

Northland

Auckland

Waikato

Gisborne

Napier  
Hastings

HAWKES BAY

Marlborough

Nelson

Wellington

Blenheim

Marlborough

Christchurch

Canterbury

Otago

Queenstown

Dunedin

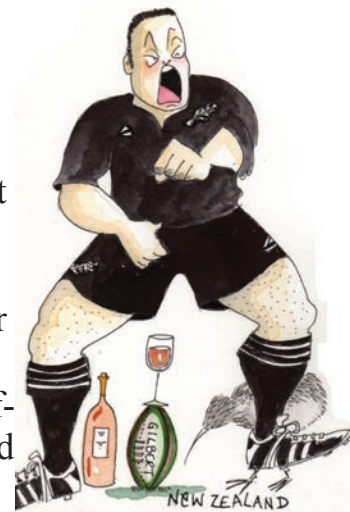
Tim Bulmer

TAURUS WINES  
NEW ZEALAND 2010

# Introduction: The Real Kiwi Experience

Kia Ora! Welcome to New Zealand, a country of Maori tribes living peacefully alongside rugby-crazy, pavlova-eating dairy farmers. In recent years, it has also turned into a wine-lover's paradise.

New Zealand, also known as Aotearoa, punches well above its weight for a country of just four million people. Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc has put it firmly on the world's wine map with its unmistakable jump-out-of-the-glass flavours. The 'Savalanche', as it has become known, is alive and well, and shows no sign of slowing.



We love Kiwi Sauv Blanc, but there's so much more to discover. Stopping at Sauvignon is akin to going all the way to New Zealand just to visit Auckland. The country's biggest city is a great place to start out and visit, but you wouldn't be getting a feel for the place without venturing further afield.

Certainly this country is all about contrast with lush native rainforests, volcanoes, geysers, snow-capped mountains and breathtaking beaches. Likewise, the wine growing regions are markedly different, ranging from 36 to 45 degrees latitude, covering 1000 miles from end to end. In the northern hemisphere, the equivalent latitudes would run from Bordeaux down to southern Spain.

One word the country's wine growing regions do share in common is 'purity'. Kiwi wines have a beautiful cleanliness and unadulterated taste that sets the country apart from the rest of the world, whether it's a zingy Sauvignon, sleek Pinot Noir or peppery Syrah.

Our New Zealand adviser, freelance wine writer, Rebecca Gibb (Decanter, Food & Travel, Cuisine, Harpers), has been travelling the length and breadth of New Zealand for six months to find you the best wines at the best prices. We've snapped up award-winning wineries Elephant Hill and Passage Rock, which were not previously available in the UK plus unearthed stunning family-owned producers including Ostler Vineyards and Matakana Estate.

Our New Zealand list provides you with the real Kiwi experience and we hope you join us in tasting the delights of this clean, green land.



*A breathtakingly beautiful Marlborough vineyard*



1) **Sugarloaf Sauvignon Blanc 2009, Marlborough** £ 9.99  
**- Exclusive to Taurus Wines**

Succulent and ripe fruits from pineapple to pear and elderflower. Lovely depth with a mouthwatering finish. Deliciously balanced and unlike many Sauvignons, won't have you reaching for the Rennies after one glass.



2) **Waipara Springs Sauvignon Blanc 2009, Waipara** £ 9.99

Dry and well balanced with delicate gooseberry, elderflower, apple and citrus flavours. More restrained than the average Marlborough Savvy and much more drinkable for it! (Bronze medal at the International Wine Challenge).

3) **Elephant Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2009, Hawke's Bay** £ 11.99  
**- Exclusive to Taurus Wines**

"Like the elephant, you won't forget this wine: It's spring sunshine in a glass (just after you've mowed the lawn and are now enjoying a lazy hammock). A superb effort for this vivacious, refreshing white with notes of fresh-cut grass, asparagus, straw and limes. Terrific juicy acidity. Try not to trample smaller creatures in your rush to buy this one. The aromas suggest green pepper, rosemary, white asparagus and green onion. Dry and impactful on the palate with fresh acids and good vegetal tones. Medium-bodied and medium finish. Food matches: rosemary chicken, roasted stuffed red peppers, beef tartare, ham, mussels, lobster in a garlic butter sauce."

