



Top NZ singers reunite for wine tour

Tim Finn, Dave Dobbyn and Bic Runga will embark on a national winery tour in February.

All three can pull a crowd on the strength of their own music. They sold out halls and theatres from Whangarei to Invercargill in 2000 when they played 26 shows on the trot, and know how New Zealanders are likely to respond to a similar format in winery settings throughout the country.

Dobbyn says the idea of playing with Finn and Runga again during the height of summer was an attractive proposition which was difficult to say no to. It will be a sizeable production, with a 70-strong team supporting the trio, who will be backed on stage with

drums, bass, two keyboards, guitars and plenty of vocal input.

All three say tour spirit is always high when the spotlight is shared. "You've got all generations and all ages and that is definitely a plus. The audiences walk away blown away by the spectacle of it all — and so do we," Dobbyn says. "I won't be able to take the smile off my face — it's the perfect environment really."

Finn says he couldn't believe how popular the first tour was, and to what extent the three musicians playing together appeared to have struck a chord with the communities they visited.

"It was an amazing tour, one of those ones where you can't quite

imagine how it sold so quickly."

Even with decades of experience playing to such crowds, he says the nerves still come to the surface in the final minutes before taking the stage.

At 23, Runga was a spring chicken during the first tour.

Finn says collaborative touring to the extent of the upcoming string of shows is refreshing and enjoyable.

"You fall in love with your country all over again."

They say learning one another's music is one of the biggest challenges in collaborative tours, and that will be the main focus of preparation between now and February. — NZPA



WINERY TOUR:
Bic Runga (left), Tim Finn and Dave Dobbyn on the road again soon.
PICTURE / APN