

Website Brief

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Geo: New Zealand

Language: English

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Disclaimer

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Homepage

Curated Hotel Stays Across New Zealand

Screwcap is a handpicked collection of places to stay around the country — from vineyard lodges to lakeside retreats, boutique inns, and adventure basecamps. Every property is selected for its setting, character, and connection to the land.

From Marlborough's open skies to the stillness of Lake Tarawera, Screwcap brings together accommodation that balances comfort with experience. We focus on places that feel right — not just for a night's sleep, but for what the stay adds to the trip itself. Some come with views over vines, others with trails at the doorstep. All offer something that stays with you.

[\[Explore Hotels\]](#)

Explore Our Categories

Vineyard Stays

Boutique lodges set among vines and open countryside. These properties offer quiet outlooks, great views, and close access to regional producers.

[\[Explore Vineyard Stays →\]](#)

Relax & Recharge

Retreats designed for calm. Think spa suites, natural hot springs, and hotels that let the pace drop — whether by the coast or in the hills.

[\[Explore Relax & Recharge →\]](#)

Adventure Basecamps

Stay close to tracks, rivers, and remote terrain. These lodges give you a comfortable base for hiking, cycling, kayaking, and alpine days out.

[\[Explore Adventure Basecamps →\]](#)

Cellar Door Collection

Stays with easy access to tasting rooms and local food. Ideal for long weekends where discovery happens on foot and everything's within reach.

[\[Explore Cellar Door Collection →\]](#)

High Roller Stays

Casino hotels and entertainment resorts where the nights are just as full as the days. Big rooms, sharp service, and built-in ways to unwind — or play.

[\[Explore High Roller Stays →\]](#)

Timeless Classics

Heritage inns, historic estates, and boutique hotels with story and style. These properties

bring together craft, care, and a strong sense of place.

[Explore Timeless Classics →]

Ok so can we build this in the roationtional banner way so allow users have <> buttons to move across the hotel categories

Why We Built Screwcap

Screwcap is about getting rid of the clutter. No endless scrolls. No generic lists. Just places that are worth your time. We name the site after the shift that happened in New Zealand winemaking — a move toward something practical, reliable, and refreshingly better.

We've applied the same idea to how we approach travel.

What Makes a Screwcap Stay?

- **Each One Is Handpicked**
We look for properties with quality, location, and character — and skip the rest.
 - **Location Is the Priority**
Our listings reflect the best of each region, from alpine views to coastline quiet.
 - **Details That Matter**
You'll find notes on regional food, nearby cellar doors, or standout design touches — the kind of extras that round out a stay.
-

Editor's Picks This Month

- A cedar-clad villa with views over the Bannockburn valley
 - A geothermal spa lodge tucked into native bush
 - A historic hotel in the heart of wine country
- [Explore All Picks →]
-

Explore by Region

Marlborough – Big skies, riverside trails, and quiet vineyard towns

Central Otago – Mountain roads, historic gold towns, and deep southern stillness

Hawke's Bay – Art Deco, orchards, rolling hills, and coastline

[\[View All Regions →\]](#)

Stay in the Loop

Get the latest stay picks, regional spotlights, and seasonal shortlists delivered straight to your inbox.

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The Screwcap Journal

Read travel stories, curated guides, and regional insights — covering everything from weekend routes to under-the-radar stays.

- [How to Plan a Long Weekend in Central Otago](#)
- [Cellar Doors Worth Staying Near \(Even If You Don't Drink\)](#)
- [Boutique Hotels That Still Feel Local](#)

[\[View All Articles →\]](#)

Make these clickable and expandable articles I will provide you with the content at the bottom of the brief

Vineyard Stays

Vineyard Stays in New Zealand

Discover accommodation in the heart of New Zealand's wine regions. From Marlborough to Central Otago, these vineyard stays offer access to cellar doors, peaceful landscapes, and the kind of comfort that pairs well with a glass in hand.

Featured Vineyard Accommodation

Each of these handpicked stays sits among or beside the vines. Expect privacy, great views, and the added bonus of being close to the country's best wine and food. These properties aren't just near vineyards — they're part of the experience.

[The Marlborough Lodge](#) – Marlborough

Price per night: \$730 NZD

- Luxury lodge on a private vineyard estate
- On-site wine tastings and food pairings
- Restaurant focused on regional produce

This restored historic property offers refined comfort at the heart of Marlborough's wine trail. With only ten suites, expansive gardens, and full-service hospitality, it's built for those who want to experience wine country with space and care. Vineyard access and local wines feature prominently in every stay.

[Craggy Range Vineyard Cottages](#) – Hawke's Bay

Price per night: \$480 NZD

- Private cottages on one of NZ's top vineyards
- Uninterrupted views of Te Mata Peak
- Access to Craggy Range restaurant and cellar door

Set among the vines in the Tuki Tuki Valley, these architecturally designed cottages offer seclusion with immediate access to one of Hawke's Bay's most celebrated estates. Perfect for wine lovers looking for a quiet base and a short walk to their next glass.

Kinross Cottages – Gibbston Valley, Central Otago

Price per night: \$350 NZD

- Surrounded by vineyards and mountain views
- Tastings from five boutique wine labels
- Rustic-modern cottages with kitchenettes

Kinross is a favourite stop along the Gibbston wine trail. Each cottage is self-contained, peaceful, and just steps from cellar doors and walking tracks. You'll find good coffee in the morning, Pinot Noir in the evening, and plenty of local flavour in between.

Black Barn Retreats – Havelock North

Price per night: \$495 NZD

- Collection of self-contained vineyard homes
- Near local farmers' market and Black Barn cellar door
- Ideal for couples, families, or groups

Black Barn Retreats offers more than a place to sleep — these properties are tailored for travellers who want design, privacy, and access to Hawke's Bay's wine and food scene. Each stay is different, but all are surrounded by nature, vines, and great produce.

The Vintner's Retreat – Marlborough

Price per night: \$310 NZD

- Villas with full kitchens and vineyard outlooks
- Located on Rapaura Road, the region's wine route
- Pool, gardens, and outdoor areas for long stays

Set along the golden mile of Marlborough wine country, this relaxed accommodation offers flexibility and space for independent travellers. Walk to nearby cellar doors or stay in with a local bottle and vineyard sunset from the patio.

Burn Cottage Retreat – Cromwell, Central Otago

Price per night: \$295 NZD

- Eco cottages surrounded by trees and native plants
- Short drive to Bannockburn vineyards
- Adults-only, private, and peaceful

Burn Cottage offers a different take on vineyard accommodation — quiet, rural, and removed from the crowds. It's a great choice for travellers wanting to explore Central Otago's boutique wineries during the day and return to somewhere calm by night.

Te Koi – The Lodge at Bronte – Nelson

Price per night: \$450 NZD

- Coastal vineyard setting with estuary views
- Private villas and suites in landscaped gardens
- Seasonal dining with local wines

Nestled between sea and vines near Nelson, Te Koi combines vineyard tranquillity with subtle luxury. It's a base for both wine region exploration and outdoor day trips, with a strong focus on quality and relaxation.

Hans Herzog Vineyard Cottage – Marlborough

Price per night: \$420 NZD

- One-bedroom cottage beside the vines
- Direct access to organic winery and fine dining
- Private garden, fireplace, and full kitchen

Hans Herzog's cottage sits on-site at a working vineyard that's deeply respected in Marlborough. It's quiet, refined, and best enjoyed slowly — ideally after a long lunch and a cellar tasting just steps away.

From the Screwcap Journal

The Essential Guide to New Zealand's Wine Regions

Explore the country's six major wine regions and what sets each apart — from terroir to tasting culture.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Waiheke Island Wineries Worth Booking a Night For

From vineyard lunches to cliffside stays, here's how to make the most of a wine weekend on Waiheke.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

How the Screwcap Changed New Zealand Wine (and Travel)

A look at the closure that redefined an industry — and inspired the name behind this site.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Sign Up for Vineyard Stay Updates

Be first to hear about new listings, seasonal stay deals, and wine-region travel tips.

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Relax & Recharge

Take a step back with these handpicked spa hotels, retreats, and peaceful lodges across New Zealand. From thermal springs to lakeside havens, each stay in this collection is designed to slow the pace, clear the mind, and offer a genuine reset.

Featured Relaxation & Wellness Stays

These are places where early mornings stretch out, phones stay tucked away, and the view does most of the talking. Expect natural surroundings, minimal noise, and hosts who understand the value of downtime.

[Maruia River Retreat](#) – Lewis Pass, South Island

Price per night: \$495 NZD

- Boutique eco-retreat surrounded by native forest
- On-site yoga, spa treatments, and forest bathing
- Farm-to-table dining using organic produce

Tucked away in the Southern Alps, Maruia River Retreat is made for quiet stays with intention. The villas are nestled in private bush settings, with a focus on natural healing and body-mind balance. It's a strong choice for travellers seeking privacy with a touch of structure.