-Natalie Maclean's Award Winning wine review site, Nat Decants.



4) **Mount Riley Sauvignon Blanc 2009, Marlborough,** £ 12.99

A gold medal winner in the Royal Hobart Wine Show, this wine has the curious claim to fame of being available in British Airways Business Class; the first NZ Sauvignon Blanc chosen to be poured in Business Class by BA. "Mount Riley consistently offers good Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc at a great price. This is one of their best yet. It's as fresh as a crunchy apple picked minutes before you sink your teeth into it. A great combination of pungent fruit flavours and tangy texture, the wine captures everything that's great about summer." Bob Campbell, Master of Wine.

5) **Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc 2010, Marlborough** £ 14.99  
 (when 'in season' -due October)  
**- Limited Stock - will be allocated**

Greywacke (pronounced grey-wacky) is the new wine of Kevin Judd who was the founding winemaker and consequently head winemaker for the first 25 vintages of Cloudy Bay (there have only been 27!) and as such was instrumental in establishing the New Zealand Wine Industry. Our very limited stocks of 2009 sold out in a couple of months so if you would like to try the 2010 it is advisable to put your name down now.



6) **Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2009, Marlborough** £ 17.99

A Kiwi wine list wouldn't be complete without its most famous export, Cloudy Bay. There has always been an air of exclusivity around the Cloudy Bay label and the wine hasn't disappointed its loyal followers. The marketing people behind the brand have carved out an air of exclusivity and the wine hasn't disappointed its loyal followers. The 2009 is a juicy mouthful of intense tropical fruit, citrus and gooseberry. Lovely minerality and a mouthwatering finish.

Sauvignon Blanc

- 7) **Elephant Hill Chardonnay, 2008, Hawke's Bay** £ 12.99  
**- Exclusive to Taurus Wines**

Chardonnay is making a comeback and Elephant Hill's offering is a great way to reacquaint yourself with the grape that makes white Burgundy. Forget your preconceptions of New World Chardonnay, this is delicate, restrained with some gentle new French oak and citrus, white stonefruit and balanced alcohol. Delicious. (Recommended by Decanter magazine as good value). No white elephant!



- 8) **Man O' War Chardonnay 2008, Waiheke Island** £ 16.99

This Chardonnay dances nimbly across your palate, offering fresh nectarine, lemon and nutty oak flavours. Beautiful purity of fruit with lip-smacking freshness on the finish. Awarded 90 points by Robert Parker and 5 stars by Cuisine Magazine



- 9) **Matakana Pinot Gris, 2008, Matakana** £ 12.99

Too many Pinot Gris are oily and fat. Not this one. Dry, well balanced and with lots of interesting Alsace-like texture. Pear fruit and almonds abound. "I hope more people start to make Pinot Gris as well as this one."- wine writer, Matthew Jukes



- 10) **Sugarloaf Pinot Gris 2009, Marlborough** £ 13.99  
**- Exclusive to Taurus Wines**

This wine has a combination of pear and almond tart with honeysuckle and a sprinkling of nutmeg. It has a creamy viscosity without being heavy in the mouth. All too quaffable – a glass is gone before you know it.

## Winery Profile: Sugarloaf - Exclusive to Taurus Wines

Established in 2004, Sugar Loaf wines takes its name from the islands which lie off the Taranaki coastline, where founder Kate Acland grew up.

At only 24, Kate became one of the youngest wine producers in Marlborough. The project started as an own-brand wine for her parents' restaurant back in Taranaki, buying fruit from Marlborough growers and making the wine in rented space. Three years later, she loaned several million dollars off the bank to buy a former apple juicing facility and created a new winery. Since then, she's married a high country farmer, had a baby and moved five hours south to be with the love of her life, visiting the winery several days each fortnight. Fijian Indian winemaker Simon Stock looks after the day-to-day running of the winery and winemaking at Sugar Loaf.



When Kate's not looking after a winery or a newly born baby, you'll find her skiing down her local mountain or drinking Riesling.

## Winery Profile: Ostler Vineyards

After 29 years as a GP in New Zealand, Jim Jerram moved to grape growing in 2001 in a venture with his brother-in-law, Jeff Sinnott (winemaker at Amisfield in Central Otago).

