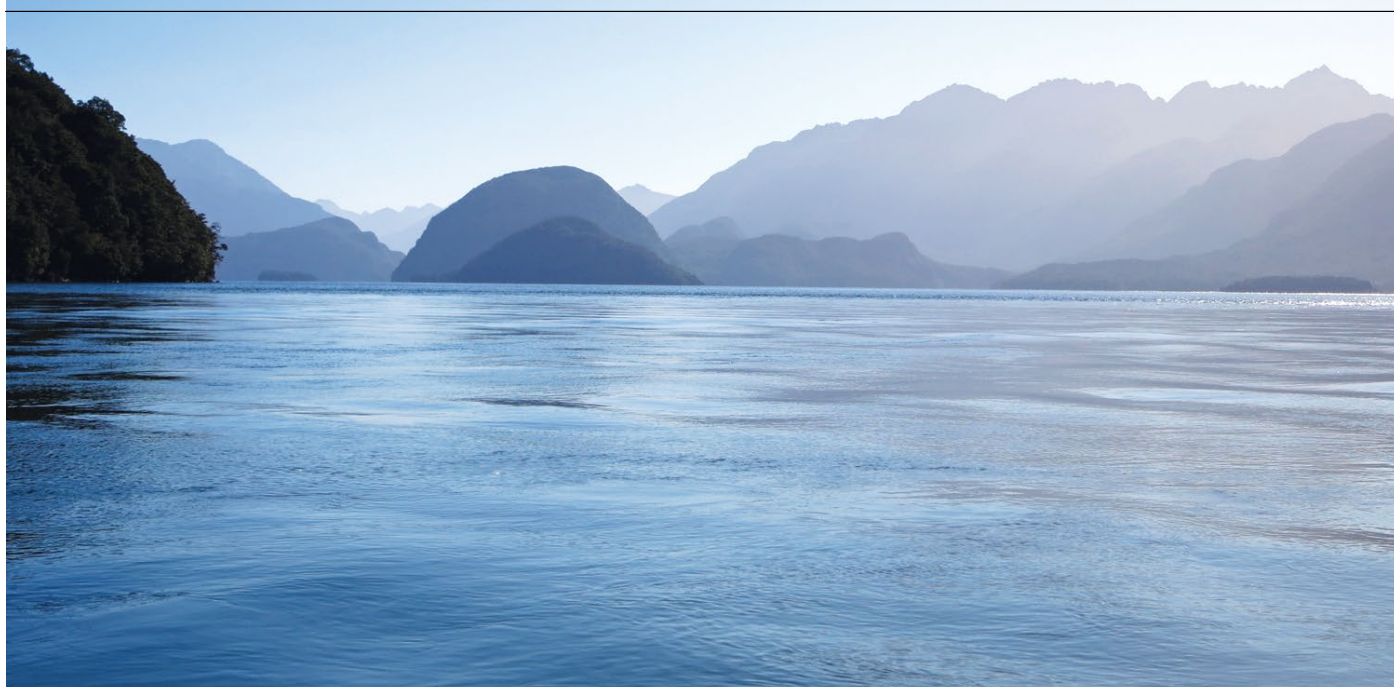


Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report®

JUNE 2016 | Our 38th Year andrewharper.com

TRAVELING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF TRULY ENCHANTING PLACES



TROUT STREAMS, WINERIES, MOUNTAIN SPLENDOR

New Zealand Fly-Fishing Odyssey

For American visitors, perhaps the most extraordinary thing about New Zealand is that on domestic turboprop flights, there is still no airport security. You just turn up at the airport 30 minutes ahead of time and walk straight onto the plane. The inconveniences that the rest of the world has grown accustomed to are here deemed superfluous. New Zealand often feels like a little world apart. Separated from Australia by nearly 1,000 miles of ocean, it has a population of just 4.5 million people in an area the size of Colorado. In much of the country, crime is virtually unknown; prosperity seems more or less universal; and even relations between the Māori people and those of European origin appear to be comparatively harmonious. In addition, the mountain scenery is glorious, the food

and wine are often exceptional, some golf courses compare with the best in the United States and the trout fishing is incomparable.

