

Quality in Queenstown

Overlooking stunning Lake Wakatipu with its majestic mountain backdrop, Crowne Plaza Queenstown offers contemporary, stylish accommodation in an outstanding in-town location. The layout of the hotel allows each of its 139 guestrooms to maximise privacy and use of individual balconies or patios whilst enjoying views of the lake, surrounding mountains or private central courtyard. All guestrooms also have ensuite bathrooms with bath and shower, LCD television and ergonomically designed writing desk with chair. The chic and modern, four-star resort hotel has a range of facilities that includes valet car parking, business centre, ski drying room, 24-hour room service and purpose-built leisure concierge and tour desk area.

For more information, phone +64 3 442 7800 or visit www.crowneplazaqueenstown.co.nz

A treasure in Tuscany

Vacation apartments are ideal for a holiday in Tuscany, providing the atmosphere and comfort that hotels can't match. That's certainly true of Residence Il Cassero, part of a

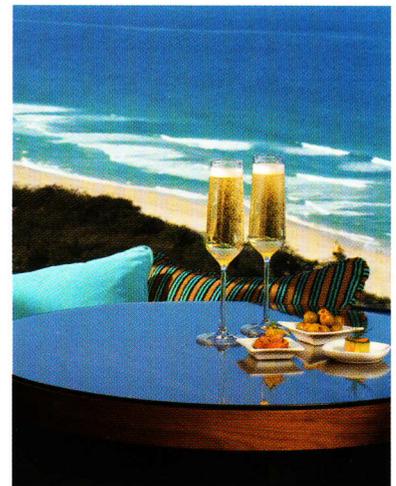
medieval walled city dating from the 13th century and full of Tuscan atmosphere and charm – but still with modern conveniences. Guest apartments include kitchens where you can prepare Tuscan delights following a day of touring or shopping in local specialty shops. Apartments have original beamed ceilings and tiled floors, and some feature fireplaces where you can relax with a glass of Tuscan wine. There is also a large Italian-style garden overlooked by a stone tower.

Il Cassero is located in Lucignano between Arezzo and Siena. The unique pear-shaped walled city is considered a rare example of medieval architecture.

For more information, visit www.ilcassero-tuscany.com, or phone Australians representatives Jan & David Fellows on 0412 146 256.

Retreat to Surfers Paradise

A new level in luxury has been reached at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa with the launch of its exclusive Retreat Club, Elandra. Aboriginal word for "Home By The Sea", Elandra epitomizes the ultimate in five-star elegance, with 32 guestrooms ranging from hinterland and ocean view rooms



to luxurious suites. Superiority in the Retreat Club is achieved by offering all of the extras discerning guests have come to expect, from fresh and healthy breakfasts, morning and afternoon tea and evening *hors d'oeuvres* to extended check out times. Guests also enjoy upgraded in-room luxury amenities, complimentary valet parking, nightly turndown gifts and superior service, making this a boutique hideaway within a luxury resort.

For more information, phone 07 5592 9800 or visit www.marriott.com.au

Main: In the pink on the terrace of the Villa Positano
Left: Blue scene at Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort





Above: The swimming pool at Emerald Valley Villa near Byron Bay

Left: An artist's impression of the exterior of The Opposite House in Beijing

Byron Bay Gem

A new, luxurious five-star private estate in the hinterland of northern New South Wales, which opened just last year, has already seen an impressive list of VIP guests and Hollywood celebrities. Located just 20 minutes inland from Byron Bay, Emerald Valley Villa sits on 80 acres of pristine hinterland. The eco-friendly villa operates on 100 percent green power and has its very own private springwater lake complete with a natural waterfall, resident koalas and platypus. Sleeping eight, the villa features state-of-the-art kitchen, four bedrooms, marble bathrooms and Jacuzzi, and has an onsite concierge and superb spa therapies. Its style combines modern Bali chic with superior antiques.

For more information, phone 02 66 849 398 or visit www.emeraldvalleyvilla.com

A World of Opposites

Hotel norms will be challenged in Beijing this northern summer with the opening of The Opposite House, a collaboration between an avant-garde Japanese architect and edge Shanghai-based designers. The hotel's exterior is made of striking emerald glass and is integrated into The Village at Sanlitun, Beijing's premier open-plan shopping and entertainment

destination. Interior colours and textures are a vivid mix of modern and traditional, with flowing spaces flooded with light. Among the hotel's many striking features is a stainless steel swimming pool, designed to dramatically reflect natural and exciting fibre-optic light. Guestrooms, meanwhile, are striking open and simple, with natural oak floors, furniture and even bathtubs, with subtle touches of Chinese décor.

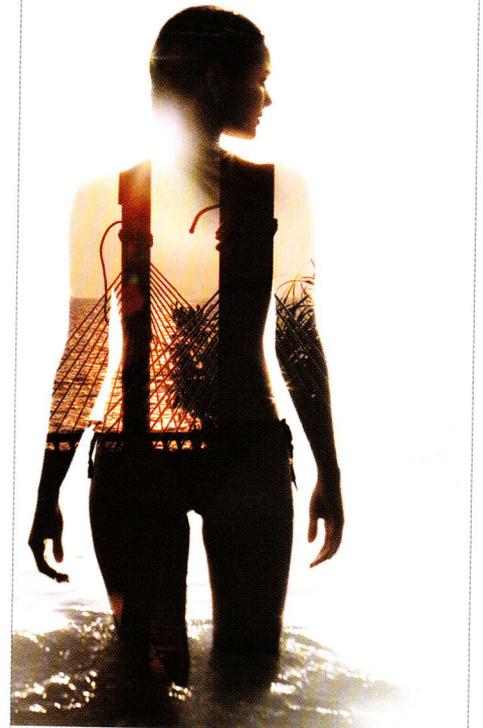
For more information, phone +86 10 6417 6688 or visit www.theoppositehouse.com

A Villa in Italy

As the road winds into Positano on Italy's spectacular Amalfi Coast, you get your first glimpse of Villa Positano, one of the region's newest luxury rental villas, restored by its owners after seven years of painstaking work. The opulent Baroque-style property and its private chapel have been beautifully preserved and many artefacts reclaimed during the restoration are featured throughout the villa and complemented by beautiful mirrors and silk draping. The house cascades over five levels and has a secluded garden with fig and lemon trees as well as day spa and pool.

For more information, phone 0410 557 458 or +39 331 1324 7326 or email info@infinityamalficoast.com

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*Stay 3 consecutive nights and enjoy your fourth night free plus a round trip car transfer to and from Phuket International Airport. Valid until October 31, 2008. Advance reservation required. Rate is based on per night accommodation for single or double occupancy, and subjected to 10% service charge and 7% tax. Rate cannot be combined with any other promotions.

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