[Solitaire Lodge](#) – Lake Tarawera, Rotorua

Price per night: \$1,150 NZD

- Lakefront luxury lodge with geothermal access
- Onsite chef, open bar, and guided nature experiences
- Private hot tubs and panoramic decks

Located just outside Rotorua, Solitaire Lodge offers both luxury and seclusion. The views over Lake Tarawera are immediate and uninterrupted, with natural hot springs a short walk or boat ride away. Dining is included, and everything about the experience is calm but polished.

[Te Arai Links Lodges](#) – Northland

Price per night: \$980 NZD

- Coastal escape with wellness pavilion and spa
- Private villas with ocean views and fireplaces
- Designed for slow living and nature immersion

Te Arai Links isn't just for golfers — the lodges themselves are a full retreat into coastal stillness. The setting is remote but accessible, with a focus on high-comfort living and grounding experiences like massages, yoga, and ocean walks.

[Millbrook Resort](#) – Arrowtown, Otago

Price per night: \$440 NZD

- Full-service resort with award-winning day spa
- Mountain backdrop and open green space
- Multiple dining options and heated pools

Close to Queenstown but calmer by nature, Millbrook offers space to unwind with everything onsite. From facials to hydrotherapy, the spa is world-class. The resort's peaceful grounds and village-like design make it easy to do nothing at all.

[The Lost Spring](#) – Whitianga, Coromandel

Price per night: \$385 NZD

- Geothermal spa pools and private soaking pavilions
- Boutique suites available near the spa complex
- Tropical gardens and massage therapies

This coastal hideaway combines natural thermal water with lush planting and tailored spa treatments. It's not a resort in the traditional sense — the rooms are tucked nearby — but as a spa destination, it's one of the Coromandel's best-kept secrets.

[Split Apple Retreat](#) – Abel Tasman, Nelson Region

Price per night: \$1,200 NZD

- Exclusive retreat focused on wellness and nutrition
- Infinity pool overlooking the bay
- Art-filled interiors, gourmet plant-forward dining

Split Apple is ultra-private and fully tailored. With just a few suites, this health-oriented lodge focuses on full wellness — from food to breathwork to sleep quality. Located above the Tasman coast, it's serene, scenic, and designed to shift your rhythm.

Wai Ariki Hot Springs & Spa – Rotorua

Price per night: \$360 NZD

- Newly opened Māori-owned wellness destination
- Based on traditional healing practices
- Thermal mineral pools, steam rooms, and treatments

Wai Ariki is more than a spa — it's a cultural experience built on deep-rooted knowledge. Guests move through a sequence of spaces, blending geothermal waters with modern design. There are boutique stays nearby to extend the visit into a full escape.

Camp Glenorchy Eco Retreat – Glenorchy, Otago

Price per night: \$270 NZD

- Certified sustainable accommodation
- Quiet village atmosphere with mountain backdrop
- Meditation spaces, walking trails, and zero-distraction design

Camp Glenorchy proves that peaceful doesn't have to mean expensive. Designed with sustainability and simplicity at the core, it's a restful base near some of the South Island's most awe-inspiring scenery. It's not about pampering — it's about presence.

From the Screwcap Journal

Seasonal Spa Escapes Across New Zealand

Where to unwind during each season — from alpine retreats in winter to coastal calm in

summer.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Why Rotorua is Still the Best Place for Thermal Stays

Geothermal pools, cultural roots, and natural therapies — Rotorua leads for a reason.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Designing a Slow Travel Weekend in the Coromandel

Soak, wander, nap, repeat. Here's how to reset without the crowds.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Sign Up for Slow Stay Ideas

Get wellness travel tips, seasonal offers, and new listings straight to your inbox.

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Adventure Basecamps

These stays are built for the early risers, the trail wanderers, the mountain-road drivers, and the ones who pack walking boots before anything else. The Adventure Basecamps collection includes lodges, cabins, and comfort-first retreats that sit close to the land — and even closer to the action.

Featured Outdoor & Nature Stays

Each stay on this list offers more than just proximity to New Zealand's best outdoor regions — they give you the space to return to, recharge in, and look out from.

[Camp Glenorchy Eco Retreat](#) – Glenorchy, Otago

Price per night: \$270 NZD

- Sustainable, design-led base at the edge of Mount Aspiring National Park
- Short walk to rivers, tracks, and kayaking routes
- Built with recycled materials and solar power

Camp Glenorchy doesn't feel like a campground — it feels like a quiet corner of an alpine village. The energy is low-key, the design is intentional, and the views are standard issue South Island jaw-dropping. It's the sort of place that supports your adventure, not competes with it.

[Tongariro Crossing Lodge](#) – National Park Village

Price per night: \$285 NZD

- Minutes from the Tongariro Alpine Crossing
- Quiet lodge with hearty breakfasts and mountain views
- Bookable shuttles and local guiding options

The basecamp for one of New Zealand's most iconic hikes. Rooms are simple but comfortable, and the lodge offers everything you need before and after the long day out — hot showers, soft beds, and good advice on where to start.

[The Lindis Pods](#) – Ahuriri Valley, South Island

Price per night: \$1,150 NZD

- High-country isolation with architectural flair
- Floor-to-ceiling glass looking onto the Ahuriri River
- Activities include fly fishing, hiking, and stargazing

The Lindis Pods offer a different take on the adventure stay — total seclusion, zero distraction, and panoramic access to one of the South Island's most underexplored valleys. Perfect for solo travellers, couples, and slow adventurers.

[Rainforest Retreat](#) – Franz Josef, West Coast

Price per night: \$365 NZD

- Eco-lodges and tree houses in native bush
- Walkable access to glacier tracks and thermal pools
- On-site spa and communal spaces

For travellers heading up the West Coast, this is one of the most comfortable places to pause. The setting is dense rainforest, the vibe is social but peaceful, and you're within easy reach of everything from heli-hikes to quiet bush trails.

[Manapouri Lakeview Motor Inn](#) – Fiordland

Price per night: \$230 NZD

- Affordable, clean base near Doubtful Sound
- Direct lake views and easy access to kayaking and cruises
- Good for early departures and late returns

Not every basecamp needs bells and whistles. This one keeps it simple — close to the water, friendly staff, and solid sleep between Fiordland adventures. It's a practical launchpad for some of the country's most remote scenery.

[Riverside Matakana](#) – Matakana, Auckland Region

Price per night: \$410 NZD

- Private villas near cycling trails and surf beaches
- Great weekend base with outdoor gear storage
- Wine, food, and nature all in easy reach

Matakana blends coastal energy with country calm, and Riverside's villas sit right in the middle of it. Perfect for travellers who want to hike, surf, bike — and still return to a hot shower, a well-made bed, and a bottle picked up locally.

[Lake Heron Station](#) – Ashburton Lakes, Canterbury

Price per night: \$325 NZD

- Working high-country station with private accommodation
- Access to tramping, fly fishing, and 4WD routes
- Remote, no service, full reset

For travellers looking to disconnect completely, this is it. No screens, no service, just open landscapes and honest isolation. Lake Heron Station offers rustic comfort and a strong connection to the land it operates on.

[Underhill Valley](#) – Waikato

Price per night: \$280 NZD

- Off-grid hillside cabin with natural features
- Close to glow worm caves, waterfalls, and biking trails
- No Wi-Fi, no noise, no hurry

Built into the earth and overlooking a private pond, this stay isn't about flash — it's about pause. Great for solo adventurers, couples, or anyone needing stillness before or after the big activity days.

From the Screwcap Journal

Best Regions in NZ for Outdoor-First Travel

Where to go when the gear bag takes priority over the suitcase.

[Read More →]

How to Pack for a Mixed-Weather Hike in Aotearoa

Quick tips for layering, staying dry, and choosing a basecamp that handles all conditions.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Basecamps That Actually Understand the Outdoors

Properties that aren't just close to nature — they're built for it.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Sign Up for Outdoor Stay Picks

Get seasonal itineraries, basecamp guides, and region-specific listings sent to your inbox.

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Cellar Door Collection

Stay steps away from the pour. The Cellar Door Collection brings together New Zealand accommodation with unmatched access to some of the country's best wineries. These properties are all within walking distance of a working cellar door — so your next tasting is never far.

Featured Cellar Door Stays

From vineyard lodges to countryside cottages, each stay offers direct or immediate access to a cellar door. These listings are for travellers who want their time in wine country to start right at the door — no driving, no delays.

