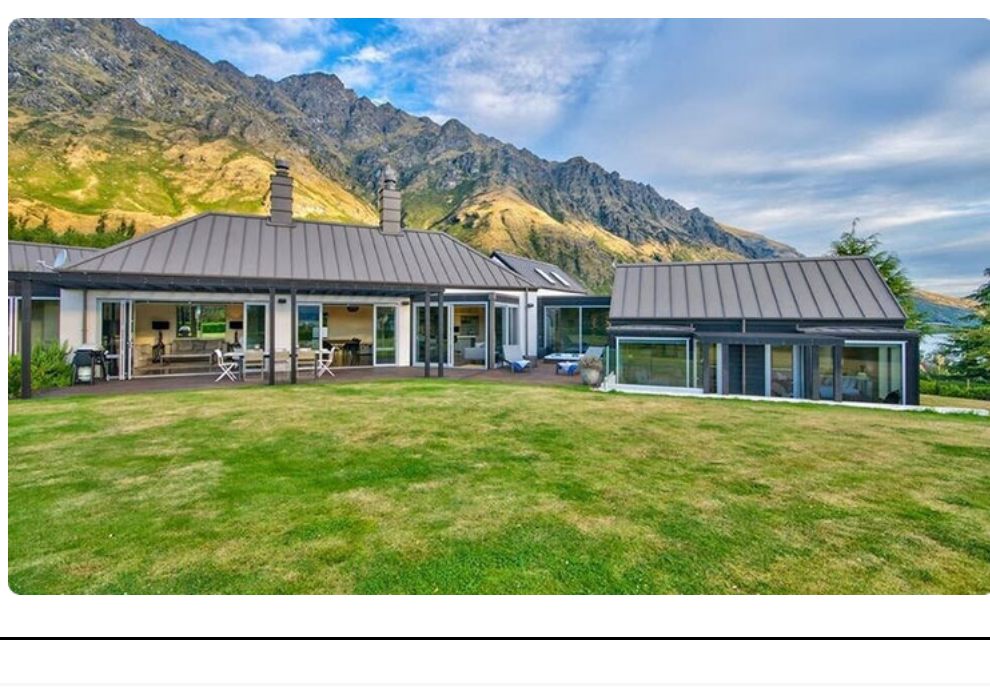


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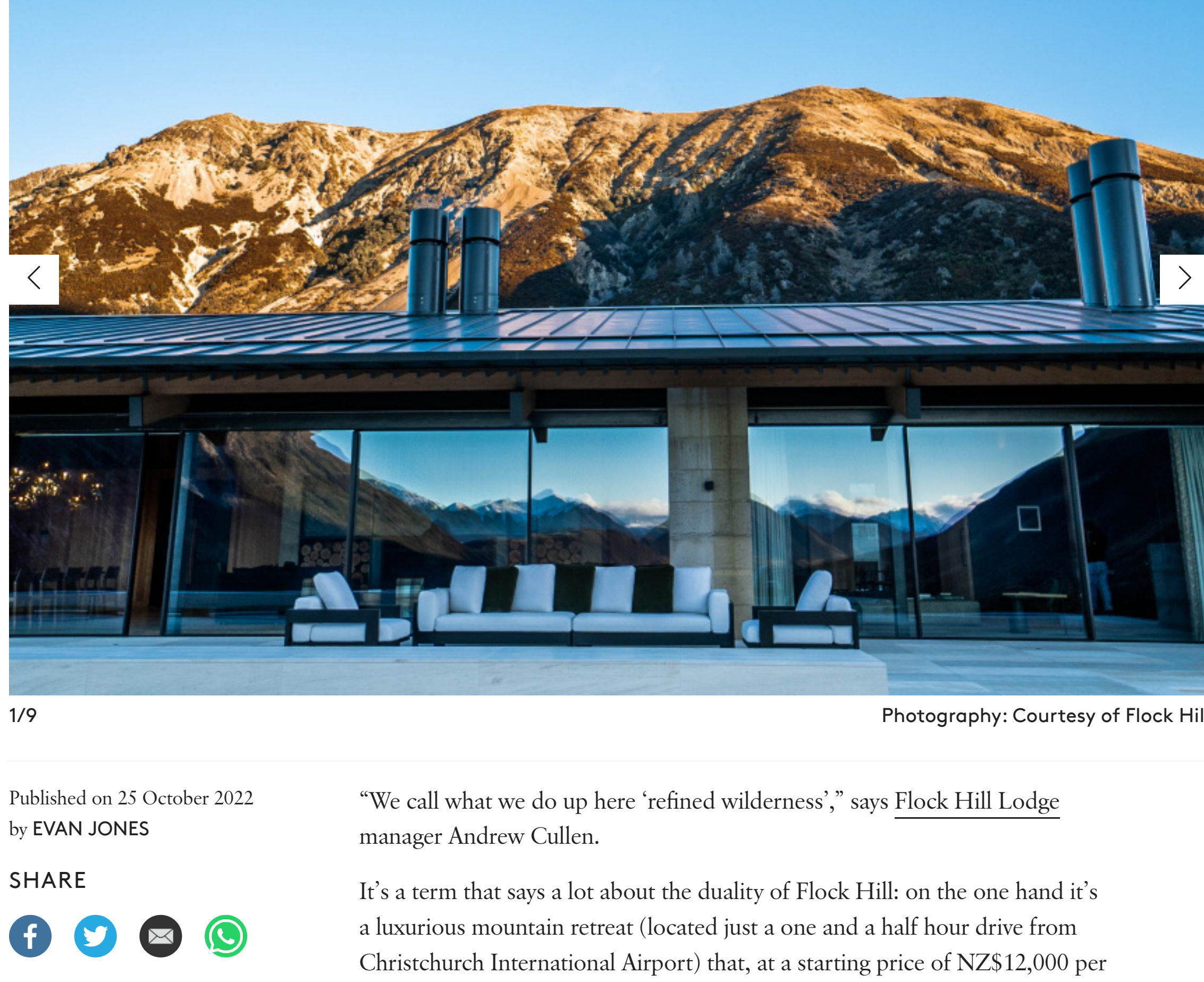
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A Sheep Station in the Alps Is New Zealand's New Ultra-Luxury Getaway

Flock Hill Lodge is a 14,500-hectare working farm that now hosts a unique homestead. In partnership with 100% Pure New Zealand, we discover what