These attributes, combined with remoteness from the world's troubles, are doubtless what attract an ever-increasing number of affluent Americans. Indeed, the recent growth at the high end of the luxury market has inspired a new private jet terminal in Queenstown (population 13,000) on the South Island, and rates for the best suites at the leading hotels and resorts can now exceed \$5,000 a night. American affection for New Zealand is not just a recent phenomenon, however. North Carolina hedge-fund billionaire Julian Robertson has been responsible for the creation of three of the country's finest lodges — Kauri Cliffs, The Farm

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Lake Manapouri from the mouth of the Waiau River, Fiordland, South Island / PHOTO BY ANDREW HARPER

THIS MONTH

Taupo to Te Anau


A two-week journey from the heart of the North Island to the tip of the South Island yielded a crop of stellar lodges and hideaways.1-7

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at Cape Kidnappers and Matakauri — as well as two of its leading golf courses. California-based billionaire William P. Foley II, the owner of Wharekauhau Lodge, has invested in two Wairarapa vineyards and is building a new bottling plant. While Blanket Bay, on Lake Wakatipu near Queenstown, was the brainchild of Thomas W. Tusher, a former president and chief operating officer of Levi Strauss & Co.

I have made several previous driving tours of New Zealand, in the course of which I have visited many of the leading wineries and played some of the best golf courses. On this occasion, I decided to indulge in another of my passions: trout fishing. If the idea of a driving tour sounds intimidating — New Zealanders drive on the left and few roads have more than two lanes — rest assured that there is nothing to fear. Kiwis are extremely law-abiding when it comes to speed restrictions. The limit on most highways is 100 kph (62

mph), and few drivers exceed it. The roads themselves are well-maintained, and the signage is excellent. Above all, even the major routes are comparatively empty, so there is little oncoming traffic, and overtaking is, for the most part, unnecessary.

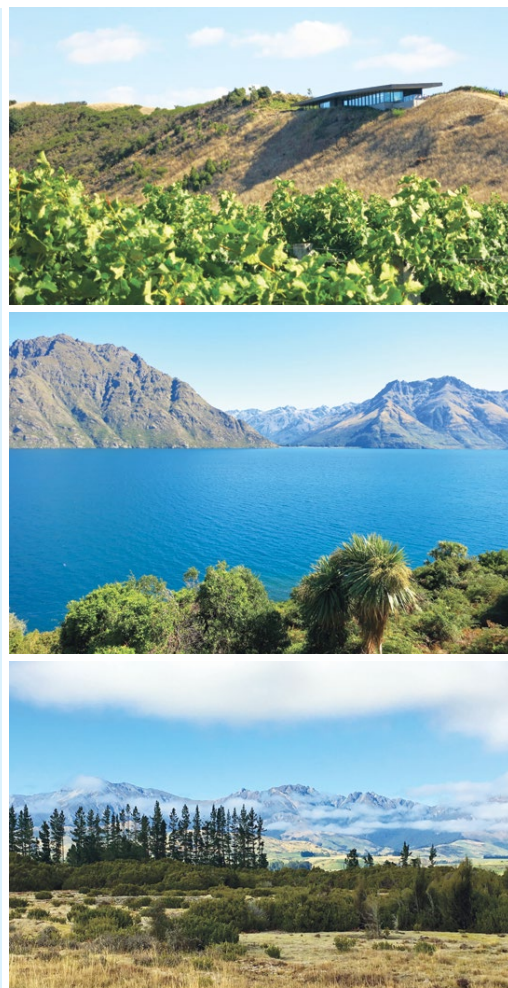
After the 13-hour trans-Pacific flight from San Francisco, we freshened up at the pleasant Novotel Auckland Airport hotel, before boarding a turboprop for the 45-minute flight southeast to the vacation town of Taupo.

