



how delightful that all sounds, I decided to stick with the Minden Tonic on this occasion to keep things on the safe side. When paired with such delicious food, a cocktail or two are totally acceptable when not driving, so I indulge in another one.

I'm a big seafood fan and I thoroughly enjoyed the bouillabaisse served with mussels, prawns, scallops and fish in a tomato and fennel broth. Penny explains the staples and best sellers such as these will remain on the menu in winter.

Head chef Max Rozenstark cooks the most amazing pork belly, fish of the day, lamb, and ora king salmon. We try it all, as well as the fish and chips, and warm Thai chicken salad. Sharing with friends is something we love doing, and Penny says there will be more share options introduced.

Jo and Penny don't just own this restaurant, they work in it together and love nothing more than serving their customers. Old friends, people they've met over the years, or new people just getting to know them, Jo and Penny are delighted to welcome them in this wonderful new setting.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner, and group bookings are most welcome. Romantic meals for two, birthday celebrations, business meetings, or drinks and nibbles in the courtyard, the amazing team at White House can organise it all and make it super special.

We also shared a pizza generously topped with chicken, camembert, red onion, spinach and cranberry sauce and we enjoyed a special delicacy from the restaurant's vegan menu. It was a lovely bruschetta with coriander cashew pesto, avocado, rocket, spring onions and sunflower seeds.

White House caters for everyone and all dietary requirements are looked after. The vegetarian and vegan options are certainly not an afterthought. There's a vegan pizza, a gorgeous lentil moussaka with eggplant, potatoes, capsicum and courgettes baked in a tomato sauce with dairy free cheese, and a sweet potato coconut buckwheat risotto

with fresh seasonal vegetables. Vegan or not, what's not to love with options like that?

For winter, Jo and Penny are looking at adding some more spicy flavours to the menu, as they say dishes such as chilli prawn curry and Thai flavours are the perfect winter warmers. We can't wait to come back and enjoy it all by the open fireplace when the days get darker.

What got me warmer on this balmy Friday evening was the cocktail that Jo served next. The purple drink called Minden Tonic is made with Empress 1908 gin, Cointreau and a splash of tonic. Penny says they have plenty more special cocktails and mentions the

## the details

**White House Restaurant**  
 15E Minden Rd, Te Puna  
 web: [whitehousetepuna.com](http://whitehousetepuna.com)  
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 Open Tuesday to Sunday, 12pm-10.30pm  
 (kitchen closes at 8.30pm).

margaritas always go down a treat.

Another favourite is a mix of elderflower liqueur, gin and dried blueberries. No matter

# WHITE HOUSE Restaurant

**Dine in a relaxed warm surrounding  
 served by friendly staff,  
 with a menu that caters to all ages**

15E Minden Road, Te Puna (behind Te Puna Vet)  
 Open Tuesday to Sunday from 12 midday.  
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