But they didn't take the easy route and set up in an established wine growing region. No, no, they headed north east from Central Otago and found the holy grail of soils in an area where no-one had made wine before: the Waitaki valley. Jerram planted eight hectares of Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir on limestone soils and Ostler was born. "Our mission was to do Pinot Noir on limestone," says Jerram. "We saw the site and thought it was a mini Cote d'Or."

Some of the big companies have checked the area out and decided it is too marginal for them but who dares wins. Ostler's wines are special. They stand out from the crowd and critics are raving about its wines for offering something unique and different to the rest of New Zealand. Production is tiny and in 2007, it didn't produce any wine, because of the marginal climate in Waitaki. But when things go right, they go excellently. The proof is in the glass.

### 11) Waipara Springs Dry Riesling, Waipara 2009

£ 9.99

For under £10, this is a steal. Happily, it's not over-obvious with the fruit like many New World wines; in fact, it's almost reminiscent of Alsace Riesling with minerally notes, nuts and a touch of smoke. Medium bodied and ripe with lots of grippy, mouthwatering acidity.

### 12) Ostler Estate Blue House Riesling, 2008, Waitaki

£ 17.99

A perfect lunchtime or aperitif wine. It's incredibly delicate with an almost porcelain quality and comes in at a delightfully moderate 11% alcohol. Zesty lemony acidity and a streak of minerality on the finish. Served in the White House!

### 13) Esk Valley Vineyard Selection Chenin Blanc, 2009, Hawkes Bay

£ 9.99

This is a full-bodied white with classic Chenin Blanc characters of honey, quince and stonefruit. The palate is full with a touch of residual sugar balancing the natural acidity. A gold medal winner at the Sommelier Wine Awards.

### 14) Yealands Estate Viognier 2009, Marlborough

£ 12.99

The rolling hills of Seaview in the Awatere Valley are home to the Yealands Estate vineyard. In these harsh growing conditions (low rainfall, high sunshine, cool nights and strong winds) the low yielding vines produce wines of intense varietal character. This Viognier displays multiple layers of white peach, nectarine and apricot with a luscious, refined mouth feel.

## Winery Profile: Waipara Springs

Watch out for Waipara. Just an hour's drive north of leafy Christchurch, vineyards dot the side of the road. The region is dwarfed by Marlborough but its wines stand out for being much more elegant and food friendly. New Zealand's leading wine writer, Bob Campbell MW, claims 'stunning Waipara is one of the unsung heroes' of the New Zealand wine scene. The first Waipara Springs vines were originally planted back in 1982, making it one of the longest established estates in the region. With a young, handsome winemaker, Frank Manifold, at the helm, Waipara Springs offers consistently high standards and good value for money. The team are ably assisted by Jonty, a 13-year Red Kelpie, who featured in one of the best-selling wine books ever, Wine Dogs. Now he's getting on a bit, he can mainly be found by the fire or warming himself in the sun.



## Winery Profile: Yealands Estate

Problem: You like the idea of using sheep to keep the grass down in the vineyard, but the sheep develop a taste for the grapes. What do you do? Solution: get some shorter sheep.



Amazingly, that's exactly what maverick Kiwi winemaker Peter Yealands has done. The arrival of a flock of miniature Babydoll sheep at Yealands Estate in Marlborough caused quite a stir, with both the Telegraph and the Guardian covering the story. Unlike the 'normal-sized' sheep that Peter Yealands first employed, the Babydolls reach just 45-60cm in height when fully grown and so will not be able to reach (and feast on) the grapes. An earlier effort at low-emissions eco-friendly lawn mowing, the introduction of some giant guinea pigs, seemed a neat idea until the local hawk population heard about it. Can't win 'em all. But Peter's mission to create the country's first 100% sustainable vineyard continues and the quality of wines like his delicious Viognier speaks for itself.

## Winery Profile: Craggy Range

Craggy Range is one of those producers where it's hard to find fault with any of their wines. They own vineyards throughout New Zealand and while they're a pretty big outfit, there are no compromises made on quality and the wines reflect the place where they are grown. – this sense of place is known as terroir.