makes this ultra-luxe property amid rugged mountain landscapes so special.



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Photography: Courtesy of Flock Hill

Published on 25 October 2022
by EVAN JONES

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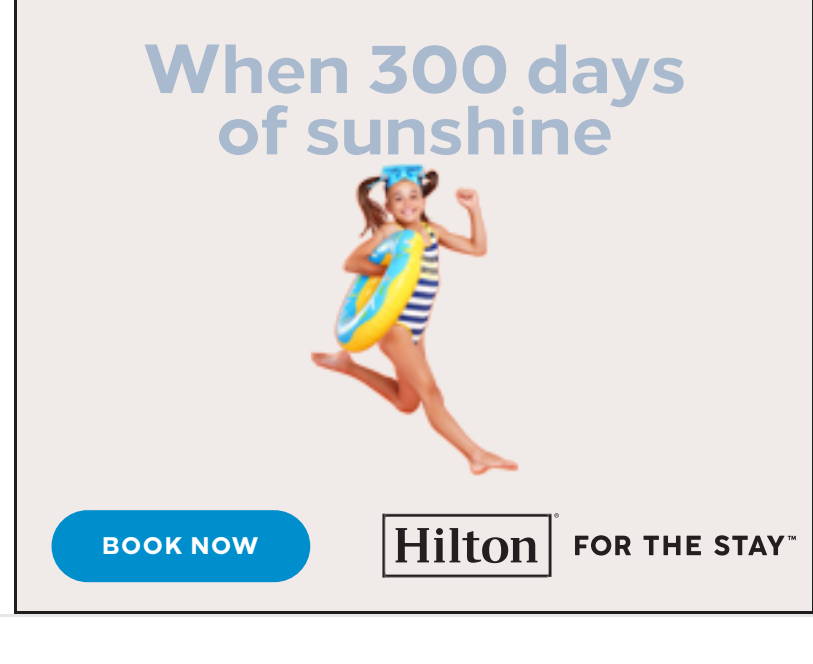
"We call what we do up here 'refined wilderness'," says [Flock Hill Lodge](#) manager Andrew Cullen.

