

CYCLE THE BAY  
 CYCLE THE BAY  
 CYCLE THE BAY



Gary Grooteelar, owner and chef, is also a golf pro.



Great fun to be had four-wheel driving.



One of the delectable fish dishes Gary prepared for our visit.



Just some of the views from The Manse.

## Romance at The Manse

When life's so busy, a breather is in order. Check in at The Manse near Havelock North and feel the stress slip away . . .

**W**ITH THE year whizzing by so fast and events on every weekend, I found myself in need of a little break. I didn't really have the time to leave the Bay as I wanted for the next best thing and escaped to one of our wonderful rural retreats.

The Manse is a peaceful bed and breakfast country retreat tucked away in Maraekakaho (about a 15-minute drive from Havelock North). Built in 1910 for the local vicar, it was later moved to its current site, which has fantastic views across Ikaroanga Plains.

### Vicky Roebuck

*A day in the Bay*

New owners, Gary and Dietske Grooteelar, returned to New Zealand from the Netherlands with the dream of running a luxury B&B. They spent a year looking for the right property. When they found The Manse, they instantly knew it was the place for them and have turned it into a luxuriously comfortable place to stay. They



Murphy, the resident spruce miniature poodle.

offer two en-suite bedrooms that can accommodate a maximum of four adults at a time so it has an intimate, homely feel. Gary and Dietske speak English, French, German and Dutch, so overseas visitors also feel right at home. Upon arrival we were treated to

a chilled bottle of Moet and Chandon, which we enjoyed in the private courtyard, dapping our feet in the pool.

That set us up nicely for our three-course lunch which was sublime because, as luck would have it, Gary also happens to be a top-class chef. He wowed us with served white fish and mussels with a beurre blanc sauce, which was cooked to perfection. I rave about this because until that day I had never eaten mussels but he convinced me everything can be delicious if it's cooked properly.

As well as being a white in the kitchen Gary also happens to be a golf pro. Guests can opt for a private one-on-one golf lesson from him at Hastings Golf Course. A 40-minute lesson would normally cost \$50 but this is just one of the perks of staying at The

Manse. If golf is not your thing, there are other activities to enjoy: 4WD driving along Ngaurunui River, clayed shooting, fly fishing and jet boating. Whiskey and cigar lovers are also in for a treat with more than 50 premium whiskeys and 200 Cuban cigars available for tasting with Gary in the library.

The Manse has also just received the first New Zealand Qualmark accreditation as a five-star boutique lodge. To celebrate, Gary and Dietske have put together a cracking deal. Stay three nights and you will get a free three-course gourmet dinner for two valued at \$170, plus a free onsite activity of your choice. To find out more call them on (06) 874 9625 or see [www.themanse.co.nz](http://www.themanse.co.nz)

■ Vicky Roebuck is communications manager for Hawke's Bay Tourism.