

Meet Georges Michel
Domaine Georges Michel

Georges Michel: Hi, I'm -- I'm Georges Michel, and well, I think you can hear from my accent I'm French. I'm a Frenchman, and I ... I came to New Zealand in 1988. But we discovered with my family in New Zealand before that on a sort of a holiday trip. And when we decided to move to this country, I decided to carry on my experience in the wine industry. After owning a winery in France in Southern Burgundy, I decided in '98 to set up a -- a winery in Marlborough, New Zealand.

So we set up the Domaine Georges Michel in the center of the Marlborough region. I was absolutely convinced after talking with a few people already established here and winemakers here that Marlborough was one of the best region in the world to plant grapes and make consistent and high-quality wines because of the very special climate here.

The name of Domaine Georges Michel come from the very French habit to call the Domaine, which is the wine estate, with the name of the owner; so it's a very old French fashion. So I decided because we were French to keep the name of Domaine and -- and put my name together.

It's a very small family business. It's a small vineyard. And when I decided to start here, I asked a very good friend of mine, who is a very famous winemaker in Burgundy, to come over here after his vintage in -- in Burgundy and help me to make the first wine in '98. His name is Guy Brac de la Perriere. He is one of the oldest French family in the winemaking in Burgundy, and he is a very famous researcher in enology and viticulture in France. And Guy decided to ... we decided together that he will be helping us -- helping us to make the wines here. And the venture started in '98, where we make our first Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

After a few years, my lovely daughter, Swan, decided to move into the wine industry, as well, and after her studies in Lincoln University in Christchurch, she was trained by my good friend Guy in Burgundy. Then she went to Bordeaux for two vintages and also in Loire Valley of France. And now, she is the winemaker here, and she is still working under the consultancy of Guy Brac de la Perriere.

I hope you will enjoy this little tour of our little family winery.

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