

A HISTORIC ESTATE

ORIGINALLY BUILT IN 1895 for Sir Heaton Rhodes—a pioneer of Canterbury, New Zealand—South Island's **Otahuna Lodge** (its Maori name means “little hill among the hills”) exudes understated elegance. Inspired by noble English country estates, this Queen Anne-style home boasts seven luxury suites, each with its own flair and 19th century architectural features. Appointed with king-size beds and custom-made linens, ornate fireplaces and comfortable couches, deep bathtubs and rain showers, stained glass windows, and more, the suites radiate tranquility.

Among Otahuna's 30 acres are a breathtaking daffodil field, great lawn, swimming pool, lake, and 117-year-old gardens that produce herbs, fruits, vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, and more used in the restaurant's gourmet seasonal cuisine. Chef Jimmy McIntyre's inclusive five-course dinner menu changes daily and features delicacies such as prosciutto and buffalo mozzarella with vanilla oil and peach, rack of lamb with puy lentils, and salted cod with tomato conserve and salsa verde—all paired with wines primarily from New Zealand. Diners can choose to enjoy their meal in the sunken wine cellar, formal Victorian dining room, intimate library, drawing room, or one of the estate's other magical settings.

Nearby, guests can engage in quintessential Canterbury experiences such as the Tranz-Scenic railway excursion from Christchurch to Arthur's Pass, a coastal cruise exploring the scenic Akaroa Harbour, or a helicopter tour of the Southern Alps glaciers with David Hiatt's

Canterbury Guiding, canterburyguides.com. Other activities in the region include cooking classes, fly-fishing, golf, horseback riding, hiking, biking, and wine tasting in the Waipara region (known for its Rieslings and Pinot Noirs). After a long day trip, you can return to Otahuna and wind down with a therapeutic massage at the spa, located in one of the property's historic outbuildings.

—ELIZABETH WAGMEISTER

OTAHUNA LODGE 224 Rhodes Rd., Christchurch, New Zealand, 011-03-329-6333, otahuna.co.nz. Rates: From \$1,292,



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A view of Otahuna Lodge from the resplendent daffodil field; one of chef Jimmy McIntyre's farm-fresh dinners; Akaroa Harbour; the entry hall of the 117-year-old property.



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