In the the renowned Gimblett Gravels in Hawke's Bay, warm climate varieties Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah are grown. It sits on the the same latitude as Madrid so the grapes are able to ripen properly. Heading south, Craggy Range also grows grapes in Martinborough, Marlborough, Nelson, the undiscovered Waitaki Valley and cool Central Otago.



## Winery Profile: Greywacke - Limited Stock, on allocation

Kevin Judd's latest venture is Greywacke (pronounced Greywacky). The label is named after a type of sedimentary rock found in New Zealand – a great fact you can impress your friends with when you pull out a bottle. After 25 years as Cloudy Bay's winemaker, Judd says he wanted 'more time with the gum boots on and less time running reports'. But he admits it meant starting from scratch again. He's having to do everything himself – he's the winemaker, forklift truck driver, marketing director, designer and I.T man rolled into one.



The 2009 vintage was his first and, in the words of the Beatles, he's getting by with a little help from his friends. He's sourced fruit from 'people he knows' and has rented winery space from good friend, James Healy, owner of Marlborough's Dog Point. Where many of his former colleagues now work at Dog Point and it's become affectionately termed the 'Cloudy Bay retirement home'. Even the gardener and accountant are ex-Cloudy Bay.

Whenever you meet Kevin, you can be sure his dog Dixie will be close by.

**15) Waipara Springs Pinot Noir, 2009, Waipara**

**£ 9.99**

Think mint and black fruit and you can imagine the aromas wafting from a glass of this Pinot Noir. There is none of the over-sweet fruit you find in many New World Pinots, and that's why it makes a refreshing change. A restrained style with balance and harmony. Ripe tannins and a sense of structure. (Silver at the International Wine Challenge)



**16) Martinborough Vineyard Te Tera Pinot Noir 2009, Martinborough**

**£ 14.99**

Soft red cherry fruit combines with dried herbs and a savoury, almost meaty note, making for a complex nose. Ripe and mouthfilling with plenty of concentration. Dense tannins and a touch of mocha oak on the finish.

**17) Craggy Range Te Muna Pinot Noir, 2008**

**£ 19.99**

Deep blackish red. Dark brooding fruit aromas of black cherry, boysenberry with florals, truffle and tar. The palate is silkily structured, with layered fine tannins giving a texture of silk and rose petals. Flavours of the same black fruits and florals, backed with mushroom, bark, fennel and other spices. Dense yet elegant and poised. The finish gradually unwinds revealing bright red berry and violets. Will cellar until 2015 but unlikely to survive that long in my house!



**18) Ostler Vineyards, Caroline Pinot Noir, 2008, Waitaki**

**£ 29.99**

This is a virtually undiscovered region but its wines are starting to turn heads. Ostler's Caroline Pinot Noir could be the most feminine, delicate and ethereal Pinot Noir in New Zealand. Elegant and pure with damsons and cherries on the nose, you'll want the whole bottle for yourself. ("A superbly elegant Pinot in a red fruit register, not as densely powerful as some Central Otago wines, but seamlessly crafted and remarkably persistent." - Jasper Morris MW)



**19) Matakana Estate Merlot/Cabernet Franc 2007, Matakana**

**£ 12.99**

Lots going on here: lifted black fruit aromas, chocolate, cedar and even a whiff of farmyard. This is a Kiwi version of St-Emilion but offers more intensity than you'll find from the Bordeaux appellation at this price. Both satisfying and mouth-filling with a lick of vanilla on the finish.

**20) Craggy Range 'Te Kahu' Cabernet Merlot 2007**

**£ 17.99**

Deep dark and brooding, with complex aromas of fruit, blackberry, blueberry, dried herbs & plum. Equally complex and interesting on the palate – especially when decanted. Drinking now but will cellar until 2020.

**Pinot Noir and Bordeaux Blends**

## Winery Profile: Matakana Estate

Luka Lunjevich sailed from Croatia to New Zealand in 1902, for a better life and the goal of planting his own vineyard. His voyage nearly ended in tragedy when the 2,585-ton steel steamer hit the rocks in heavy fog, and sank close to New Zealand's North Cape. There weren't enough lifeboats and many, including Luka, had to swim for their lives. Having survived this treacherous journey to his new homeland, Luka planted his vineyard in Kaitaia and became one of the pioneer winemakers in New Zealand in the early 1900s.

