



...SPECIAL AWARDS ISSUE...

# WINE ENTHUSIAST<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

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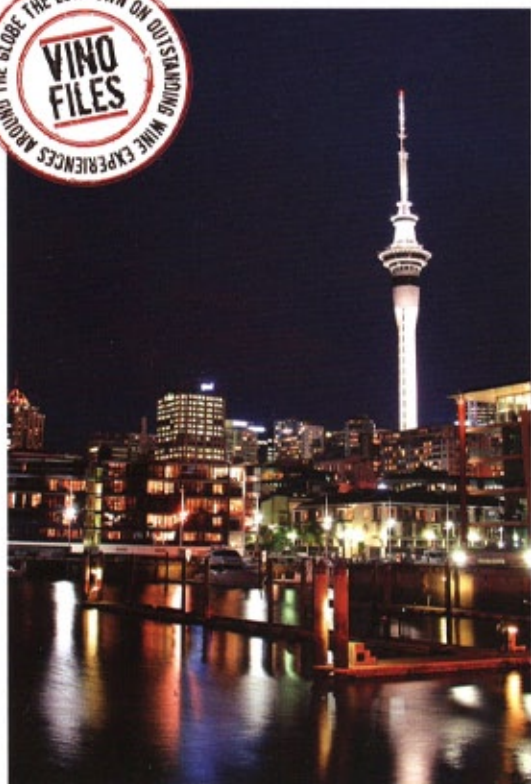
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## Where To Go In December: Auckland, New Zealand

Be the first of your friends to ring in the New Year in balmy Auckland. New Zealand is the first country in the world to see the sun each day, so even if you party through the night, you will be heading to bed before your friends in the States have even had lunch on New Year's Eve. On the wine front, Villa Maria and Kumeu River are two of the Auckland region's standout producers, and bottles from these and many other Kiwi wineries can be found at enocentric restaurants such as The Grove ([thegroverrestaurant.co.nz](http://thegroverrestaurant.co.nz)) and O'Connell Street Bistro ([oconnellstbistro.com](http://oconnellstbistro.com)). For a table with a view, take a high-speed elevator to the top of Auckland's landmark Sky Needle, and enjoy a transporting dinner at dine by Peter Gordon ([dinebypetergordon.co.nz](http://dinebypetergordon.co.nz)). Welcome 2012 with a flute of bubbly Quartz Reef NV Brut, or a glass of Riesling or Pinot Noir from the chef/owner's Waitaki Braids vineyard.

—MIKE DESIMONE AND JEFF JENSSEN

## SNAPshot



### Frida's World, New York City

Art and beer lovers convened in Manhattan on June 23 for the launch of Mexican beer producer Bohemia's limited edition Frida Kahlo packaging. Women dressed as Kahlo posed in rooms recreated from the iconic artist's home in Mexico City, and New York painter Ernesto Camacho won \$10,000 in a Bohemia-sponsored art competition featuring Kahlo and the beer as subjects.

## LUXElife

**Vintage.** Atlantic City's Borgata Hotel and Casino may be celebrated for its blackjack tables and A-list entertainment like Stevie Wonder and John Mayer, but its new shop, Vintage, is becoming a favorite for casino-goers who want to spend their winnings on wine. Located within the luxe Shoppes at The Water Club, the chic wine boutique offers over 200 high-end labels, including prestigious bottlings like Vega Sicilia's 1999 Unico, and an Enomatic wine preservation and serving system. To use, guests swipe a prepaid card to access the 32 bottles on tap, enabling them to pinpoint their preferences before strolling the casino floor with their pour. Under the helm of Borgata's wine director, Anjoleena Griffin-Holst, patrons receive the same passionate guidance as they would while dining at any of Borgata's fine restaurants, thanks to the in-store sommelier. Vintage further encourages wine perusal by providing iPads and a NextStep touchscreen kiosk—allowing guests to search the shop's inventory by variety, country, producer and price. "We believe that wine should be upscale, not uptight," says Griffin-Holst. "People know what they like, and by engaging them in a conversation it allows the team to help them sip into something comfortable." [theborgata.com](http://theborgata.com)

—ANDREW HOOVER



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