

The River House Hawke's Bay

The Venue

The River House on the Tuki Tuki River is midway between Havelock North and Ocean Beach and offers a home from home venue for your wedding or special event. The property is set in an incredibly sunny spot with large lawned areas, a beautiful pool area and a working vineyard with expansive views over the vines down the Tuki Tuki valley and up to the majestic Te Mata Peak. The property has direct access to the Tuki Tuki River and the River Walk which runs beneath the Black Barn River Lodges.



On Arrival

We encourage the majority of guests to travel by bus and on arrival they will enter the property via our large courtyard which gives them the first glimpse of the view that lies beyond. This is an ideal area to serve on arrival drinks in the courtyard or overlooking the pool area prior to heading to the vineyard which is the most popular location for the ceremony. The courtyard is set up to take a 6 x 9m marquee which can be erected at short notice (at additional cost) in the event of inclement weather.

The Ceremony and Marquee Lawn

Set in an avenue between the vines this is the most popular location for ceremonies. The view to left (not shown in this image) is straight up to the Peak. From here guests go up to the marquee lawn



Marquee lawn with view to Te Mata Peak. We have a 35m x 20m marquee lawn where we can accommodate various different marquee configurations depending on the type / size of the event. There is another lawn adjacent to the marquee area with plenty of flat space for lawn games, etc.



Great backdrop for speeches

Note: We have recently purchased the adjacent property which also has great views down the river and up to the peak – we are currently creating another marquee lawn here.

Event Hire

We are a venue and event hire business - marquee and event hireage is through our marquee company Marquees over Hawkes Bay (www.marqueesoverhawkesbay.co.nz).



Weather permitting, we will set the marquee up 48 hours before the event day to give you the day before the event to dress the marquee and do any finishing touches. Dance floors are laid on the morning of the event and uplifted the morning after to minimise damage to the lawn. If you have a specific style of marquee that you want to hire which we do not offer we can introduce you to our approved suppliers. If there is something that you want that is not offered by these suppliers let us know and we can see how we can help. In high summer clear roof marquees have to be erected the day before and dismantled the day after – we do not recommend the use of these in high summer as they can scorch the lawn (and the guests!) but let us know if this the non-negotiable dream and we can make a plan! You must be able to prove that the clear marquee is made of UV treated material and it must have the a shade cover over the top of it until the marquee is in the shade (4.00 pm ish in high summer); See Approved Suppliers List at the end. Loo rental would be through MOHB.

Caterers, alcoholic drinks

There are no restrictions on which caterers or wine suppliers you can use. We do not charge any corkage fee either so the savings that you can make on wine alone are extremely significant when compared to a wedding in a commercial vineyard or other venue.

For example assuming guests consume a bottle of wine per head at a 100 guest wedding your wine savings alone could be in the region of \$3000 based on buying wine at \$15 as opposed to \$45. Most venues have a min spend of circa \$2500!

Advintage in Havelock North (see approved suppliers) offer fantastic year-round offers on all wines, sale or return on unopened cases of wine and free delivery to the River House - so no need to risk running dry!

Accommodation



If you would like the property for longer than the wedding day, the house can be made available to rent enabling you to make the place your own and have a true “at home” wedding.

The bride can wake up on the wedding day with the marquee in the garden and able to have her hair and make-up done ‘at home’.

The house sleeps ten in five double bedrooms - minimum stay is 4 nights from \$2500 per night. This is our home and is decorated accordingly – we also have a resident cat who remains in situ!

There are lots of accommodation options available along the Tuki Tuki River for family and friends - the Black Barn River Lodges are within walking distance.

The swimming pool area is not included in the venue fee unless you are renting the house as well however we always light it and put the umbrellas up. Even if you are renting the house the pool area must remain locked during the wedding.

Renting the house does not entitle you to an after party and is expressly excluded. If you have plans for friends to return the following day you must let us know or the run the risk of incurring a second venue fee

Venue Fee

The cost to hire the venue for a one day event is \$6,500 plus gst. This allows for access the day before the event for set up, the event day itself and then until midday the day after for clearing all décor and rubbish.

Weather



Plan for the worst and hope for the best and remember that we own a marquee business! It's easy to become pre-occupied with the weather - the weather will be what it will be and in Hawkes Bay it is usually fantastic! Do not waste energy on the uncontrollables! We have a marquee that goes over the courtyard (below) and we can usually supply other gear at short notice. Rain creates a different vibe at a wedding and that is invariably a really positive, spirited vibe so enjoy it and don't worry!



Frequently Asked Questions



Q. Can we use our own caterer?

A. Yes and we can make recommendations if required. Food trucks are also welcome - if the truck is a feature / focal point the location for parking on the lawn will be subject to ground conditions.

