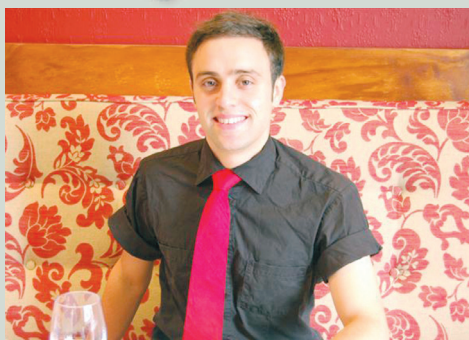


# KNOW



*my Wellington.*



**Shaebodine Moleta**  
*Owner, Ambeli Restaurant.*

Shaebodine Moleta and his wife Elisavet George have established their dream - the contemporary Mediterranean Ambeli Restaurant at 18 Majoribanks Street. Despite the Moletas being Sicilian; and the Georges Greek-Cypriot, the pair have been determined not to tie the menu to any ethnicity - rather Ambeli's flavours are drawn from all around the Med.

Shaebodine loves downtown Wellington because even though it is the capital city, a village feeling still exists, where people can actually get to know one another, their waiter's name, and give a familiar nod to people they pass daily in the street.

#### **Shaebodine's favourite haunts:**

**For brunch...** Nikau Café in the City Gallery, Harris Street. This place is unparalleled in terms of quality, has wonderful coffee, the rooms are airy and light, they keep a huge stack of books for any children that might get bored and parking is never too difficult to find.

**For a great coffee...** The Matterhorn in Cuba Mall. It's one of Wellington's premier cocktail bars, that also hosts some of the city's most passionate staff and baristas. Lots of comfortable corners and a feeling of excellence.

**For cheap eats...** Sweet Mothers Kitchen on Courtenay Place, is fantastic. Allow plenty of time as it is quite busy more often than not. But well worth it with a brilliant Mexican and creole menu that is all about comfort and fun.

**For shopping...** World, on Victoria Street. World is one of New Zealand's best fashion labels that has lots of colour and passion and is hand-made by Kiwis in Auckland. I always walk out feeling like a prince.

**For a night out...** Ambeli is the kind of comfortable, welcoming and homely type of restaurant that I would want to go to if I didn't work all the time! People can just tuck themselves into one of the many corners of the converted villa.

**For relaxation...** Blondinis Café, upstairs at the Embassy Theatre on Courtenay Place. It is so roomy and quiet with comfortable couches and arm chairs. Damianos, the manager, is wonderful and if not buried in his office, he is a fantastic waiter and bar-man. No need to be going to a movie to go there. So relaxing!!!

**For indulgence...** Kaffee Eis, with twenty seven flavours of beautiful and genuine gelato made locally from organic milk. Available from three downtown outlets: Courtenay Place, Oriental Bay and at Frank Kitts Park. They are wonderful and deserve all the glory they get.

**For a bargain...** Regional Wines and Spirits, Ellice Street. This is the old-school bottle store that kept up with the times. They supply half the restaurants in town and so the vast selection they have and at the prices they manage, are unparalleled. They have beers, wines and all spirits, even the rare ones.

**For free...** Film Archives on Taranaki Street. It seems a bit intimidating going there the first time and trying, with all the options in the world, to choose exactly which film you might like to view. But once you have experienced it, you have stumbled onto a wonderful world.

**To take visitors...** Kazu, the Japanese restaurant on Tory Street. Japanese cuisine is very light - almost refreshing and the whole place has a wonderful buzz that will have you tucking into your third glass of sake in no time.

"Downtown is so friendly and there are so many wonderful places to explore - enjoy" Shaebodine Moleta.

*To be kept in the know about what's happening in downtown Wellington check out [KnowWellington.com](http://KnowWellington.com)*

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WellingtonNZ.com