

Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report[®]

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TRAVELING THE WORLD IN SEARCH OF TRULY ENCHANTING PLACES



TROUT STREAMS, WINERIES, MOUNTAIN SPLENDOR

New Zealand Fly-Fishing Odyssey

The best-known hideaway in the Taupo region is **Huka Lodge**, set on the Waikato River, three miles north of the town of Taupo. I have long recommended this property, and over the years it has become an established favorite of *Hide-away Report* readers. Although it is now a small luxury resort that offers a range of activities, as well as a spa and a notable restaurant, Huka began life in 1924 as an austere fishing lodge. In 1984, it was acquired by its present owner, shipping magnate Alex van Heeren, who recognized its untapped potential. Today, a proportion of Huka's guests are still fishermen, for whom the property organizes heli-fishing trips into nearby wilderness areas. Having stayed at Huka several times already, I opted this time to forgo the pleasure of a return visit and instead caught a plane from Taupo to Nelson, on the northern shore of the South Island.

Huka Lodge 97

LIKE The riverfront setting; the lavish duplex accommodations; the superb cuisine. **DISLIKE** The considerable expense. **GOOD TO KNOW** The Jack Nicklaus-designed Kinloch Golf Club is just a 20-minute drive away. *Junior Lodge Suite, \$2,320 for two; Lodge Suite, \$8,220 for two (breakfast and five-course dinner included).* 271 Huka Falls Road, Taupo 3377. Tel. (64) 7-378-5791. hukalodge.co.nz