[The Kinross Cottages](#) – Gibbston Valley, Central Otago

Price per night: \$350 NZD

- Multiple boutique labels available on site
- Daily tastings and wine education experiences
- Surrounded by mountains and Pinot vines

Kinross is more than a stay — it's a wine village of its own. Guests can taste from several top-tier Central Otago producers at the cellar door just metres from their cottage. It's relaxed, informative, and beautifully located in the valley between Queenstown and Cromwell.

[The Farm at Cape Kidnappers](#) – Hawke's Bay

Price per night: \$1,650 NZD

- Onsite cellar selection and regional wine focus
- Luxury lodge with sweeping coastal vineyard views
- Wine pairing dinners and curated tastings

Cape Kidnappers is known for its dramatic location, but its cellar is just as impressive. With deep ties to Hawke's Bay's winemaking community, the lodge offers cellar door-style tasting experiences and access to rare regional wines — all without leaving the property.

Herzog Vineyard Cottage – Marlborough

Price per night: \$420 NZD

- Private stay on a respected organic vineyard
- Walk to the family-run cellar door and restaurant
- Peaceful garden setting among the vines

This one-bedroom cottage is situated beside the vines of Hans Herzog's estate. Guests can explore the wines at the cellar door next door, then return to their private space with a bottle (or two). An intimate stay designed for slow sips and quiet evenings.

Black Estate B&B – Waipara, North Canterbury

Price per night: \$360 NZD

- Onsite tasting room and award-winning winery
- Minimalist rooms overlooking vines and hills
- Organic produce and natural wine focus

This North Canterbury spot is effortlessly stylish and grounded. The rooms sit behind the cellar door, overlooking the valley and vineyard. It's a great match for travellers looking for something pared back, natural, and tuned in to seasonal rhythms.

Te Whare Ra Vineyard Loft – Marlborough

Price per night: \$310 NZD

- Above the Te Whare Ra tasting room
- Boutique, biodynamic wine producer
- Close to other key cellar doors in the region

Stay directly above one of Marlborough's most respected small producers. The loft offers a light-filled space with vineyard views and direct access to the winery below. Perfect for wine enthusiasts seeking something off the radar but deeply authentic.

The Man O' War Cottages – Waiheke Island

Price per night: \$395 NZD

- Steps from the cellar door on the island's eastern edge
- Rustic beachfront charm surrounded by vines
- Secluded, scenic, and ideal for weekend wine escapes

Man O' War is one of Waiheke's most iconic wine names — and its cottages let you stay within walking distance of the tasting room and beach. It's a rare combination of coast, vines, and comfortable lodging in a truly unspoiled part of the island.

Carrick Lodge – Bannockburn, Central Otago

Price per night: \$335 NZD

- Small, stylish lodge near Carrick Winery
- Vineyard dining and cellar tastings nearby
- Great access to biking trails and other wineries

Set along the Bannockburn wine trail, Carrick Lodge offers clean, comfortable stays just down the road from one of Central Otago's best cellar doors. It's an ideal base for those exploring the region on foot or by bike.

Riverby Homestead – Marlborough

Price per night: \$385 NZD

- Private guesthouse on a working vineyard
- Walkable to Riverby Wines tasting room
- Surrounded by vines and rural calm

This restored farmhouse offers a spacious, peaceful retreat next to one of Marlborough's family-owned wineries. With no neighbours and plenty of outdoor space, it's perfect for couples looking to immerse themselves in wine country without distractions.

From the Screwcap Journal

Cellar Door Culture: Why It's Better in New Zealand

Casual, open, and often owner-run — the way we do tastings is different.

[Read More →]

Designing the Perfect Cellar Door Weekend

Where to go, how to plan it, and what to book in advance.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Hidden Tasting Rooms Worth the Detour

Off-grid cellar doors and under-the-radar pours across NZ.

[\[Read More →\]](#)

Sign Up for Wine Stay Tips

Get cellar door recommendations, new listings, and weekend ideas in your inbox.

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High Roller Stays

This is where the energy shifts. **High Roller Stays** brings together New Zealand's best **casino hotels** and **casino resorts** — places where gaming, dining, and late-night atmosphere are all built into the stay. Whether you're here for the blackjack table or the skyline view from your suite, these hotels are set up to deliver. Each property on this list offers direct or walkable access to New Zealand's most well-known casinos, along with premium touches that go beyond the gaming floor.

Top Casino Hotels in New Zealand

[SkyCity Grand Hotel](#) – Auckland

Price per night: \$425 NZD

- Direct internal access to SkyCity Casino
- Premium suites with skyline or harbour views
- Multiple on-site restaurants including fine dining

The flagship of New Zealand's **casino hotel** scene, SkyCity Grand Hotel is sleek, polished, and steps from the action. Ideal for travellers who want it all under one roof — gaming, dining, and five-star comfort.

[SkyCity Hotel](#) – Auckland

Price per night: \$365 NZD

- Connected to SkyCity Casino and Sky Tower
- Comfortable rooms with access to the full SkyCity complex
- Ideal for groups, couples, and business travellers

More casual than the Grand, but still firmly within **casino resort** territory. Perfect if you're looking for a quality hotel that puts you in the middle of Auckland's top entertainment and casino precinct.

[SkyCity Hamilton Hotel](#)

Price per night: \$310 NZD

- On-site access to SkyCity Hamilton Casino
- Dining, bars, and activities all under one roof
- Central location on the Waikato River

Hamilton's **casino resort** is compact but full of atmosphere. With everything from table games to live music and late-night food, this is a smart pick for a weekend packed with action.

[SkyCity Queenstown Hotel](#)

Price per night: \$345 NZD

- Located above SkyCity Queenstown Casino
- Modern, well-appointed rooms with lake access nearby
- Short walk to restaurants, bars, and lakefront activities

This **casino hotel** is right in the heart of Queenstown, offering a more intimate gaming experience without losing the energy. You're surrounded by scenery, nightlife, and everything the town has to offer.

[Sudima Christchurch City](#)

Price per night: \$380 NZD

- Boutique luxury within walking distance of Christchurch Casino
- Spa suites and in-room wellness touches
- Upscale dining and private feel

While not located inside a casino, Sudima offers one of the best **casino accommodation** experiences in Christchurch — especially for travellers who want quiet luxury close to the tables.

[Rydges Latimer Christchurch](#)

Price per night: \$290 NZD

- Spacious rooms and city views

- Easy walk to Christchurch Casino
- On-site restaurant and late bar

A strong **casino hotel alternative** with the convenience of location. Great for business stays that turn into gaming nights or couples looking for proximity without noise.

[Hotel St Moritz](#) – Queenstown

Price per night: \$440 NZD

- Alpine luxury a short walk from SkyCity Queenstown Casino
- Premium rooms with lake or mountain views
- Sophisticated dining and spa access

Perfect for travellers who want the buzz of the casino by night, but space and stillness to recharge during the day. One of the top **Queenstown casino accommodation** picks for style and balance.

Why Book Casino Hotels with Screwcap?

- **Only the Best Casino Resorts**
We handpick each listing to ensure every stay has strong accommodation standards, great location, and direct casino access.
 - **Locations Across NZ**
From Auckland's SkyCity to Christchurch, Hamilton and Queenstown, we cover every major **casino hotel** destination.
 - **More Than Just the Tables**
These hotels include dining options, high-end suites, wellness features, and great late-night energy — everything you'd expect from a **casino resort** experience.
-

Booking Tips for Casino Hotels in New Zealand

- **Book early for weekends and events** — casino resorts fill fast
- **Consider access to dining and entertainment** within the hotel or nearby

- **Look for on-site parking** if you're driving — especially in city centres
- **Check age restrictions** — most casinos are R20 and not suited to family travel

From the Screwcap Journal

Hidden Casino Hotels That Deliver More Than Just Gaming

Quiet entries with standout service and unexpected luxury.

[\[Read Article →\]](#)

Planning a Casino-Focused Weekend in Auckland

SkyCity, skyline suites, and smart side trips.

[\[Read Article →\]](#)

How to Pick the Right Casino Resort for Your Travel Style

For gamblers, foodies, and first-timers — we break it down.

[\[Read Article →\]](#)

Stay in the Loop for High-Stakes Getaways

Get casino hotel features, city guides, and curated picks sent to your inbox.

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Timeless Classics

These are the stays that have stood the test of time. The Timeless Classics collection features historic inns, beautifully restored estates, and boutique lodges across New Zealand — each with a story to tell, a strong sense of place, and the kind of atmosphere that doesn't need trends to make an impression.

Featured Heritage & Character Stays

From century-old villas to lakeside lodges with history in their bones, these properties offer more than just a room. They deliver experience, craftsmanship, and a setting that feels rooted — perfect for travellers who prefer charm over flash.

