

Explore / Eat & Drink / Bars

Return

Return is a Ponsonby dining destination where Michelin-starred expertise meets seasonal New Zealand ingredients in a refined yet relaxed setting designed for memorable, repeat-worthy experiences.

Hours

Hāora

5 – 10 PM

More info

He pārongo atu anō

Visit website

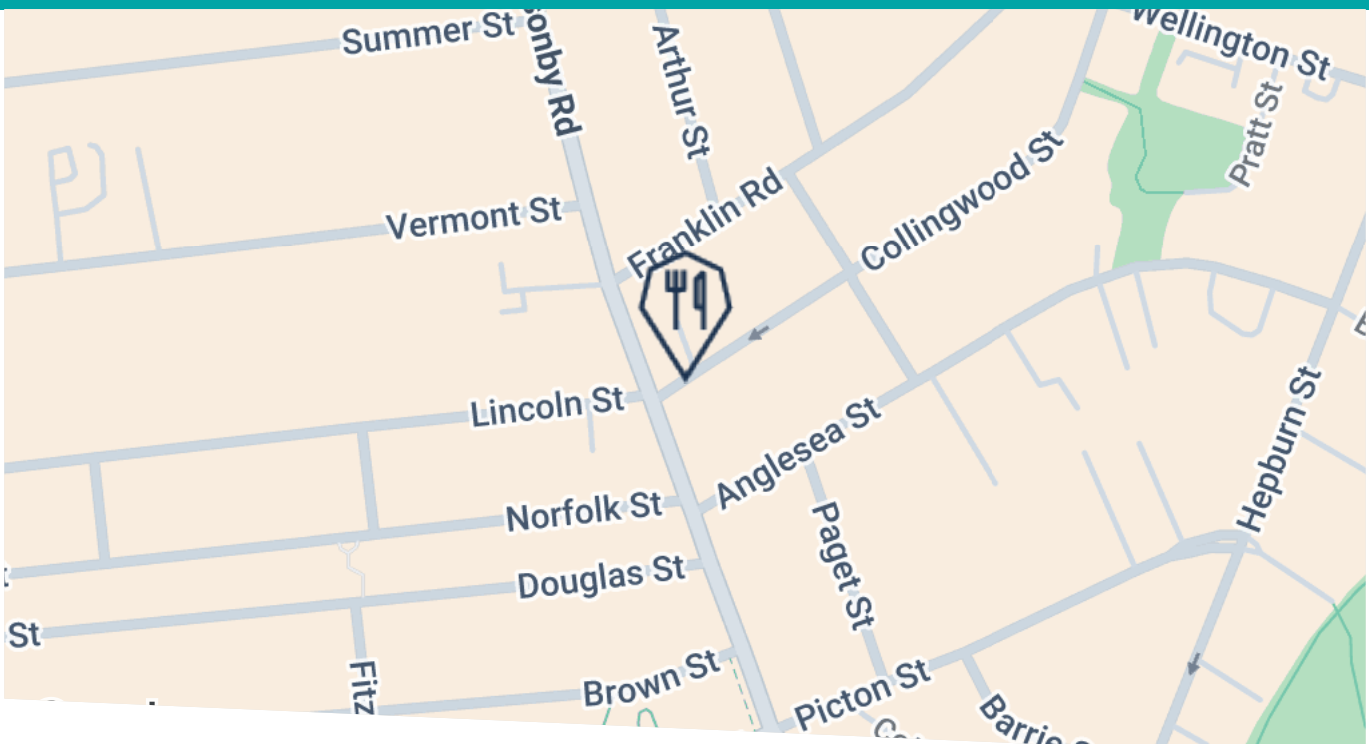
Save to collection

Words by Discover Auckland | Last updated 27 May 2026

Set within the lively, design-forward neighbourhood of Ponsonby, Return brings a quietly confident energy to one of Auckland’s most celebrated dining strips. Step inside and you’re welcomed by a space that feels both elevated and inviting — warm tones, tactile materials, and an intimate layout that draws you in from the buzz of the street. It’s a setting that reflects Ponsonby itself: stylish, social, and effortlessly refined.

At the heart of Return is a menu shaped by precision and experience, led by acclaimed chef Matt Lambert. Here, seasonal New Zealand ingredients are treated with a global sensibility, resulting in dishes that feel both inventive and deeply considered. You’ll find a rhythm to the dining experience — from thoughtfully composed plates to a drinks list that complements without overpowering — whether you’re sharing with the table or savouring each course at your own pace.

What makes Return stand out is its balance of pedigree and approachability. It’s a restaurant that carries the influence of world-class kitchens yet feels entirely at home in Ponsonby’s relaxed, creative atmosphere. Perfect for discerning diners, curious food lovers, and anyone seeking a memorable evening that doesn’t feel overly formal, Return invites you back time and again — just as its name suggests.



Location

Te wāhi

165 Ponsonby Road, Ponsonby, Auckland 1011

View Location

Getting there

Te huarahi ki reira

Return is located in Ponsonby and is well connected by frequent bus services running along Ponsonby Road. Several routes from the city centre stop nearby, including services departing from Britomart and the Downtown area. Disembark at a Ponsonby Road stop and you’ll typically be just a 2–5 minute walk from the restaurant, making it an easy and convenient journey without needing a car.

Parking around Ponsonby is a mix of on-street options and nearby paid parking areas. Metered street parking is available along Ponsonby Road and surrounding side streets.

