



# A Night in Russell's Best Kept Secret...

With Russell being a hop, skip and a jump away from Auckland it's a great destination for a weekend away or that last minute escape.

We were fortunate enough to spend a night in one of Russell's premium villas, Tahapuke, to sample what this hideaway had to offer.

## The Property

As we approach the gates to the property, the villa itself is wonderfully hidden, giving no glimpse as to the beauty which awaits.

Walking down the winding path the first thing which grabs our attention is the beautiful private beach at the front of the property – with the aqua coloured, serene water it's hard to miss.

Greeting us as we enter the door is a chilled bottle of local Chardonnay and box of hand-crafted chocolates – together with the perfect setting to enjoy them in.

The property itself has a wonderful large open plan kitchen, dining and living area (with three living spaces to choose from). All are luxuriously appointed with contemporary decor and furnishings and opens out onto a large decking and a portrait of stunning sea views.

There are three bedrooms; all complete with TV, plus expansive windows and doors opening to your own terrace and of course the fantastic water views. All are fairly even in size - meaning that you don't have to fight over who gets the master.

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## TAHAPUKE *at a GLANCE*

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### Quick facts

- Sleeps 6
- 3 Bedrooms & 3 Bathrooms
- Private beach
- Private island
- Kayaks available
- Large living space with expansive views
- Price - \$800 - \$1,700 depending on season

### Perfect for

A romantic getaway or a trip with great friends.

### Editor's Tip

Try not to plan too much! This property is there to be enjoyed

### Planning a Wedding?

The outdoor space provides the perfect location for an intimate ceremony. Bride and groom packages are also available.

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### Things to do

It's very easy to sit back, relax and zone out to the sound of the waves, however with access to your very own private island a ride over there is a must!

Fortunately guests have complimentary access to both a dingy and kayaks so off we go. We opted for the lazier choice of the dingy (don't judge us!) but for the more active types the kayak also provides guests with the wonderful opportunity to venture across the bay. Nearby fishing or sailing charters are also available, providing ample things to do.

Guests also benefit from a 5 acre backdrop of native bush cascading down to the beach, which is not only incredibly beautiful but also stemmed in history; serving as a turangawaewae (or standing place) for Maori Chief Te Keemua and his people. Two Maori Pa sites are also located at the very top of the property.

As the sun begins to set, the pink colours surrounding the property are picture perfect as we head out to dinner. We make the 5 minute scroll to the town centre, head to the Duke of Marlborough for a sumptuous meal and toast ourselves to our own private piece of paradise. ♦

[tahapuke.co.nz](http://tahapuke.co.nz)

