



Clad in wood and glass, the coolest, sexiest boutique hotel in New Zealand's hilly capital overlooks the inner harbor and is a short walk to most of downtown - bars, restaurants, the civic center, and Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum. The ten decent-size rooms (385 square feet on average) offer a mix of high-tech features and midcentury furniture, including some original Arne Jacobsen and Hans Wegner pieces. Beds are comfortable, backed by a built-in wood unit and facing a flat-screen TV, through which - after you figure out the system - you can also access the manager's iTunes collection. A glass panel separates the sleeping area from the bathroom, which is dominated by a freestanding tub. Storage space is minimal, however, with little closet or drawer capacity. Front rooms have small balconies overlooking the harbor and the city. Guests tend to linger in the fireplace-lit communal dining area off the tiny lobby, where lavish breakfasts are served along with light lunches such as macadamia-cruste chicken and cured salmon with arugula, paired with well-chosen local wines. The young, hip staff offers recommendations and restaurant reservations, and will even help you unpack - and figure out that music system.

-Lea Lane

[In moving gallery, this movie....](#)