

100 MORE RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS

NORTHLAND
TAPIANO 2 Matakana Valley Rd, Matakana, ph: 09-423 0383 Cheerful bistro serving tasty fare in the posh Matakana village centre.

THE BEACH HOUSE 891 Cove Rd, Waipu Cove, ph: 09-432 0877 Attached to a motel and close to the beach, great breakfasts and lunch, fine dining evenings.

TOPSAIL 206 Beach Rd, Onerahi, Whangarei, ph: 09-436 2985 Fresh interesting cuisine in this tiny restaurant atop the local yacht club.

AUCKLAND
AGENTS & MERCHANTS 46-50 Customs St East, City, ph: 09-309 5854 Ideal for a drink and simple delicious food.

ANDIAMO 194 Jervois Rd, Herne Bay, ph: 09-378 7811 Terrific wine list and friendly spot popular with locals.

ANTOINETTE'S 333 Park Rd, Parnell, ph: 09-379 8756 Powerhouse of fine dining with time-tested classics and excellent wine selection.

BELLOTTA 91 Federal St, City, ph: 0800-759 2489 Spanish food and wine in a cosy, casual tapas bar.

BOWMANS 597 Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden, ph: 09-438 9676 A neighbourhood place with reliable food, wine and service.

BOWZ 5 Pah Rd, Epsom, ph: 09-450 5413 Newcomer to the area with excellent teppanyaki and sake.

BRACU 49 Main Rd, Bombay, ph: 09-236 1030 Relaxed dining overlooking acres of olive trees.

CABLE BAY WINERY RESTAURANT 12 Nick Johnstone Drive, Waikato Island, ph: 09-372 5889 Stylish food served in a large open room overlooking the sea and back to Auckland.

EIGHT POINT TWO 82 Hinemoa St, Birkenhead, ph: 09-419 9082 Modern stylish food in very comfortable neighbourhood surroundings.

EURO Shed 22, Princes Wharf, City, ph: 09-309 9866 Suits and regulars dine on Simon Gault's hearty modern menu on the wharf.

HAMMERHEADS 19 Tamaki Drive, Okahu Bay, ph: 09-521 4400 Longtime seafood specialist on the waterfront.

HARBOURSIDE 99 Quay St, City, ph: 09-307 0486 Over 20 years of consistently excellent seafood and robust expert cooking.

JERVIS STEAK HOUSE 70 Jervois Rd, Herne Bay, ph: 09-376 2049 Premium array of steaks. Part of Simon Gault's gourmet empire.

KERMADEC Viaduct Harbour, City, ph: 09-304 0454 Peter Thornley has taken the seafood here up several notches.

LA ZEPPA 33 Drake St, Victoria Park, ph: 09-379 8167 Casual noisy eatery with tasty tapas and big wine selection. A fun night out.

M 137A Richmond Rd, Grey Lynn, ph: 09-378 4500 Indian tapas and mains served in a modern casual eatery.

MIKANO 1 Solent St, Mechanics Bay, ph: 09-309 9514 Watch the helicopters fly about and enjoy hearty modern food.

MONDIAL 549 Great North Rd, Grey Lynn, ph: 09-376 6682 Authentic flavourful restaurant, good food and real appeal across all ages.

SOTO JAPANESE GARDEN RESTAURANT 13 St Marys Rd, St Marys Bay, ph: 09-360 0021 Stylish setting. Kimono-clad staff and innovative Japanese fare.

TABOU 462 New North Rd, Kingsland, ph: 09-846 3474 A cosy bistro serving fresh French-influenced food and a good wine selection.

TE WHAU 28 Te Whau Drive, Waikato Island, ph: 09-372 7191 Fresh, modern fare that matches seriously good wine. Stunning views.

THE ENGINE ROOM 115 Queen St, Northcote Point, ph: 09-480 9502 Natalia Schamroth and partner Carl Koppenhagen's amazing bistro-style food has a loyal following. (As a Cuisine senior food writer, Natalia is ineligible for the awards.)

THE NARROW TABLE 435 Beach Rd, Mairangi Bay, ph: 09-479 5374 Delicious fare in a modest bistro.

TOTO 53 Nelson St, City, ph: 09-302 2665 Genuine Italian food in a real Italian atmosphere.

TRIBECA 8 George St, Parnell, ph: 09-379 6359 A light airy space with modern hearty food and good wines. Courtyard for lunch and on warm evenings.

TWO FIFTEEN BISTRO 215 Dominion Rd, Mt Eden, ph: 09-530 6474 Jeremy Schmid's long-awaited own venture. Great-value food and wine.

