



braided rivers  
restaurant + bar

# Casual and formal rub shoulders

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FEATURES WRITER



Braided Rivers Restaurant and Bar is the latest addition to the Ashburton Trust's portfolio.

After a lot of research, it was decided that there was a need in Ashburton for a new venue that would be able to offer casual bar dining alongside more formal dining in the separate restaurant.

Consequently, it is successfully offering all-day food in the bar, such as steak sandwiches, fish and chips and pizzas to share, while lunch and dinner is served in the restaurant, with bookings being highly advisable given the level of support Braided Rivers has received so far. Its aim is to offer "contemporary dining in the heart of Mid Canterbury", and the menu and wine list reflect this.

Steaks feature prominently on the grill menu, and the establishment has gone as far as to buy a special broiler from America. Braided Rivers is the only restaurant in the South Island to have one, and there's only one other in the country, in the North Island.

The broiler uses extremely high infrared heat, which sears the outside of the meat more quickly



**Dinner time:** The dining area at Braided Rivers.

than other methods, while retaining all the juices inside.

With a kitchen brigade of about eight and a front of house team adding up to a dozen, ongoing staff training is a principle that Braided Rivers is committed to. It wants to achieve consistent high quality of food and service, whether you're having a special meal in the restaurant or grabbing a quick bite in the bar. Positions at Braided Rivers have attracted a few

new faces into the district, too.

The chefs source local ingredients, and their menus are based around seasonal produce. This means that the menu will be constantly changing and evolving to reflect the availability of seasonal produce.

The wine list is bursting with ebullient reds and crisp, fragrant whites to enhance the menus, along with plenty of fizzy options for those special occasions.



**Eating out:** Happy customers at the restaurant.

Prices begin at \$7 for a glass of house wine and go up to around \$100 for a special bottle.

For functions, there are two very different options – the mezzanine floor or the private outdoor courtyard, which is perfect for an informal barbecue. Both areas cater for around 30 to 60 people.

New in November will be a weekend brunch menu, and a brand new business lunch menu.

This will have a fixed price of \$29

and will offer a choice of any two courses, changing weekly. I spoke with Sarah Davidson, the operations manager for Ashburton Trust, who said that this menu will be perfect for entertaining a client but will appeal to the wider community, too.

Whether you're celebrating something special or just looking for a relaxed beer with your mates after work, there's something for everyone at Braided Rivers.

contemporary dining in the  
heart of Mid Canterbury

open daily 10am till late



braided rivers  
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