

# Forbes

Cathrine Todd Contributor | Jul 31, 2019

## Bridging The Connections Between Oregon And New Zealand Chardonnay Wines

Chardonnay has different clones, each having a particular characteristic that may be more suited to some areas and not so suited to others.

Interestingly enough, Master of Wine Bree Stock noted that the clone that is referred to as the Mendoza clone, used in some New Zealand wines, is the same clone as the **Wente** clone which the Wente family brought back from Burgundy in 1912 to plant in their vineyards in Livermore, California, and is considered a California heritage clone since it has been there for so long.

The logo for Wente Vineyards is enclosed in a thin gold border. It features the word "WENTE" in a large, bold, serif font with gold outlines. Below it, the word "VINEYARDS" is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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According to Bree, the story goes that “the Wente clone was brought back by David Hohnen in the 1970s for the Cape Mentelle vineyards in Margaret River, Western Australia, and it is the backbone of their industry today, and then he brought it to Marlborough, New Zealand when he founded Cloudy Bay in 1985.” She further explained that the Wente/Mendoza clone is known for “smaller berries so higher phenolics [giving the wine a tactile feeling of structure] and higher acid.”



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