



**HELD FROM 26
SEPTEMBER TO 6
OCTOBER, THIS YEAR'S
SHOW WAS ESPECIALLY
MOMENTOUS AS IT
CELEBRATED ITS
25TH ANNIVERSARY
FEATURING MORE THAN
160 DESIGNS, WITH HALF
OF THOSE DESIGNERS
COMING FROM OUTSIDE
NEW ZEALAND.**

2013 Brancott Estate Supreme World of WearableArt™ (WOW®) Award.

Runner Up was New Zealander – Peter Wakeman, whose hand-crafted garment 'Chica Under Glass' was awarded first prize in the Avant Garde Section.

In closing, sixteen New Zealand-designed garments won 18 awards and 19 awards were won by 16 international designs.

Truly a world-class event, 50,000 show-goers witnessed the breathtaking show, a spectacular visual story summoning the power of art, theatre, dance, and music in one beautiful, inspiring night.

HIGH ACCLAIM

Held in New Zealand's 'coolest little capital' – Wellington, the WOW® Awards Show creates a theatrical world. This world recognised design competition brings artists and designers together from around the globe to compete in one of the world's richest prize pools in the wearable art genre of NZ\$165,000. The supreme winner receives a minimum sum of NZ\$30,000 cash including travel prizes. The competition also offers 39 awards that comprises of cash, travel and opportunities for career growths in the costume and film industry.

CREATE, COMPETE AND WIN

Aspiring designers can take part and compete in 2014. Entries open from 2 December 2013. The pre-selection for International entries are on 1 April 2014 and 19 May 2014 for New Zealand entries. For more information, visit www.worldofwearableart.com and get more inspiration from pinterest.com/WOWAwardsShow. +

IMAGES COURTESY OF WORLD OF WEARABLEART™ AND
CLASSIC CARS MUSEUM, NELSON, NEW ZEALAND
WRITTEN BY ADELIN EYEO

'SKIN' MARJOLEIN DALLINGA, CANADA



ABEL TASMAN



MARLBOROUGH VINEYARD

Famed for dramatic scenery that has long inspired artists and writers, it was only a matter of time before New Zealand made a name for itself in the movies. It is a land of contrasts from snowcapped mountains to picturesque lakes and dense forests make it a truly remarkable destination. Together with the nation's healthy doses of Kiwi inventiveness, creativity and resilience has imbued a sense of vibrant energy that is infectious and exuberant.

Behind the bucolic landscape of New Zealand lies a world of endless fun and sheer indulgence. Made up of two main islands – North and South, AFFLUENT uncovers the hidden treasures of both regions through a thrilling nine-day tour across middle earth.

Catherine Ng and Paul Tan started their journey in New Zealand's capital – Wellington, which is located on the North Island (Te Ika-a-Maui) before they headed to South Island (Te Waipounamu) where they spent the next few days exploring Nelson, Marlborough, Kaikoura and finally Christchurch. During this nine-day trip, they discovered the many exhilarating facets of New Zealand's splendour wished they had more time to soak up the complete in-depth experience of this magical country.

"Set aside a minimum of two weeks to explore New Zealand as it is a picturesque blend of forests, beaches, olive groves and vineyards. It's a paradise with so much to offer from its scenic highlights to different parts of islands that offer a myriad of activities and unique experiences," enthused Catherine.

Likewise for Paul, "This is almost the most difficult travel story introduction of a single country that I have encountered which offers so many live experiences where not many can attain or achieve, even for a price."

Time was the main source of luxury for this trip as everything else falls into place for a good nine days or more to be truly complete. The story goes back to when the landmass now known as New Zealand was first discovered by Polynesian explorers and settled by people we now know as Maori.

The name "New Zealand" comes from "Zeeland" in Dutch. Zeeland is a province of the Netherlands. New Zealand is called "Aotearoa" in the Maori language. It means "Land of the Long White Cloud". Ao means "cloud", tea means "white", and roa means "long".

The people of New Zealand call themselves Kiwis, representing their national native although flightless bird. The North Island is smaller than the South Island, but most people (more than 3 million) live there.

SPLIT APPLE ROCK

9 Adventurous Days In New Zealand

IMAGES COURTESY OF TOURISM, NEW ZEALAND | WRITTEN BY IRA HIDAYAH

Farming represents a large community in both the North and South Islands. Most New Zealanders, however, choose to live in more urban areas. Wellington is the capital of New Zealand. Auckland is the largest city, with around 1 million people. Other cities in the North Island include Hamilton, Tauranga, Napier/Hastings, New Plymouth, Wanganui, and Palmerston North. South Island cities include Christchurch, Dunedin, Nelson, Invercargill and Timaru. Our journey begins upon the time we touch down Wellington.