It's a term that says a lot about the duality of Flock Hill: on the one hand it's a luxurious mountain retreat (located just a one and a half hour drive from Christchurch International Airport) that, at a starting price of NZ\$12,000 per night (and ranging up to \$18,000), is aimed squarely at the luxury traveller. On the other hand, Flockhill is a working sheep station with 10,000 head of livestock scattered across a whopping 14,500-hectare property. And then there are the rugged mountains, winding streams, icy lakes and boulder fields that remind you this isn't your standard, curated getaway.

"As you're heading up here, you're heading into the Canterbury high country," Cullen says. "It's majestic in its setting and its views, but it can smack you. We've had times when we've gone out in December, and it's summer and it's 20 degrees, and all of a sudden the weather changes and the wind changes. It definitely gives you the perspective of high-country farming."

The accommodation

The homestead at Flock Hill is the first part of a three-stage redevelopment of the sprawling property, with 14 villas and a spa still in the works. The four-room accommodation is for exclusive use, meaning that – excluding the farmers and lodge staff – you'll have this slice of picturesque scenery all to yourself.



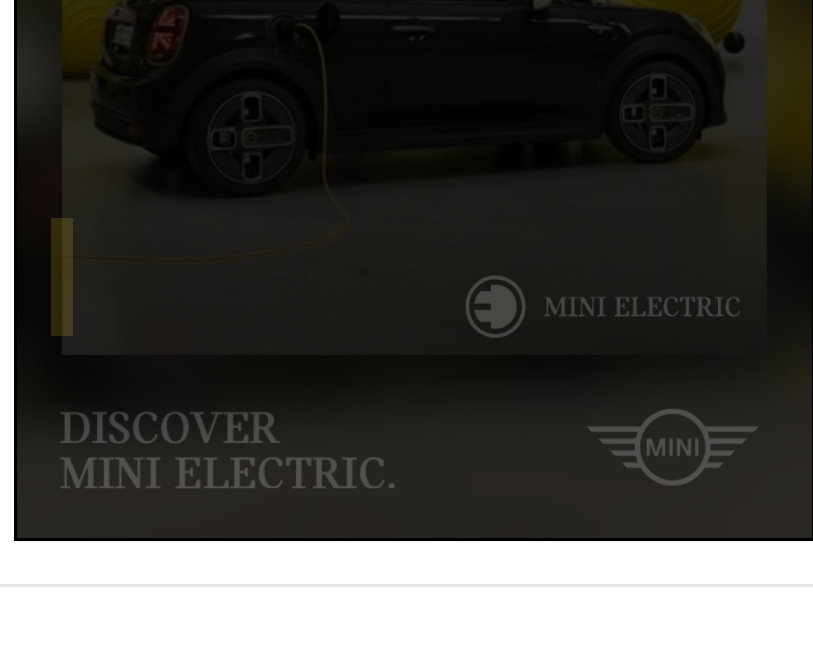
Architects Warren and Mahoney have designed a long, barn-style building with floor-to-ceiling windows for uninterrupted views of Lake Pearson and Sugarloaf Mountain, balancing concrete brutalism with warm chalet timbers. The rooms are large and well-appointed, and you'll find yourself with a private chef (the restaurant is still to come).

However, when you come to Flock Hill, you don't want to spend all your time inside.

Exploring the vast playground

To say the Flock Hill property is vast is to put it mildly. To put it in perspective, stage three of the development will include a private cabin located 15 kilometres away from the homestead. Exploring the property is the real draw here.

"Cave Stream is just on the border of our property, which is a 700-metre-long cave that you enter at one end, you come out the other end, and you're walking through a stream that runs through it," Cullen says. "You climb up an internal waterfall – it's an amazing activity."



There are fields of limestone boulders for climbers and hikers, a 22-kilometre biking trail through "the battlefield" (made famous as a film location for *The Chronicles of Narnia*), paddleboarding on Lake Pearson, and fly fishing. A 10-minute drive beyond the property you'll find club ski fields, and Mount Hutt is just a 20-minute flight away for heli-skiing.

