

# Condé Nast Traveller

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## SUMMER ESCAPES

ISLAND-HOPPING AND SUN-SEEKING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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EXCLUSIVE FIRST REVIEW

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IN CAMBODIA

AFRICA'S MOST  
INTREPID  
SAFARI CAMP

OFFBEAT PLACES  
TO STAY IN  
LOS ANGELES

## NEW ZEALAND SUPERLODGES

A FULL ROUND-UP OF THE CLASSIC, THE CONTEMPORARY & THE UNUSUAL





# WILD

New Zealand is a white-knuckle ride of a country, a gutsy, self-sufficient place where the Sauvignon Blanc is award-winning and where your bartender is also likely to be a snowboard instructor. The art of zorbing was invented here - but why roll down a hill when you can see it properly from one of its superior breed of sophisticated superlodges and new hideaways that now dot the length of the country?



## DELAMORE LODGE, WAIHEKE ISLAND

### Ocean-facing hangout with a Mediterranean disposition

A short ferry ride from Auckland in the Hauraki Gulf, Waiheke Island is a tapestry of vineyards, forest and farmland, all fringed with white-sand beaches. Wrapped around the upper slopes of Ownhanake Bay and shaped like a Maori fish-hook, Delamore Lodge is a low-slung, curved adobe building supported by chunky wooden pillars. There are four suites and a two-bedroom apartment, all with king-sized beds and dreamy views of the Coromandel Peninsula and the neighbouring islands (peer through the binoculars for a closer look). The food, in the talented hands of the chef Aaron Smith, is first-class. Start the day with breakfast on the terrace (muesli layered with berries and yoghurt) before wandering through the olive groves and citrus trees in the vast gardens, relaxing in the grotto-like Jacuzzi (there's also a sauna and spa), paddleboarding or spending the day on a guided fishing charter. The real highlight, though, is dinner, whether it's a barbecue or a more formal meal of fillet of snapper or harissa-crusted lamb.

*Doubles from about £470*



## THE FARM AT CAPE KIDNAPPERS, HAWKE'S BAY

### An immersive experience in full-bodied wine country

A 6,000-acre working sheep and cattle farm with lavender-swathed hills and a precarious cliff edge an hour's flight south-west of Auckland. Nicknamed Kidnappers, the lodge (containing four of the 22 suites) has wheat-coloured carpets, stout criss-crossing timber beams and mantelpieces thick with fresh blossoms. Leather and wicker chairs are draped in wool throws, tractor seats hang artfully behind the beds, and ornaments are arranged in clusters on bookshelves. Breakfast is in the loggia (plump for the table at the far end, which has the best ocean views) and there's a cosy snug for refreshing afternoon iced tea sweetened with manuka honey. Spend days playing golf on a course that dips and curves along the cliffs, or exploring vineyards on horseback, then put your feet up in the spa. The majority of the suites – some with fireplaces, others with small terraces – are in a separate building a few minutes' walk from the main lodge, but the four-bedroom Owners' Cottage is the pick of the bunch, with open-plan living areas and a Jacuzzi on the stone terrace.

*Doubles from about £770*

## EDENHOUSE, ORINOCO VALLEY, NELSON

### Intimate off-the-beaten-track bolthole

The sun-dappled Orinoco Valley isn't on any standard itinerary, which is exactly what appeals to the small number of visitors who do find their way here. Tucked into the north-west corner of the South Island, this is an enchanting valley with gently rolling hills, a stunning coastline nearby and – so locals reckon – more hours of sunshine than anywhere else in the country. The other draw is Edenhouse. Almost too small and homey to qualify as a lodge (there are two bedrooms in the main house and a separate two-bedroom cottage), it's as comfy as a favourite armchair. Breakfast is served on antique crockery, vases are stuffed with bluebells and rambling roses from the garden, and there's a tail-wagging welcome from Annie the golden Labrador. Hosts Bobbie and Peter Martin built this airy residence as their home. Their local knowledge can't be bettered, and they'll happily organise adventures, from kayaking past seal colonies in the Abel Tasman National Park to horse-trekking at Cape Farewell and visiting the sacred Te Waikoropū Springs. They'll also knock up a delicious roast-chicken supper. If you'd prefer, hide away in the library or den. In summer, seek out the pretty courtyards and garden nooks.