About 30 miles from Taupo, **Poronui** is set on a 16,000-acre private estate, through which flow the Taharua and Mohaka rivers. Although it is considered one of New Zealand's premier fly-fishing lodges, Poronui is a wilderness retreat that is also suitable for non-anglers. Its impressive stables, which are part of a recreation complex that includes a gym and spa facilities, offer a range of equestrian activities, among them horse treks

into the surrounding forests and ranges. Guided hikes, mountain biking, sporting clays and archery provide alternative pursuits. For a brief period in the fall (March-April), hunters arrive to stalk red and sika deer. In addition, the property is just an hour's drive (15 minutes by helicopter) from the renowned Hawke's Bay wine region.

Poronui comprises a main lodge with seven lavish cabins; Blake House (for exclusive use), with two spacious bedrooms, plus two bunk rooms with four single bunks in each; and the Safari Camp, set beside the Mohaka River, with two tented suites, each containing two queen beds. We were greeted at the front entrance of the lodge by its manager, Eve Reilly, an exceptionally friendly woman of Irish origin. Our so-called cabin provided a large living room with floor-to-ceiling windows, a gas-log fire, leather armchairs, a writing desk and a wet bar. The bedroom contained a queen and a twin bed, while

Stacked photos, from top: Hilltop restaurant at Brancott Estate winery; Lake Wakatipu near Queenstown; mountains in Fiordland National Park / PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARPER





Clockwise from top left: Aerial view of Poronui; a typical brown trout from the Taharua River; cozy sitting area of our cabin at Poronui / TROUT AND INTERIOR PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARPER

the bright adjoining bath came with twin sinks surrounded by attractive jade green tiles and an effective walk-in shower. Best of all was the wooden deck, which was supported on the steep hillside by long stilts. The view of the rushing Taharua River, emerging from a gorge between forested hillsides, was so aesthetically satisfying that it seemed more like landscape art than scenery.

As it was now well past lunchtime, we wandered over to the main lodge building, where boards of cheese and charcuterie, plus a bottle of Pinot Noir, had been set out on the long communal dining table. Behind a wide bar counter, the chef and his assistants were hard at work in the open kitchen, chopping and peeling in preparation for dinner. At one end of the living area, a log fire smoldered in a stone fireplace. A leather sofa and armchairs, polished floors, bright area rugs and crowded bookshelves all helped to create an atmosphere that was both cozy and civilized.

After a couple hours' relaxation in our cabin, we reconvened to meet our fellow guests and to discuss the program for the following day with our engaging fishing guide, Sean Andrews. A selection of canapés was followed by a scallop carpaccio appetizer, and a main course of chateaubriand, both of which were utterly delicious and graciously served. A lively ebb and flow of conversation was sustained by Reilly, who had a natural gift for encouraging general participation. All the staff members were unmistakably

happy in their work, which also contributed to an exceptionally enjoyable evening.

Even though our stay at Poronui was at the height of the trout-fishing season (November through February), we were unlucky. A late summer storm brought a night of torrential rain, and at breakfast Sean was looking gloomy. He pronounced the Mohaka River unfishable, and even remote high-altitude streams accessible only by helicopter had, apparently, been

“*In many mountain streams, the water is usually so limpid that every fish is visible. This means you can sight fish, or cast to a specific trout that you can actually see feeding.*”

written off by the deluge. From the lodge balcony, the Taharua looked clear, but Sean insisted that it, too, was carrying unwelcome quantities of silt.

The trout fishing in New Zealand is considered the best in the world for a number of reasons. In many mountain streams, the water is usually so limpid that every fish is visible. This means that you can sight fish, or cast to a specific trout that you can actually see feeding. The brown and rainbow trout, which were introduced from North America in the late 19th century, here grow to immense sizes and on average are double the weight of their cousins in the blue ribbon streams of the Rockies. And for some reason, which no fishing guide has been able to

explain to me, large trout in New Zealand greatly prefer the headwaters of streams and chase the smaller fish downriver. As a result, there are relatively few trout in the upper reaches, but they are all big.

