



Mollies

- Rated 5 of 5 by [midtownmjd](#) from New York, New York

Stepping out of my taxi after 24 hours of traveling on foot, subway, plane, and car, I went from feeling like a rumbled mess to feeling like I'd died and gone to, well, Mollies.

Miss Joanna was expecting me and immediately whisked me into my duplex villa, a bright space filled with the notes of Pavarotti, the glow of an electric fireplace, and room after room of exquisite but comfortable décor. As soon as she left, I ran around the place like a candy-crazed kid, my jet lag a thing of the past before I even stepped into the amazing shower, tucked into the plush bed, or became an actual candy fiend at the complimentary mini-bar.

I paused for a while on the upstairs balcony, where I would watch the sun rise over Auckland the next morning, captivated by the perfect outline of the city. Inside, the view was even better, because Mollies has thought of everything a traveler might want: two flat-screen TVs, wireless Internet, DVD players, robe, slippers, snacks, alarm clock, flashlight, books, magazines, CDs, that day's *Herald*. The attention paid to the details in each of the 14 suites is incredible. My room (number 13) featured a living room, dining nook, bedroom, bathroom, and walk-in closet downstairs, and a daybed and desk in the upstairs loft. All of this was accented with a chandelier, antiques, paintings, layers of pillows, marbled walls, huge mirrors, and global influences.

But I came closest to singing hallelujah with the Pavarotti CD in the bathroom. Its spotless, heated tiles; towel warmer; Jacuzzi; two-headed shower; Molton Brown bath products; hairdryer; and sleek sinks were enough to bring a weary traveler to tears.

The bathroom didn't remain my favorite thing at Mollies for long, though; it didn't stand a chance next to the spa, gym, dining room, or reading room. And outside, where I took my breakfast and coffee, was just as beautiful, with views of perfect Ponsonby streets and the Harbour Bridge beyond. Mollies' location is a huge draw; the hotel is tucked into a trendy, residential neighborhood away from the city center, but only a 15-minute walk to the heart of Auckland. And any member of the personable staff will point you where you want to go, marked-up map in hand.

The staff, in fact, is what really differentiates Mollies. Led by the opera-industry husband-and-wife-team Frances Wilson and Stephen Fitzgerald, the staff runs the place beautifully but without pretension. The night I was there, they were hosting a wedding party's rehearsal dinner, and were so warm in their encouragements for me to stop by that I actually did. I'm glad I took their advice, because two of the talented hotel staff entertained us with arias by the piano (which they do nightly around 8pm).

Though a night of Mollies' luxury starts at approximately \$495, it's easily one of the world's best boutique hotels, and if you're looking to celebrate a special occasion or to recover from traveling, it's worth every penny.

From journal [Auckland: City of 100 Lovers](#)