Conservation efforts

As they invite visitors in, the team at Flock Hill is trying to eject some unwanted guests. Like much of New Zealand, wilding pines (a non-native species) run rampant across Flock Hill, shifting the delicate ecological balance. Add in stoats, possums and feral cats, and it's an ongoing battle.

"We have a full sustainability report which we commissioned last year at a cost of about \$50,000 to see what the next five years, 10 years, 20 years and 50 years would look like for an area like this," Cullen says. "We've just brought a guy on board who's absolutely passionate about pest control, so we're in the process of working to get the whole lodge area [assessed] as the first step."

Flockhill's prices certainly won't be accessible to everyone, representing the pinnacle of high-end accommodation. But for those who get the chance, it's a rare opportunity to experience the untamed mountains in proper luxury.

This article is produced by Broadsheet in partnership with 100% Pure New Zealand.

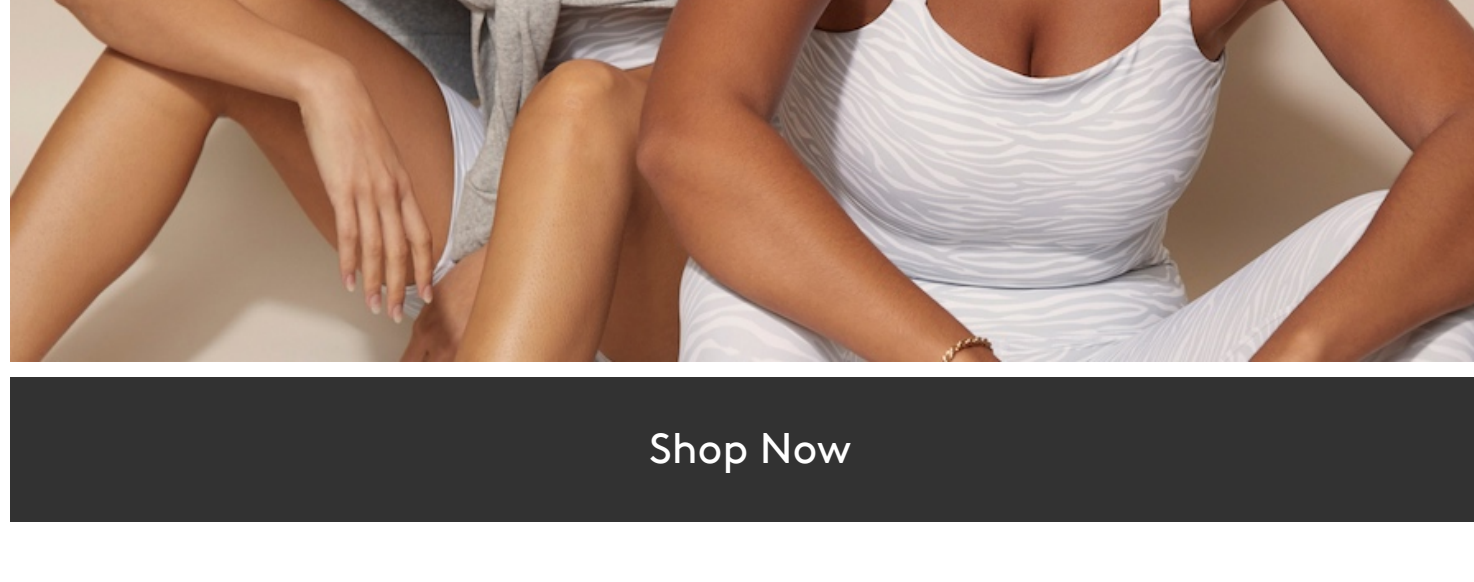
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Credit Cards Out: Here's a Round-Up of Four Shopping Deals and Discount Codes

1. This Brissie-Made Activewear Label Promises a Comfy Fit With Ethically Sourced Organic Materials

DK Active's range of sports bras, tights, singlets, joggers and shorts are designed for every body shape, and both functional and flattering for your high-intensity workout or running quick errands. It's all manufactured in Australia, and its fabrics are Fairtrade-certified, certified organic and Oeko-Tex accredited. Sign up to the [mailing list](#) to receive [\\$15 off](#) your first order.