The passion for wine has been passed through the generations: in 1996, Luka's granddaughter established Matakana Estate, a boutique winery 70km north of Auckland in Matakana. Luka's great grandsons now run the estate in beautiful Matakana, which is a hub of food and wine and a renowned getaway for Aucklanders.

## Winery Profile: Elephant Hill - Exclusive to Taurus Wines

There's something of the Old World in the wines of Elephant Hill. Forget the exuberant gooseberry, asparagus and passionfruit-filled wines of Marlborough, Elephant Hill is all about subtlety and elegance. The winery is owned by German couple Reyden and Roger Weiss, which might explain the wine style. The pair fell in love with this coastal site and planted the vineyard in 2003. The traditionalist view is that young vines don't produce great wines but that's not true here says the company's managing director Gunter Thies, who was director of the Rheingau Winegrowers Association for six years before moving to New Zealand. "In Germany, three year old vines don't make very good wine but here they develop much faster than in Europe. Growing grapes is a completely different story here," he says.



While most of Hawke's Bay is too warm to successfully produce Sauvignon Blanc, Elephant Hill is quite literally within spitting distance of the Ocean. The cool sea breezes allow the grapes to mature more slowly, maintaining a zesty acidity, delicious aromas and keeping alcohol levels down. Hotter inland areas in Hawke's Bay are better suited to red varieties like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah but at Elephant Hill's cooler vineyards, these varieties would struggle to ripen.

It's quite an international team here. The vineyard is managed by an American girl, Brittany Thompson who originally came to Hawke's Bay from the Napa Valley for six months, fell in love with New Zealand (and a New Zealander!) and is now a permanent fixture at Elephant Hill. The winemaking is in the hands of Kiwi Steve Skinner who has worked many vintages in Hawke's Bay as well as France, Canada, California.



Syrah

### 21) Esk Valley Syrah 2007, Hawke's Bay

£ 12.99

A silver medal winner at both the International Wine Challenge and the Decanter World Wine awards. Juicy red fruits are spiced up by a sprinkle of white pepper and a dash of savoury leather. Medium bodied with soft, fine-grained tannins. Excellent value for money.

### 22) Elephant Hill Syrah 2008, Hawke's Bay

£ 17.99

- Exclusive to Taurus Wines

New Zealand's answer to Crozes-Hermitage, this is full of black cherries, dried fruit and herbs. Sensitive oak-maturation gives a lovely smokiness on the finish. A lively Syrah with grainy tannins and a fresh finish. (Silver medal winner at the International Wine Challenge).

### 23) Passage Rock Syrah 2008, Waiheke Island

£ 19.99

- Exclusive to Taurus Wines

A dense mouthful packed with blackberries, red cherries, Parma violets, white pepper and chocolate. Chunky ripe tannins and plump pure fruit in the mouth. It's a stunner and keeps winning accolade after accolade. (5 stars, Michael Cooper's buyer's guide to New Zealand Wines).



## Winery Profile: Passage Rock - Exclusive to Taurus Wines

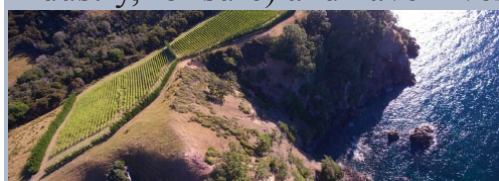
If you like wood-fired pizza and Syrah (who doesn't?), then Passage Rock is for you. The winery sits on idyllic Waiheke Island, a 30-minute boat ride from Auckland's CBD. The laid-back owner and winemaker, David Evans, and his Swiss wife returned to New Zealand in the early 1990s and initially thought they were going to focus on Merlot - perhaps that was something to do with drinking trends at the time or the fact they'd just visited Chateau Pétrus.



David is focused on Syrah today but does make a dense Merlot as well as several Bordeaux blends. After tasting the wines, the Syrahs are the star of the Passage Rock show with attractive violets, blackberries and cherries on the '08, a fleshy palate and chunky ripe tannins. It represents good value for money compared to some of the other producers on the island. The world's wine judges think it's pretty smart too. The 2008 Passage Rock Syrah has been awarded 5 stars by both Wine State Magazine (Australia's biggest wine magazine) and by Michael Cooper (the NZ wine guru).