We set out more in hope than expectation and after a 10-minute drive reached a placid stretch of the Taharua. Although we could still see to the bottom, the water looked slightly murky. In New Zealand, you don't just start casting in likely spots. Here, you walk stealthily upstream until you spot a fish, which you then stalk, often using the bankside vegetation as cover. Fishing becomes more like hunting. For me, and fellow addicts, the experience is almost unbearably exciting.

That morning the river seemed strangely empty. Those fish that were out in the open had silt in their gills and were sulking and unresponsive — with one exception. After a couple of hours, we found a solitary trout rising regularly. Sean crept up the bank for a closer look and pronounced it “a good fish,” which in New Zealand means one about 24 inches long, or five or six pounds in weight. My fly landed as intended, and a huge swirl was followed by the brief appearance of a large caudal fin. Of course, in response to the morning's frustrations, I struck too hard and snapped the fly off the end of the leader. Sean said nothing. Sometimes I feel profoundly sorry for fishing guides, and this was one such occasion.

Having no wish to weary non-anglers, I have written more extensively about my fishing experiences online. In general,

CLASSIC HOTEL UPDATES

Eichardt's Expands

I HAVE LONG RECOMMENDED Eichardt's Private Hotel, housed within a striking 19th-century building on the Queenstown waterfront, overlooking picturesque Lake Wakatipu. At present, the property comprises five stylish and exceptionally comfortable suites with separate living rooms and gas fireplaces. In addition, there are four split-level, two-bedroom suites in the Lake Front Apartments, and a self-contained three-bedroom villa. I have always been particularly fond of the hotel bar, where the lunchtime tapas menu — which includes an exceptional seafood chowder — is a local institution. Given the recent demand for high-end accommodations in Queenstown, Eichardt's is now undergoing a significant expansion that will add two Hotel Lake View Suites and a 2,600-square-foot two-bedroom Penthouse, plus a new restaurant. All will be contained within a modern extension of the Victorian structure. Guests of the Penthouse will enjoy privileges that include private dining options, a Land Rover and driver permanently on call, and hosted after-hours shopping at the town's Louis Vuitton boutique — all of which seems fair enough given the anticipated \$7,000 nightly rate. The extension is expected to be complete by the end of 2016.

Fond Farewells

WITH REGRET, I learned that two New Zealand properties long favored by Andrew Harper subscribers are closing. **Mollies**, a lavish 12-suite hideaway set within a Victorian mansion with views of Auckland harbour, has been acquired by new owners and will revert to being a private residence. (Travelers are now bereft of boutique options in New Zealand's largest city, and The Langham, with 411 rooms, is perhaps the best of what is available.) Similarly, **Grasmere Lodge**, near Arthur's Pass in the Southern Alps, closed in April after its owner, financier and property developer John Copson, decided to convert the property into a private home. Grasmere had been delighting *Hideaway Report* readers since its debut in 1995. Alas, these closures are becoming part of a pattern. **The Lodge at Paratiho Farms**, near Nelson, another Harper favorite, closed in 2009 to become the residence of the former chief executive of the HSBC banking and financial services organization. However, I understand that the 14-bedroom property, set on a 2,000-acre estate, is for sale at the time of writing, at an asking price of \$13.6 million. Perhaps some public-spirited person would like to buy it and turn it back into a hotel.



Poronui is an exceptional retreat. The cuisine, staff and accommodations are all exemplary. Blake House, with its capacity of four adults and eight children, would be ideal for a family gathering. On my next visit, however, I plan to stay at the Safari Camp, where the trout in the Mohaka River will be just a few feet from the flap of my tent.

