



CLIMATS DU VIGNOBLE
DE BOURGOGNE
PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Beaune, le 26 mars 2026

To whom it may concern

Burgundy's existence as a wine region can be traced as early as 2000 years ago. Since then, it never diverged from its vocation of exclusively producing wine from the great diversity of "terroirs" little by little delineated on its slopes. Burgundy made its reputation with its production of red wines from Pinot Noir and white wines from Chardonnay and over the centuries gained a very high reputation amongst the wine regions of the world. In 2015 it was elected on the prestigious List of the World Treasures of UNESCO. It is now protected under international law as a place of outstanding universal value.

The Central Otago wine region is obviously younger, but its reputation has been growing fast. It is now recognized over the world and especially in Burgundy because of their common vocation to produce great wines from Pinot Noir and the dedication of both regions to express in their wines the character of the place where the vineyard has been planted.

We can say that the potential of Central Otago for producing great wines from Pinot Noir, the dedication of the local growers and their outstanding contribution to cultural development of the region, make Central Otago a wine region that has been especially adopted as respected peers and valued friends, by the growers of Burgundy.

Many kinds of relations exist between Burgundy and Central Otago, and we fully understand the concern of the Central Otago growers when they are threatened with the installation of an open cast and underground gold mining project.

We strongly believe in the present and future potential of Central Otago as a wine region. The ongoing viticultural health and success of like-minded Pinot Noir winegrowers is extremely important to us.

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The region of Burgundy, over the centuries, has seen the development of many different industries within its territory, but the areas where the vines prosper have always been respected and protected. The listing on the Unesco World Treasures proves it. As winegrowers with a deep understanding of the needs and sensitivities around land use, it would be stupefying and we would feel hurt and angry if a proposal that places the long-term integrity and well-earned reputation of Central Otago at risk were to be approved.

We fully support the concern of our friends in Central Otago and very much hope that this project is rejected.

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Président de l'association des Climats
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Aubert de Villaine
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