## Winery Profile: Man O'War

Sitting at the end of a long and bumpy track on the eastern tip of Waiheke Island, Man O'War isn't easy to get to but it's worth every minute of car sickness. 90 different vineyard parcels form a mosaic along the rugged Waiheke coastline. With so many different blocks to look after, life isn't simple for vineyard manager, Matt, but he's a cool cat and relishes the challenge. The property is owned by a family who made millions producing loo roll (a recession proof industry, for sure) and have invested in the best money can buy – vines, winemaking and people.



However, there was expense spared on the cellar door – a lonely portacabin sits on the beach. Boats drop anchor in the bay to pop in to sample their wares in the makeshift tasting room - it certainly makes for an interesting experience.

Duncan McTavish, a young Kiwi heads up the winemaking team. He's made wine in California, Australia, France and Germany. Having worked in Burgundy, the home of Chardonnay, it's his favourite variety. If he wasn't a winemaker, Duncan says he would be a drummer in a rock band, despite not being able to play the drums.

## Winery Profile: Martinborough Vineyard

Think back to 1978: the world's first test tube baby was born; Argentina won the World Cup; and a report was published in New Zealand claiming the closest match to Burgundy's climate in New Zealand was centred on the township of Martinborough. Two years later, the first vines at Martinborough Vineyard were planted by a group of six enthusiasts.

The vineyard makes a number of varietal wines but focuses on the two Burgundy varieties: Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Since the first vintage in 1984, its Pinot Noir has been a massive hit. It took the prestigious "Best Pinot Noir Worldwide" at the International Wine and Spirit Challenge in London in 1997 and in 2001, the Pinot Noir beat off 1600 wines from 16 countries to take the chairman's best wine in show. The Pinot's most recent win came at the Tri Nation Trophy: a competition between the very best wines from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.



It's still owned by the same people who started it back in 1978 although Hugo, the dog, is a new addition since viticulturalist (and former ski instructor!) Pete joined the team in 2006.

## \*Abel Tasman's Explorer Case - £ 150

A 12 bottle case containing the following, together with some background information about the wines.

3 Bottles Sugarloaf Pinot Gris 2009 (Marlborough)

3 Bottles Mount Riley Sauvignon Blanc 2009 (Marlborough)

3 Bottles Waipara Springs Pinot Noir 2009 (Waipara)

3 Bottles Elephant Hill Sauvignon Blanc 2008 (Hawkes Bay)



\*Abel Tasman, a Dutch Explorer, was the first European to set foot on New Zealand in 1642 before being chased away by the Maoris after a short stay.

## Ways to Order:

### Visit the shop

We are open 10 am – 6pm Monday to Saturday but can be open later by appointment. (Closed Bank Holidays and Sundays). If you wish to purchase a very specific wine or vintage from the store it is always best to call ahead to check it's availability.

### Telephone or Fax

We have a 24 hr answer phone if closed. Please have your credit card details and postcode of the delivery address ready when calling. As the phone comes directly through to the store we may need to call you back if we are already serving another customer, and if your call is likely to be lengthy (i.e. you need advice) it is best not to call on a Saturday if at all possible, (a busy shop makes a very bad call-centre!)



# aland Taster Cases

## \*Captain Cook's Voyage of Discovery Case - £ 225

A 12 bottle case containing the following, together with some background information about the wines.

3 Bottles Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2009 (Marlborough)

3 Bottles Man O' War Chardonnay 2009 (Waiheke Island)

3 Bottles Craggy Range 'Te Muna' Pinot Noir 2008 (Martinborough)

3 Bottles Passage Rock Syrah 2008 (Waiheke Island)



\*A Yorkshire boy, Captain James Cook reached the Islands in 1769 mapping nearly the whole coastline.

## Ways to Order:

### Online

Either visit us at [www.tauruswines.co.uk](http://www.tauruswines.co.uk) where you will find most of the range online together with tasting notes. Alternatively email us at: [grapes@tauruswines.co.uk](mailto:grapes@tauruswines.co.uk).

### Delivery

We offer free local delivery for orders over £ 200 within 10 miles of the store, or can deliver next working day nationwide, using DHL. Please enquire about costs.



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