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2. Get 35% Off Protein Bars, Pre-Workout Collagen Powder and More

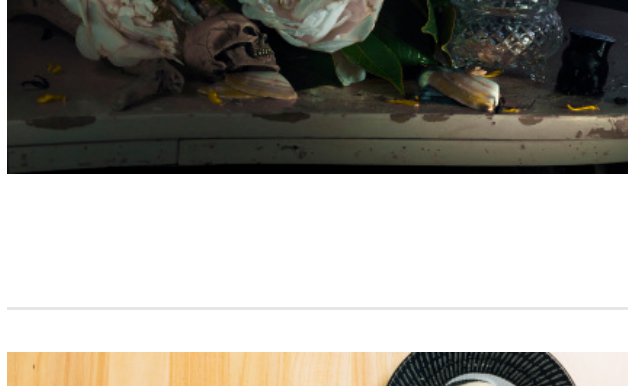
Sports nutrition brand [Myprotein](#) has more than 100 products designed to fuel your workouts and help you hit your fitness goals. And for a limited time only, it's slashing prices on almost everything by 35 per cent. That means you can grab their best-sellers such as the protein cookies, whey isolate, zero-calorie Flavdrops, all-natural peanut butter and more at reduced prices – just use the discount code MYPROTEINSALE at checkout.



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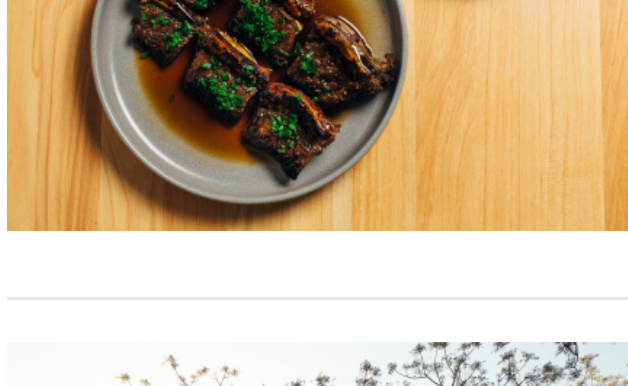
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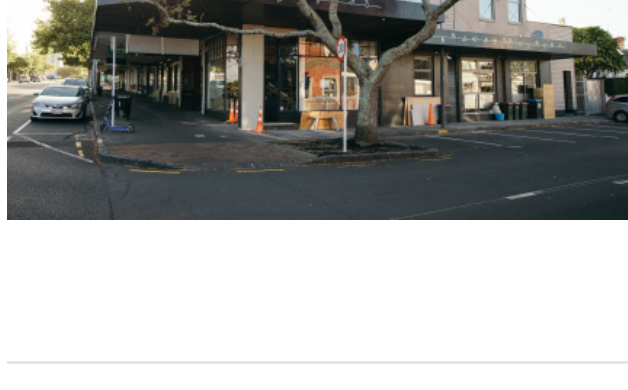
In the Galleries: Five Art Exhibitions To See in Aotearoa New Zealand in October

ART & DESIGN Darkly beautiful photographs from one of the country's most acclaimed still-life photographers, a major retrospective of an important New Zealand multimedia artist and a group show aiming to challenge the art world status quo. This is your month in the galleries.



Three To Try: Auckland's Best New Korean Spots

FOOD & DRINK The city's landscape of Korean eateries continues to expand with a peaceful CBD destination serving gyeonggi toast, an elevated modern Korean restaurant on the North Shore and a neon-lit bar and restaurant in Grey Lynn.



Coming Soon: A Colourful New Mediterranean Restaurant Is Opening in Herne Bay

FOOD & DRINK The sun-catching Jervois Road corner site is being transformed by two long-time Auckland restaurateurs into a "casual, upbeat and fun" 50-seater that also has a takeaway window so you can have a pizza down on the beach.



