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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

## FEATURES

### 26 Best of the Bay

Hawke's Bay sets a standard for New Zealand wine, writes Michael Cooper in his regional profile. The nation's second-largest wine region is home to 75 producers who operate some of the oldest wineries in the country. Its sensational sauvignon blancs, mainly from the dominant Marlborough region, have built a global following, while merlot and chardonnay are the other major varieties.



### 28 Malbec delivers a global shift

It took just over 10 years for the Argentine wine industry to overcome French dominance of the malbec market and establish Mendoza as the global leader, reports Winsor Dobbin. The shift has also sparked a renewed interest in malbec in Australia, the UK and North America. There is also an understanding in Argentina that blockbuster styles are out of favour and that reds with balance and less oak are the way of the future.



### 32 Creating the perfect bubble

An adherence to tradition and a skilful understanding of the sparkling winemaking process are vital ingredients in producing fine champagne, says Tyson Stelzer. And of all the winemaking processes, sparkling production is among the industry's most complex and time consuming, while Champagne's "methode traditionnelle" is the ultimate sparkling winemaking process.

### 36 Riding the rollercoaster

While the Australian wine industry might have got its start in the Hunter, boom-and-bust cycles have haunted the region, reports Dan Traucki. As recently as the 1990s, it all started going "pear shaped" again. But there is light on the horizon, as Winestate's annual regional tasting uncovered some super semillon and shiraz, while chardonnay, tempranillo, gewurztraminer and pinotage viognier are also in the mix.

### 38 Searching for pinot perfection

The little French favourite pinot grape continues to fire the imagination in the world of wine. Peter Scudamore-Smith MW, ponders pinot's ability to ignite passion among its devotees and the role the French play in shaping the grape's future direction.

#### Winestate Magazine

Issue Number 272  
November/December 2015

Cover photograph  
Alexlukin

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For a complete list of what we tasted for this issue please refer to [www.winestate.com.au](http://www.winestate.com.au)