DAY 1 & 2 - WELLINGTON

To get to Wellington from Singapore, Catherine and Paul took a connecting flight from Christchurch International Airport on Air New Zealand. Known as New Zealand's capital of cool, Wellington is a thriving bohemian city filled with tiny cafes and is the country's largest city with around 1 million inhabitants. Home to the national museum - Te Papa Tongarewa, the New Zealand International Arts Festival, Wellington on a Plate food festival and the Montana World of Wearable Art Awards Show, it has come to be the undisputed centre of arts and culture. Together with its eclectic mix of stylish cocktail bars, funky designer shopping and award-winning restaurants, it is not surprising that Wellington clinched fourth place as the 'Top City In The World' to visit by Lonely Planet Best in Travel category in 2011.

After a short 55-minute domestic flight from Christchurch International Airport, Catherine and Paul touched down in Wellington. Once there, they were instantly won over by the locals. "Everyone is so warm and welcoming. We could feel the positive energy

right from the moment we arrived. It feels like home every time you meet someone new here."

They kicked off their second day here by visiting The Museum of New Zealand or Te Papa Tongarewa to get a clearer sense and understanding of New Zealand's natural and cultural history. The stylish museum is a major attraction that boasts an international exhibit hall, children's interactive area and an outdoor space featuring a glow worm cave, gift shop and cafes. Entry to the museum is free. From the international exhibit hall to a children's interactive area, there is something new for everyone to discover. Some of the highlights that caught their attention included the World of Wearable Arts exhibition where they could view stunning fashion designs before catching the WOW Awards Show which was simply a phenomenal show that combined fashion with brilliant choreography.

"Anyone visiting Wellington should definitely stop by the museum for at least two to three hours, especially with a tour guide to learn more about New Zealand's amazing culture and history."

www.tepapa.govt.nz

At noon, they made their way to Roxy Cinema which is one of Wellington's original suburban cinemas and is situated in New Zealand's movie-making capital, Miramar. Housed in a 1928 building with a charming art deco façade, the Roxy Cinema was revamped by the city's most successful film and hospitality personalities, including Weta Workshop founders Tania Rodger and Richard Taylor, Oscar-winning editor Jamie Selkirk, Jo London and Tim Alexander of Weta, restaurateurs Valentina and Daminda Dias, and cocktail bar guru Johnny McKenzie. Cinema-goers will appreciate its new interiors featuring two luxurious state-



Beautiful work of art in Roxy Cinema.

of-the-art cinemas where they can watch some of the latest blockbusters, Coco Restaurant and cocktail lounge decked out in glory of 1920s and 1930s era.

www.roxycinema.co.nz

From Roxy Cinema, they then visited Weta Cave to get a first-ever behind-the-scenes glimpse of

Weta and interviews with Weta co-founders Peter Jackson, Richard Taylor, Tania Rodger and Jamie Selkirk. "Being a fan of some of the most amazing movies by Sir Peter Jackson, it was truly an eye-opener for me to have visited the Weta Cave. We took the guided tour to the Window into Workshop where we saw some of the props and models they have created over the years. We learned about some of the processes they used to make cool stuff!"

There is also a wide range of Weta souvenirs such as premium, limited edition sculptures, hand-crafted by Weta artists, Doctor Grordbort's range of Rayguns and pop culture collectibles that would make a perfect gift for any movie buff.

Tours take approximately 45 minutes, with a maximum of 20 people per tour. You can purchase tickets online for Window into Workshop.

www.wetanz.com/cave

For a more urban and food-oriented experience that lets you explore this city is to the Walking Gourmet Tour, organised by

Zest Food Tours. Catherine was simply blown away by the various culinary treasures they discovered during the Walking Gourmet Tour. "We started off with a light breakfast which comprised of different pastries at one of the cafes near Intercontinental Hotel. Wellington is also best known for its coffee. One of my favourite visits included the Bohemian Fresh Chocolates, where we discovered a great variety of chocolates with different flavours – such as honey and cheese!"

www.zestfoodtours.co.nz

DAY 3 - NELSON

From the upbeat and funky Wellington, Catherine and Paul's next destination was Nelson with its relaxing vibe amidst tranquil and picturesque nature. Situated at the top North-West of the South Island, Nelson is the sunniest region in New Zealand. From its long golden beaches to untouched forests and rugged mountains, it is the hotspot for creative people with more than 350 working artists and craftspeople living here.