VIVACE 50 High St, City, ph: 09-302 2303 One of the stalwarts of the city for wine and simple fare in lively surroundings.

WINE CHAMBERS 33 Shortland St, City, ph: 09-309 8191 Emphasis on good food to match excellent wine list.

WINEHOT 605 New North Rd, Morningside, ph: 09-815 9463 Dark and funky with a small but good wine list and great-value French fare.

601 601 New North Rd, Morningside, ph: 09-849 7268 Light delicious Japanese fare in shop front premises. Try the sake.

WAIKATO
HUHU CAFÉ 2 Waitomo Caves Rd, Waitomo, ph: 07-878 6674 A rare gem showcasing fresh casual food to tourists.

TAURANGA
MOUNT BISTRO 6 Adams Ave, Mt Maunganui, ph: 07-575 3872 Stephen Barry's innovative food served at this street-side bistro near the Mount.

SOMERSET COTTAGE 30 Bathleem Rd, Tauranga, ph: 07-576 6689 A well-loved rural restaurant where the passion shows in the food and wine.

TAUPO
THE BRANTRY 45 Rifle Range Rd, Taupo, ph: 07-378 0484 A comfortable restaurant with a home-style feel and contemporary café, yum, at Scenic Cellars.

HAWKE'S BAY

BLACK BARN BISTRO Black Barn Rd, Havelock North, ph: 06-877 7985 Fine Hawke's Bay produce at lunch overlooking the vines.

MILK & HONEY 10 Hardinge Rd, Ahuriri, ph: 06-833 6099 Busy bistro on waterfront with top-notch Italian-influenced fare.

MISSION ESTATE WINERY RESTAURANT 198 Church Rd, Taradale, ph: 06-845 9350 Historic house with sweeping views and excellent fare for lunch.

OPERA KITCHEN 312 Eastbourne St, Hastings, ph: 06-870 6020 Jennifer Le Comte's terrific cooking in a funky busy café.

TE AWA WINERY RESTAURANT 2375 SH50, Hastings, ph: 06-879 7602 The rustic building is a great setting for top food to match the wines.

THE OLD CHURCH 199 Meanee Rd, Napier, ph: 06-844 8866 Giltzy setting and fine food and wine set in an impressive historic church.

WAIARAPA
SALUTE 83 Main St, Greytown, ph: 06-304 9825 Travis Clive-Griffin's well-loved restaurant serves tapas with Middle Eastern flavours.

WHITE SWAN HOTEL 109 Main St, Greytown, ph: 06-304 8894 Choice of a casual bar or restaurant in this smart restored hotel.

WELLINGTON
ARBTRAGEUR 125 Featherston St, ph: 04-499 5530 Terrific wine bistro with excellent list and wine-friendly food.

BISQUE ON BOLTON Bolton Hotel, cnr Bolton & Mowbray Sts, City, ph: 04-462 3770 Seasonal serious food served up in this hotel dining room.

BISTRO BRETON 87 Upland Rd, Kelburn, ph: 04-475 8380 A neighbourhood bistro with authentic crêpes and fish stew as in Brittany.

BOULCOTT STREET BISTRO 99 Boulcott St, City, ph: 04-499 4199 A Wellington institution with Jacob Brown's delicious bistro fare.

CAPITOL Cnr Majoribanks St & Kent Terrace, City, ph: 04-384 2855 Modern Italian-inspired food in this casual dining spot.

CHARLIE BILL 241 Tinakori Rd, Thorndon, ph: 04-499 8464 Hemi Tahu's fine food in a casual neighbourhood restaurant.

CITRON 270 Willis St, City, ph: 04-381 2212 Comfortable café serving simple seasonal fresh food all day.

HIPPOPOTAMUS Museum Hotel 90 Cable St, ph: 04-802 8900 Finely tuned innovative food in this hotel dining room with great art.

KOI 146 Featherston St, City, ph: 04-473 6001 Modern Japanese fare in stylish surroundings.

MARIA PIA'S TRATTORIA 55 Mulgrave St, Thorndon, ph: 04-499 5590 Traditional Italian food in a warm setting. Slow Food member.

MATTERHORN 106 Cuba St, City, ph: 04-384 3359 The 2008 Supreme Winner continues to pack the locals into bar, restaurant and outdoor courtyard.

OSTERIA DEL TORO 60 Tory St, Te Aro, ph: 04-381 2299 A magical interior for this real-value brasserie with tastes of the Med.

