

Restaurant of the  
year award for the  
Wairarapa -  
Micheal Guy's  
Eating Out  
2006

Wairarapa  
est Wine Bar & eatery  
Cosy & glorious

This is a cosy little restaurant with a main dining area that seats around 30, but in summer you can sit outside in the courtyard. The night we dined here the warmth from the open fireplace kept us snug. There are two sofas by the fire, rather strange modern paintings adorn the walls, and the overall atmosphere is very pleasant. We were very impressed with the wine list, including the Pinot Noir for which the Wairarapa is renowned, and special wines "from the vault".

To start we enjoyed the Goats cheese with sweet pepper and aubergine terrine with sun-dried tomato pesto (\$14), and the twice baked Kikorangi blue souffle on walnut salad (\$14). Mains of Lamb fillet and mint couscous with ratatouille (\$24), and Venison on pommes Anna with wilted spinach and caramelised strawberry jus (\$25) were exquisite. So too was the Cardamom creme brulee with orange segments (\$12).

For food, service, ambience and price we gave it a 9/10 rating.  
8 Memorial Square,  
(06) 306-9665.  
[www.est.org.nz](http://www.est.org.nz)