

PURE DECADENCE



EXTERIOR VIEW / OTAHUNA LODGE

NEW ZEALAND LUXE

BY DREW TAYLOR

Five years ago, Hall Cannon and Miles Refo made the some-8,220-mile move from New York to New Zealand to acquire **Otahuna Lodge**, an expansive historic home first erected in 1895, giving the estate a new lease on life as a seven-suite luxury retreat.

Situated in the heart of the country's picturesque Canterbury region, the homestead offers authentic colonial charm in spades, from its winding tree-lined driveway to the more than 300 enchanting acres of surrounding gardens. Interior designer Stephen Cashmore took pains to preserve the property's rich heritage, incorporating classic furnishings and 35 unique works specially commissioned for the lodge by local artists. To that end, each guest room is one of a kind with its own theme—from the Verandah Suite (so named for its 30-foot-long outdoor terrace) to the Botanical Suite, bedecked in New Zealand silver fern prints. For the greatest escape, book the 1,100-square-foot **Rhodes Suite**, named for politician Sir Heaton Rhodes, the property's original owner (this palatial expanse was once his bedroom). A stately Victorian fireplace, stained glass windows and sumptuous master bath with double shower and spa tub add to its appeal (about \$1,058 a night).

The formal **Dining Room**, accented with original embossed wallpaper and a roaring fireplace—and helmed by award-winning executive chef Jimmy McIntyre—offers a five-course feast each evening, inspired by fresh finds from the chef's onsite vegetable garden and orchard and accompanied by local wines and cheeses. When you're not sampling culinary creations or relaxing by the outdoor swimming pool, opt for one of the lodge's many excursions, which include tasting tours at renowned wineries, helicopter rides to the Alpine peaks and glaciers of the South Island, and fly-fishing trips to Waimakariri Gorge.

Contact: Front Office Manager Adrienne Jacka, 64-3-329-6333; enquiries@otahuna.co.nz; www.otahuna.co.nz



LAKE VIEW



THE DINING ROOM



BEDROOM / RHODES SUITE