



Queenstown

Hulbert House

BY ALEXIA SANTAMARIA

ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Just a 10-minute stroll to central Queenstown, Hulbert House offers easy access to the town’s top attractions – restaurants, bars, shopping, the lake, the gondola, jet boating and more.

CLAIM TO FAME

This beautifully restored Victorian villa, with stunning views of Lake Whakatipu, has a colourful history dating back to 1887. It was built during the gold rush by trader Horatio Nelson Firth, who was jailed for embezzlement in 1901, leaving his wife to transform it into a guesthouse. By 1924, it had become a private nursing home, then a maternity home in 1945. After a brief ownership by the Salvation Army, it served as backpacker accommodation before evolving into the elegant boutique hotel it is today.

WORK THE ROOM

The Grand Room embraces maximalist Victorian style – rich textures, decorative



mouldings and antique-style furnishings. Bold purples, navy and gold are at the fore – there’s nothing meek about this interior. The bay window, with round table and comfortable chairs, looks out to classic Queenstown lake and mountain vistas, while a French country bench provides a perfect spot for reading. The bed is grand – tall and luxurious and the spacious bathroom features bath, roomy shower, fireplace – even a leather ottoman. Everything is

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well thought out, including a 43-inch TV mounted like a picture, a grinder and plunger for locally roasted Black Lab coffee beans and beautiful teacups for the Harney & Sons tea.

BILL OF FARE

Breakfast includes the usual suspects – cereal, bread, pastries, fresh fruit – cute bircher and chia seed pudding cups plus an a la carte menu if you fancy a hot dish. Complimentary snack jars are filled with home baking, plus there’s a fridge loaded with soft drinks, tea, coffee and bottled water. From 5-7pm, wine and canapes are served.

DON'T MISS

Spend time in the vibrant, tropical Palm Lounge, all Victorian high, vaulted ceilings, striking green-tiled fireplace and ornate crystal chandeliers. hulberthouse.co.nz

PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPLIED, ALEXIA SANTAMARIA



1, 3. The Palm Lounge. 2. The reception area. 4. The Firth grand suite. 5. English wallpaper and custom-milled Chinese willow pattern carpet. 6. The category 2

heritage villa-turned-boutique lodge has been beautifully restored. 7. The O’Sullivan Studio. 8. Pre-dinner canapes are served from 5-7pm.