

## 20 Top Wine Country Retreats

*Come chill among the grapevines. The views are spectacular, the accommodation luxurious and the superlative wines need little introduction.*

### **NZ, SOUTH ISLAND**

#### **Herzog Vineyard Cottage**

81 Jeffries Rd, Marlborough, (03) 572 8770, [www.herzog.co.nz](http://www.herzog.co.nz).

Hans and Therese Herzog owned a winery and Michelin-starred restaurant in their native Switzerland but chose to transfer their passion for making great wine and serving classy food when they moved to Marlborough.

Step into Herzog's restaurant and you are transported to Europe, with immaculate service, a truly great European menu and an award-winning wine list that is breathtaking in its breadth and careful selection.

Both dining at the restaurant and staying at the vineyard cottage are highly recommended. What was once a tiny house is now a spacious retreat for two people. The cottage is surrounded by flower gardens in a peaceful setting well away from the road and nestled among vineyards. It has an open fire for winter evenings and a north-facing veranda with a vineyard view for sunny summer days.

Touches of luxury make you feel especially comfortable: freshly ground coffee, cut flowers, organic eggs, newly baked bread from the restaurant, high-quality cotton sheets and the sort of comfortable bed that makes you vow to replace your own.

A tour of Herzog's winery is essential. Hans will invite you to try a selection of his outstanding wines in more adventurous styles (don't forget to try the viognier and his take on Montepulciano) and will share his obvious enthusiasm for fine wine.

Herzog is in the heart of Marlborough's wine country and a short drive from many of the Wairau Valley's best producers, such as Hunter's, Cloudy Bay and Allan Scott. In the unlikely event you feel like a change from Herzog's restaurant, there are several good vineyard restaurants nearby. BOB CAMPBELL MW

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