

You're tootling around this great southern land and find yourself in a strange place looking for somewhere good to eat. You don't have the benefit of local friends with good tips, a reputable guidebook or a *delicious* guide to the area. It's a common problem. So, how do you pick where to go? Here are the rules I stick by when it comes to choosing a restaurant without any information to guide me. These are like the "tells" of a bad poker player who gives away their hand, and I've found most of these clues to be fine reasons to walk away and find somewhere else to eat!

Never eat anywhere named after an artist – especially if it's a casual restaurant in a hotel. So avoid Picasso's and Dali's. Never eat anywhere that uses funky spelling in their name, such as substituting 'z' for 's'. And never eat anywhere with a pun in its name, unless it's a Thai restaurant. Only these can rival hairdressers for linguistic ingenuity without damaging the food too much.

The only exception to these last two rules is if you are dining in Townsville, which has been home to rather reputable places called Yotz (now closed) and Wayne & Adele's Garden of Eating.