[Eichardt's Private Hotel](#) – Queenstown

Price per night: \$1,050 NZD

- Historic lakefront hotel with boutique luxury
- Built in 1860s, now fully restored and reimagined
- Elegant interiors, fireplaces, and lake-facing suites

Eichardt's is Queenstown's original hotel — and still one of its best. With heritage detailing, award-winning service, and lake views that haven't changed in a century, this stay is equal parts atmosphere and polish.

[The Duke of Marlborough](#) – Russell, Bay of Islands

Price per night: \$330 NZD

- New Zealand's first licensed hotel, est. 1827
- Waterfront location with balcony rooms
- Pub, dining, and history all under one roof

The Duke blends casual charm with historic presence. Sitting right on the Bay of Islands waterfront, it's been serving travellers for generations — now with modern rooms, fresh seafood, and wine by the sea.

[Fable Dunedin](#) – Dunedin

Price per night: \$410 NZD

- Heritage-listed building with modern luxury interiors
- Located in Dunedin's historic quarter
- In-room cocktail service and tailored menus

Fable Dunedin is a boutique hotel that balances old and new beautifully. The exterior holds strong to its roots, while the inside delivers high-thread comfort and quiet, moody elegance — perfect for guests who want character with consistency.

[Riverstone House](#) – Martinborough

Price per night: \$325 NZD

- Restored villa in the heart of wine country
- Classic design with garden views and open-air living
- Walking distance to wineries and cafes

This quiet retreat channels early 1900s charm without losing any modern-day comfort. It's a great base for exploring Martinborough's cellar doors by day, and unwinding on the verandah with a glass of Syrah at sunset.

[The Grand by SkyCity](#) – Auckland

Price per night: \$470 NZD

- Blends modern luxury with nods to Auckland's past
- Historic references in design and curated artwork
- Access to dining, casino, and cultural venues

Though modern at first glance, The Grand weaves in references to Auckland's cultural and architectural heritage throughout its design. Ideal for travellers who want city convenience with more texture than a standard glass tower.

[Martinborough Hotel](#) – Martinborough

Price per night: \$295 NZD

- 1882-built hotel with wraparound balconies
- Rooms named after local winemakers and poets
- Steps from restaurants, vineyards, and tasting rooms

The Martinborough Hotel delivers timeless village atmosphere. It's full of original timber, regional personality, and long-form storytelling — from its veranda to its old guest books.

[Warwick House](#) – Nelson

Price per night: \$365 NZD

- One of New Zealand's oldest Gothic Revival homes
- Antique furnishings, chandeliers, and turrets
- Personalised hosted experience

This historic residence offers a boutique stay full of dramatic detail. With turret rooms, elegant high ceilings, and traditional service, Warwick House is ideal for guests who want a slower, story-filled stay.

[Otahuna Lodge](#) – Tai Tapu, Canterbury

Price per night: \$2,250 NZD

- 1895 mansion estate with formal gardens
- Seven exclusive suites, each individually styled
- Degustation dining, curated wine cellar, and historic tours

Otahuna is history preserved — and elevated. This property is a world-class lodge that hasn't forgotten its roots. With fireplaces, antique decor, and a grounds-to-table philosophy, it delivers heritage at its highest level.

From the Screwcap Journal

Historic Hotels That Still Get It Right

Character, comfort, and locations that haven't lost their pull.

[Read More →]

A Weekend Among the Classics: Planning a Heritage Stay

Where to go when you want the story behind the walls.

[Read More →]

Why Timeless Beats Trendy (Most of the Time)

A case for slow stays, crafted rooms, and letting the building do the talking.

[Read More →]

Sign Up for Classic Stay Picks

Get boutique hotel updates, heritage stay highlights, and timeless trip ideas straight to your inbox.

[Email Input Field] [Subscribe Button]

Contact

Whether you're planning a trip, listing a property, or looking to collaborate, we're here to help. At Screwcap, we value clarity, quick replies, and conversations that actually lead somewhere. Use the form below or get in touch via email — we'll respond within two working days.

General Enquiries

For questions about accommodation, travel content, or regional recommendations:

 info@screwcap.co.nz

Press & Media

For interview requests, partnerships, or editorial features:

 media@screwcap.co.nz

Accommodation Submissions

Think your property should be listed on Screwcap? We curate all stays by hand. Tell us about it here:

 listings@screwcap.co.nz

Business Partnerships

For advertising, collaborations, or affiliate integration enquiries:

 partners@screwcap.co.nz

Contact Form

[Name Input Field]

[Email Address Input Field]

[Subject Dropdown: General / Listing Suggestion / Press / Partnership]

[Message Text Box]

[Submit Button]

Please include as much detail as possible in your message so we can get you the right answer, faster.

Response Times

We typically reply within **48 hours (Mon–Fri)**. If your enquiry is urgent or time-sensitive, please note that in the subject line of your message or email.

About Our Office

Screwcap is a New Zealand-based platform, operating online only. We do not maintain a public-facing office or customer support phone line at this time — all communication is handled digitally to ensure a quick, efficient response.

About

Screwcap is a curated travel and accommodation platform focused on helping people experience New Zealand through places worth staying in. We feature vineyard retreats, spa lodges, adventure bases, cellar-door hideaways, casino resorts, and timeless hotels — all chosen for their setting, substance, and connection to the landscape.

The name *Screwcap* pays homage to one of the most quietly disruptive innovations in New Zealand's wine industry. Just as the screwcap replaced tradition with clarity, we aim to do the same in travel — cutting through noise, ignoring overused luxury clichés, and spotlighting places that actually offer something memorable.

What We Do

We don't try to list everything. Instead, we focus on accommodation that:

- Reflects its location in a real and tangible way
- Offers something distinctive — in setting, style, or story
- Is consistently reviewed as comfortable, professional, and well-run
- Connects naturally to food, wine, wellness, or outdoor experience

Whether it's a lakefront villa in Central Otago, a vineyard cottage in Marlborough, a heritage inn in Russell, or a casino hotel in Auckland, every listing on Screwcap has been individually reviewed, selected, and written for travellers who want more than just a place to sleep.

Why We're Different

Screwcap exists because modern travel content has become crowded and generic. Our focus is on curated stays, transparent storytelling, and connecting people to real, grounded travel experiences.

We don't use vague rankings, clickbait headlines, or pay-to-list shortcuts. If a hotel is on Screwcap, it's there because it offers something that fits — something with texture, with purpose, and with that sense of *"this was the right place to book."*

Our Approach to Curation

We work with a mix of independent research, regional contacts, verified guest insights, and local tourism resources. Listings are not automated or AI-generated. Each page is reviewed for accuracy, tone, and originality. If a property no longer meets the standard, it's removed.

We're also intentional about language. You won't find filler phrases or recycled descriptions here — just clear, honest overviews that reflect the quality of the stay.

Our Audience

Screwcap is designed for travellers who care where they stay. That might mean someone booking a vineyard lodge for a slow weekend in Waipara, a couple planning a spa retreat in Rotorua, or a group heading to Queenstown for a casino break with scenery on the side.

Most of our audience is based in New Zealand or travelling here from Australia, North America, or Europe. They're often wine lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, or design-conscious guests looking for hotels that don't feel manufactured.

Looking Ahead

Screwcap is constantly evolving. We're adding new listings region by region, publishing articles through the Screwcap Journal, and refining our categories to reflect how people actually travel. We'll always prioritise thoughtful curation over quantity — and keep the wine-country attitude running quietly in the background.

Let's Stay Connected

Have a property you'd like us to consider? Want to collaborate on regional travel content? Or just looking for help planning a route through the country's top wine and nature regions?

Start with our [Contact Page] or reach us directly at info@screwcap.co.nz.

Privacy Policy

At Screwcap, we take privacy seriously. This Privacy Policy outlines how we collect, use, disclose, and protect your personal information when you visit our website or use any of our services. We are committed to complying with the New Zealand Privacy Act 2020 and ensuring that your data is handled responsibly and transparently.

1. Information We Collect

We may collect and store the following types of personal information:

- **Contact details:** Name, email address, and any information you provide via our contact forms or newsletter sign-up.
- **Usage data:** Information about how you use the Screwcap website (e.g., pages viewed, time spent, clicks, IP address, and browser type).
- **Communication records:** Any messages, feedback, or email correspondence you send us.
- **Listing enquiries:** Information submitted when suggesting accommodation or applying for partnership opportunities.

We do not collect payment details, credit card numbers, or sensitive personal identifiers through this website.

2. How We Use Your Information

We use the information collected to:

- Respond to your enquiries and provide customer support
- Send you updates, newsletters, or promotional material (only if you've opted in)
- Improve our website functionality and user experience
- Analyse trends and website performance through analytics tools
- Evaluate and manage property listing applications or partnerships

You can unsubscribe from any promotional communication at any time using the link in the footer of our emails or by contacting us directly.