*Doubles from about £765*





## MATAKAURI LODGE, QUEENSTOWN

### Chic waterfront escape

It might be just seven minutes' drive from New Zealand's adventure capital, but at this lodge the vibe is more high heels than hiking boots. It belongs to the same group as Kauri Cliffs and The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, but has a sleek, sexy groove all of its own. The flame-coloured cushions and display wall of white crockery in the main living room make Instagrammers go nuts. Delicate white drapes contrast with a rough stone feature wall and the vertical sheet of rust-coloured metal that clads the fireplace. But the interiors need to be dramatic to compete with what's outside: a front-and-centre view of the Remarkables mountain range towering above Lake Wakatipu. There are just 12 rooms and suites and the Owners' Cottage, which sleeps eight, so it never gets overcrowded.

Spend a lazy morning lounging on the terrace, lying in the freestanding tub watching waves scud across the lake through the floor-to-ceiling windows or at the spa, which has two treatment rooms, each with its own private deck.

*Doubles from about £590*

## KAURI CLIFFS, MATAURI BAY

### Golf geek winner

When golfers arrive at Kauri Cliffs, they make a beeline for the David Harman-designed course, with its backdrop of forest, farmland and clifftop views across the Cavalli Islands. But practising your swing is only one of the draws of the 6,000-acre property; there are also tennis courts, three beaches, including Pink Beach (named after its tiny pearl pink shells, and great for shore fishing), and a tranquil spa, reached via a winding path through the totara forest. There are mesmerising views of the bay from practically every room in the lodge – pick your favourite and find a sofa to match – and the huge suites have wood-panelled walls with walk-in wardrobes, king-size beds and armchairs by the fire. There's also an Owner's Cottage with its own infinity pool.

Lunch can be grabbed on the run (sandwiches can be brought out to the course so as not to interrupt play), but dinner is an event, and not just because gentlemen must wear jackets. The menu changes nightly; if you are not up for the dégustation, à la carte dishes such as snapper with Moroccan couscous and vegetables are equally tempting. Be sure to leave room for vanilla panna cotta with poached rhubarb or another of the knockout puddings.

*Doubles from about £765*

Reviews by Ralph Bestic, Simon Farrell Green, Frances Hibbard, Ute Junker, Bruce Laybourn, Latesha Randall, Grant Smithies, Tricia Welch and David Whitley



## OTAHUNA LODGE, CHRISTCHURCH

### Rambling estate with top-grade gardens

Built in 1895 as a residence for politician Sir Heaton Rhodes, Otahuna Lodge is a mish-mash of architectural styles (there are 10 chimneys) that hang together in glorious asymmetry. The 30-acre grounds include one of the country's most significant gardens. Designed by AE Lowe (who trained at Kew), it's composed of lakes, woodlands, daffodil fields, lawns for croquet and pétanque, as well as an outdoor pool.

Now a private lodge owned by an American expat couple, it was damaged in the 2011 earthquake and had substantial repairs before reopening. The original wallpaper and ornate wooden carvings are intact, but it's far from stuffy, with king-size beds in the seven suites, contemporary art and Penhaligon's in the bathrooms. The cellar is filled with local wine to go with chef Jimmy McIntyre's elegant, ingredient-driven dishes. Arrive hungry: this is some of the best food in New Zealand. He draws on Otahuna's vegetable gardens, bakes bread daily and makes enough byproducts from the lodge's pigs to supply the kitchen for the following year. The cooking classes are excellent, and historic Akaroa, where you can swim with wild Hector's dolphins in the harbour, and North Canterbury's wine country are an hour's drive away.

*Doubles from about £1,000*

All these properties can be booked through **Scott Dunn** (+44 20 8682 5060; [www.scottdunn.com](http://www.scottdunn.com)), which offers tailor-made trips to New Zealand from £7,950 per person for a 14-night itinerary, including flights, transfers, car hire and some activities. Find out more about the country at [www.newzealand.com/uk](http://www.newzealand.com/uk)