



MEDIA RELEASE

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New High Country Lodge - a relaxed rural retreat

Guests at a new luxury North Canterbury retreat can relax and enjoy the unique high country landscape, nearby Hanmer Springs and the lodge's setting in an established olive grove.

Nestled on north-facing hills overlooking Hanmer Springs and situated on 11.5ha of park-like grounds, **Amuri Estate Retreat** has three well-appointed rooms and a self-sufficient holiday cottage. All have panoramic views of majestic mountains, the braided Waiou River, high country stations and the quaint village of Hanmer Springs.

Amuri Estate Retreat owners, Lisa and Chris Preston, conceived the lodge's spacious design which reflects their personal style and values: sustainability along with comfort and luxury using natural materials - limestone, schist, cedar, brick, and wood.

The lodge features high cathedral ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows and decks to showcase the views, open-plan living, a stone-clad fireplace, original artwork and sumptuous furnishings.

"Whether people are looking for a casually-refined hideaway for a romantic weekend, a corporate retreat, or simply a place to relax and unwind, **Amuri Estate Retreat** is the perfect place," says Lisa Preston.

Formerly corporate executives, the Prestons left the world of board rooms for a life centered on sustainable agriculture and tourism. Chris is a New Zealander and keen tramper. Lisa (raised in America) moved to New Zealand in the late 1980's after spending 4 years on a sailboat. Both have travelled extensively.

"We have created a unique setting that offers a blend of a rural location with personal service. Guests have plenty of room to walk and relax and can also enjoy the activities and benefits Hanmer Springs offers," says Lisa.

Guests staying in the lodge can choose between the **Molesworth**, **St James** or **Rainbow** rooms, all named after historic high country stations which can be seen from private patios outside each room. The holiday cabin, **Wallace Peak Cottage**, takes its name from the mountain just behind the cottage, Wallace Peak.

The organic olive grove of 1300 trees has transformed a barren and exposed hillside into a perennially green landscape. The estate produces extra virgin olive oil under the **Amuri** label.

The property boasts a “Noah’s Orchard”; during fruit season, guests relish fresh plums, cherries, apricots, quinces, pears and apples. There are established walnut trees and an expansive vegetable garden.

Guests enjoy warm high country hospitality. Each evening, they are offered an outstanding selection of complementary New Zealand wines and appetisers. They can dine in, by arrangement, or at any one of a number of restaurants at Hanmer Springs.

Guests in the lodge are offered a choice of cooked breakfasts featuring local produce, while those in the cottage are provided with ingredients for a traditional cooked breakfast.

The Retreat’s concierge service will make dinner reservations and help guests plan activities — spa treatments, hiking, mountain biking, fly-fishing, jet boating, 4x4 tours, bungee jumping.

'Amuri', which is Maori for 'land of the shining tussock' and can also mean 'land of the future', relates to the couple’s vision for the property where they are re-establishing native bush to create a natural habitat for birds.

Amuri Estate Retreat is 8km from Hanmer Springs village and 150km from Christchurch.

For more information, please visit the Amuri Estate Retreat website at www.amuri.co.nz or call 03 315 5059.

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