



Waipara Valley, South Island, New Zealand

The Torlesse Winery nestles in the heart of North Canterbury's Waipara Valley, a unique geographic area of New Zealand renowned for the range of wine grape varieties that can be successfully grown there.



The long, narrow Waipara valley provides an ideal climate which consistently yields a harvest of mature fruit in excellent condition.. It shelters in the lee of the Teviotdale hills, a trap for sun and open to the warming northwest winds that flow down from New Zealand's southern Alps during the summer growing season..

In autumn grapes in Waipara hang on the vines longer than in more northerly vineyards, ripening slowly and developing unique distinctive flavours.

Torlesse's wines consistently win Awards and their Waipara and Canterbury *Sauvignon Blanc*, *Riesling*, and *Pinot noir* are highly regarded and popular.

Selected sites in the Waipara Valley are also suited to the Bordeaux varieties of *Cabernet Sauvignon* and *Merlot*.

Photographs: Two Waipara vineyards that provide Torlesse with its grapes. Note the netting that covers the vines to protect the ripening fruit from bird predation.



But it's our *Pinot Noir* that we are particularly excited about!

This grape variety only performs well when the *terroir* is right (that is - the climate, soils and the winegrowing philosophy are in harmony). Torlesse has Pinot Noir vineyards on three unique sites of the Waipara Valley, the valley floor, the river terrace and the north facing slopes.

Torlesse Wines takes its name from Charles Torlesse, an early Canterbury surveyor and farmer, at one time the largest landowner in North Canterbury and founder of the town of Rangiora. The Torlesse mountain range which rises on the western edge of the Canterbury Plains is also named after him.

All aspects of winemaking are carried out in Waipara by Torlesse. Freshly harvested grapes are brought to the winery and crushed, then fermented as juice for the white wines, or on the skins for Pinot noir. The Pinot noir is then matured in oak barrels for about a year. Bottling also occurs on site, either with traditional cork closures, or the new screw cap closure that is designed to maintain the fresh, fruit-driven flavours.

The Torlesse Winery and tasting room is located in the heart of the Waipara region some 38 miles north of Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island. Torlesse wines are distributed through discerning wine outlets throughout New Zealand and exported to the USA, Canada, the UK, Europe and Asia.



Our Winemaker

Kym Rayner is passionate about wine – and the quality of the grapes from the Waipara Valley. He's unashamedly enthusiastic about complexity when it comes to winemaking and the sensation of the final product on the palate. He fuses tastes, colours and textures by selecting the best grapes from the various sub-regions of the valley, thereby creating the perfect blends.

Son of a winemaking family in Australia's McLaren Vale, Kym completed his BSc in Geology and then gained his Diploma of Winemaking from the Roseworthy Wine College of South Australia. Kym has held winemaking positions in Australia and in some of New Zealand's larger wine companies, with the ultimate goal, now realized, of becoming a winemaker of quality wines in a 'non-corporate' winery.

With Torlesse, that dream is a successful and satisfying reality. Torlesse is owned by the Blowers, Fabris, Pharis, Rayner, Tomlin and families.

