

## World's best places to eat: The 21 best dishes of 2018 named

Food, glorious food: is there any better reason to travel? Is there any more satisfying and authentic way to sample local culture than to sit down to a plate or a bowl of its finest?

Food is so simple, and yet so complex. It speaks to who we are as a people; it tells a story of our history, it displays our passions and creativity, and it provides the base for so many of the rituals we hold dear, the special occasions and everyday gatherings that make our worlds turn.

For travellers, food provides such a simple and enjoyable window into everything that makes a destination great. Eat, and you experience. Dine, and you understand. Use knives and forks, chopsticks and fingers. Eat from plates, bowls, banana leaves and boards. See the world through your stomach. Taste everything it has to offer.

Because there's always something new. This year, as ever, the Traveller team has been scouring the globe to sample its foodie delights, taking the world's culinary pulse, tracking new restaurants and trends, and rediscovering old favourites in classic destinations.

We've enjoyed individual dishes that have made lasting impressions, and basked in the gastronomic glory of entire cities or neighbourhoods that know how to do food right. We've gone from the cheapest roadside shawarma joint to the fanciest hotel or fine-dining eatery to uncover the very best the world has to offer. – **Ben Groundwater**

### AMUSES-BOUCHES AT HUKA LODGE

Dining at this luxury lodge near Taupo is always a treat, but especially lovely when amuses-bouches are served by a waiter in a long white apron on the verandah overlooking the impossibly green Waikato River. Conversation between guests pauses with each bite as they savour the scrumptiousness of vintage gouda tart with white grapes, spiced macaron with yuzu and lemon balm, and an extraordinary strawberry and tomato bouillon. See

[hukalodge.co.nz](http://hukalodge.co.nz)