

Robb Report  
100  
EDITORS' CHOICE

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# LUXURY RESORTS

Summer 2008

100 ULTIMATE  
ESCAPES

Aspen Bora Bora Courchevel Dubai Fiji Las Vegas  
Malaysia Maldives Maui Napa Valley Patagonia Positano  
Saint-Tropez Seychelles & More



## Personal Views

“This has to be the best place on earth” is a typical entry in the Lodge at Kauri Cliffs’ comment book, while several guests write that they feel “privileged to visit.” But the majority of remarks in the book praise the resort’s mix of intimacy and epic scale: The 6,500-acre property contains just 22 suites and a single residence, so even at full capacity, the guests in each room have hundreds of acres of some of New Zealand’s most spectacular terrain to themselves.

In a nation famed for stunning views, the Lodge at Kauri Cliffs affords some of the best—especially from the resort’s magnificent oceanfront golf course. Nongolfers also find plenty of distractions at Kauri Cliffs, which overlooks Bay of Islands National Park and features New Zealand’s only pink-sand beach (one of three private beaches on the property). Walking paths crisscross the resort, leading to a waterfall hidden within a forest ravine and to the nation’s largest kauri tree (New Zealand’s version of the California redwood). Nocturnal safaris offer an opportunity to glimpse the rare kiwi, and the resort’s private helicopter is available

for flyover tours of nearby 90 Mile Beach.

Though the outdoors beckons, many guests spend much of their time in the cottages, relaxing by their gas fireplaces or in their sunken tubs. The nightly cocktail hour provides a chance to mingle before dinner, during which gentlemen are required to wear jackets. Staff members will happily lend you a jacket or fulfill just about any other request, as they seemingly have no use for the word *no*. Visitors, too, find themselves averse to negative vocabulary, whether they are mulling over chef Barry Frith’s exotic assortment of desserts or writing their comments in Kauri Cliffs’ guest book.

SCOTT ARMSTRONG

The Lodge at Kauri Cliffs, +64.9.407.0010,  
www.kauricliffs.com

### SETTING

On 6,500 coastal acres near the Kerikeri basin, on the northern tip of New Zealand’s North Island.

### SLEEPING

Only 22 suites (distributed among 11 cottages) plus the 4,200-square-foot Owner’s Home, which features a kitchen and a swimming pool.

### DINING

The nightly rate includes breakfast, predinner drinks, and dinner, which can be enjoyed in the main dining room, on a veranda, or in your suite.

### DIVERSIONS

The Kauri Cliffs golf course is among the best in Australasia. Wineries, scuba diving sites, and hiking and equestrian trails also are nearby.

### RATES

From \$440 to \$1,325 per person, per night. The Owner’s Home begins at \$4,400 per night.

