



Media Release

Wharekauhau Welcomes New Ownership whilst Internationally Recognised as Best Lodge in New Zealand.

MARTINBOROUGH, NEW ZEALAND

(October 2010). New owners of Wharekauhau Country Estate add another accolade to the extensive awards list after being recognised as 'New Zealand's Leading Luxury Lodge 2010' in the coveted World Travel Awards held in New Delhi, India this week. This prestigious award is concurrent with an extensive refurbishment program at the lodge by new owners.

Known as the 'Oscars' of the global travel industry, The World Travel Awards are recognised as the highest vote of excellence and are compiled from the opinions of 185,000 Travel Experts from around the world. After being finalists for two years running against nine other exclusive New Zealand lodges, Wharekauhau has been awarded the title of '**New Zealand's Leading Luxury Lodge 2010**'. Co-owner and host Kristy De Lange said, "We are extremely excited about the award, it is a credit to our staff and their ongoing efforts to provide the best New Zealand experience whilst recognizing and maintaining the highest levels of customer service." Previous years winners were Huka Lodge, Blanket Bay and Kauri Cliffs.

Along with new ownership comes an extensive upgrade to keep up with the exclusivity of this prestigious lodge. The current refurbishment program includes; a new purpose built spa to open early 2011, a new guest library and games room, exterior upgrading, new soft furnishings and subtle décor changes. An extensive technology upgrade includes free WI-FI throughout guest cottages and courtyard area plus Apple televisions, which stand as a basis of a hard drive with various movies, music, graphics of the lodge, and TV shows at guests' fingertips.

New owners of Wharekauhau are current lodge managers Nico and Kristy de Lange in partnership with William P Foley II, and Thomas M Haggerty. Nico, along with his wife Kristy, have managed Wharekauhau for the past six years and are "extremely excited" to become a firm part in the property and its new ownership. Mr. Foley has extensive investments in New Zealand in the wine industry.

There are plans for further guest cottages to be built at Wharekauhau.

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:

2010: WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS, NEW ZEALAND'S LEADING LUXURY LODGE
2010: FINALIST WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS – NEW ZEALAND'S LEADING SPA RESORT
2010, 2009, 2008: NZ BEEF AND LAMB AWARD, HALLMARK OF EXCELLENCE
2009: WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS, NEW ZEALAND LEADING SPA RESORT
2008: CONDE NAST USA – VOTED BEST IN THE WORLD BY READERS
2008: NEW ZEALAND BEEF AND LAMB – HALLMARK AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE
2007: CONDE NAST TRAVELLER UK GOLD LIST
2007: FINALIST WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS – NEW ZEALAND LUXURY LODGE
2007: ANDREW HARPER – BEST IN NEW ZEALAND
2006: CONDE NAST TRAVELLER UK GOLD LIST
2006: FORBES HOTEL USA – 400 TOP HOTELS OF THE WORLD
2006: ROBB REPORT USA – 100 BEST PLACES TO STAY
2005: WINE SPECTATOR NZ – BEST OF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

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