



# JOHN SAKER'S CENTRAL OTAGO WINE TOUR

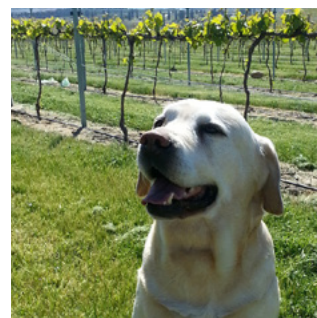
6-10 NOVEMBER, 2022

## THE TOUR

Our Spring Tour is always popular. It's a great time for a vinous getaway – winter is well and truly on the run and there is calm before Christmas craziness takes hold. What's more, it's a season when New Zealand's most photographed wine region is a sight to behold. The vines are well past budburst, and everything looks new and freshly polished.

The tour is a three-and-a-half day exploration of 'Grand Cru' Central Otago. There will be visits to some of the region's top wine estates where we will be hosted by winemakers whose closeness to the land they farm is inspirational, and whose pinots and chardonnays are distinctive and seductive. The visits will be balanced by leisure time in a setting that is, well, more than a little special. And where there is great wine, there must also be wonderful food. Prepare for epicurean excitement.

The tour is intimate in scale, restricted to 10 guests.



For more information please contact John Saker  
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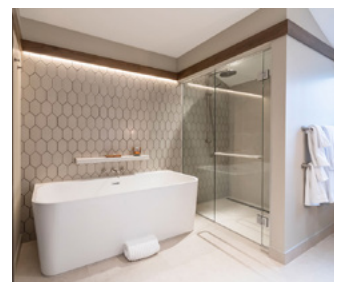
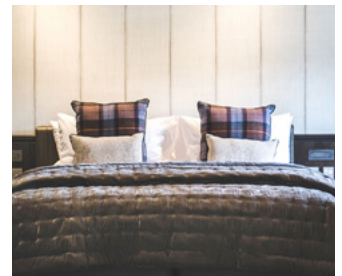


## THE HOSTS

Leading the tour is one of New Zealand's leading wine writers, John Saker. He is a senior wine judge and is the author of three wine books. He has been visiting and writing about Central Otago for over 20 years and has a close connection to its terroir. The tour driver (we will be criss-crossing the region in a comfy 12-seater) is Paul Saker-Norrish, who doubles as tour minstrel. After working as a musician in Paris for 7 years, Paul is as well-versed in 'la chanson française' as he is in Kiwi classics.

## THE ACCOMMODATION

We're proud and delighted to have Gibbston Valley Lodge as our accommodation partner. This new luxury ★★★★★ facility is made up of individual villas set among the vines in the Gibbston. The villas are top-notch, offering every comfort. As part of the Gibbston Valley Wines operation it is a very 'vino-focussed' establishment, making it the perfect base for a tour such as ours. We rendezvous every morning and every evening in its beautiful bar and dining area. There is ample time in the itinerary to take advantage of the Lodge's spa facilities, gym, bikes for hire and other amenities.



<https://www.gibbstonvalleylodgeandspa.com/>

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GIBBSTON VALLEY LODGE RESTAURANT

## THE TABLE

Food and wine (and good cheer) is the tour mainstay.

We breakfast every morning at the Lodge and have our lunches 'à l'extérieur'. One of these lunches will be a picnic at the glorious old gold mining village of Welshtown in Bendigo, another will be at the award-winning (three hats from Cuisine) Amisfield Restaurant. Every evening we will dine at the Gibbston Valley Lodge's excellent restaurant and enjoy a variety of Central Otago wines - some old, some new. Interesting 'mystery wines' will also feature. On the final night there will be a special degustation dinner hosted by Gibbston Valley winemaker Christopher Keys in the Lodge's private cellar dining room. It goes without saying all dietary requirements are catered for.



## THE ITINERARY

Guests arrive at the Lodge on the afternoon of Sunday 6 November. There will be time to relax before we congregate at the Lodge bar before dinner. Over the next three days there will be two winery visits per day. These will include encounters with Otago's most prestigious estates such as Felton Road, Rippon Vineyard, Prophet's Rock and Burn Cottage. Each afternoon we will return to the Lodge around 3-4pm and there will be time to unwind before dinner.

## THE COST

### The cost for the four-night package:

For couples sharing a chalet: \$3,150 plus gst per person

For single guests: \$3,650 plus gst per person

The package covers accommodation, all food and accompanying wine, transport (including airport transfers) and visits. At the Lodge Spa, use of the jacuzzi, sauna and gym are all included. There would be an extra cost for any spa treatments.

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