SHED 5 Queens Wharf, City, ph: 04-499 9069 Premier destination among the wharf sheds offering bold cooking and flavours.

THE WHITE HOUSE 232 Oriental Parade, Oriental Bay, ph: 04-385 8555 Elaborate cooking and wine plus great views from window seats.

ZIBIBO 25-29 Taranaki Bars downstairs and Adam Newell's eclectic cuisine upstairs in a modern setting.

GIBB'S VINEYARD RESTAURANT 258 Jacksons Rd, Blenheim, ph: 03-572 8048 Reliable European-style fare in an established rural eatery.

HERZOG LUXURY RESTAURANT 81 Jeffries Rd, Rapara, ph: 03-572 8770 One of New Zealand's finest destination restaurants for a real dining experience.

THE STORE AT KEKEREKU SH, Kaikoura Coast, ph: 03-575 8600 Excellent hearty café fare with dramatic coastal views.

WAIARU RIVER WINERY 11 Rapaura Rd, Blenheim, ph: 03-572 9800 Reliable and friendly with tasty modern food to match the wines.

NELSON
THE ORANGERIE 6 Point St, Stoke, ph: 03-547 0792 French-inspired restaurant in the Grand Mercure Nelson Monaco Apartments.

CANTERBURY
ANNIE'S WINE BAR & RESTAURANT Arts Centre of Christchurch, ph: 03-365 0566 Terrific wines and friendly atmosphere in a historic setting with lovely food.

DUNSEANDEL STORE Main South Rd, Dunsandel, South Canterbury, ph: 03-325 4037 Charming country café with delicious homey local food.

HAY'S RESTAURANT 63 Victoria St, Christchurch, ph: 03-379 7501 Lamb from the family farm is the speciality. Diverse and interesting wines.

MA MAISON 2 Rue Jolie, Akaroa, ph: 03-304 7668 A touch of France in this very French town over the hill from Christchurch.

PESCATORE The George Hotel, 50 Park Terrace, Christchurch, ph: 03-371 0257 An enduring reputation for fine dining and good wines in this revamped premier boutique hotel.

ROUTE 72 CAFÉ BAR EMPORIUM 1697 Main Rd, Cust, ph: 03-312 5595 A café in one of the country's most picturesque villages.

ST GERMAIN 121 Worcester St, Christchurch, ph: 03-366 9046 Authentic French cuisine in a gorgeous glass-roofed building.

THE BODHI TREE 808 Colombo St, Christchurch, ph: 03-377 6808 Burnese cuisine in a very casual, friendly atmosphere and a tea salad not to miss.

ZONE 7 Normans Rd, Strowan, Christchurch, ph: 03-355 5299 Unpretentious but delicious food in this friendly suburban newcomer.

OTAGO
BACCHUS WINE BAR & RESTAURANT 12 The Octagon, Dunedin, ph: 03-474 0824 Popular traditional restaurant serving stylish food and excellent wine.

BELLA CUCINA 6 Brecon St, Queenstown, ph: 03-442 6762 A casual destination from the owners of Wai, with lovely Italian-inspired fare.

BELL PEPPER BLUES 474 Princes St, Dunedin, ph: 03-474 0973 Chef-owner Michael Coughlin is the father of good dining in Dunedin.

FLEUR'S PLACE 169 Haven St, Moeraki, ph: 03-439 4480 Destination lunches and dinners at this fresh fish temple.

HIGH TIDE 29 Kitchener St, Dunedin, ph: 03-477 9784 Charming restaurant on the harbour with excellent food and wine.

MISSY'S KITCHEN 80 Ardmore St, Wanaka, ph: 03-445 5099 Very popular local restaurant overlooking the lake.

MT DIFFICULTY WINES 73 Fellon Rd, Bannockburn, ph: 03-445 3445 The curved building gives most diners a great view. Good casual food.

NO 7 BALMAC 7 Balmaceven Rd, Dunedin, ph: 03-464 0064 A new two-storey restaurant with lovely, carefully sourced food.

RIVERSTONE KITCHEN 1431 SH, Oamaru, ph: 03-431 3505 An excellent stop on the main road south for fresh exciting food.

SOLERA VINO 25 Beach St, Queenstown, ph: 03-442 6082 A small bistro with well-crafted food.

THE WINEHOUSE & KITCHEN SH6 Gibbston, ph: 03-442 7310 Lovely gardens, lovely food in this popular restaurant.

TWO CHEFS BISTRO 121 Stuart St, Dunedin, ph: 03-477 7293 Styled like a French bistro and serving excellent Mediterranean dishes with good wines.