

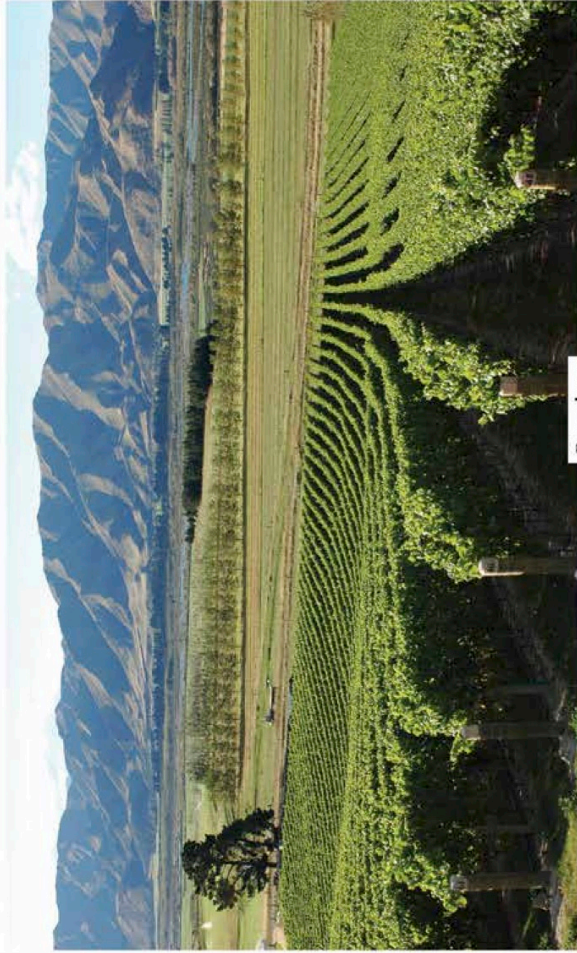
preparation. In our case it's marinated green lip mussels from a farm across the bay; Canterbury black lacquer dug leg with banana lychee relish and a scallion pancake; and lemon passionfruit curd and honey macadamia waters with the farm's own raspberries. Everything either comes from Annandale's farm or from producers within 50 kilometres of the property. After dinner my wife, Maggie, and I curl up on a pair of daybeds beside the outdoor fireplace and Jacuzzi, the waters of the bay before us cast in the lingering light of a startling canopy of stars. It's nothing short of magical.

Many travellers visit Oamaru, on the east coast of the South Island, for its colonies of seals and blue and yellow-eyed penguins, but instead we head for the hills, to Pen-y-bryn, a category one historic home nestled in meticulously landscaped gardens overlooking the township. Built in 1889, Pen-y-bryn was bought by Americans James Glucksman and James Boussey in 2010. The historic Victorian home boasts five rather cosy guestrooms, three of which will become suites in September. Like something out of a C.S. Lewis novel, **Pen-y-bryn** features a near-endless line of beautifully preserved living rooms, dens, lounges and snugs (including one featuring a full-sized billiards table commissioned by the

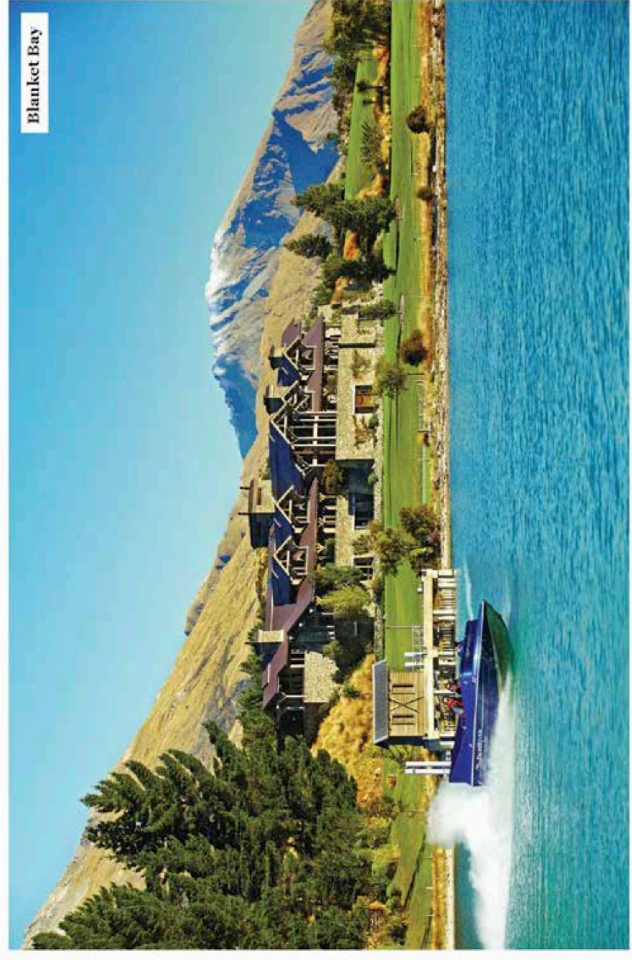
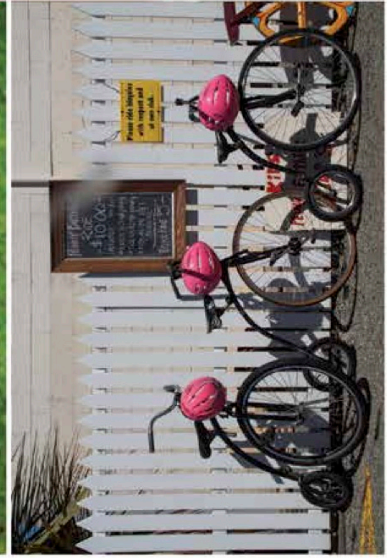
New Zealand houses of parliament). Filled with beautiful objects d'art from the owners' many years spent in Asia, Pen-y-bryn is a more traditional lodge, where the lines between private home and accommodation option are blissfully fuzzy, and where the Old World hospitality of the owners, married with fantastic local fare, is the major drawing card.

A highlight of any stay is dinner, which commences with communal cocktails and canapés by the fire, followed by a five-course dinner in the grand old dining hall. Slow food lover James Glucksman is an Officier Maître Hôteleur in the *Confir rie de la Cha me des R tisseurs*, the Paris-based gourmet society, and serves up dishes that are not only inventive and delicious but are almost entirely sourced from the lodge's own gardens, home-made in its kitchens or bought from local suppliers. Combined with the fascinating d cor of this historic home, Pen-y-bryn offers a homely inn open to travellers the world over.

We travel southwest to Glenorchy and **Blanket Bay**, the Grand Dame of New Zealand's modern luxury lodge era, having opened in 1999. Unlike Orahuna or Pen-y-bryn, Blanket Bay was built as a luxury lodge, one designed to attract the



Pen-y-bryn



Blanket Bay