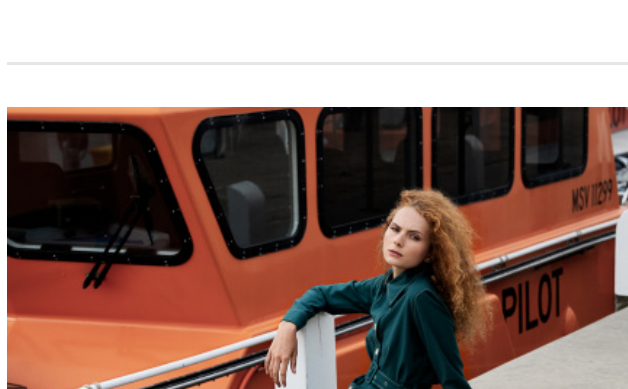
Find One-Off Wedding Dresses and Party Outfits at a Treasure-Filled Vintage Pop-Up in Wellington This Weekend

FASHION Taking place this Saturday and Sunday, the collaborative pop-up is by special-occasion vintage shop Love James and underwear boutique Underelena. Whether it's for your own big day or you're after a special party look, head in to browse beaded and sequinned dresses and purses, lacy ceremonial gowns, luxurious lingerie and more.



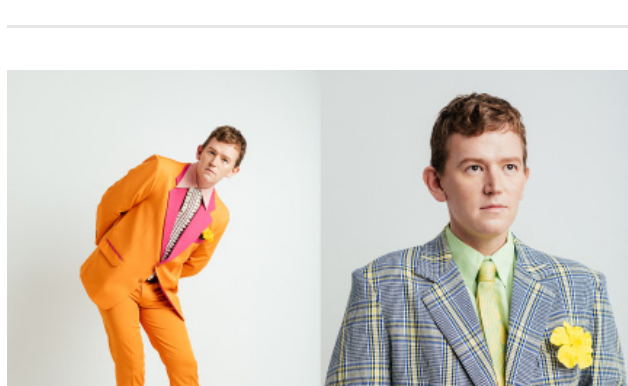
Eleven To Buy: Update Your Scent With These Vibrant New Perfumes for Women and Men

FASHION Be transported to Texas by a fragrance with desert vibes, or go deep into the Amazon with a spicy unisex creation. Plus, Aesop's deeply earthy scent, and a gloriously zesty mandarin perfume by a brand Lizzo loves.



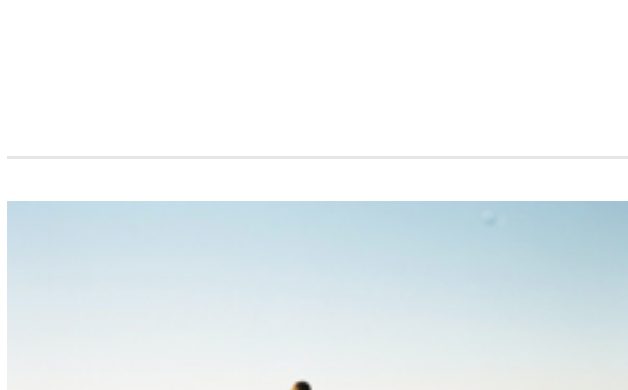
Sales Wrap: Best of the Week, October 20, 2022

FASHION This week, get up to 70 per cent off marble homewares, 85 per cent off at The Outnet, discounts on artisan Japanese sake, and cheap books.



For Comedian and Newly-Minted Book Author Chris Parker, the Best Jokes Are the Ones You Didn't See Coming

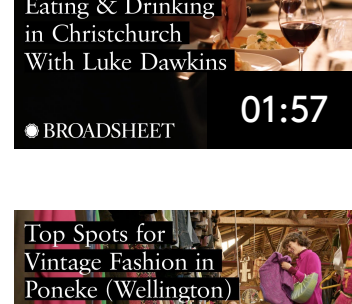
ENTERTAINMENT In his debut book, *Here For a Good Time: Organised Thoughts from a Disorganised Mind*, the comedian, actor and writer explores identity, burnout, relationships and life milestones all while doing what he does best – making you laugh.



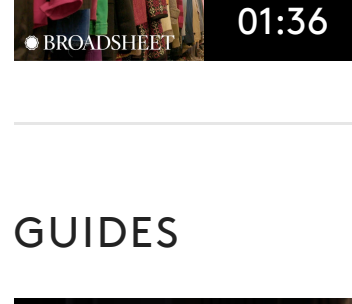
A Local's Guide to Northland, New Zealand, With Artist and Photographer Ophelia AF M Jones

TRAVEL The creative, who lives in Hākaru, shares her top spots – from humble yet delicious Israeli food to treasure-filled vintage and antique stores and some of the most beautiful beaches.

