

Where to Look Beyond New Zealand for Stunning Sauvignon Blanc

Fans of the grassy, gooseberry zip of New Zealand sauvignon blanc take heed: You might start to notice a bit less of the antipodean juice on shelves. Chillier than normal spring weather causing early frosts, and some other ups and downs during the early part of the growing season brought the grape's yield way down across the board, by over 20% in well-known spots like mighty Marlborough, along with Wairarapa, Nelson, and North Canterbury, according to New Zealand Wine. If that weren't enough labor shortages and rising production costs due to the Covid 19 viral epidemic added more difficulty to the growing season and harvest, too, with producers scrambling to meet demand.

But New Zealand certainly isn't the only place for great versions of SB. From its ancestral home in the Loire Valley of France to crisp, quenching Chilean pours, there's a world of the white (quite literally—it's grown all over the globe) to sate your thirst. We're not saying you have to ditch your kiwi faves, but why not take this opportunity to get to know a few other regions with a knack for their very own versions of bright and beautiful sauv blanc? Here are 15 to try:

California

When you think of the West Coast, visions of swirling glasses full of cab and chard likely come to mind, but the nation's Golden State makes some pretty succulent versions of SB, too. From Napa to the Central Coast, you'll find styles that range from refreshing and zippy to juicy and voluminous.

Ancient Peaks Paso Robles Sauvignon Blanc, Santa Margarita Ranch 2020, \$15

This pretty Paso Robles offering shows off the influence of the Pacific breezes that cool down these estate vineyards in the evenings. It'll grab you with its racy, mineral-driven nature, and keep you sipping with zippy notes of both juice and pith of pink grapefruit and lime, but with a little extra West Coast-appropriate weightiness on the palate.