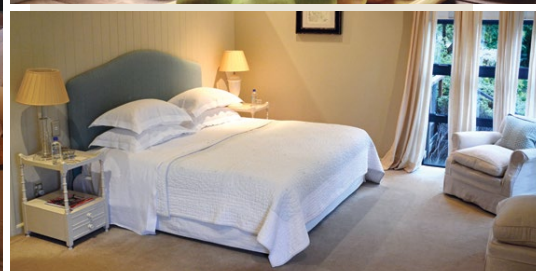
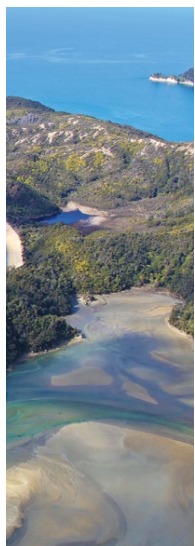
The best-known hideaway in the Taupo region is **Huka Lodge**, set on the Waikato River, three miles north of the town of Taupo. I have long recommended this property, and over the years it has become an established favorite of *Hideaway Report* readers. Although it is now a small luxury resort that offers a range of activities, as well as a spa and a notable restaurant, Huka began life in 1924 as an austere fishing lodge. In 1984, it was acquired by its present owner, shipping magnate Alex van Heeren, who recognized its untapped potential. Today, a proportion of Huka's guests are still fishermen, for whom the property organizes heli-fishing trips into nearby wilderness areas. Having stayed at Huka several times already, I opted this time to forgo the pleasure of a return visit and instead caught a plane from Taupo to Nelson, on the northern shore of the South Island.

We were greeted at the airport by Peter Martin, the immensely affable owner of **Edenhouse**, a small secluded hotel that lies around 45 minutes' drive to the west. A native Australian, Martin spent many years in London's financial

world before acceding to his wife Bobbie's desire to return to her homeland.

Set amid 50 acres of grounds, Edenhouse looks like a desirable country residence that has been standing for at least a couple of centuries. But in fact, the Martins designed it themselves, relying on skills that Bobbie Martin had acquired at London's Inchbald School of Design and The English Gardening School. The property comprises just two spacious suites in the main house and a separate two-bedroom garden cottage, so you feel as though you have been the fortunate beneficiary of a private invitation. We had been allocated to the cottage. There, we found a peaceful living room with a sofa, a writing desk and an outdoor deck. The large master bedroom came with a walk-in closet and an adjoining bath. A flight of stairs led up to the second bedroom. The décor evoked that of an English country house, with mostly neutral colors, floral cushions and framed prints.

Having unpacked, we joined the Martins and four other guests — a prominent lawyer from Washington, D.C., an English financier and their respective wives — for canapés and drinks, followed by dinner. The interior of the main house is also decorated in a traditional and patrician style. All of the staff at Edenhouse live in the local valley and are clearly considered by the Martins to be part of an extended family. As a result, the atmosphere is unusually relaxed and welcoming. The talented cook uses local ingredients whenever possible,



and the food was delicious throughout our stay, while Peter Martin was clearly a man offended by the sight of an empty wine glass.

For many guests, I suspect, the principal activity at Edenhouse is sitting amid the flowerbeds with a book. However, wine tasting is another undemanding local pursuit. The Nelson Tasman region contains 37 boutique wineries — chiefly renowned for aromatic whites and Pinot Noirs — among which Neudorf is widely considered to be one of the country's leading producers. Those who are feeling more energetic may go on guided hikes or kayak excursions in the Abel Tasman National Park. Alternatively, it is possible to take helicopter tours into the mountainous Kahurangi National Park, where the heroic landscape became familiar to a wide audience as "south of Rivendell" in the movie adaptation of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. A helicopter will also take fishermen into Kahurangi to fish the remote Karamea River, which is renowned for its trophy brown trout. On this occasion, however, I contented myself with fishing the Motueka, one of New Zealand's leading trout streams. A stretch of the river is within five-minutes' drive of Edenhouse.

It is always a delight to discover a hideaway that I can unequivocally endorse. Edenhouse is a true gem. And Peter and Bobbie Martin are superlative hosts, in part, I suspect, because they are naturally gregarious people who love entertaining an endless procession

of house guests. Hospitality just doesn't get any better than this.

