



*Winner*

**Westpac Rotorua  
Business Excellence  
Awards 2018**

Ngā Tohu Kairangi Pakihi Westpac Rotorua

NZ CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
R O T O R U A

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Stolen Bike Catering Wins Best Small Business at 2018 Rotorua Business Awards**

High-end Rotorua catering company, Stolen Bike Ltd, was last night chosen as Rotorua's Best Small Business at the 2018 Westpac Rotorua Business Excellence Awards. Stolen Bike's Director and Head Chef Ryan Gregorash says the award is testament to many of years of investment, product development and the incredible passion of his team.

"The hospitality industry is very dynamic and competitive, with companies facing a saturated market and clients with increasingly high expectations. Companies in our industry have had to work increasingly hard in recent years to create a reputation for excellence. At Stolen Bike, we've focused on creating bespoke menus for our clients, achieving superior attention to detail, and producing innovative, modern cuisine," he says.

But Chef Gregorash believes that creating memorable food is only part of Stolen Bike's success. It was the company's strong vision, its employee-first strategy, and its continual drive to improve that the Business Awards judges recognised as a key difference.

"Many owners in our industry are very focused on the hospitality side of the business – being a chef, running a kitchen, managing the front of house, the wine list – all of the things that we're trained to do. But running a business – the management, the finance, setting a strategy – is an entirely different ballgame. While we constantly strive to create excellence food, Stolen Bike places equal focus on ensuring that the business itself has strong processes to generate and support predictable revenue streams," says Chef Gregorash.

Stolen Bike has four key business pillars; operating Stolen Bike café; the exclusive catering contract for in-house events at Scion; out-catering for corporate events and weddings; high-end out-catering for the luxury tourism sector. Stolen Bike's focus on luxury tourism is what excites Chef Gregorash the most, with his team delivering world-class cuisine at private dinner parties of the wealthy and often famous guests who regularly visit Rotorua.

"To be successful within the luxury tourism space, we need to achieve excellence across our entire business. We need to produce outstanding food that presents flawlessly, has intricate detail, is flavoursome, tells a uniquely New Zealand story, and is quite possibly the best food of its kind our customers have ever tasted," he explains.

Chef Gregorash has a vision for Rotorua – for the city to be recognised for its culinary excellence in the same way it is renowned internationally for its mountain biking and tourism industries.



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“Rotorua has been a must-do destination for tourists for many, many years. They’ve traditionally come for our cultural tourism, our spa treatments and more recently our world-class mountain biking. Wouldn’t it be great if Rotorua could create a similar reputation for excellence in the hospitality industry?”.

Gregorash has big plans for Stolen Bike Catering and wants to lead the charge in helping lift Rotorua’s culinary reputation even further. While he remains tight lipped about what that might mean, he hints that Stolen Bike will introduce new, unique and game-changing restaurants and dining experiences to the city in the near future.

Ends.

For more information

- Visit [www.stolenbike.co.nz](http://www.stolenbike.co.nz)
- Contact Shaun Anastasi on 021 755 332 or [shaun@squarepeg.co.nz](mailto:shaun@squarepeg.co.nz)

#### About Stolen Bike Catering ([www.stolenbike.co.nz](http://www.stolenbike.co.nz))

Stolen Bike Catering is a high-end catering company based in Rotorua that serves the wider Bay of Plenty market. Led by Ryan Gregorash, a professional chef and business manager with over 25 years’ experience, Stolen Bike specializes in outstanding bespoke menus, handmade in-season flavours, and innovative culinary techniques. Stolen Bike Catering serves parties of 2 to 1800 people with high-end foods that are currently only available in Auckland, Melbourne or Sydney. Customers can meet Ryan and his team at their café, located in Scion’s Te Papa Tipu Innovation Park in Rotorua.

#### About Ryan

Ryan Gregorash is a renowned chef and business owner with over 25 years’ experience, having run successful restaurants, cafés and bars in Rotorua and Tauranga. He has worked for a number of major global organisations in various culinary and hospitality roles and was recently nominated as Chairperson of Rotorua’s Hospitality Advisory Committee.

#### Awards

- Ryan has won three New Zealand Beef & Lamb Awards, the most sought-after award in the New Zealand restaurant and hospitality industry
- Stolen Bike Catering has won the New Zealand United Fish Award for creativity with fish and seafood products
- Rotorua Best Small Business (2018) at the Westpac Rotorua Business Excellence Awards