



Media Release

Wharekauhau Country Estate

MUSTERING REALITY ON WHAREKAUHAU COUNTRY ESTATE NEW ZEALAND (September 2009).

History becomes living reality on the newest adventure offered by Wharekauhau Country Estate – The Mustering Reality Experience is a prized opportunity to muster sheep or cattle on horseback through superb countryside and coast, a unique recreation of the pioneering footsteps of New Zealand's earliest European settlers.

The two-day/three night adventure, for a minimum of two riders, starts with a fascinating evening introduction to the history of the station and the Wairarapa district. After a big country breakfast next morning, it's time to explore the stables, choose a steed and tackle, and then to enjoy an easy two-hour ride amidst breathtaking country and coastal scenery.

The second day is muster time. Meet the mustering team, mount up and head out along the Wharekauhau River Canyon to the wild coastline and on to Corner Creek in time for a billy-boil up, tea and scones. Then the round-up begins, herding sheep or cattle depending on the time of year, which are then driven until an early lunch at the site of a memorial plaque where men carried sheep over the surf, to then introduce them to the Wairarapa for the first time. Drive the animals on along the coast and up the final hill to Wharekauhau. The Mustering Reality Experience lasts from 9am until about 4pm. Then there's nothing to do but luxuriate in the famed comfort of this Country Estate and Lodge.

Wharekauhau Country Estate and Lodge hosts a select international guest list, coming to share adventure plus exceptional wining and dining on produce from its organic gardens, orchards, fields and native bush. Within a few miles of the kitchens, the chef also finds outstanding bread, chocolates, fish, fruit and, of course, wine. Indeed the Wairarapa's pinot noirs are hailed around the world. Quite naturally, the *terroir* of the province's vineyards makes the perfect partner to the flavours of the lush paddocks that feed and fatten the estate's own meat, which includes Texel lamb, judged the most succulent breed of all.

The Station Muster Experience starts from NZ\$3790 per person (twin share) and includes 3 nights luxury Wharekauhau Cottage accommodation inclusive pre dinner drinks, gourmet dinners, full country breakfasts and all Station Muster experience inclusions (your choice of horse or quad bike, guides, and lunch on the second day of the package).

Wharekauhau Country Estate is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

For more information on Wharekauhau Country Estate or for graphics contact Karine Thomas, Director Navigate Oceania ++64 9 307 3633, or email karine@navigateoceania.com or visit our website on www.navigateoceania.com.

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Additional Notes

Wharekauhau Country Estate, Martinborough:

Description:

Recapturing the gracious lifestyle of a bygone era, Wharekauhau Country Estate is a luxury lodge with award-winning style situated on a 5000 acre working farm on the South East coast of New Zealand's North Island. Framed by the Rimutaka Ranges to the West and Palliser Bay to the East, the Lodge is surrounded by ancient, native forest, spectacular beaches, bountiful rivers and tranquil lakes facilitating a veritable smorgasbord of outdoor activities. Each of the sumptuously furnished, charming cottages which are dotted throughout the extensive grounds, enjoy magnificent ocean views and offer complete privacy and seclusion.

Awards:

- **2008: Conde Nast USA – Voted Best in World by Readers**
 - **2008: New Zealand Lamb and Beef Award – Hallmark of Excellence**
 - **2007: Conde Nast Traveller UK Gold List**
 - **2007: Finalist World Travel Awards – New Zealand Lodge**
 - **2007: Andrew Harper – Best in New Zealand**
 - **2006 Conde Nast Traveller UK Gold List**
 - **2006 Forbes Hotel USA – 200 Top Hotels of the World**
 - **2006: Robb Report USA – 100 Best Places to Stay**
 - **2005: Wine Spectator – Best of Award of Excellence**
 - **2005: Andrew Harper USA – Grand Award**
 - **2004: Andre Harper USA – Top 20 Resorts Worldwide**
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- **Wharekauhau Country Estate is a member of Navigate Oceania** a collection of 31 inspired destinations and unique experiences from New Zealand and Pacific's finest boutique hotels and luxury lodges, an exclusive private island, villas, spa destinations, a luxury expedition-style cruise, and a private motor yacht. Our members are: **New Zealand** Cavalli Island Retreat and Spa, Cavalli Islands; Paihia Beach Resort and Spa, Bay of Islands; Bay of Island Lodge, Bay of Islands; Cliff Edge Landing, Bay of Islands; Oceanic Discoverer; Missionhills, Bay of Islands; Waipoua Lodge, Waipoua Forest; Takatu Lodge & Vineyard, Matakana; The Boatshed, Waiheke Island; Stafford Villa, Auckland; Cotter House, Auckland; Seafields, Whitford; Hamurana Lodge, Rotorua; Kawaha Point Lodge, Rotorua; Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Experience, Rotorua; Chalet Eiger, Lake Taupo; Greenhill Lodge, Hawke's Bay; The Millar Road Family, Hawke's Bay; Wharekauhau Country Estate, Martinborough; Bolton Hotel, Wellington; Edenhouse, Nelson; Claremont Country Estate, Canterbury; Huntley House, Christchurch; Elm Tree House, Christchurch; Release Private Retreat, Wanaka; Remarkables Lodge, Queenstown; **Fiji** Navutu Stars Resort, Yasawa Islands; Royal Davui Island, Beqa Lagoon, Maui Palms, Coral Coast: **Cook Islands** Te Vakaroa Villas, Rarotonga For more information on our experiences, visit www.navigateoceania.com.
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