From Edenhouse, we headed south and then east on a two-and-a-half hour drive to Blenheim, a town at the center of the Marlborough wine region. After a tasting at Cloudy Bay, a winery now owned by the French luxury goods conglomerate LVMH, we enjoyed lunch in the hilltop restaurant on Brancott Estate, a winery famous for having produced the first Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc in 1979.

Our plan was to drive down the east coast of the South Island, from Blenheim to Christchurch. Although this is a journey of only 193 miles, we decided to stop halfway at **Hapuku Lodge and Tree Houses**, nine miles north of Kaikoura. (An unappealing town, Kaikoura is of interest only as a place from which to watch sperm whales.) Hapuku Lodge has attracted a good deal of attention in New Zealand for its innovative architecture, but after a short while, we concluded that it is a property unlikely to appeal to Andrew Harper subscribers. Its much-touted location with "spectacular views of the Kaikoura mountain range" turned out to be too close to the main highway and too far from the sea. And while our suite was spacious and quite stylish, the bath was poorly designed, with only one sink and an unaccountable lack of a towel rail. That said, the staff were friendly and our dinner was pleasant, if scarcely memorable. We left the following morning well-rested but underwhelmed.

VILLA ALTERNATIVES

Escaping the World

TRAVEL IS ENTHRALLING, but it can often be tiring. For those who would like to spend part of a New Zealand trip sequestered in a private world, just reading, relaxing and gazing out to sea, **Annandale** provides the perfect venue. (Full disclosure: I have not stayed at Annandale personally, but I have received several enthusiastic reports.) Located approximately 80 minutes southeast of Christchurch, the property comprises four distinctive "villas," set on a 4,000-acre sheep and cattle farm that has an extensive stretch of Pacific coastline. The principal house is the "Annandale homestead," a grand five-bedroom Victorian structure dating from 1884. In complete contrast, "Scrubby Bay" is a four-bedroom contemporary beach house of cedarwood, glass and stone, situated on a private cove. The other two so-called villas are the one-bedroom "Shepherd's Cottage," set on a hilltop with views of the Pacific, and "Seascape," an ultra-modern one-bedroom hideaway with a glass façade, located on a private bay. At all four villas, gourmet food is either delivered or cooked on the premises by a private chef. And if you tire of inactivity, you may explore the working farm, or go hiking, biking and kayaking. annandale.com

"Scrubby Bay," a contemporary beach house



© STEPHEN GOODENOUGH



More Options for Avid Fishermen

THE LODGES AND HOTELS that I describe in this issue are all of potential interest to non-anglers; most simply happen to be places where exceptional trout fishing is one of the principal activities. Of course, those for whom fly-fishing is a passion may wish to stay for a longer period at a lodge primarily intended for anglers. During my recent trip, I asked guides and other knowledgeable people which New Zealand fishing lodges currently enjoy the highest reputations. Two names recurred: Owen River Lodge and Stonefly Lodge. Both are located in the northern part of the South Island, less than a 90-minute drive from Edenhouse. **Stonefly Lodge** is situated on the banks of the famous Motueka River amid 150 acres of private forest and has just four guestrooms. Helicopters take anglers on guided trips to fish for brown trout on wilderness streams in the nearby Kahurangi National Park. **Owen River Lodge** lies 48 miles to the south and comprises six detached cottage suites. The Owen River itself is an intimate stream with remarkable water clarity. Here, too, helicopters ferry guests to remote areas, where the trout may not see another fisherman for an entire season. Most lodges recommend a three-day, four-night minimum stay. *For more information and reservations, speak to an Andrew Harper travel advisor at (800) 375-4685.*

HOTELS AT A GLANCE

Poronui 97

LIKE Beautiful location; large, comfortable accommodations; delicious food; delightful staff; superlative fishing. **DISLIKE** Nothing. **GOOD TO KNOW** When the hunters arrive in March, they run on a parallel track to the fishermen, though the two groups do meet up for dinner. *Lodge Room, \$1,215 for two (all meals and beverages included). Taharua Road, Taupo 3379. Tel. (64) 7-384-2080. poronui.com*

