

Media Enquiries

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Navigate's Luxury Lodges achieve International Supreme Recognition

(May 2007), Auckland, NEW ZEALAND. Six properties, represented by New Zealand based and luxury tourism international marketing company, Navigate Oceania, have been nominated for the highly coveted World Travel Awards. Known as the 'Oscars' of the global travel industry, The World Travel Awards are recognised as the highest vote of excellence compiled from the opinions of 167,000 Travel Experts from around the world. Additionally, four Navigate Oceania luxury lodges this month are named as the top lodges in New Zealand by the prestigious US based Andrew Harper Hideaway Report. Two lodges Greenhill the Lodge and Claremont Country Estate make cameo appearances in the New Zealand lodge line up.

In the World Travel Awards, Paihia Beach Resort & Spa has been nominated for three awards, Australasia's Leading Spa Resort, New Zealand's Leading Resort and New Zealand's Leading Spa Resort. Cavalli Island Retreat & Spa and Cotter House have also been nominated as New Zealand's Leading Resort, while Takaro Lodge is included in the category New Zealand's Leading Spa Resort. Both Claremont Country Estate and Wharekauhau Country Estate have been nominated for New Zealand's Leading Luxury Lodge, and Claremont Country Estate has an additional nomination as Australasia's Leading Boutique Resort.

Andrew Harper honours Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate, Wharekauhau Country Estate, Greenhill the Lodge and Claremont as the best in New Zealand.

Karine Thomas, Director of Navigate Oceania comments, "On behalf of our clients that have been nominated we are delighted that their ongoing efforts to provide the best New Zealand experiences and maintain the highest levels of customer services have been recognised. It is a credit to the hard work of the lodge owners and managers who continually strive for excellence.

Navigate Oceania, launched in May this year, is an extension of the successful marketing and public relations company Navigate South founded by Karine Thomas in 2003. It provides an umbrella brand to promote their 23 luxury tourism clients representing the very best of New Zealand's boutique hotels and luxury lodges, an exclusive private island, villas and spa destinations.

To vote for your favourite Travel Awards New Zealand nominee go to <http://voteworldtravelawards.com/> Winners are announced this September.

For any media enquiries, please contact Karine Thomas, Director at Navigate Oceania on ++64 9 307 3633 or email: karine@navigateoceania.com

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Editor's Notes:

- Navigate South was launched in 2003 by Karine Thomas, a luxury tourism industry veteran of over 20 years. Her vision saw a need to provide professional marketing and public relations advice for the small luxury sector of the travel industry. See www.navigateoceania.com/company.php
- Official World Travel nomination logos specific to each property are available. Please contact Ana Hensley for high res versions which can be emailed. T: 00 64 9 307 3633, ana@navigateoceania.com
- **Cavalli Island Retreat & Spa, Northland** Cavalli Island Spa Retreat offers exclusive reign over a private island escape together with a 72 ft luxury motor yacht. Experience the opulence of a luxury spa. Explore the natural beauty of the island's untouched beaches and native fauna. Sample the best in indigenous fare and seafood harvested directly from its shores. Recreational activities and equipment include jet skis, kayaks, amphibious boat, motorised dinghy, fishing, snorkelling & diving equipment and an 8 wheel Argo. Up to 20 staff are on hand 24/7. Rate from US\$15,000 per day.
- **Claremont Country Estate, North Canterbury** Originally built in 1866, Claremont has been sensitively restored to its former glory by owner-hosts Rosie and Richard Goord, and is listed by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Each of the five spacious lodge guest rooms is individually themed with sumptuous fabrics, fine antiques and luxurious bathrooms. A separate self-contained three bedroom family cottage is situated within the grounds. A not to be missed experience is the off-road driving tour unique to Claremont that takes in spectacular geological features and natural wonders found on the property. Transporting guests back 65 million years into New Zealand's pre-historic era, there is a rare opportunity to handle fossilised dinosaur remains.
- **Cotter House, Auckland** A small luxury hotel and ultimate romantic hideaway in the centre of Auckland, Cotter House is a haven of charm and hospitality. A rare example of Regency style architecture, it boasts a classic French décor that reflects the continental flair of its Columbian born, French raised owner. The four rooms and suites are individually decorated, blending contemporary art with luscious fabrics and antiques from around the globe. Cotter House features a bar, heated swimming pool, courtyard deck and health spa facilities. Cotter House serves delightful food in the French tradition of the 'Table d'Hôte', accompanied by an international wine cellar, with a backdrop of the peaceful, landscaped gardens.
- **Paihia Beach Resort & Spa, Bay of Islands** Located in a superb beach position overlooking the Bay of Islands, Paihia Beach Resort & Spa which incorporates La Sa Naturale, offers the chance to revitalise body and soul with breath taking sea views, and the Bay of Islands at your doorstep. Three styles of accommodation are available, all spaciouly and stylishly furnished, featuring floor to ceiling panoramic ocean views and private balconies. Voted one of the top ten overseas spas in Australia and New Zealand Traveller Spa Awards by Conde Nast South Pacific, La Spa Naturale offers day treatments ranging from 30 minutes to two or five day packages. The five star resort also features a 20 metre heated saltwater pool and Paul Jobin, executive chef of the poolside restaurant 'Pure Tastes', has won numerous culinary competitions and food awards.
- **Takaro Lodge, Te Anau** Set amongst thousands of acres of untouched New Zealand native forest, Takaro, incorporating The Peace Club is a uniquely private and peaceful location. With ten, luxurious Five Element chalets with spectacular, uninterrupted views