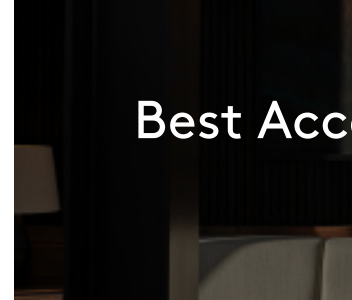
VIDEOS



A Guide to Eating & Drinking in Wellington With Tashie Piper



A Guide to Eating & Drinking in Christchurch With Luke Daughins

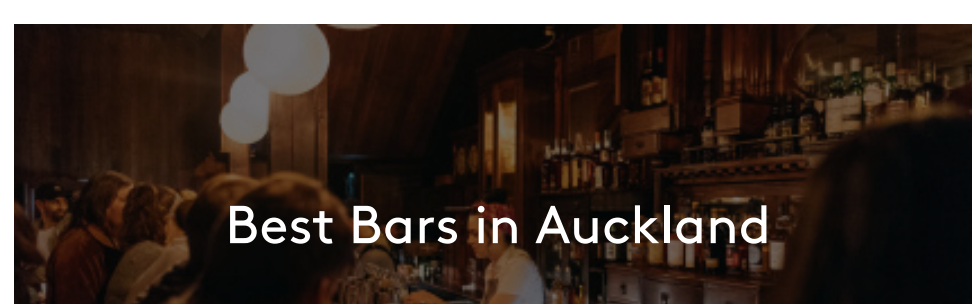


Top Spots for Vintage Fashion in Wellington With Stylist Chloe Hill

GUIDES



Best Accommodation in New Zealand

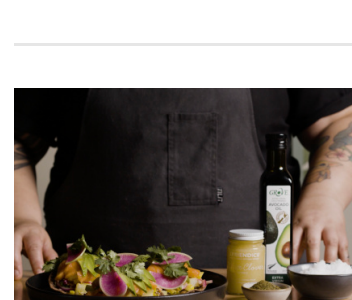


Best Restaurants in New Zealand



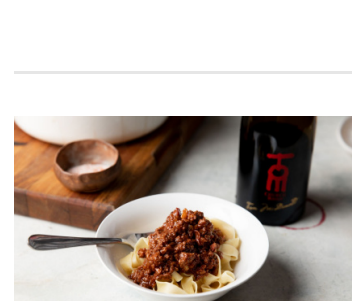
Best Bars in Auckland

RECIPES



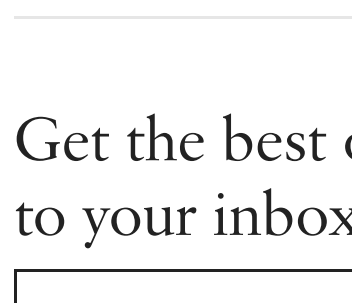
Recipe: Pete Gunn's Kiwi, Honey and Whisky Trifle

FOOD & DRINK



Recipe: Amber Doig's New Zealand King Salmon Ceviche Tostada with Honeyed Kumara

FOOD & DRINK

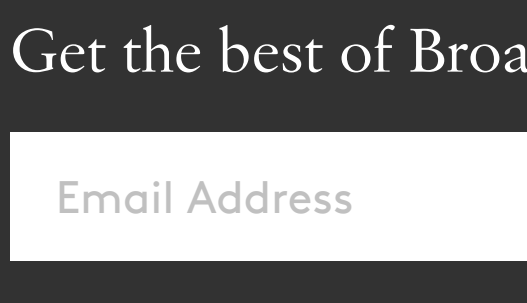


Recipe: Ben Shewry's At-Home Bolognese

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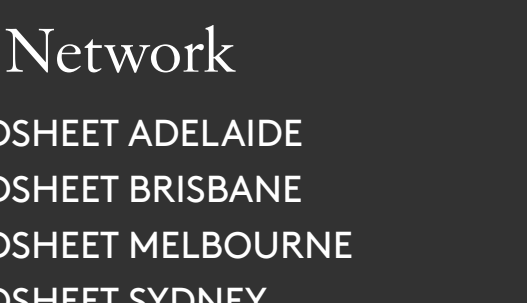
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