



TAUPO?
PRONOUNCE
THIS WORD AS
"TAO-POH" AND
MAORI LOCALS
WILL BE UNHAPPY.
PRONOUNCE IT
"TOE-PAW" AND
THEY WON'T
BE. EASY.

Great lake

FHM's Dan Poole discovers the aquatic, vehicular and alcoholic delights of New Zealand's fun-tastic Lake Taupo.

▶ **As we check into our Hilton** hotel at Lake Taupo, one of the most beautiful areas on New Zealand's north island, it's clear that there any number of ways to relax: a heated outdoor pool, sauna,

steam room and spa pool all vie for attention. But, as is the way in this part of the world, the great outdoors is coyly beckoning us to join her with curled index finger... while sitting in a jet boat that's been thrown from

a bridge and landed on a ski slope. Something along those lines, anyway; read on for the lowdown on what you can get up to in one of the sporting and adventure capitals of the world – that just so happens to be right on your doorstep.

BUNGY JUMPING

One of the best ways to see the Waikato River is to jump into it – from a height of 47m. Taupo Bungy have been plunging people into the water since 1991 and provide for solo and tandem jumps, as well as a range of options when it comes to submersion: choose from touching the water with your hands (boring), going in up to your waist (*FHM's* brave choice) or the full dunk up to your ankles (silly). **Gimme: From \$100; taupobungy.co.nz**

JET BOATING

The Huka Falls is one of New Zealand's most visited attractions and, to be fair, you can get some great views from the nearby walkways and viewing balconies. However, more fun is to be had by careering towards the base of the falls in a 80km/h jet boat, getting gawped at by people on said viewing balconies and then blasting back down the Waikato River doing 360-degree spins all the way. Well, in our humble opinion that's much more rewarding, anyway... **Gimme: \$80; hukafallsjet.com**

FISHING

If you fancy getting out on Lake Taupo itself, you may as well catch some trout and sup on a few cold ones into the bargain. *FHM*, alas, didn't manage to catch anything (not for want of trying or ability, before you ask), but it's rare that you'll be in the same boat (as it were). Assuming you are luckier/yes, okay, more skilled, you can even have your catch smoked and couriered to you within NZ for a small price. Or just swallow it whole and raw on the spot... **Gimme: From \$520; chrisjolly.co.nz**



RACING

If you're of the opinion that Mark Webber needs to pick up the pace a bit, you can endeavour to show him how it's done at the Taupo racetrack. *FHM* drove a modified single-seater that was originally used in the now-defunct A1 GP, while you can also choose to go round in a V8. Word to the wise: when you come round the final bend onto the finishing straight, just you try not to pretend you've just won the Melbourne GP... **Gimme: From \$270; fcr.co.nz**

GOLF

Rated as one of the top 100 courses in the world, Wairakei is open to members of golf clubs in NZ, Australia



TIRED? DRINK WINE

Lake Taupo boasts a very large and generous wine cellar...

When you're worn out after a hard day of adrenalin-fuelled mayhem, relaxing with a glass or two of vino helps. The good people of Taupo clearly realise this, if the presence of New Zealand's largest underground wine cellar is anything to go by. Walking into Scenic Cellars is like walking into Santa's grotto, assuming Santa is a fine purveyor of quality wines

from New Zealand and around the world (which we'd like to think he is). With 3000 wine labels and 100,000 bottles of wine on hand, you can either pop in and grab yourself a couple of favourites or immerse yourself further and attend a wine tasting or themed dinner. There's nothing not to like about that last sentence. **sceniccellars.co.nz**

HOW TO... Open an old wine bottle without the use of a corkscrew.

1. WRAP IT

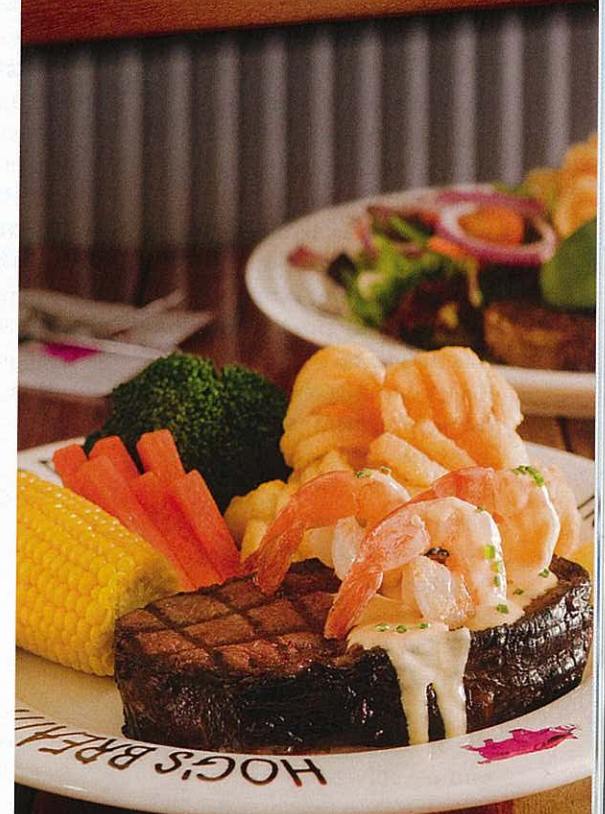
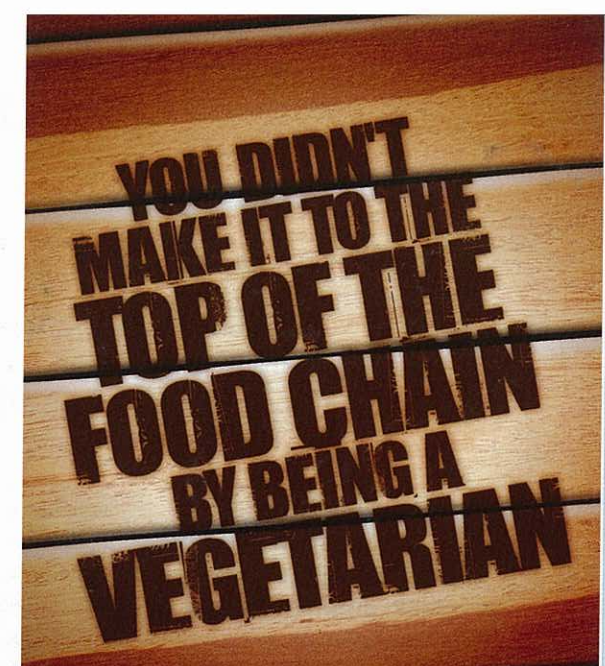
Remove any foil from the top of the bottle. Wrap the bottom of the bottle in a thick tea towel, making sure you can grip it firmly.

2. BASH IT

Hit the cushioned base of the bottle repeatedly against a hard, flat, vertical surface. A brick wall is best; if you're in a park, a tree will do.

3. YANK IT

As you hit the bottle against the surface, air inside will force the cork out. Once the cork is sufficiently exposed, pull it out with your hands.



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