Q. Can we drink our own alcohol?

A. Yes – it is a huge saving compared to most other working vineyards or commercial catered venues. For example assuming consumption of one bottle per head at a 100 guest wedding your wine savings alone could be in the region of \$3000 based on buying wine at \$15 as opposed to \$45.

Q. How many people can we invite?

A. What do you have in mind? Let us know your dream and we can make a plan to suit.

Q. Can we have fireworks or Chinese lanterns?

A. No - total ban – there have been two big fires nearby and there is a lot of livestock locally

.Q. Can we have confetti?

A. Real white flower petals only – no coloured paper confetti, coloured petals, rice, sequins, etc.

Q. Can we have open fires / braziers?

A. Not in high summer (usually a fire ban)– subject to discussion at other times of year

Q. Can guests smoke?

A. Yes but in designated smoking areas

Q. What time can we start on the day?

A. Any time to suit you – weddings usually start at 3.00 / 4.00pm but the venue is yours for the day

Q. Can we have DJ or band and what time does music have to go off?

A. Yes and music off at 11.00pm guests away by 11.30 pm

Q. Do we have to hire loos?

A. Yes – available through our hire business.

Q. Do we have to hire a generator?

A. Yes - if you have a band or a caterer cooking on site - SSSL

Q. How do guests get to The River House?

A. We prefer the majority of guests to arrive by bus but we have onsite parking for a few cars

Q. Can we host a corporate event?

A. Yes, from product launch, client hospitality to an office Christmas Party.

Q. How far is The River House from Napier Airport, Havelock North, Ocean Beach?

A. Thirty minutes, ten minutes, ten minutes.

Q. Who is responsible for clearing up?

A. The client is responsible for arranging waste and recycling removal (DIY or through Bin Hire) and clearing the venue of all decorative items and waste (inc cigarette butts, bottle tops , place names, serviettes, etc off the lawn!). This to be done by midday the day after the event so that the marquees can be dismantled. Most of this can be arranged with the caterers to avoid inconveniencing the wedding party.

Q. How many events do we host?

A. The River House is our home and so we limit the amount of events – we like to meet all of our clients beforehand to check that we are all “on the same page” and as a result have been lucky to have hosted some fabulous celebrations. We are giving our home over to our clients and it is important to us that they feel that they are hosting an “at home” event. By keeping the numbers of larger events down it means the property always looks its best.

Approved Suppliers



Catering / Food Trucks

Orton's – James Orton (027 430 2280)
Mitzi and Twinn – Harriet (0278 450 450)
Vertigo Catering – Tom (021 119 1507)
Gourmet BBQ – Raymond (021 931 205)
Kate Lester Catering – Kate (021 830 525)
Vagabond Jacks (Food Truck) – Kerry (027 787 5705)
Pipi Pizza Truck (021 707 510)
The Pizza Guy – Stefan (027 614 6828)
St George's Catering – Kathryn (06 877 5356)

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of caterers and you are welcome to use others!

Cutlery Crockery and Glassware

Empire Events (Havelock North)
– Barnaby Howard (027 771 8421)
Mardi Gras (Hastings) – supply clear roof marquees
– Greg Gilmour (021 934 083)

Electrical, lighting, generators and sound

Sight and Sound Services – Henry Norton (027 316 8741).
This company is the only approved supplier. If you wish to use anyone else you must seek pre-approval as some are not welcome. DIY electrical / lighting work is not permitted.

Chiller Trailers

Hawkes Bay Refrigeration
(06 878 8002)

Florist

Suzanna Todd Flowers - Suzanna
(027 457 8720)

Photographer

Eva Bradley – (021) 159 1053

Wine

Advintage – John McPherson
(0800 111 660)

Waste and Recycling

Bin Hire Ltd (06 870 0844)

Event Planning / Co-ordinator

Alice Flock Events - Flock Events hello@flockevents.co.nz
Orton's also provide this as an add on to their service at additional cost

Hardwood tables and benches

Empire Events – Barnaby Howard (027 771 8421)
Flock Events – Alice and Kris (hello @ flockevents.co.nz)
LL Hire – Hayden (027 24 81148)

Marquees

Flagship Events – Sperry tents – www.flagshipevents.nz
- Patch or Ted
Mardi Gras (Hastings) – clipframe, peg and pole and clear roof marquees
– Greg (021 934 083)
LL Hire – clear Marquees Hayden (027 24 81148)

Soft Furnishings

Flock Events – Alice and Kris (hello @ flockevents.co.nz)
LL Hire – Hayden (027 24 81148)

Transport

Bay Tours (06 845 2736)
Nimon Bus Hire (06 877 8133)
Art Deco Bus - Top Deck Buses - info@doubledecker.co.nz



12m x 18m Peg and pole; wedding car on croquet lawn and 6m x 9m capri marquee in courtyard



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Hawke's Bay

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