

Te Pā Tū
Winter 2026 Season



WINNER
Visitor Experience Award
WORLD LUXURY TRAVEL AWARDS
2024

WINNER
Tourism Industry Excellence Award
WORLD LUXURY TRAVEL AWARDS
2024

WINNER
Resilience and Innovation Award
WORLD LUXURY TRAVEL AWARDS
2023

WINNER
Māori Tourism Award
WORLD LUXURY TRAVEL AWARDS
2023

TŪ TE TŪ

Te Ara

The Journey

5.00_{PM} Ahi tuku (fire ceremony)

5.10_{PM} Tawa forest village
Fireside kōrero (storytelling)
Traditional games, haka (challenge) and taonga puoro (musical instruments)
Kawakawa tī (tea)
Kai horotai (canapés)

6.00_{PM} View the hāngī (earth oven) lifting

6.10_{PM} Wharekai for hākari Tū Te Ihi (dining room for feast service)
Kapa haka ngāhau (Māori performing arts)

7.30_{PM} Poroporoaki (farewell ceremony)

Inclusions

- Three hours of storytelling, connection, and kai (cuisine)
- Kai horotai, forest canapes (indigenous and introduced ingredients)
- Matariki inspired and curated banquet menu
- Traditional in-ground hāngī
- Complimentary return transport from central city

◆ Welcome to Te Pā Tū, a sanctuary set in the mid 1800's, Aotearoa; a time post the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi and before the catastrophic 1886 Mt Tarawera eruption.

◆ European settlers have been here for some time. For many, the newcomers have brought welcome comfort, technologies, and an easier life. For others, pākehā ways remain irreconcilable with deeply held, ancient beliefs. But for tonight, all that is set aside for Tū Te Ihi, celebrating the arrival of Matariki star cluster, the new lunar year, and the promise it holds.

◆ There is nostalgia for old times and ancestors long passed, there are homecomings, reunions, kōrero (conversation), celebration and only the best of kai (food).

◆ You have arrived for the festivities, as an honoured guest. Nau mai, welcome.





Ngā Kaihaka

The Performers



◆ **Tukiri**
Tainui, Te Arawa, Ngāi Tahu

I'm a pā (village) kid from Whakarewarewa. Every day I carve, train, draw, play sports, help around the pā with my cousins, and I love to eat! I have been fortunate to grow up in a whānau full of creativity and opportunity, nurtured in our culture every day. Whakairo (carving), tā moko (traditional Māori tattoo), raranga (weaving), te reo Māori (Māori language), whakapapa (lineage) – and of course our love for kapa haka – are all a big part of who we are and what I love.

◆ **Rangimaewa**
Te Arawa, Ngai Tūhoe,
Te Whanau-ā-Apanui, Ngāpuhi,
Ngāti Porou

My favourite space is the Poroporoaki (farewell), where we acknowledge the cultures of our manuhiri (visitors) by performing a song or dance in their language. It's a special moment of reciprocity. I am studying Theatre Studies, Maori, and Indigenous Studies. I love diving for kaimoana (seafood). I am very competitive and play many sports, including netball and basketball. My favourite thing of all is spending heaps of time with my family – I love spoiling all my little baby cousins.



◆ **Manukau**
Ngāti Pikiao, Tainui, Ngāti Awa

I was born and raised in a small place called Rotoiti. I'm the youngest of five boys, and we're a family passionate about rugby and kapahaka. Growing up in Rotoiti, I was fortunate to be immersed in te ao Māori (the Māori world). Currently, I'm studying to become a Māori performing arts teacher, and in my free time I play rugby for my iwi team, Rotoiti.





◆ **Tohuarongo**
Ngāti Whakaeue, Ngāpuhi, Kuki Airani

I was raised by strong Māori and Pasifika wāhine (Māori and Pacific women) in the health space who have a passion for rongoā Māori (traditional Māori medicine). Outside of Te Pā Tū, I'm following in the footsteps of my mum and aunts by studying in the same field. I also have a deep love for performing arts, especially haka wahine – it connects me to who I am and honours the powerful role of wāhine in our history. I've been surrounded by artistry my whole life – master carvers, weavers – and I've been lucky to wear tāonga (treasures) that have special meaning to our people and to me.

◆ **Whakaiao**
Te Arawa, Ngai Tūhoe, Ngāpuhi,
Te Whānau-ā-Apanui

I'm all about family, and it's a big part of who I am. Singing, playing guitar, and sharing our culture are my passions, but I also enjoy learning about different cultures, traditions, languages, and customs. I teach Māori performing arts at secondary schools like Tai Wānanga and Waikato Diocesan School for Girls. At the University of Waikato, I teach beginner Māori students performing arts and serve as a Māori Liaison. I also help tutor Rotorua Intermediate and Rotorua Boys High School kapa groups for regional and national kapa haka competitions.



◆ **Ngareta**
Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Ngāpuhi,
Te Whānau-ā-Apanui

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Māori Performing Arts, while also training toward becoming a commercial pilot. Outside of Te Pā Tū, my focus is on my studies and continuing to prepare for my future. I've spent my whole life here in Rotorua. Growing up as a Māori Cook Islander, I've always been surrounded by whānau and culture. My first Cook Island performance was at four, and my first kapa haka performance was at six, culture has always been a big part of who I am.



Ngā Kaihaka

The Performers



◆ **Taruke** Tainui, Ngāi Tūhoe

I grew up in a small rural Māori community east of Rotorua, where all my neighbours are cousins and Māori language and traditions are everywhere. I love hanging out on the farm with my Koro (Grandfather), riding motorbikes, and swimming in the river with my cousins; it makes me feel so free. Spending time with my baby is the best part of my day - whether it's in the morning before she goes to kōhanga (kindergarten) or when I get back from mahi (work) late at night. What I'm most proud of is sharing our Māori culture with a talented young crew every day.

