

The Evolution of the Kiwi Bach

LUXURY VILLA SPECIALISTS, TOUCH OF SPICE, HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN NEW ZEALAND FOR OVER A DECADE. WE CAUGHT UP WITH JACQUI SPICE, FOUNDER & CEO, TO DISCUSS HOW THE QUINTESSENTIAL KIWI BACH HAS GROWN TO RIVAL SOME OF THE BEST ACCOMMODATION IN THE WORLD.



Jacqui Spice

How have you seen the market change for holiday accommodation?

I started promoting premium holiday homes as a "luxury" accommodation option back in 2005 and have seen a very significant change in the market since then. Back then it was all about luxury hotels and lodges so I had my work cut out to put the holiday home concept in front of potential guests. Marketing was all word of mouth and referrals, which we really relied on. It was the "tell 10 friends" old school method of marketing - now it's primarily all online and guests can compare five properties at one time to see who offers the best rates and facilities. Thanks to the likes of Air BnB we are starting to see huge growth in our sector.

What impact has this had on the holiday home market?

It's had a very positive impact. The market has grown into a varied, vibrant and luxurious option for people seeking unique accommodation. Due to the plethora of holiday homes now available guests are becoming more and more discerning in their expectations; expecting fully

equipped homes with high speed internet, Netflix, luxury bathroom amenities, provisioning. All our villas are luxuriously appointed, with top of the line equipment and in impeccable surrounds. As our guests' needs and desires grow, we are also continuously striving to find the latest villa to 'wow' their socks off!

For those who usually stay in hotels, why is now the time to make the switch to a holiday home?

Because these days you can get a three bedroom home the same size as your own home for the same price as a one bedroom hotel suite. Gone are the days when you need to cram your three kids and yourselves in to a hotel suite or motel. The benefits are endless. You have more space, you have more privacy, you can cook for yourself if you

want to or organise staff to do it if you don't. You get all of the benefits of a hotel without having to compromise on the things you love. Beds are triple sheeted with top-quality linen, there's unlimited WiFi, SKY TV and someone on hand should you need any assistance. You get the best of both worlds!

What do you see for the future of the holiday home?

They are just going to keep getting bigger and better, a bit like super yachts! That is why we have now launched our Residence Collection - the very finest luxury accommodation available throughout New Zealand. Ranging from NZ\$5,000 to NZ\$35,000 per night these properties are set to rival some of the very best throughout the world. It's a very exciting time for Touch of Spice!



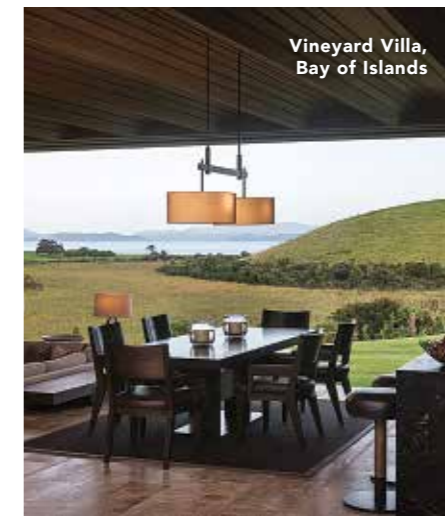
Otaha Beachfront Lodge, Bay of Islands

Jacqui's Holiday Homes HOT LIST FOR 2017

THE BEACH FRONT RETREAT Otaha Beachfront Lodge, Bay of Islands

Only a two minute walk to a secluded beach, this villa provides you with your very own private piece of the Bay of Islands. Built in 2013, Otaha Beachfront Lodge has been designed to make the most out of its stunning location. The golden wooden floors are made from the timber of neighbouring trees and the floor to ceiling windows maximize the breathtaking views throughout the property. It's incredibly spacious, with a modern, crisp feel - it's definitely beachside living with a luxurious twist! It's a great villa for entertaining with a large open plan living area and plenty of outdoor space, complete with decking, dining area and barbecue.

The five bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms, makes it ideal for that beach getaway with a group of friends. If you're after a holiday where you can sit back, unwind and enjoy the uninterrupted oceans views in your own private paradise, then this is the place for you.



Vineyard Villa, Bay of Islands



Otaha Beachfront Lodge, Bay of Islands

AMONGST THE VINES Vineyard Villa, Bay of Islands

Taking its name from its unique location, the Vineyard Villa is tucked quietly amongst The Landing's established vines and home to award-winning Chardonnay, Syrah and Rosé wines.

An entertainer's haven or a romantic's escape, the house features three bedrooms and three separate entertaining areas.

Designed with a flowing openness to the stunning surroundings, the Vineyard Villa offers magnificent views across The Landing Residences, the vineyard and out to sea.

Understated modern furnishings have been carefully selected to match the villa's calm aesthetic and work alongside the dark wood and stone materials that run throughout the house.