3. Sharing and Disclosure

We do **not** sell, rent, or trade your personal information to third parties.

We may share your data with trusted service providers who assist us in operating the website (e.g., email platforms, analytics tools, hosting services), under the condition that they comply with applicable privacy laws and only use the information for agreed purposes.

We may also disclose your information if legally required to do so by court order, law enforcement, or government authority.

4. Data Storage and Security

All personal information is stored securely using industry-standard safeguards. We implement reasonable technical, administrative, and physical measures to protect your data against loss, misuse, and unauthorised access.

Despite our best efforts, no digital platform can guarantee complete security. By using Screwcap, you acknowledge this and accept that you share data at your own risk.

5. Cookies and Tracking

Screwcap uses cookies and third-party tools (e.g., Google Analytics) to enhance your browsing experience and collect usage data. These tools help us understand how visitors use our site so we can make improvements.

You can manage or disable cookies in your browser settings. Please note that disabling cookies may limit the functionality of certain pages.

6. Your Rights

Under the New Zealand Privacy Act, you have the right to:

- Access the personal information we hold about you
- Request correction of any inaccuracies in your information
- Withdraw consent to marketing communications at any time
- Request deletion of your personal information, where applicable

To exercise these rights, please contact us at info@screwcap.co.nz.

7. Third-Party Links

Screwcap may contain links to third-party websites. We are not responsible for the privacy practices or content of those sites. We encourage you to read their privacy policies before sharing personal information.

8. Children's Privacy

Our services are not intended for individuals under the age of 18. We do not knowingly collect personal data from minors. If you believe a child has submitted information through our site, please contact us so we can remove it.

9. Policy Updates

We may revise this Privacy Policy from time to time. Any updates will be published on this page with a new effective date. We recommend checking this page periodically to stay informed.

10. Contact Us

If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy or how we handle your personal data, please contact:

Email: info@screwcap.co.nz

Website: www.screwcap.co.nz

Terms & Conditions

These Terms and Conditions govern your access to and use of the Screwcap website (www.screwcap.co.nz). By using the site, you agree to be bound by these terms. If you do not agree, please do not use the website.

1. About Screwcap

Screwcap is a curated travel platform showcasing accommodation across New Zealand. We feature handpicked listings including vineyard stays, spa lodges, boutique inns, and casino hotels. While we provide editorial content, recommendations, and links to third-party booking services, we do not operate as a travel agent, hotel, or booking platform.

2. Use of the Website

You agree to use the Screwcap website only for lawful purposes and in a way that does not infringe the rights of others or restrict their use and enjoyment of the site. You may not attempt to gain unauthorised access to the site, servers, or data.

You must not:

- Copy, scrape, or reuse content without written permission
- Submit false or misleading information through our contact forms
- Use the site for commercial purposes without prior approval

We reserve the right to block or suspend access if we believe there has been a breach of these terms.

3. Content and Listings

All listings and editorial content on Screwcap are provided for general information purposes only. While we strive for accuracy, details such as pricing, availability, and services may change without notice. We do not guarantee the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of any listing or recommendation.

Accommodation featured on Screwcap is curated based on independent research and discretion. Inclusion does not constitute an endorsement or commercial relationship unless explicitly stated.

4. Third-Party Services and Links

Screwcap may contain links to third-party websites (e.g., hotel booking platforms, tourism operators). These are provided for convenience only. We are not responsible for the content, policies, or services of any third-party site. Any interactions or transactions with third-party providers are at your own risk and subject to their terms.

5. Intellectual Property

All text, graphics, logos, and original content on Screwcap are protected by copyright and other applicable intellectual property laws. You may not copy, reproduce, modify, or distribute any part of the website without prior written consent, except where otherwise permitted by law.

6. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Screwcap and its owners disclaim all liability for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential loss or damage resulting from:

- Use of or reliance on the information provided
- Errors or omissions in listings or articles
- Interruption of site access or technical failures
- Any booking, travel, or accommodation arrangements made via third parties

You acknowledge that you use the site and rely on its content at your own discretion and risk.

7. Indemnity

You agree to indemnify and hold harmless Screwcap, its directors, contributors, and affiliates from any claims, liabilities, damages, or expenses arising from your misuse of the website or breach of these terms.

8. Privacy

Use of Screwcap is also governed by our [Privacy Policy], which outlines how we collect, store, and use personal information.

9. Changes to These Terms

We may update these Terms and Conditions at any time by posting a revised version on this page. Continued use of the website following changes indicates your acceptance of the updated terms. We recommend reviewing this page periodically.

10. Governing Law

These terms are governed by the laws of New Zealand. Any disputes arising from or related to use of the website shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts.

11. Contact Us

If you have any questions about these Terms and Conditions, please contact us at:

 info@screwcap.co.nz

Personal Data Policy

At Screwcap, we are committed to protecting your personal data and handling it with care, transparency, and purpose. This Personal Data Policy explains what types of personal data we collect, how we use it, how we protect it, and your rights under New Zealand law.

This policy is part of our broader Privacy Policy and applies to all personal information submitted via our website (www.screwcap.co.nz), forms, or email communications.

1. What Is Personal Data?

Personal data refers to any information that identifies you as an individual. This may include:

- Your name
- Email address
- Region or location
- Communication history with us
- Website interaction data (e.g., IP address, device type, usage behaviour)
- Any additional details you provide through forms or contact channels

We do not collect financial details or sensitive personal information.

2. How We Collect Personal Data

We collect personal data through the following channels:

- When you contact us through the Screwcap website
- When you subscribe to our newsletter or travel updates
- When you submit an accommodation listing or enquiry
- When you engage with us by email
- Through analytics tools (e.g., Google Analytics) that track site usage

All data collection is lawful, limited to what is necessary, and processed for clear, stated purposes.

3. How We Use Personal Data

We use your personal data to:

- Respond to enquiries and provide customer support
- Send newsletters or updates you've opted into
- Assess property listing submissions or partnership requests
- Improve website functionality and user experience
- Analyse site traffic and user preferences via anonymised analytics

We do not use your data for profiling or automated decision-making.

4. Lawful Basis for Processing

Under the New Zealand Privacy Act 2020, we only collect and process personal data where:

- You have given explicit consent
 - It is necessary for communication or providing a requested service
 - We are legally required to retain or disclose the information
 - It is reasonably required for operational purposes, such as managing our website
-

5. How Long We Keep Your Data

We retain personal data only for as long as necessary to fulfil the purpose for which it was collected. When no longer needed, the data is securely deleted or anonymised unless we are legally required to retain it longer.

6. Storage and Security

All personal data is stored securely using trusted hosting providers and standard encryption practices. Access is limited to authorised personnel. We take reasonable steps to prevent loss, unauthorised access, misuse, or disclosure.

7. Sharing of Personal Data

Screwcap does not sell or rent personal data. We may share limited information with:

- Service providers (e.g., email marketing platforms, analytics tools) for site functionality
- Regulatory or legal authorities where required by law
- Business partners in the case of a listing, with your permission

All third parties must comply with strict privacy and data handling standards.

8. Your Rights

You have the right to:

- Access the personal data we hold about you
- Request correction of inaccurate or incomplete information
- Request deletion of your data, where applicable
- Withdraw consent to communication at any time
- Complain to the New Zealand Privacy Commissioner if you believe your rights have been violated

To exercise any of these rights, please contact us directly at info@screwcap.co.nz.

9. International Visitors

Screwcap operates in New Zealand but may be accessed globally. By using the site from outside New Zealand, you acknowledge that your data will be processed and stored in accordance with New Zealand law, which may differ from your local data protection regulations.

10. Changes to This Policy

We may update this Personal Data Policy from time to time. Any updates will be posted here with a new effective date. Continued use of our site after updates implies agreement with the revised terms.

11. Contact Us

If you have questions about how your personal data is collected or handled, or you'd like to make a request regarding your data:

 **info@screwcap.co.nz**

 **www.screwcap.co.nz**

Refunds Policy

Screwcap is a curated accommodation and travel content platform. We do **not sell hotel stays, take payments, or process bookings** directly through our website. Instead, we provide information and external links to trusted third-party services where bookings may be completed.

As such, Screwcap does **not issue refunds** under any circumstances.

1. Booking and Payments

If you book accommodation through a link provided on Screwcap, the transaction is made directly with the external provider (e.g., hotel website, booking engine, or travel partner). Any questions regarding:

- Payment issues
- Booking errors
- Cancellations
- Refund eligibility

must be directed to that provider, as we are not involved in the transaction or payment process.

