



OPPOSITE PAGE: A remarkable setting for a remarkable winery.  
CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Wood makes for a wonderful ambiance; vintage harvests at River Rock Estate Bed & Breakfast/Boutique Winery/Vineyard; an ambient atmosphere for vintage wines; Margaret and John Edwards with their olive trees.  
BELOW LEFT: Customkit's Michael Anselmi - pictured here with Atareta - reaches out to help the endangered New Zealand falcon. Find out more at [www.wingspan.co.nz](http://www.wingspan.co.nz)

# IT'S ONLY NATURAL

Keeping the creative juices flowing for artisan ventures requires the right ingredients. Buildings are one.

Artisans are defined as people skilled in an applied 'art' and more specifically as a person or company that makes a high quality or distinctive product using traditional methods.

These operations are often located next to or near their source of product which in most cases is a rustic, clean and green environment, all of which makes Customkit a natural selection when it comes to creating special working places and spaces.

Retired surgeon John Edwards and his wife Margaret (an olive oil expert and New Zealand's only international olive oil judge) own and operate The Waiheke Olive Oil Company that produces Matiatia Grove olive oil on Waiheke Island. Following its inaugural harvest in 1997, Matiatia Grove has grown to become an internationally award-winning brand. The company specialises in producing extra virgin olive oil as well as lemon and mandarin infused oils. As the venture expanded John applied his clinical precision to look potential building partners that would add value to the ambiance and functionality of their venture.

"When we were looking to build a barn the instant appeal was the fact Customkit's were wooden structures. On Waiheke Island people are very sensitive to the environment and what structures 'fit in' on the landscape. Another benefit was the sound absorption from wood, the processing plant and other machinery involved in olive oil making is a noisy affair."

The ability to use laminated wooden beams to gain height in the barn was another plus. But the winning feature was getting a great report on the product from local builder Tony Page who also happened to build a Customkit barn.

"Once we made the decision Customkit worked in very closely with Tony Page to design what we needed. Along the way the flexibility to make changes to the structure was also a real benefit."

Customkit barns are also used to best advantage by another down-to-earth business in Central Otago, the most southern grape-growing region in the world.

Remarkable Wines are made exclusively from single vineyards located in Gibbston Valley and Bannockburn, Central Otago's premium grape-growing regions. It was the

intention of winemaker and owner Richard Guthrey to develop an organic and boutique operation that would be best in class.

"I embarked on this project about six years ago after buying the vineyard. The type of building I was looking for had to be multi-purpose and also be at home in our special part of the world. I started looking and went to one or two trade shows, and Fieldays in Hamilton, to look at a number of barns."

Despite his searches nothing really appealed until he started doing another web search and came across Customkit. It was a case of love at first sight, especially the classic barn designs on offer and the fact the material used was timber.

"What also appealed is the wide-span that could be used to create spaces in any way one desired. I felt it met the environmental criteria I was looking for as well as the practical side of things. I also liked the fact you could have as much personal input in the design as you wanted."

The design flexibility suited Richard's palette.

"You go through the process of looking at designs and often don't really know what

you want. It's only when you start living or working in the area you find things out so the ability to put the exterior up and then think about how the interior might work is a real bonus. The ultimate finished look is very rustic and eclectic but at the same time very functional."

It's also Customkit at Cromwell's RiverRock Estate, a three-and-a-half acre boutique bed and breakfast, with a vineyard and winery growing pinot gris, sauvignon blanc, pinot noir and a variety of table grapes. Like the others, owner Graeme McDowell found the benefits of building with wood - and working with Customkit - irresistible.

**Products Roofing:** Matiatia Olive Grove Colorsteel Endura Thunder Grey supplied by Franklin Long Roofing; Remarkable Wines Colorsteel Endura supplied by Franklin Long Roofing.

**Windows and Doors:** Matiatia Olive Grove VANTAGE Matt Karaka.

**Exterior Paint:** Matiatia Olive Grove Resene Canopy; Remarkable Wines roof: ColourSteel New Denim Blue; River Rock Estate Paint roof: Scoria and exterior Barn Red

• To see more Customkit buildings and to find the one that's right for you go to [www.customkit.co.nz](http://www.customkit.co.nz)



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