

**Peter Babich - New Zealand Wineproducer**

**Born: 20.06.1932 Auckland, New Zealand**

**Education: Swanson Primary School: 1938 - 1946**  
**Avondale College: 1947 - 1948**

**Peter Babich** - Chairman of Babich Wines Limited joined his father in the family vineyard in 1948 at 16 years old and has devoted a lifetime to New Zealand wine culminating in being awarded an M.B.E. in 1989 for Services to New Zealand Viticulture and Wine Industry.

In 1996 he was elected a Fellow (Life Member) of the Wine Institute of New Zealand Inc. in recognition of long and distinguished service to the wine industry of New Zealand and was invested with the Medal of Fellowship.

Also in 1996 he was awarded the Rotary International Certificate by the Rotary Club of Henderson in recognition of his leading role in the provision of the memorial to the pioneer winemakers of the Henderson region and for his overall contribution to the wine industry.

In 1997 he was made an Inaugural Member of the Waitakere City Business Hall of Fame in recognition of exceptional service to the Waitakere community and his contribution to the commercial excellence in the City through the example of his own business and encouragement of others.

In November 2011, he was awarded Life Membership of the Waitemata Rugby Club of Henderson, Auckland for long and dedicated service to the Club.

In 2013 he was awarded the Sir George Fistonich Medal in Recognition of Service to N.Z. Wine at the N.Z. International Wine Show 2013.

When he joined the family business in 1948 Babich Wines' production was around 20 tonne with a resulting production of fortified wines. Being particularly interested in viticulture from an early age, Peter was instrumental in commencing the transition from hybrid to vinifera varieties in the vineyard and with his brother Joe, modernized the winery to enable production of varietal table wines to commence.

Peter served on the Viticultural Association executive and helped to set up the N.Z. Wine Institute where he was Deputy Chair from 1976 to 1980. In all, he devoted over forty years of unpaid time to lifting the standards of wine and winemaking in New Zealand.

Peter is still actively involved in the business, especially the viticultural side and visits the company's vineyards in Hawke's Bay and Marlborough on a regular basis. A highlight of his career is the building of a new winery in Blenheim in 2013.

His second son David (third generation) is now in the role of General Manager.