2. Listing Fees and Partnerships

If you have entered into a paid agreement with Screwcap for listing, advertising, or promotional content (by separate arrangement), refund terms will be outlined in the individual contract or service agreement. We do not offer automatic refunds for completed editorial, listing, or promotional work.

Please contact us directly at partners@screwcap.co.nz to discuss any concerns regarding billed services.

3. Errors and Accuracy

We take care to ensure all information on Screwcap is accurate and up to date. However, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of pricing, availability, or property details at the time of booking. Screwcap is not responsible for financial losses or booking discrepancies caused by incorrect or outdated third-party information.

4. Affiliate Relationships

Some links on Screwcap may be affiliate or referral links. If you choose to make a booking via one of these links, we may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. These commissions do not affect your rights with the booking provider or change the refund terms of your chosen platform.

5. Contacting Us

If you have questions about this Refunds Policy or wish to report a problem with a third-party provider featured on Screwcap, please contact us:

 [**info@screwcap.co.nz**](mailto:info@screwcap.co.nz)

Please note that while we cannot intervene in third-party refund requests, we welcome feedback and will consider it when curating or updating our listings.

Articles

Homepage articles

Boutique Hotels That Still Feel Local

Not every boutique hotel gets it right. Some feel like they were copy-pasted from somewhere else — polished, but disconnected. The best ones, though? They hold onto the region they're part of. They feel local, not just nice. Here are three stays that strike the balance.

1. Fable Dunedin – Dunedin

Inside a heritage building in the heart of the city, Fable pairs sharp interiors with Dunedin's old-world feel. There's texture, mood, and a sense of place that connects to the wider city — from the hallway art to the cocktail list.

2. The Martinborough Hotel – Martinborough

Set on a quiet village square, this historic inn blends high-thread comfort with regional character. Rooms are named after local winemakers and poets, and the wraparound verandah invites long, slow evenings with a glass from nearby.

3. The Dairy Private Hotel – Queenstown

Tucked into a backstreet just above the lakefront, The Dairy has a familiar feel that's hard to find in Queenstown. It leans into comfort without cliché, and the owners know the town like locals — because they are.

What Makes a Boutique Hotel Work?

It's not just design — it's detail. Local references, regional products, genuine staff. The places that stay with you are the ones that know where they are and aren't trying to be somewhere else.

Cellar Doors Worth Staying Near

You don't need to be a wine expert to enjoy a cellar door — but it helps to stay close by. Here are three cellar doors where the surroundings, the experience, and the stay nearby make it more than just a tasting.

1. Te Whare Ra – Marlborough

This small, biodynamic producer sits in a quiet part of Marlborough. Stay directly above the tasting room in their loft apartment, where the view is vines and the vibe is calm. Walk downstairs for a quiet pour of one of NZ's most respected Rieslings.

2. Black Estate – Waipara, North Canterbury

An organic winery with slow food, strong reds, and rooms behind the cellar door. Black Estate does things deliberately — from what's in the bottle to how the rooms are styled. It's a reset, not a rush.

3. Carrick Winery – Bannockburn, Central Otago

Carrick blends lake views with serious Pinot. Just down the trail, a handful of boutique stays offer a perfect base for biking, walking, or sipping your way through Bannockburn. Come for the view, stay for the structure.

Proximity Matters

A cellar door stay cuts out the drive, the clock-watching, and the post-tasting decisions. You wander back. You slow down. And the experience — of the wine, the land, the people — sits with you a little longer.

How to Plan a Long Weekend in Central Otago

Three nights is all it takes to get a feel for Central Otago. You won't cover it all — but you'll remember the space, the silence, and the landscapes that don't need to raise their voice.

Day One: Arrive + Settle in Gibbston

Fly into Queenstown and head straight to Gibbston. Book into Kinross or another vineyard cottage, drop your bags, and grab a seat on the deck. Local producers are within walking distance, and the valley light in the late afternoon is a reason to stay put.

Day Two: Bannockburn + Cromwell Loop

Head toward Bannockburn — one of NZ's most expressive wine subregions. Walk the trails, visit Carrick, Felton Road, or Akarua. Lunch with a view, then wind through Cromwell's heritage precinct for a slower change of pace. Stay nearby or head back to Gibbston.

Day Three: Arrowtown + Departure

Take the scenic route back through Arrowtown. It's small, yes — but worth a wander. Coffee on the main street, a short riverside walk, and maybe one last tasting before you return to Queenstown. You'll leave lighter, without feeling rushed.

Booking Tips

- Stay vineyard-adjacent if you can
- Book tastings in advance on weekends
- Allow more time between locations than you think — the drives are worth slowing down for

Final Note

Central Otago isn't about seeing everything. It's about letting the stillness stretch. A good stay, a good meal, and a few clear skies — that's a weekend done right.

Vineyards stays articles

The Essential Guide to New Zealand's Wine Regions

New Zealand's wine regions aren't just about what's in the glass — they shape the pace, atmosphere, and architecture of the places you stay. Here's a guide to the six regions that do it best, and what makes each one worth building a trip around.

Marlborough

Known for: Sauvignon Blanc, wide skies, quiet roads

New Zealand's most famous wine region is also its most open and sun-filled. Think vineyard-lined country drives, coastal detours, and cellar doors where the winemakers might still pour the glass. It's also one of the easiest regions to stay among the vines, with boutique cottages and vineyard lodges dotted across the Wairau and Awatere Valleys.

Central Otago

Known for: Pinot Noir, alpine scenery, gold-rush towns

Dramatic landscapes meet delicate reds in this high-country region. Gibbston, Bannockburn, and Cromwell are full of boutique vineyards and cellar doors, while Queenstown offers high-end comfort just a short drive away. Here, a vineyard stay isn't just scenic — it often includes mountain views from the bed.

Hawke's Bay

Known for: Syrah, architecture, long lunch culture

Hawke's Bay leans toward warmth — in both climate and hospitality. The region blends serious wine with relaxed charm. You'll find colonial inns, vineyard cottages, and modern stays all within a short bike ride of cellar doors. With strong ties to food, it's also a standout for wine weekends that revolve around shared plates and open patios.

Wairarapa

Known for: Boutique producers, village atmosphere

Just over the Remutaka Range from Wellington, the Wairarapa region centres on Martinborough — a small, elegant town wrapped by vines. It's walkable, slow-paced, and ideal for a low-effort getaway. Many of the cellar doors are in converted homes or barns, and the accommodation often carries the same detail and charm.

Waipara (North Canterbury)

Known for: Pinot Noir, Riesling, under-the-radar stays

Waipara is smaller, quieter, and more rugged than the others. Just north of Christchurch, it's gaining recognition for producers who are pushing boundaries in a grounded, organic way. The stays here reflect that — minimalist but thoughtful, peaceful but close to the vines.

Waiheke Island

Known for: Island vineyards, coastal views, weekend energy

More than just wine — Waiheke is about pace. The island's vineyards spill toward beaches, and tasting rooms are often perched on hillsides with sea views. Stay in a cottage overlooking the vines, or near a tasting room with a view of the Gulf. It's an easy trip from Auckland, but rarely feels like the city.

Waiheke Island Wineries Worth Booking a Night For

Waiheke isn't short on great wine or great views — but for the full effect, staying overnight makes all the difference. Here are three vineyard-connected wineries on the island where it's worth checking in for more than just a tasting.

1. Man O' War

Located on the island's eastern edge, Man O' War is one of the most remote and rewarding destinations. The cellar door sits on a beach with views across the Hauraki Gulf, and the on-site cottages let you stay long after the last tasting. Expect rustic charm, open water, and a sky full of stars.

2. Mudbrick Vineyard & Restaurant

Just minutes from the ferry terminal but entirely its own world, Mudbrick combines elegance with location. The on-site accommodation ranges from private cottages to full vineyard houses. With sweeping views back toward Auckland and a reputation for long lunches that turn into dinners, it's a smart choice for couples or small groups.

3. Cable Bay Vineyards

Cable Bay offers sleek interiors and strong wine — and their guesthouse matches the tone. Perched above the vines with modern architecture and open-plan spaces, it's perfect for travellers who want something refined but relaxed. Walk to the beach, the cellar door, or stay in and enjoy the view.

Why Stay Overnight?

Most Waiheke visitors take the last ferry back. Staying lets you skip the rush, slow the pace, and actually take in the island's energy after the crowds leave. With good wine, good views, and no need to drive — it's the right way to do it.

How the Screwcap Changed New Zealand Wine (and Travel)

In the early 2000s, a group of New Zealand winemakers made a decision that would reshape the industry: they swapped the cork for the screwcap.

What seemed simple at the time turned out to be a bold statement. It said: we back the quality of what's in the bottle — and we're not waiting for permission. It cut out pretence, improved reliability, and signalled to the world that New Zealand wine was serious about doing things differently.

