



## NEW ZEALAND

*“I always wanted to go to New Zealand,” Marique Schimmel – this issue’s cover girl – told us. Well, we did. And this is what we found.*

WORDS *Elle Glass*

**THERE IS SOMETHING** special about New Zealand. Before we left, we were sent a handwritten itinerary drafted by friends detailing the stores and streets they grew up on. We folded it and carried it pretty much everywhere, had it annotated by locals and Air New Zealand hosties. Everyone had their own something-special they wanted to share with us.

In Auckland, that something was falling in love with the Hotel DeBrett and coffee with Karen Walker at her Takapuna Department Store. It was driving through patches of cloud with a taxi driver in a three-piece suit “because it’s the fashion week thing love” and a Harley ride, holding tight to an evangelist in leather. It was a helicopter to Waiheke Island to take in the view from Mudbrick Vineyard and an escape on the ferry with a local whose name we can’t remember but who sweet-talked the on-board bar into staying open and serving a local red.

In Rotorua, it was Manuka honey everything, and the geothermal mud at Hell’s Gate that Helena Rubenstein wanted for her own but was told it was “staying put”.

And in Wellington, it was that familiar feeling, like you knew which way the light falls and where to find the coffee that fits your hand

best (Caffe L’affaire). There, it just made sense: the fish straight off the boat at Chaffers Dock, hot chips with truffle mayo at The Library Bar and the white ceramic jugs at Martin Bosley’s restaurant with ‘New Zealand’ etched in gold trim.

When looking for images to run with this piece, we were overwhelmed. But in each and every edit there was one that made the cut. Sure, we could have shown you more (and promise we will, online), but this is our one something special. We found it on the wall – slightly above eyeline – in Walker’s O’Connell Street store in Auckland. It’s by Derek Henderson – a kiwi and a regular RUSSH photographer – of a Westport morning. “I know the one,” he said when we requested the image, “it’s all quiet, like no one is quite awake.”

“I have a number of Derek’s pieces in my collection and they hang in the stores and in my home,” Walker told us when we flagged it with her. “What I love about Derek’s work is that he manages to create both glamorous, joyful work and quite sombre, haunting work and I like especially when these two are contrasted.” Walker told us she’s so fond of it, she’s “pulling it out of the store and bringing it back home.” Before she does though, we thought we’d share it with you. 

To see our very much-annotated list, visit [www.russhmagazine.com](http://www.russhmagazine.com)