

Kamahi Cottage





I wonder if there any hobbits around? I say to myself. I'm on the lookout for them given that the region is said to be teeming with them. We've arrived in a very secluded area of Otorohanga, Waitomo, a five star farm stay cottage at Kamahi Cottage. It is the place where one the VIPs of the new Hobbit film stayed.



Not Quite Nigella



The grounds are stunning and they compete for the eye with the cottage itself. For me, the cottage only just pips it. And perhaps that is because it is lightly raining and I want to snuggle up under the covers after a long hot shower and wrap myself in one of their plush robes.



Not Quite Nigella



The lounge room is downstairs and has all of the creature comforts of a five star hotel- tv, iPod dock, liquor cabinet, magazines etc. But there are also other touches that go beyond that with a heart stopping selection of teas from Harley and Sons including a cinnamon, French Earl Grey and a Paris blend among others. I was so excited I was clutching my hands in excitement as I love a good cup of tea! Kamahi Cottage's owners Liz and Evan have also won awards for their environmental initiatives which include solar power, micro filtered farm forest stream drinking water instead of bottled water and all of the fruit is unsprayed and comes from the farm.



In the bathroom is an extensive selection of New Zealand brand Linden Leaves products who have the most divine smelling fragrances, particularly their fig and liquorice scent. There are cleansers, shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand cream as well as a range of their body oils. Other thoughtful touch is the freshly baked Swiss fruit tart as owner Liz is Swiss and she along with her husband Evan take care of guests. She is a natural host and you feel like nothing is ever too much trouble, even when I set up camp in the main house to use their internet as there isn't any in the cottage.



Not Quite Nigella



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While I work in the main house Liz, who is a fantastic baker, brings pots of tea and home baked biscuits and sweets including a lovely fruit roll and fruit and custard tart. She tells me of how far food has come – when she was growing up her mother couldn't find things like garlic and as you can imagine, her friends used to enjoy coming to her house for food. All I am thinking is that they will probably have to call the authorities to extract me from Kamahi Cottage's warm embrace when I have to leave! 😊



Not Quite Nigella



The next morning Liz makes breakfast for us and as expected it's a fantastic affair. You can have breakfast in the cottage or in the main house and the offerings are all home made including a crabapple jelly, plum & cumquat jam and she also serves clover honey. There is nashi pear juice and homemade muesli as well as the most absolutely delicious plaited Swiss bread. Liz was kind enough to share the recipe and if you are curious to recreate [this amazing bread, here is the recipe.](#)



Not Quite Nigella

Rhubarb filled crepes

And there's always a hot option and today we try the rhubarb crepes which are filled with sweet rhubarb and topped with a lovely, thick, sweet yogurt. I think we are ready to face anything on a meal like this – hobbits and all!

So tell me Dear Reader, are you into the Lord of the Rings films or books? And do you find yourself eating more than you intend to when the food is delicious even though you try not to?



Not Quite Nigella

NQN explored New Zealand as a guest of Tourism New Zealand