So why name a travel site after it?

Because the same idea applies to travel.

Screwcap as a name is about clarity over clutter. It's about skipping the elaborate and focusing on what works — sharp stays, good settings, and a strong sense of what you're

getting. Just like the screwcap changed how people trusted a bottle of wine, we think the same can be done for finding the right place to stay.

What it means here:

- The listings are handpicked, not just scraped or sponsored
- The descriptions are real — no filler phrases or travel clichés
- The categories are practical, not overpackaged

We're not trying to be flashy. Just useful. Reliable. And, like the original screwcap, quietly better.

Relax & Recharge Articles

Seasonal Spa Escapes Across New Zealand

Not every season suits the same kind of spa stay. Some are built for frost and fire. Others shine under long daylight hours. Here's how to match your next unwind with the time of year.

Winter – Hot Pools and Fireplaces in Hanmer Springs

Best time: June to August

When temperatures drop, Hanmer comes alive. Book a lodge with a fireplace, soak in sulphur pools framed by snow-dusted trees, and end the day in a robe, not a rush. Ideal for: couples, solo reset trips, or short weekend breaks.

Spring – Rotorua's Lakeside Wellness

Best time: September to November

Rotorua is strong year-round, but spring softens it. Walk trails around the lakes, then recover in geothermal mineral pools. Resorts here lean wellness-first, with spa treatments, massage menus, and volcanic mud on tap.

Summer – Coromandel Retreats with Outdoor Tubs

Best time: December to February

Think open-air soaking, coastal silence, and light that lasts until 9pm. The Coromandel isn't known for thermal pools — but it's full of hideaways with outdoor tubs, cool breezes, and space to move slowly. Perfect for beach-lovers who still want comfort.

Autumn – Queenstown and the Southern Lakes

Best time: March to May

Autumn brings crisp mornings and gold-tinged views. Stay near Arrowtown or Lake Hayes for easy spa access, wine country calm, and hot stone treatments with actual stones from nearby rivers. Slower, steadier, and a touch indulgent.

Why Rotorua is Still the Best Place for Thermal Stays

Rotorua gets plenty of attention — and for good reason. It's the country's best-known thermal destination, and despite the decades of tourism, it still delivers where it counts.

It's Not Just a Gimmick

The sulphur pools, mineral-rich mud, and thermal steam baths here are the real deal. These are geothermal systems rooted in Māori tradition and science-backed benefits — not spa branding.

There's Depth Beyond the Pools

Rotorua has a wellness culture that goes beyond soaking. Think walking trails through redwood forests, lakeside yoga, geothermal footpaths, and wellness centres that work with the landscape instead of against it.

Accommodation Has Levelled Up

Gone are the days of basic motels by the pools. Now you'll find boutique suites, lakeside resorts, and forest-edge retreats that combine thermal comfort with full-service relaxation.

And It's Accessible

Rotorua is easy to reach — a three-hour drive from Auckland or a short regional flight. You can leave work on a Friday and be in a tub by sunset.

Final Thought

There are plenty of spa towns in New Zealand, but Rotorua's depth, accessibility, and heritage make it the most complete. It's not just thermal — it's restorative.

Designing a Slow Travel Weekend in the Coromandel

The Coromandel Peninsula is made for slow travel — not in theory, but in terrain. Winding roads, warm light, and no real way to rush it. Here's how to make the most of two unhurried days in one of New Zealand's most quietly impressive regions.

Friday – Arrival + Open Space

Arrive late afternoon. Settle into a beachside cabin or inland spa lodge. Skip the plans — go for a walk, find a chair with a view, and do nothing for a while. That's the pace. Let it sink in.

Saturday – Bush Walks and Ocean Views

Start with a slow breakfast. Then walk — there's no shortage of tracks. Try the Wentworth Falls trail or the Coromandel Coastal Walkway. Afterward, swim (if it's warm), soak (if it's not), or head to a quiet local eatery. Don't rush the evening. The light stays soft.

Sunday – Tides and Towns

Time your morning around the tides and head to Hot Water Beach if the schedule lines up. Or, take the slow route through Thames, visit a local market, and let the weekend end naturally. No pressure to tick off sights — just move well.

Tips for Getting It Right

- Book a place with a view or outdoor bath
- Shop local for your food — Coromandel produce is underrated
- Let the roads dictate your schedule, not your watch

Slow isn't about doing less. It's about doing it properly. The Coromandel makes that easy.

Cellar Door Collection

Cellar Door Culture: Why It's Better in New Zealand

Cellar doors in New Zealand don't come with velvet ropes or curated theatrics. They come with dirt under fingernails, dogs on the lawn, and winemakers who still pour the glass themselves.

It's Built on Approachability

Forget hard sells and stainless-steel showrooms. The New Zealand cellar door experience is laid-back, personal, and rooted in the idea that if the wine's good, it doesn't need a sales pitch. You taste it at a picnic table, not a podium.

You're Often Tasting With the Winemaker

In many regions — especially places like Martinborough, Waipara, and Central Otago — the person pouring your wine is the person who made it. There's no script, no performance. Just straight answers and genuine connection to place.

Scenery Is Half the Draw

From hills above Queenstown to sea-facing terraces in Waiheke, the settings are rarely secondary. These aren't just tasting rooms — they're windows into regions that understand space, quiet, and seasonal light.

It Pairs Naturally With Good Stays

You're not herded onto a bus and driven home. In New Zealand, the cellar doors are often walking or cycling distance from boutique hotels, vineyard cottages, and restful inns. Stay close. Wander slowly.

It's Not Just About the Wine

There's cheese. There's olive oil. There are stories about frost seasons, hand-picking techniques, and community markets. The cellar door here isn't a sales channel — it's a place to share.

In short: New Zealand gets it right because it doesn't overthink it. It just opens the bottle and makes space for the rest.

Designing the Perfect Cellar Door Weekend

A good cellar door weekend isn't about how many stops you squeeze in. It's about the space between them — and how well you pair the wine with where you're staying, what you're eating, and how you move through the region. Here's how to do it properly.

Pick One Region, Not Three

Marlborough. Martinborough. Hawke's Bay. Central Otago. All of them offer more than enough for a full weekend — no need to hop. Choose one, settle in, and actually experience the place instead of just tasting it.

Stay Close, Sleep Well

Find a boutique hotel, vineyard suite, or nearby villa within easy range of at least two cellar doors. Walking or biking access is ideal. That extra hour in the morning makes all the difference — and removes the need for a driver.

Book One Tasting, Leave the Rest Open

Lock in one key tasting per day — something hosted, maybe food-paired. Leave the rest open to discovery. Some of the best cellar door stops are unplanned: a sign on the road, a recommendation from someone at lunch, a turn-off that looked too good to ignore.

Make Room for Food

Skip the rushed café sandwich. These regions know how to feed you. Long lunches, vineyard platters, or woodfired pizza under trees — match the pace of the wine and let meals be part of the experience, not just fuel.

Don't Aim for Quantity

Four tastings in a day might sound doable, but it blurs the detail. Two, maybe three, lets you actually enjoy them. You'll remember the taste, the conversation, and the land it came from.

Final Touches

- Check for harvest or event weekends ahead of time
- **Look for wineries offering accommodation** — they often do private tastings too
- **Pack light, but leave space in the bag** — you'll probably leave with a bottle (or six)

A good cellar door weekend isn't complicated. It's deliberate. And in New Zealand, it's one of the most rewarding ways to spend three days on the road.

Hidden Tasting Rooms Worth the Detour

Some cellar doors are on every map. Others take a bit of effort to reach — but reward you with smaller crowds, quieter settings, and stories that don't sound rehearsed. These are the ones worth the extra turnoff or gravel stretch.

1. Aurum Wines – Lowburn, Central Otago

Just a few minutes outside Cromwell, Aurum feels like a personal find. It's family-run, organically certified, and offers some of the most honest Pinot and Riesling in the region. The cellar door is understated, set in a garden, with homemade pastries and a pace that never rushes.

Why it's worth it:

There's no gloss — just good wine, warm people, and a clear view of what makes Central Otago so compelling.

2. Ash Ridge – Bridge Pa Triangle, Hawke's Bay

Tucked into one of Hawke's Bay's quieter wine zones, Ash Ridge focuses on Syrah and Chardonnay with precision and depth. It's an easy drive from Napier, but rarely crowded. The tasting space is small, personal, and often hosted by the winemaker.

Why it's worth it:

Unassuming and unfiltered — in all the right ways. You'll leave with a deeper appreciation for the region.

