



*Just one New Zealand Andrew Harper Grand Award Winner for 2008*

## Claremont Country Estate named Andrew Harper Hideaway Grand Award Title

**(January 2008). Canterbury, NEW ZEALAND.** Claremont Country Estate & Nature Reserve has claimed the Grand Award title in the highly coveted Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report for 2008 (USA). The only New Zealand award winner named in 2008, Claremont joins a prestigious past winner line up which includes exclusive New Zealand luxury lodges such as Huka Lodge, Wharekauhau Country Estate, Treetops Lodge and Wilderness Estate and Kauri Cliffs.

The list is compiled just once per year and singles out properties who have demonstrated a strong individual personality coupled with devotion to personal service. Being small in size is a must as is its spirit of sincere hospitality. The accolade is prestigious; the Andrew Harper Grand title separates those properties that are merely good from those who are truly enchanting. The Hideaway Report is a privately published newsletter dedicated to the sophisticated traveler, 85% of the recipients of the newsletter hold the title of CEO/President/Owner/Partner.

Claremont provides luxury lodge accommodation with an unequalled geological experience and is an excellent hub from which to explore Christchurch and Canterbury. The 1866 heritage homestead is set on the edge of the Waipara Gorge, 45 minutes from Christchurch airport, and close to over 80 Waipara wineries. Situated on a 2,400 acre working deer and sheep high country station (ranch), the historic property lies on the edge of the Waipara River amongst manicured, mature gardens, with a backdrop of the Southern Alps. There is whale watching at the nearby coastal town of Kaikoura and options for trout and salmon fishing are innumerable. Hanmer Springs thermal pools and spa is a short drive away.

Andrew Harper has also given special recognition to the nearby Pegasus Bay as being 'the Most Hospitable Vineyard in the World', which lies in the heart of the Waipara wine region and is just 10 minutes from Claremont. The winery specialises in Pinot Noir and what Mr Harper describes 'an exceptional Sauvignon Blanc'.

For more information or graphics contact Director Karine Thomas on 64 9 307 3633 or email [karine@navigateoceania.com](mailto:karine@navigateoceania.com).

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## Editors Notes:

### Claremont's luxury lodge - set among some of the hottest wineries in New Zealand

Nestled amongst the fertile and sun warmed plains of North Canterbury, within just 10-15 minutes drive from Claremont Country Estate ([www.claremont-estate.com](http://www.claremont-estate.com)), are Canterbury's award-winning Waipara wineries. This is now the fourth largest wine-producing area in New Zealand and expanding the most rapidly. Waipara has gained an international reputation for consistently producing some of the finest wines year after year.

Waipara's free draining limestone soils, dry climatic conditions and warm summer sunshine combine to help growers and wine makers produce excellent Pinot Noirs (Burgandy) Cabernet, Sauvignon, Merlot blends, Sauvignon Blancs, Chardonnays and Rieslings.

Wine and food lovers will be surprised and delighted by Waipara. Pegasus Bay ([www.pegasusbay.com](http://www.pegasusbay.com)) won the wine café of the Year Award 2005. Waipara Hills and Waipara Springs are also superb lunch-time venues. Fiddlers Green, Daniel Schuster, Torlesse, Glenmark, Mountford and other wineries offer entertaining wine tasting experiences.

### Background on Andrew Harper Hideaway Report

The selection of hotels and resorts for inclusion in the Hideaway Report is made on a completely independent basis, with Andrew Harper traveling incognito and paying full rate for all lodgings and related travel expenses. The Hideaway Report is relied upon by many American high end travelers as an authoritative guide to the best lodgings in the world.

**Claremont Country Estate is a member of Navigate Oceania**, a new collection of 28 inspired destinations and unique experiences from New Zealand and Fiji's best boutique hotels and luxury lodges and resorts, an exclusive private island, villas, spa destinations, a luxury expedition-style cruise, and a private motor yacht. Our members are: **New Zealand** Doubtless Bay Villas, Cable Bay; Cavalli Island Retreat and Spa, Cavalli Islands; Paihia Beach Resort and Spa, Bay of Islands; Bay of Island Lodge, Bay of Islands; Oceanic Discoverer; Mission Hills, Bay of Islands; Waipoua Lodge, Waipoua Forest; The Boatshed, Waiheke Island; Stafford Villa, Auckland; Cotter House, Auckland; Seafields, Whitford; Maungatautari Lodge, Cambridge; Hamurana Country Estate, Rotorua; Kawaha Point Lodge, Rotorua; Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate, Rotorua; Chalet Eiger, Lake Taupo; Greenhill the Lodge, Hawkes Bay; Millar Road, Hawkes Bay; Wharekauhau Country Estate, Martinborough; The Bolton Hotel, Wellington; Ohtel, Wellington; Claremont Country Estate, Canterbury; Elm Tree House, Christchurch; Huntley House, Christchurch; Wapiti Park Homestead, West Coast; Matakauri, Queenstown; Takaro Spa Retreat, Te Anau. **Fiji** Navutu Stars Resort, Yasawa Islands. For more information on our luxury experiences, visit [www.navigateoceania.com](http://www.navigateoceania.com).