



**MAKE YOUR HEALTHY**  
*irresistible*



**22 September 2023**

### **Zespri's final shipments of the 2023 season depart**

Zespri's last charter vessel of the 2023 kiwifruit season has departed the Port of Tauranga.

Around 782 tonnes of Zespri SunGold Kiwifruit and 3,621 tonnes of Zespri Green Kiwifruit are onboard the *Discovery Bay*, which is expected to reach Tokyo in early October before sailing on to Kobe, Japan and then to South Korea.

Zespri has used 51 charter vessels to ship this season's kiwifruit from New Zealand – including four to Northern Europe, eight to the Mediterranean, two to North America's West Coast and 37 to Asia. The season's final container shipments carrying the remaining 2,540 tonnes of the crop are also expected to conclude over the coming weeks.

Zespri Chief Operating Officer Jason Te Brake says there's been a huge effort right across the industry to deliver this season's lower crop volume to customers and consumers in more than 50 countries around the world this season.

"It was another extremely challenging growing season in New Zealand, with a significant reduction in yields as a result of poor growing conditions.

"While lower yields have put real pressure on growers, the industry has focused on maximising value in market and through the supply chain. That's meant a commitment to improving fruit quality which has been tracking significantly better than last year, and closer to what we saw in 2021.

"We've also implemented strong pricing this season, with per tray returns at the high end of early season guidance.

"We'll be finishing the season around eight weeks ahead of last year which was a conscious decision made to ensure that we keep fruit moving through to customers to avoid late season quality costs for growers."

Mr Te Brake confirmed planning for next year is already well underway, with significantly more fruit expected to help meet strong consumer demand.

"Planning for the 2024 season is being led by the Industry Advisory Council (IAC), made up of NZKGI, post-harvest and Zespri's senior leadership, and as part of this we're looking at what changes we need



# MAKE YOUR HEALTHY *irresistible*



to make to further lift quality and respond to the higher volumes we expect next season.

“Early indications suggest we’ll have a good level of growth for both Zespri Green and Zespri SunGold Kiwifruit in 2024 as we bounce back from the challenges of the past two seasons – but as a primary industry we’re still subject to weather-related challenges.

“We are focused on ensuring we get the whole supply chain working well – from producing a quality product, getting it to market in great shape and then getting as much value as we can when it gets there, as this is crucial to ensuring we’re able to deliver more value back to our growers and communities.

“As a result of investment in the Zespri brand and in building demand ahead of supply alongside our commitment to quality, growers know that whatever fruit we can get to market in the right condition will sell and sell well.

“We are looking forward to finishing our New Zealand season well and effectively transitioning to our Northern Hemisphere supply during the New Zealand off-season,” says Mr Te Brake.

**ENDS**

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Deanna Burt

[deanna.burt@zespri.com](mailto:deanna.burt@zespri.com)

+64 27 756 1203

## **IMAGERY**

Imagery of the *Discovery Bay* can be found in the following link (credit Jamie Troughton, Dscribe Media).

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/8qe8nk54snlko7y97xjgt/h?rlkey=amxq6vp4b6f6dwz0zd5auinvc&dl=0>

## **ABOUT ZESPRI**

Zespri is 100 percent owned by current and former kiwifruit growers and has a global team of 850 based in Mount Maunganui and throughout Asia, Europe and the Americas. Our purpose is to help people, communities and the environment thrive through the goodness of kiwifruit, and we work with 2,800 growers in New Zealand and 1,500 growers offshore to provide consumers with fresh, healthy and great-tasting Zespri Green, RubyRed™ and SunGold Kiwifruit. In 2022/23, we supplied 183.5 million trays of kiwifruit to consumers in more than 50 markets, and recorded global operating revenue of NZ\$4.22 billion. Zespri is committed to sustainability, with areas of improvement identified right through the supply chain including our pledge that by 2025 we will use 100 percent reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging, do more to help the environment, and work with our partners to be carbon positive by 2035.