

Cuisine

NZ RESTAURANT
OF THE YEAR 2010



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Mercedes-Benz



**BEST
CASUAL
DINING**
METROPOLITAN
RUNNER-UP

Ponsonby Road Bistro ★★★★★

165 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby,
ph: 09-360 1611,

ponsonbyroadbistro.co.nz

Dinner Mon-Sat, lunch Mon-Fri

When the clever crew from Ponsonby favourite Rocco opened this eatery as Ponsonby Road Bistro in 2009, they captured the zeitgeist of well-priced bistros and did it with style and aplomb. Everything on the crowd-pleasing menu is under \$30 (steak aside), the wine list is a cut above (and we like that you can get 500ml carafes), and the fit-out has an air of urbane cool with a welcoming vibe from the engaging staff.

Co-owner Melissa Morrow takes charge out front in the busy dining room, and her enthusiasm for good food and an eye for interesting wines keeps this bistro ahead of the pack.

The private-club feel puts you instantly at ease once installed on a banquette and perusing chef Sarah Conway's handwritten menu that may consist of freshly shucked oysters, house-made charcuterie plate, pizzas, sardines with preserved orange butter, pine nuts and currants; and roast lamb rump with quinoa tabbouleh.

Thankfully you can book, but last-minute hopefuls can pull up a stool at the room's central bar to enjoy a drink.

We love it because it's lots of fun. And sometimes that might just be the most important thing.