Jacks Point Lake House, Queenstown



Kauri Bay, Moturua Island



Stelvio, Queenstown

THE FINEST FAIRWAYS

Jacks Point Lake House, Queenstown

This gorgeous lake front property is located right in the heart of the championship golf course, Jack's Point. Exclusively positioned in 'The Preserve' territory of the golf course means that it also benefits from some of the most spectacular views in Queenstown, with undisturbed views over Lake Wakatipu and the surrounding mountain ranges.

The property was built to maximise the outstanding views with floor to ceiling windows throughout. The layout is symmetrical with two bedrooms (complete with ensuite bathrooms) within each wing.

It's luxuriously furnished throughout, with a sleek urban feel. There are numerous entertaining areas including a hot tub, outdoor dining and lounge chairs to sit back, relax and enjoy the pristine location.

GRAND CENTRAL LIVING

Stelvio, Queenstown

Central living doesn't come much grander than this 13,000 sq ft residence.

Taking pride and place at the peak of Queenstown Hill, one of the resort town's most desirable locations, this architecturally built magnum opus marries exquisite contemporary design with warmth and comfort; providing an idyllic location for a cr me de la cr me vacation in nature's playground.

The alfresco area is an entertainer's dream with a large sunken fire pit, hot tub and fully equipped outdoor kitchen. If the weather isn't up to scratch there's also a cinema, bar and pool room to keep you entertained.

If keeping fit and healthy whilst on holiday is your thing, Stelvio also features a fully equipped gym, as well as an outdoor yoga platform, capturing the sensational views to perfection.

AND FINALLY....THE ISLAND OASIS

Kauri Bay, Moturua Island

This stunning beachside house, designed by famous New Zealand architect Pete Bossley, has been skilfully built to take advantage of the soothing water and mountain views as well as to fit into its native surroundings of the idyllic Moturua Island.

With the island steeped in Maori history the owner has kept this history alive through the build of the property, with a large Tiki mural on the house exterior plus books and artefacts throughout which are kept as sacred art collections and memoirs of what once was.

In complete contrast to the history of the main building, the property's boat shed is home to a wide range of 'big boy toys', including a collection of jet skis, fishing gear, sea kayaks and up to the minute diving gear, providing all you need for an island getaway.

Do you have a New Zealand property which would make someone's ideal holiday home? Contact the specialists at Touch of Spice. info@touchofspice.co.nz

touchofspice.co.nz

travel

PUT A 'SPRING' INTO YOUR STEP

Top things to do this season on your own doorstep.

With the arrival of the spring shoulder season, the influx of international tourists has slowed, and you have a rare opportunity to explore the beauty of New Zealand without the crowds. Here are my top picks:

1. WALK OR BIKE THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

Shake off those winter blues in stunning Marlborough Sounds, where the mountain meets the sea. The beautiful spring colours, noises and fragrances of the flora and fauna make you feel so fortunate to live here.

STAY: Bay of Many Coves. Reward your tired limbs with a tranquil soak in the spa pool overlooking their private jetty and the surrounding hills.



2

2. H.A.W.C! FOOD AND WINE CLASSIC, HAWKE'S BAY (4TH - 13TH NOVEMBER)

The 2016 F.A.W.C. Summer series will feature over 80 "out of the box" food and wine experiences over 10 delicious days, starring an array of talent from home and abroad.

STAY: The Lodge at Craggy Range. The perfect retreat for foodies, featuring a chef's kitchen, open fire-place dining and an in-lodge sommelier service.



1

Jacqui Spice

Guest columnist, Founder & CEO of Touch of Spice

Each edition our guest columnist Jacqui Spice, Founder & CEO of luxury travel specialists Touch of Spice, will share with you her very best travel tips for the season ahead...

3. FLY FISHING IS ROTORUA

Catch the season opening buzz from 1st October in the Maori heartland and trout fishing capital of the world.

STAY: Treetops Lodge and enjoy access to seven streams, on-site trout fishing, four lakes, and over 70 kilometres of adventure trails.



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4. HORSEBACK RIDING THROUGH LUPINE BLOSSOMS IN GLENORCHY

For about 4-5 weeks at the end of each year, the middle of New Zealand's South Island bursts into colour – purples and pinks and blues and yellows sprout up along lakesides and in riverbeds, making the already-stunning views even more incredible.

STAY: Wyuna House and wake up to some of the world's most outstanding views.



5

5. GOLF AT JACK'S POINT GOLF COURSE

With a backdrop of 2300 vertical metres, this 18 hole par 72 championship course is one of the most visually spectacular in the world.

STAY: Jack's Point Lake House. On the doorstep of Queenstown, this ultimate luxury play pad boasts modern furnishings, a spa pool, pool table, cinema room and unparalleled views.



TOUCH OF SPICE
CURATORS OF NEW ZEALAND'S FINEST EXPERIENCES

Have Jacqui and her team of dreamweavers curate your New Zealand vacation from start to finish.

info@touchofspice.co.nz | +64 3 450 0855
touchofspice.co.nz