◆ **Te Rauna** Te Arawa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Whānau ā-Apanui, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Raukawa

I really enjoy learning Māori martial arts and the different weapons used by our tūpuna (ancestors) to defend their mana (honour), whenua (land), and whānau (family). It's something I feel deeply connected to, passed down through generations. One of the most rewarding parts of being at Te Pā Tū is learning about our manuhiri, their cultures, languages, and stories. Outside of Te Pā Tū, I enjoy kapa haka, playing rugby, a bit of golf, and going to the gym, but most of all, I value spending time with my whānau and friends.



◆ **Waitangi** Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Ngāpuhi, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui

I have been raised in te ao Māori - language, customs, and whakapapa (ancestry). My family is the most important thing to me. I truly enjoy what I do, particularly when it involves kapahaka. I was a costume and design assistant for Tū Te Ihi and am working toward becoming a costume designer. When I am not at Te Pā Tū, I help my grandmother at her kōhanga reo (kindergarten) or my Dad tutoring kapahaka. This year I will visit South Korea, India, Bali and USA.





◆ **Mahururangi**
Tainui, Ngāi Tūhoe

I love teaching haka to our manuhiri (visitors), especially seeing them come together to perform it for the first time, it's a special feeling. Being here alongside my siblings makes it even more meaningful and feels true to who I am. Spending time helping on my Koro's (grandfather's) farm has strengthened my connection to the whenua (land) and taught me the value of hard work. I also really value the connections we make with manuhiri, and how much we often have in common, especially with other indigenous cultures.

◆ **Parehingaawatea**
Te Arawa, Te Whakatōhea, Tūwharetoa

I grew up in Rotorua with my kuia (grandmother) and mother, immersed in te ao Māori (the Māori world) from an early age. From kohanga reo (Māori language preschool) to kura kaupapa Māori (Māori immersion junior and senior school), I grew up surrounded by our history and tradition. Outside of Te Pā Tū, I love playing hockey, kapa haka, and music, and spending time with my whānau and friends. Sharing our culture with manuhiri (visitors) grounds me, builds my confidence, and helps create meaningful connections. I'm passionate about learning and growth – both culturally and in every part of life.



◆ **Himiona**
Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Rongomai,
Tainui Ngaati Maahanga

I was whāngai (adopted) and raised as an only child, although I actually have 11 blood siblings. With my birth whānau, we placed second at Te Matatini in 2019. I grew up in kura kaupapa (Māori immersion school) until high school and live in te ao Māori (the Māori world). Outside of Te Pā Tū, I spend a lot of time trying to be a fisherman and playing rugby for my iwi team, Rotoiti. My greatest achievement by far is being a father to the most beautiful girl ever. She's taught me so much and I'm very grateful for her and her mother.





✦ Irihei Walker
Ngāi Tuhoe, Te Arawa, Ngāti Kahungunu

Nā te Kaitaka Matua

From our Executive Chef

✦ Kai (food) provenance is important to us, as is supporting other Māori producers, creators. We design menus seasonally and look to our whānau and neighbouring iwi (tribes) first for ingredients and produce. For example, our truffle oil is from Ngāti Whakaue (north of us), our honey is from Tūhoe (east of us), and our wine list is almost entirely Māori winemakers.

✦ We always include pārerā (duck) and kokopu (whitebait). These are delicacies to Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa, to whom Te Pā Tū owners, Tauhara North No 2 Trust, whakapapa (have lineage). Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa commercially and sustainably farm our kokopu.

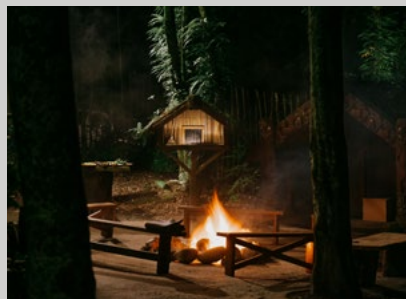
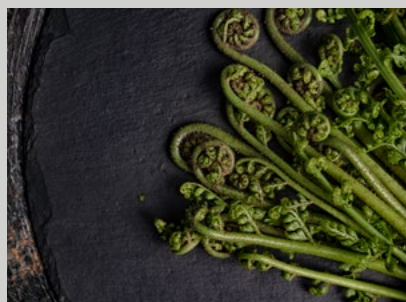
✦ Please enjoy our hākari (feast) as much as we loved preparing it.

Rārangī Kai

About the Menu

◆ Our Tū Te Ihi 2026 menu pays homage to the Matariki (Pleiades) star cluster and to the new lunar year. Each dish is lovingly crafted then honoured with a pao, (a sung tribute), as it arrives to your table.

◆ Wine pairing and non-alcoholic beverage matches are available. Please ask our kaimahi (wait staff) for details.



◆ Tū Te Ihi extends across the cooler months of the natural world's cycle and includes the arrival of the Matariki star cluster. Winter months are quieter for the iwi (people). Sustained by the summer kai harvested and preserved across warmer months, there are no long planting or harvest days, no migration between pā (villages), no hunting, nor warfare to command attention. Instead, we nestle around fires, find sanctuary in whare (houses), and soak in nearby ngāwha (hot springs). We are nourished by the gathering of whānau (family). Together we share ideas and dreams, we remember our ancestors, and we wānanga (learn) with our tohunga (experts).



KO TE PĀ TŪ, HE TOHU NŌ TE ORA
AN ELEVATED SANCTUARY, A SYMBOL OF WELLBEING

Te Pā Tū

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