For accommodation in Nelson, the couple stayed at the exclusive high-end Split Apple Retreat, located atop a hill above the famed Split Apple Rock which is within the pristine surroundings of the Abel Tasman



FOUNDED AND BUILT BY LEE NELSON AND HIS WIFE ANNE PEN LEE, THEY SET UP A LUXURY REFUGE WITH THE AIM OF TREATING GUESTS THROUGH THOUGHTFUL PERSONALISED FOOD, EXPERT NUTRITION AND RELAXATION.

SPLIT APPLE RETREAT

Far and Away
Hide out in this calming oriental and contemporary décor refuge overlooked by lush and beautiful scenery

National Park. Founded and built by Lee Nelson and his wife Anne Pen Lee, they set up a luxury refuge with the aim of treating guests through thoughtful personalised food, expert nutrition and relaxation. Think of it as a haven for recharging the body, mind and soul. Lee himself is a retired doctor and Pen is a highly-qualified chef who prepares healthy gourmet menus catered to each guests' specific dietary requirements. What's more, Lee and Pen have written a book – 'The Split Apple Thoughtful Cookbook' and guests can replicate some of the delicious and nutritious meals during their stay here.

For instance, Catherine's favourite meal at Split Apple Rock was a grilled salmon and black bean sauce. "Besides the spectacular and amazing view that is easily accessible from all the bedrooms and even the dining area, we went on a short trail behind the house leading to a great walk to the beach front where we could see the famous 'split-apple rock'. The beach is also famous for shell fishing and collecting fresh mussels."

With its Japanese interiors that add a touch of Zen, coupled with a host of luxurious services such as acupuncture, massage, meditation and other stress reduction therapies, you will be pampered to blissful rejuvenation at Split Apple Retreat.

www.splitappleretreat.com

DAY 4 - NELSON

On the fourth day, Catherine and Paul were accompanied by the owners of Split Apple Retreat Ms. Venessa Chen (Marketing Communications & Public Relations Manager – SSEA from Tourism New Zealand)

to the helicopter pad for their Scenic Helicopter Tour. There is no better way to fully appreciate the glorious natural beauty of Abel Tasman National Park than via a helicopter ride. A 20-minute flight to various destinations such as Kahurangi National Park, the experience is elevated in the form of dining with altitude on a mountain top with decadent meals prepared by Michelin trained and award-winning personal Chef Matt Bouterey. Catherine and Paul enjoyed their private paradise by the steam over a magnificent course of fresh salmon sashimi, Duck and Pork Belly, homemade apple tarts, cheese, red and white wine, all of which were prepared just beside a stream. Certainly, nothing beats the experience of fine dining in the great outdoors!

www.helicoptersnelson.co.nz

Later that day, Catherine and Paul made their way to the Jens Hansen Contemporary Gold and Silversmith. Since 1968, the Jens Hansen Gold and Silversmith workshop in Nelson has been making jewellery of uncompromising beauty. But what's really unique about this jewellery



boutique is that its founder, Jens Hansen was responsible for crafting the ring for Peter Jackson's "Lord of The Rings" trilogy, including "The Hobbit" films. Indeed, ardent LOTR fans can now own a slice of cinematic history with replicas of the "The One" ring that is available for purchase. Besides shopping for the world's most famous ring, one can also buy diamond engagement rings, custom design wedding jewellery, dress rings, bracelets, pendants, brooches and silverware imbued with contemporary lines and sculptural elegance which are trademarks of the Jens Hansen workshop.



DAY 5 & 6 - MARLBOROUGH

From the wondrous natural beauty of Nelson, their next stop was Marlborough. As New Zealand's largest grape-growing region, Marlborough is home to 74 wineries producing internationally acclaimed wines. In particular, the region is

renowned for its sauvignon blanc and a growing reputation for Riesling, Gewurztraminer, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Methode Traditionelle and the award-winning Pinot Noir. Situated at the northern tip of South Island, this is where you will find it geographically stunning Marlborough Sounds, which consists of 1500 km of coastline, bays, beaches and native bush. This maritime jewel boasts some of the world's best boating and diving, fishing, eco-tours, scenic native bush walks and lodges. The Marlborough Sounds is a recreational paradise, with winding waterways, sheltered bays and native forest. Cruise, kayak, water-ski, or sail the endless bays where the fish are plentiful and the sparkling waters enticing.

www.destinationmarlborough.com

A visit to Marlborough would not be complete without a trip to some of its famous vineyards. Both Catherine and

Paul first visited the Brancott Estate Heritage Centre where they took part in the Brancott Estate Premium Tutored Wine Tasting. Catherine sampled various top grade wines and learnt that New Zealand has carved out a niche for itself through its intensely fruity and vibrant dry whites such as the Sauvignon Blanc, which is arguably the world's greatest Sauvignon Blanc.