Huka Lodge 97

LIKE The riverfront setting; the lavish duplex accommodations; the superb cuisine. **DISLIKE** The considerable expense. **GOOD TO KNOW** The Jack Nicklaus-designed Kinloch Golf Club is just a 20-minute drive away. *Junior Lodge Suite, \$2,320 for two; Lodge Suite, \$8,220 for two (breakfast and five-course dinner included). 271 Huka Falls Road, Taupo 3377. Tel. (64) 7-378-5791. hukalodge.co.nz*

Edenhouse 97


LIKE The sense of seclusion; excellent food; charming local staff; utterly delightful owners. **DISLIKE** Having to leave. **GOOD TO KNOW** If you want to fish, be sure to ask Peter Martin to arrange for a guide (and helicopter) well before you arrive in New Zealand. *Lodge Room, \$1,080; Garden Cottage, \$1,220 (breakfast and three-course dinner included). 213 Thorpe-Orinoco Road, R.D.1, Motueka, Nelson. Tel. (64) 3-526-8174. edenhouse.co.nz*

Blanket Bay 96

LIKE The sensational location; delicious cuisine; the range of activities; the virtually limitless opportunities for fishing. **DISLIKE** The spa and gym are both quite small. **GOOD TO KNOW** The most spectacular (though scarcely the cheapest) way to arrive is by helicopter from Queenstown. *Lodge Room, \$1,280; Chalet Suite, \$1,900 (breakfast and dinner included). Rapid 4191, Glenorchy, Otago. Tel. (64) 3-441-0115. blanketbay.com*

Fiordland Lodge 90

LIKE The dramatic architecture; excellent food; obliging staff. **DISLIKE** Even the second-floor Deluxe Lodge Rooms are rather small. **GOOD TO KNOW** The astonishing scenery of Milford Sound is a 90-minute drive away. *Deluxe Lodge Room, \$860; Executive Suite, \$1,000 (breakfast and dinner included). 472 Te Anau-Milford Highway, Te Anau. Tel. (64) 3-249-7832. fiordlandlodge.co.nz*

 preceding a rating, denotes an officially recommended hotel that will be added to The Andrew Harper Collection. Visit andrewharper.com for more information on these and **nine additional recommendations** in New Zealand. Note: **Hapuku Lodge and Tree Houses (88)** and **Nokomai Station (87)** were not up to the required standard.

As there is only so much that can be packed into a two-week trip, we did not stay near Christchurch. Instead, we took a 60-minute flight to Queenstown, a resort town in the Otago region. Situated on the shore of 50-mile-long Lake Wakatipu beneath 7,000-foot mountains, Queenstown has recently become extremely popular with wealthy Americans and Asians. And it's not hard to see why, given the spectacular setting and benign climate during winter in the northern hemisphere. As a result, real estate prices as well as room rates have soared. My preferred property, **Eichardt's Private Hotel**, is currently being expanded and upgraded (see sidebar, Page 4). I also recommend **Azur Lodge** and **Matakauri Lodge** on the outskirts of town.

At the northern tip of Lake Wakatipu, 28 miles from Queenstown, **Blanket Bay** is a dramatic stone and timber lodge, with massive rock fireplaces and towering picture windows, which has long been a favorite of *Hideaway Report* readers. The resort was built originally as a result of its American owner's passion for fly-fishing. Today, many of the guests are still fishermen, who pursue the brown and rainbow trout in the gin-clear Greenstone and Caples rivers, which are just minutes away by helicopter. Indeed, there are dozens of wilderness streams within a 15-minutes' flight where the trout average around 22 inches, or four pounds in weight, with many being double that size. Non-anglers play golf on the magnificent Jack's Point course near Queenstown, go

Waiau River and a typical 22-inch rainbow trout



on guided hikes, or ride quarter horses on the resort's high country station.

