

World's Best Wine Regions: Where to Stay Among the Vines

By Carrie Havranek

There's no reason to stop wine tasting by day's end. Spend the night in one of these charming inns and hotels -- most are located among the vineyards or a stone's throw from the vines.

My perfect picks are in Sonoma, Oregon's Willamette Valley, Burgundy, Mendoza, New Zealand and more.



Photo Caption: The Black Barn retreat is right in the heart of the Vineyard at Black Barn Vineyards, Havelock North.

Black Barn Vineyards in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

Where: New Zealand's Hawke's Bay region in Havelock North, about 10 miles from the city of Napier

The Details: Black Barn and Rush Cottage are each outfitted with two bedrooms with king-size beds. From either of these cottages, you can stroll to the tasting room, and stay on the vineyard grounds. Fourteen other cottages and lodges are available off the vineyard grounds, and are best accessible by car; the Beach House at Waimarama Beach is about 20 minutes away. Regardless of your chosen retreat, each cottage has a kitchen stocked with the first morning's provisions: fresh bread, milk, eggs, butter, jam, cereal, and fruit -- and an extensive minibar at cellar door pricing.

Why Stay Here: This is the place to go -- and stay -- with another couple, a small group, or your family. Accommodations are geared toward groups and the pricing is per night, not per person. Black Barn is comprised of 25 acres, and many of its wines (Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Rosé) are only available on-site and through its website. The included tasting typically will feature five to six selections (three to four white wines such as Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris and one to two reds, such as Pinot Noir and Cabernet Franc). The on-site restaurant, Black Barn Bistro, was rated *New Zealand Cuisine's* winery restaurant of the year in 2011. Exploring Hawkes Bay is easy by car, and you're close to more than 150 vineyards; it's the second-largest growing region in the country. During the summer (December-February), you can amble through Black Barn's vines and buy some fresh produce for your meals at the nearby market. Enjoy pop, opera, and classical music performances at the on-site amphitheatre from December to February; concerts move indoors during the colder months.

How Much: From NZ\$390-NZ\$650 (US\$318-\$531) for Black Barn or Rush Cottage for four people; other properties range from NZ\$450-NZ\$1,600 (US\$368-\$1,309) per night; some of them can sleep up to 12 people.

Best Time to Avoid Crowds: May to September

Info: +64 6 877 7985; www.blackbarn.com