3. On Giant's Shoulders – Martinborough

Hidden behind a few hedges and completely unsigned, this tiny vineyard produces small-batch wines that rarely leave the region. Tastings are by appointment only, held either in the winery or at a table beside the vines.

Why it's worth it:

It's what cellar door experiences used to be — no shop, no pitch, just the wine and the people behind it.

4. The Bone Line – Waipara Valley, North Canterbury

Named after the nearby fossil ridge, this architectural gem is all angles and clean lines. Inside, it's serious about Syrah, Pinot Noir, and complex whites. It's slightly off the main Waipara route, but once you're there, you'll likely linger.

Why it's worth it:

It balances minimalism with depth — both in design and wine. Understated excellence, well off the radar.

5. Te Kano Estate – Bannockburn, Central Otago

A modern, sculptural tasting room built into the land, Te Kano doesn't chase foot traffic. It invites stillness. The wines are expressive and the outlook across the valley is one of the best in the region.

Why it's worth it:

For travellers who like architecture, scenery, and wine that reflects both — this one ticks all three.

Final Word

The best detours feel like discoveries. These tasting rooms aren't always the loudest or most advertised — but they stick with you. They remind you why New Zealand cellar door culture works: because it's about place, not polish.

High Roller Stays

Hidden Casino Hotels That Deliver More Than Just Gaming

Not every casino hotel needs neon lights and sprawling lobbies. Some of New Zealand's best casino accommodation options are lower key — but offer standout comfort, strong food, and a better night's sleep than you'd expect from a gaming destination.

Here are three properties that might fly under the radar but are worth checking into.

Sudima Christchurch City – Christchurch

Walkable to the casino but distinctly its own world. With spa suites, calm interiors, and a focus on wellness touches, this boutique stay is ideal for travellers who want to play the tables — then fully reset. It's also near some of the city's best late-night dining.

Why it works: It pairs gaming proximity with complete relaxation. You don't feel like you're sleeping inside a casino — just next to one.

SkyCity Queenstown Hotel – Queenstown

Smaller than its Auckland counterpart but just as deliberate. Located above the SkyCity Queenstown Casino, this hotel is close to everything but far from noisy. The vibe is alpine-lux with a tucked-away feel — plus you're steps from bars, the lake, and blackjack.

Why it works: For Queenstown visitors who want the casino energy without giving up the scenery, this is the pick.

Rydges Latimer – Christchurch

Ten minutes from the casino, with large rooms, a quiet bar, and sharp service. Rydges is a reliable option for travellers who want gaming close by but don't need the casino built into the building.

Why it works: It's clean, central, and consistent — and the casino's a short walk, not a commitment.

Casino hotels don't always need to shout. These properties prove that a short walk, a soft bed, and a solid layout often beat staying directly above the slots.

Planning a Casino-Focused Weekend in Auckland

Auckland is home to New Zealand's biggest casino resort: SkyCity. But a good weekend here isn't just about gaming — it's about the right mix of food, sleep, and pacing. Here's how to plan a stay that's sharp without being rushed.

Friday Night – Check In and Ease In

Arrive at SkyCity Grand Hotel or SkyCity Hotel, both connected to the casino floor. Drop your bags, freshen up, and head straight to one of the on-site restaurants — Depot, MASU, or Orbit up the Sky Tower. Light play after dinner or a nightcap at The Grill finishes the evening properly.

Saturday – Gaming, Food, and Space

Start slow with breakfast in your suite or nearby Federal Street. Spend the afternoon on the casino floor — blackjack, roulette, or the VIP lounge. Book a spa treatment mid-afternoon if you're at the Grand. For dinner, try Cassia or head down to Commercial Bay for a change of pace. Casino energy ramps up again late — stay or step out depending on how you're tracking.

Sunday – Brunch and Breathe Out

Sleep in. Late checkout if possible. Brunch at Amano or a walk along the Viaduct helps recalibrate before the trip home. You'll leave recharged — even if your chips didn't last.

Booking Notes

- **Reserve restaurants ahead of time — they fill fast on weekends**
- **Grand Hotel offers quieter, more premium rooms**
- **Parking's available but limited — ride shares are easier**

This isn't Vegas — it's Auckland done right: food-forward, well-paced, and fully equipped for a weekend that moves on your terms.

How to Pick the Right Casino Resort for Your Travel Style

Not every traveller hits the tables the same way. Some go for the scene. Others want the food. And some just like being near the buzz. Here's how to choose the right casino hotel or casino resort in New Zealand based on your travel type.

The High-Stakes Player

Go for: SkyCity Grand Hotel – Auckland

You want fast access to the tables, premium service, and full casino floor energy. This is the flagship — private lifts to the VIP room, high-end suites, and fine dining within the complex.

The Food-First Traveller

Go for: SkyCity Hamilton Hotel

Smaller casino, stronger focus on dining. With bars, eateries, and a live music scene built into the property, this casino resort is ideal for those who want a good meal before the cards.

The Quiet Gamer

Go for: SkyCity Queenstown Hotel

Low-key casino, alpine setting, and rooms built for retreat. The gaming floor is small but curated, and the town offers strong post-play options without needing to go far.

The Relaxation Seeker

Go for: Sudima Christchurch City

You want access to gaming but value peace more than pace. Spa rooms, minimalist design, and a short walk to the casino make this a clean blend of both worlds.

The Group Trip

Go for: SkyCity Hotel – Auckland

More flexible rooms, shared spaces, and access to all the action. Perfect for groups who want entertainment without having to split up or shuttle around town.

Choosing the right casino stay is about knowing what you're there for. The best ones don't just give you access to the tables — they match how you travel before and after the game.

Timeless Classics

Historic Hotels That Still Get It Right

Some hotels age with grace. Others just age. The difference is in the detail — and in how the stay feels from the minute you step inside. These historic hotels still deliver the essentials: great sleep, strong service, and a sense of place that hasn't been flattened by updates.

The Martinborough Hotel – Martinborough

Originally opened in 1882, this icon of Wairarapa wine country wears its history well. Restored without losing charm, the rooms overlook a town square that moves at walking pace. It's quiet, polished, and rooted in the community.

The Duke of Marlborough – Russell

Holding New Zealand's oldest hotel license, The Duke has been welcoming guests to the Bay of Islands since the 1820s. It pairs colonial character with sharp hospitality and front-row views of the harbour.

Eichardt's Private Hotel – Queenstown

Built during the gold rush and now one of the country's top boutique stays, Eichardt's has held onto its bones while upgrading every comfort. You're on the lakefront, in the centre of town, and wrapped in heavy fabrics and stillness.

These hotels don't try to modernise their past — they refine it. And that's what makes the experience stronger, not dated.

A Weekend Among the Classics: Planning a Heritage Stay

If you want your next weekend away to carry more weight — not just in comfort, but in character — plan it around one of New Zealand's heritage hotels. Here's how to get the balance right.

Pick a Region with Story Built-In

Go where the buildings have texture. Places like Napier (with its Art Deco streets), Arrowtown (all stone and gold-rush tone), or Oamaru (neo-Victorian flair) already set the scene.

Choose Accommodation with Actual History

A hotel that's been retrofitted into a warehouse isn't the same as one that's seen decades of

guests. Look for century-old properties with original materials, photos in the hallways, and a lobby that's held time.

Plan a Weekend that Matches the Mood

Slow breakfasts. Afternoon gin. Reading chairs. A walk through the local historic district. Book a long lunch instead of a tight itinerary. Let the tone of the building set the pace.

Don't Skip the New Touches

The best historic hotels balance old-world atmosphere with quiet luxury — pillow menus, double glazing, espresso machines tucked behind cabinet doors. It's not about living in the past, it's about living well inside it.

When done right, a heritage weekend feels settled. Like time slowed down just enough for you to step out of the noise.

Why Timeless Beats Trendy (Most of the Time)

Trends move fast. The design, the playlist, the plating — all crafted to catch attention and just as quick to date. Timeless hotels don't chase it. They rely on feel, not flash. And nine times out of ten, that's the better bet.

Timeless Hotels Don't Compete With Each Other

They're not copying what's hot overseas or decorating for Instagram. Instead, they build into the region. They reflect their age, their setting, and the people who've passed through. You feel that in the stay.

They Don't Need to Be Loud

You won't find neon signage or minimalist clichés. You'll find dark wood, old maps, good light, and proper linen. They don't demand to be posted — they just work.

The Stay Sticks With You Longer

Trendy wears off. A smart lobby or quirky bath setup fades from memory after a month. But a hotel with story — with rooms named after founders, staircases worn by time, and a view that hasn't changed in decades — that stays with you.

It's Not Nostalgia — It's Substance

Choosing timeless doesn't mean outdated. It means real. Reliable. Intentional. When you're travelling for more than the feed, it's the smarter kind of luxury.