to the stunning Kepler Mountain Range, each of the west facing chalets has its own private balcony and is decorated in colours and fabrics appropriate to their element to promote a feeling of wellbeing and calm. Famous for their ten hand energy massage which was voted 'The Best Massage in the World' by Vogue UK, their unique spa facilities focus on rejuvenation with their speciality being their natural rejuvenation treatments designed to optimise energy, speed up cell regeneration and balance the body's 'elements'.

- **Wharekauhau, Palliser Bay, Martinborough** Situated on a 5000 acre working farm on the south east coast of New Zealand's North Island, Wharekauhau is a luxury lodge with award-winning style, recognised as one of the world's most exclusive retreats. Framed by the Rimutaka Ranges to the west and Palliser Bay to the east and surrounded by private native forest, spectacular beaches, rivers, lakes and wetlands, the lodge provides a haven from the outside world. Accommodation is provided in self-contained cottages with stunning ocean views, that are dotted around the estate to ensure complete privacy and spectacular views, all within easy walking distance of the main lodge. The fine design, sumptuous furnishings, exquisite tableware, outstanding cuisine and quality wine cellar comprising the finest New Zealand wines, all combine to provide guests with an unforgettable experience.
- **Treetops Lodge & Wilderness Estate, Rotorua** Offering the ultimate in world class, luxury accommodation and a uniquely New Zealand experience, Treetops provides a sanctuary and haven with breathtaking scenic views. Surrounded by 2,500 acres of secluded native forestry, and nestled amidst magnificent, native, 800 year old forests and valleys, Treetops is a carefully managed game and wildlife habitat for fly fishermen, sporting enthusiasts and their pampered guests. The property offers seven streams, on-site fishing, four lakes, over 70 kilometres of hiking trails, mountain bike riding and horse riding, so there are plenty of activities for guests to choose from whilst enjoying the tranquillity and splendour of the natural environment.
- **Greenhill The Lodge, Hastings** Situated on a hill top overlooking classic New Zealand farm and grazing land close to Hawke's Bay's world-famous vineyards, is a historic mansion which has hosted English royalty. The main lodge building houses six, ensuite guest rooms, most of which open to the terrace and sensational views over a magnificent, restored pergola. Behind the house's immaculate spa house, gymnasium, swimming pool and orchard lies Little Greenhill, a self-contained unit with two bedrooms, kitchen and a drawing room with spectacular views through floor to ceiling windows either side of a stone fireplace. Greenhill The Lodge is situated a short, fifteen minute drive from either Havelock North or Hastings, a two hour drive from Taupo and a one hour flight from either Auckland or Wellington.