mediterranean beaches.

**Serra Gaúcha Region of Brazil.** More than 85 percent of Brazil's wine production happens in *Serra Gaúcha*, home to more than 20 wineries. For nearly 130 years, the region has produced a variety of reds like Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir, as well as whites like Riesling and Chardonnay. This mountainous region in southern Brazil has natural attractions such as the Cascata do Caracol waterfall and the Nova Prata hot springs. Italian and German immigration is reflected in local cuisine, culture, and architecture.

**Willamette Valley in Oregon, U.S.** This region south of Portland is home to more than 300 wineries, set among the picturesque landscape of the Cascade Mountains. The area has earned acclaim mainly for Pinot Noir, but producers are beginning to focus on Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, and Chardonnay. A more down-to-earth travel destination than neighboring California, the valley offers winery tours, wine and culinary festivals and events, and wine-making courses.

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