After a brief sojourn in Queenstown, we drove south for an hour to **Nokomai Station**, a vast 96,000-acre ranch, where the Hore family has raised merino sheep for over 60 years. Today, Ann Hore runs a small lodge, centered on the restored 1870s stone homestead. The property's guests are primarily fishermen, as 12 miles of one of New Zealand's most famous trout rivers, the Mataura, flow through the station. At least 25 other rivers are minutes away by helicopter.

Aside from the homestead, which contains the reception and dining room, Nokomai comprises four cottages — both one- and two-bedroom — all of which contain spacious living areas and kitchens. These are comfortable but utilitarian. Although adequate for fishermen, they are in no sense luxurious and will not appeal to most Harper subscribers. Meals are served at a communal table in the homestead, and the food is well-cooked and sustaining — steaks, grilled salmon — but not especially sophisticated.

I enjoyed my days at Nokomai, partly due to my success with the brown trout on the Mataura in the company of a superb fishing guide, Daryl Paskell, and also because of the lodge's exceptionally friendly and hospitable owner.

The final leg of our journey took us deeper into the wild region of Southland. After a two-hour drive we came to Te

Anau, a town on the eastern shore of Lake Te Anau, at the edge of the 4,830-square-mile Fiordland National Park. Most travelers use Te Anau as a base from which to visit Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound, areas of astonishing scenery, or to embark on either the Kepler Track or the Milford Track, both of which are four-day hiking trails. On this trip, however, I had come to fish the Waiau River — the Anduin River in the movie "The Fellowship of the Ring" — which flows south out of Lake Te Anau, down to the Foveaux Strait at the tip of the South Island.

Fiordland Lodge is located four miles north of the town on a steep hillside, with a backdrop of the lake. The 10-room property is constructed in a North American style with hand-peeled logs of Douglas fir. Massive whole trees support the 36-foot ceiling of the main living area, where a huge fireplace of river stones faces a dramatic wall of glass. We were shown to our Deluxe Lodge Room by the hospitable manager, Andy Cunningham. This proved to be well-appointed and smartly styled but rather small. The bath, which lacked natural light, provided an effective walk-in shower, but only a single sink and no tub. I strongly recommend that you reserve the single Executive Suite if it is available; alternatively, two log cabins intended for families are situated 220 yards behind the main hotel building.

Aside from its dramatic public areas and congenial atmosphere, Fiordland Lodge is distinguished by its restaurant, where chef Steve Carson creates farm-

to-table menus featuring local lamb, beef and fish, supported by organic ingredients from artisanal suppliers, as well as produce from the hotel's own vegetable garden. Guests dine outside in fine weather, or in the glass-walled dining room; the service provided by the young staff was consistently gracious and professional.

The Fiordland region has an astonishing wealth of trout fishing and the lodge can arrange for guides on more than 40 streams. Other activities include helicopter tours, guided hikes and jet boat excursions into the national park.

I had opted to try fishing from a jet boat on the Waiau River, and after breakfast I was collected by guide Ken Mitchell, a quiet-spoken man, who seemed the living definition of a Kiwi outdoorsman. I suspected that I might dislike the noise of the jet boat's engine, but after a short while, I found that I didn't notice it at all. The Waiau is a magnificent river — clear, fast and powerful — with steep, densely forested banks. The advantage of the jet boat is that it enables you to remain stationary even in the strongest current, and to fish the slack water and small tree-shaded inlets at the edge of the flow where the trout are mostly found. Over the course of eight hours, with a break in the middle for a lunch of lobster sandwiches, I was fortunate enough to catch 15 rainbow trout between three and five pounds in weight (20-24 inches in length), all on a floating dry fly. It was precisely the kind of experience for which keen trout fishermen fly halfway around the world. **HR**

Interior and exterior of Fiordland Lodge on Lake Te Anau / RIVER, TROUT AND INTERIOR PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARPER / AERIAL PHOTO © GRAHAM DAINTY

