

A Little Bit of Heaven on Earth

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There are times in one's life when you can't believe what is happening. I have to say, walking into our villa at [Eagles Nest](#) was one of those times. Eagles Nest is a piece of heaven on earth. There is no other way to describe the beauty and style that is infused into everything.

The five luxurious villas here nestle into an extravagantly beautiful island-like peninsula along a ridgeline that drops into a valley – reminiscent of a huge nest. Ancient eagles once soared in these pristine skies. And in a quiet moment (and there are many here), you can look up and feel their spirits still soaring above. This accommodation is nothing short of magnificent; and along with the natural, architectural and interior design beauty – gracious, unobtrusive, yet attentive Kiwi staff cater to your every whim.

We stayed in First Light. This villa grows out of the hillside, overlooking the breathtaking land and seascapes. The mezzanine bedroom is surrounded by spectacular views. It also has a floor-to-ceiling glass shower – which is an incredible luxury (and takes a little time to get used to, I have to say). As most of the rest of the villa is glass, it's like showering in the outdoors, surrounded by the most breathtaking view. It might be the most fabulous shower I have ever taken.

The main floor has indoor and outdoor fireplaces and walls of glass that fully open out onto a stunning balcony on three sides. It has a full gourmet kitchen. We had a hot tub and access to a beautiful swimming pool. The villa is a piece of paradise in

paradise.

We were taken on a tour of Rahimoana (Sun God Over the Ocean – Maori translation) by William, who spent summers in the area since before he was even one-year-old. He knew a lot about the area and about Eagles Nest. Drenched in all-day sun, Rahimoana is a stunning villa that sits on a private 44 acres with panoramic views of the Bay of Islands. It has a private beach and a 25-meter infinity pool overlooking the beach. This is one of those places that you dream of, that you will compare everything else to, that will make you think about how to get back to stay here. I know as soon as I win the lottery, this is where I am coming. However, William also explained that Eagles Nest has some new options in place that would allow for those of us who dream of staying here to actually be able to do it. There are a range of options that go from the full-on luxury, which includes the use of a Porsche Cayenne, staff and other special amenities, to a more pared-down package, that creates a surprisingly reasonable option for luxury. I have to say, as soon as William explained it, my little brain started working out how I could come back here on holidays with some friends.

The design of the villas is incredible. And the interior décor is stylish, yet comfortable. You feel like you are at home in a really, really, really amazing version of home. It's laid-back and easy – and oh so luxurious.

For those staying here who might not want to cook, there are incredible culinary resources, including fabulous resident chefs, a superb wine cellar and fresh locally sourced foods, to create memorable dining experiences in your own villa. And Russell – and its fabulous restaurants like The Duke of Marlborough are a two-minute drive away. It is the kind of vacation that foodie dreams are made of.

More on dining here in the next post.