Explore Things To Do Nearby

6 items



The Open Book

See & Do

Leisure & Entertainment

Central Auckland



Ponsonby Pool Hall

See & Do

Central Auckland



Aroha Love

See & Do

Spa & Wellness

Central Auckland



Perfume Play

See & Do

Leisure & Entertainment

Workshops

Central Auckland

Discover Delicious Eateries Nearby

6 items



East Noodle Bar

Eat & Drink

Restaurants

Central Auckland



Ponsonby Road

Eat & Drink

Cafes

Central Auckland



Lime Bar

Eat & Drink

Bars, Nightclubs

Central Auckland



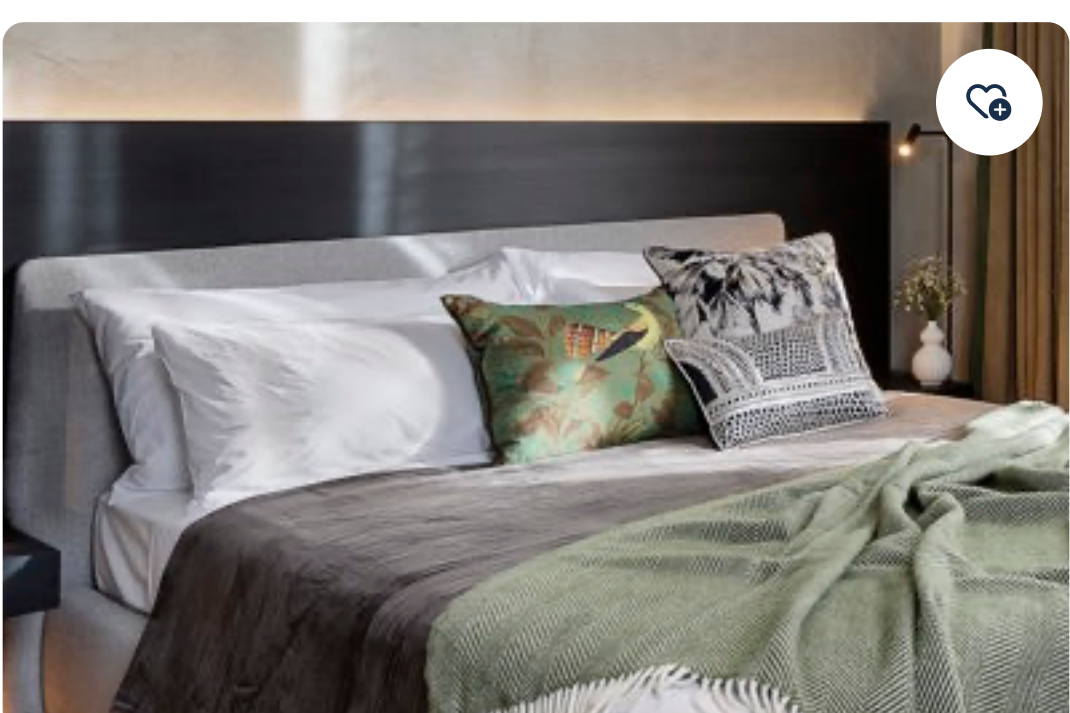
Lucky 8

Eat & Drink

Central Auckland

Book & Stay a Night or Two Nearby

6 items



Hotel Fitzroy curated by Fable

Stay

Hotel

Central Auckland

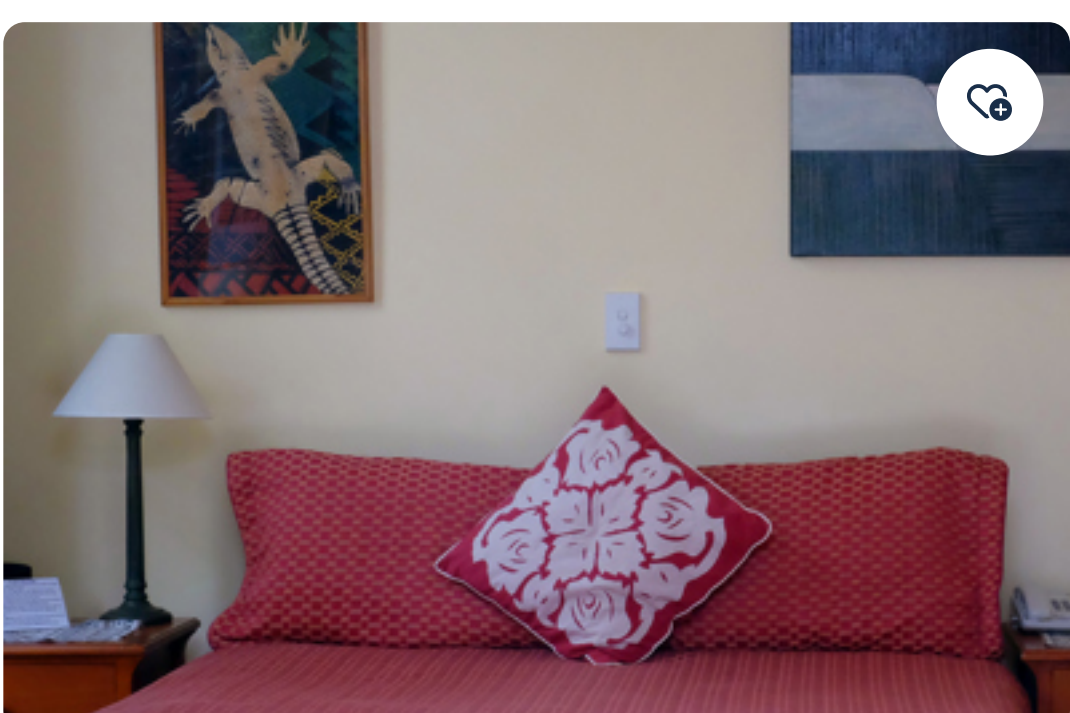


Franklin 38

Stay

Boutique & Lodge

Central Auckland



The Great Ponsonby Arthotel

Stay

Hotel

Central Auckland



Verandahs

Stay

Boutique