

# Kia Ora

## Giddy, Brisbane

Hot in the city



**Beam Me Up**  
Kiwi timber tech

**West Side Story**  
Take off to Taranaki

**Street Wise**  
A taste of Tokyo

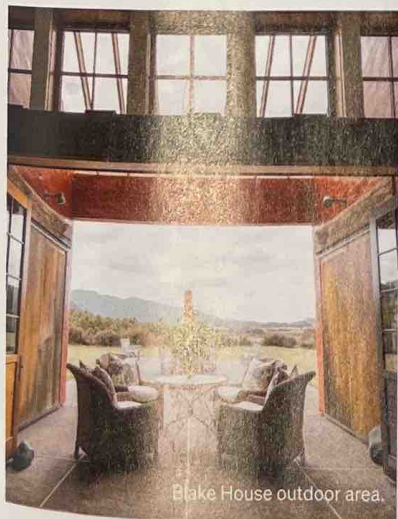


Secluded Poronui Lodge, Taharua Valley.

Taupō

## Poronui Lodge

BY VIRGINIA LARSON



Blake House outdoor area.

### ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Deer grazing on the lawn outside your window. Kakā chattering. Mist rises from the river valley. Fresh gold light spins through the pale-skinned eucalyptus trees and across flowering mānuka. Your Poronui playground spans 6475ha of central plateau native beech forest, regenerating mānuka, wetlands, stands of exotic trees and a working cattle farm. The property is filigreed by the fast-flowing Taharua and Mohaka Rivers – home to brown and rainbow trout and some of the country's finest fly fishing. With a host of sporting pursuits and guides steeped in local knowledge – plus every indoor lodge luxury should the weather turn – you have no reason to leave. If you must, Taupō is a 40-minute drive away.

### CLAIM TO FAME

In the magic kingdom of New Zealand lodges, Poronui is Adventureland. This vast

estate offers world-class (catch and release) fly fishing, pheasant and clay pigeon shooting, archery and trophy deer stalking. Red, sika, fallow and rusa deer abound in this private game park. Learner and experienced riders have the run of forest and open-country trails on sleek, station-bred horses; or explore tracts of the 2000ha of native bush and beyond by foot or mountain bike. From helicopter flights that drop anglers deep in the mountains for legend-level trout fishing, to a gentle, chef-led food-foraging meander – everything can be arranged.

### WORK THE ROOM

Poronui offers three accommodation options. The heart of the estate is The Lodge, comprising seven supremely comfortable guest cabins – three with fireplaces, all with private decks – also the shared dining and apres-activity space, perfect for swapping ones-that-didn't-get-away stories with fellow



adventurers. The adjacent Stables complex includes the snooker room, gym, sauna and massage treatment rooms. On a promontory overlooking the Taharua River, Blake House is Poronui's private villa, which sleeps up to 16 in grand hunting lodge style: think deep leather sofas, polished wood, flagstones, plaid carpet, vaulted timber ceiling and crackling fires; there's a spacious kitchen, even a library alcove leaning fish and game non-fiction. At the Poronui Safari Camp, you can glamp on the banks of the trout-friendly Mohaka River; under canvas but with crisp sheets, hot showers, flush loos, a separate dining tent and fine food delivered. Unplugged luxury in glorious isolation.

**BILL OF FARE**

The essence of Poronui food is rootedness and identity. The Lodge offers a set menu, always with a nod to the local bounty and hearty appetites after a day in the great outdoors – the likes of wild goat curry or venison tartare, duck or rack of lamb. Dietaries and preferences are easily accommodated, and abundant greens and salads are provided. Breakfast runs full English to toast and house mānuka honey; the packed lunches are delicious.

**DON'T MISS**

Special events such as the Poronui Table, a weekend of foodie delights, led for the past 10 years by guest chef Martin Bosley. The most recent special dinner, staged dramatically in the wine cellar, included pāua fritters, confit pheasant legs and sesame-crusted tuna canapes, followed by a "guided" four courses with matching Radburn Cellars



- 1. Explore the hill-country trails or take a guided walk.
- 2. Blake House living room.
- 3. Dinner prep.
- 4. Hearty dinner.
- 5. Fly fishing for trout on the Mohaka River.

wines. The next day's outdoor activities were followed by a Champagne tasting, a knife-sharpening demonstration, a French-press coffee tour and a game-tasting evening. The estate also hosts the annual Poronui Passage, ticketed marathon, half-marathon and shorter runs plus biking events, with breakfast, band and bar provided. [poronui.com](http://poronui.com)

