



Arona SHINES

FORBESLIFESTYLESPIRITS

Holiday Gift Guide 2023: New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs...

If you have a wine lover in your life, you can't go wrong with gifting a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc. And some of the most delectable and aromatic versions of Sauvignon Blanc can be found in New Zealand. Here's a list of some of the best New Zealand Sauvignon Blancs. All of these wines are sourced from Marlborough, New Zealand, and nearly each wine on this list has been independently certified by Appellation Marlborough Wine, an organization trademark registered in 2018 to safeguard the Marlborough wine region for future generations. For a wine to be AMW certified, it must be made from 100 percent, sustainably grown and certified Marlborough grapes, as well as independently tasted to provide quality assurance to consumers.

Jeanette Hurt
Contributor



With its ripe citrus aromas, this Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc is quite perfumed and delicate.

Barkers Marque Wines
2023 Arona Sauvignon Blanc, \$13.99

This is one of four Sauvignon Blanc wines that Barkers Marque crafts, and it boasts notes of citrus so ripe it's almost tropical, with some wet stone and smoky passionfruit. It's a lively wine that's sure to provoke lively conversation.

HEAR the BUZZ...



This is a highly complex wine that's great for gifting. Three Brooms 2023 Sauvignon Blanc, \$18.99 This single vineyard Sauvignon Blanc offers rich and intense layers of aromas from lemongrass to



Forrest 2023 Sauvignon Blanc offers great flavors and represents the Marlborough region excellently. Forrest Wines 2023 Sauvignon Blanc, \$21.99 This is a classic Sauvignon Blanc in the Marlborough style, full of



This wine reflects a depth and breadth of Marlborough's wide variations in growing sites and soils. Astrolabe Wines 2023 Sauvignon Blanc, \$27 This is the second year in a row that Astrolabe's flagship Sauvignon Blanc has been recognized, and it includes fruit from every grower and sub-region the winery harvests from. A medium-bodied white wine, it offers aromas of makrut lime, passionfruit and lemongrass with a smooth, dry finish.



This wine is named for a mountain in the Marlborough wine region. A&K Wines Tapi 2023 Sauvignon Blanc, \$18 Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku or Tapi, as the locals call it, rises above the Marlborough wine region. This delicious wine offers notes of ripe lemon, tropical fruit and passionfruit.

FOOD & WINE

33 Stupendous Sauvignon Blancs

Our favorite best-in-class bottles for Summer sipping.

June 2024



2023 DOG POINT MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$25)
Dog Point makes some of Marlborough's best Sauvignons. With a hit of stouck match in the aromas and citrus flavors, it recalls French Sauvignons like those of Pouilly-Funk while at the same time remaining deeply New Zealand character.

2023 OTU MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$19)
Otu's estate is in the Awatere Valley, about a mile from the coast. The wind off the Cook Strait gives its wines a floral aspect, which combines with classic grass and citrus notes for a more subtle New Zealand character.

2023 ARONA SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$14)
There's a lot of grapefruit zest here in both scent and flavor, underpinned by hints of flint and cracked pepper. It would go great with oysters on the half shell by the ocean, but if you don't have an ocean handy, a pool would work excellently, too.

2023 MOUNT RILEY LIMITED RELEASE MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$17)
Mount Riley's limited-release bottling draws on grapes from the Buchanan family's best parcels. It's classically New Zealand: grassy, not peopery (but fra-

2023 ALLAN SCOTT MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$20)
Love passion fruit? This is your wine: It's tart and zippy, with green apple and boxwood in the mix. There's a classic herbaceousness and bright acidity—it'd be great as an aperitif paired with goat cheese rolled in fresh herbs.

2023 FORREST MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$22)
An aroma that recalls a just-cut summer lawn and tart pink grapefruit flavors makes this affordable Sauvignon a great warm-weather pour. The Forrest family also makes a low-alcohol version (9.5%)

2023 SMITH & SHETH CRU WAIRAU SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$25)
Master of Wine Steve Smith gained fame as co-founder of Crazy Range before starting Smith & Sheth. This juicy white glides past the country's grassy style to concentrate on vivid grapefruit and passion fruit flavors.

2023 CRAGGY RANGE TE HUNA MARTINBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC (\$26)
Sauvignons from Martinborough, on New Zealand's north island, tend to have fewer green notes than those of the south island. This bottling mingles grapefruit and melon flavors with a brisk, stony finish.

2022 GREYWACKE MARLBOROUGH WILD SAUVIGNON (\$31)
"Greywacke" refers to the type of bedrock in the vineyards that winemaker Kevin Judd farms; "wild" refers to his use of native yeasts for fermentation. It's a gorgeous white—flinty and smoky, with lots of creamy citrus fruit and a rounded texture.

guava, sage white
ly Sauvignon
as crafted from
icked

Arona 2023
MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC
CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NEW ZEALAND

90 pts

90 James Suckling
JamesSuckling.com

"Very aromatic with loads of passion fruit and cement, as well as some grassy character. It's medium-bodied with lots of fruit and a slightly off-dry sense to it, but it's crisp and delicious. Tangy at the end. Drink now. Screw cap."
May 2024

NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand rocketed into worldwide awareness for its distinctive Sauvignon Blancs in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and today, the variety represents about three-quarters of the wine made here and 86% of what's exported. In early years, the style—herbal and tart—was sometimes pushed to extremes, edging toward jalapeño notes in some cases. Today, most producers have pulled back a bit on overripe levels (pyrazines are compounds that hit on overripe levels (pyrazines notes to a wine).

