



### **Your Hawke's Bay wine tour with Convivium – what to expect.**

My philosophy is simple –let me be your guide for the day, enabling you to relax and enjoy our fantastic wines without the stress of driving. This is your own private tour, so we're not affected by the needs, or timeframes, of other guests.

My aim is to present you with a personalised encounter with some of our great wineries, wines and the people connected to them. Recognising that you are the best judge of the wines that you like, I will simply endeavour to present to you wines which, based on my experience, represent the best of what Hawke's Bay has to offer.

I actively work in the industry so have the advantage of detailed knowledge of the different wines, as well as good contacts with the wineries - although I am independent of all the wineries so can give you an objective viewpoint. Furthermore, let me assure you, I come from a wine drinking, rather than a winemaking, background so please don't feel you need a degree in oenology to go on this tour!

We'll tend to focus on a smaller number of quality establishments so we may only visit 3-5 wineries, depending on the duration of the tour. I believe this approach helps provide a real feel for the best that Hawke's Bay has to offer and, don't forget, you are on holiday so let's spend less time driving and more time experiencing!

To begin, I will contact you at your accommodation the day before to discuss the plan for your day. I don't have a set route I must follow and I prefer to personalise the experience to your tastes as much as possible. It doesn't have to be all about wine; for example, we can happily take a drive up Te Mata Peak (Hawke's Bay's highest point) to see the panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and Heretaunga Plains. Equally there are some great food producers – honey, olives, chocolate, etc – which we can also incorporate into the day.

Alternatively, if you are happy to rely on my judgement, I will present an interesting encounter with a cross section of wineries, wines and the people behind them.

We usually start at around 10am, so you'll have plenty of time to enjoy the famous Hawthorne House breakfast! At the wineries we visit, you'll sample some fantastic wines (no additional fees) and there are often opportunities to sample wines from the barrel and see the processes involved in getting the grapes from vine to bottle.

Cornerstone of the day is lunch. Depending on the tour you choose we'll enjoy a relaxing platter or full lunch (hopefully in the beautiful Hawke's Bay sunshine) at one of the wineries or with a local winemaker.

At the end of the day I'll drop you back to Hawthorne and we can discuss which your preferred wines were and whether it's possible to find these back home. If required, I can arrange shipment for these to be sent directly to your home address in New Zealand or overseas. No pressure, as shortly after the day I'd be happy to drop you a brief email as a reminder of where we went and what you sampled.

If you have selected the Aficionado's or Collector's tour, we we'll finish the day sampling some rare vintage wines – possibly some older versions of wines tried during the day, or something that I think you'll particularly enjoy based on our discussions during the day. These older wines are from my own personal collection and have been laid down with care for a number of years. I'll leave you with the rest of the bottle for you to enjoy over the evening.

I do hope that you will join me and celebrate all that Hawke's Bay's wine country has to offer.

**Geoff Wilson**  
**Convivium**