Brancott Estate is the creator of the original Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Immerse yourself in the history of their cherished Brancott Vineyard while getting the rare opportunity to view the rare and endangered native New Zealand Falcon. Wine connoisseurs will feel right at home here as they take part in The Living Land Experience which features a lunch and guided wine tours. www.brancottestate.com

Picturesque snow-capped mountain.



Another vineyard worth checking out is the highly popular Cloudy Bay. Established in 1985, it produces award-winning wines and derived its name from the bay at the eastern extremity of the Wairau Valley, which was named Cloudy Bay by Captain Cook on his voyage to New Zealand in 1770. Catherine enjoyed the vineyard's relaxing atmosphere and added, "Cloudy Bay is welcoming and staff on duty was very warm and friendly. You get to try any of their wines before making your purchases." www.cloudybay.co.nz

For their stay in Marlborough, Catherine and Paul headed to Lake Timara Lodge where they were treated like royalty. An ideal place for respite and a good night's rest, Lake Timara Lodge is quaintly nestled within 25 acres of landscaped gardens, large in-ground swimming pool, grass tennis court and a private five acre lake. What's more, the place is hosted by Michelin starred chef - Louis Schindler and the lodge only accommodates up to eight people at any one time, which adds to its exclusivity appeal.

Austrian-born Chef Louis whips up mouthwatering modern European cuisine with a traditional twist. Catherine was most impressed with his ability to bring the vision, flavour and taste to complete perfection in each and every course he prepared, from starters to desserts.

"We felt totally at ease during these nine days in New Zealand. I especially loved Lake Timara Lodge's classic English décor and its lovely lake facing the lodge with bird chirping in the morning. You simply feel so close to nature!"

www.timara.co.nz / timaralodge@extra.co.nz

DAY 7 - KAIKOURA

Well-rested and pampered, Catherine and Paul's next visit was to Kaikoura. With a population of around 3,600 residents, the town lies on the rugged coast of New Zealand's South Island. Its rich European history can be traced back to 1770 when it was first discovered by Captain Cook. Surrounded by snow-capped mountains, this seaside settlement is dotted with farmland and brimming with nature where marine mammals and seabirds thrive. Kaikoura in Maori literally means 'meal of crayfish' (kai - food, koura - crayfish), of which the place is traditionally famous for. In particular, Kaikoura is the top spot for whale watching which includes species such as the Sperm Whales, humpback whales, dusky dolphins, orcas, fur seals and albatross, amongst others. www.kaikoura.co.nz

As a wonderful treat, Catherine and Paul popped by the iconic Nin's Bin to savour a scrumptious lunch of crayfish and fresh oysters. Nin's Bin was first established back in the 1970's and is actually a beachside caravan. It serves up the best and freshest crayfish and



mussels, and it is not surprising that it is a favourite for kiwis for many generations. Other goodies include seasonal whitebait and oysters. With teal green oceans overlooking snowy mountains, it is truly divine place to indulge in generous portions of

the freshest seafood surrounded by stunning landscapes.

After a memorable and delectable lunch at Nin's Bin, Catherine and Paul went for a spot of whale watching with Wings Over Whales. The company offers comfortable flights with experienced pilots who provide informative in-flight commentary while flying across the ocean. They were both able to enjoy panoramic views of the mountains and managed to spot a whale as they emerged above sea level to breathe more oxygen for 10 minutes before it submerged underwater for the next 45 minutes. It was definitely an once-in-a-lifetime experience for Catherine and Paul!

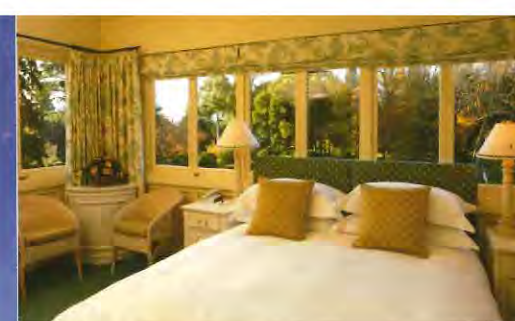
www.whales.co.nz

With a day packed with splendid encounters with adorable seals and marine life, they were further captivated by Kaikoura's wondrous natural milieu at Hapuku Lodge & Tree House. Providing unique accommodation with a difference, Catherine and Paul stayed in one of the tree houses where they could take in a picturesque 360 degree view of lush vedure and gorgeous scenery. Each tree house is built 30 metres above the ground and is the final word in luxury haven, designed and hand-crafted from local wood. For dining options, guests can indulge in delectable meals made from fresh local ingredients. With wild hares hopping around and horses galloping across the wide greens, it simply added to the allure of the entire place that reminds you of a magical forest. Indeed, staying in a tree house was one of the biggest highlights for the couple.

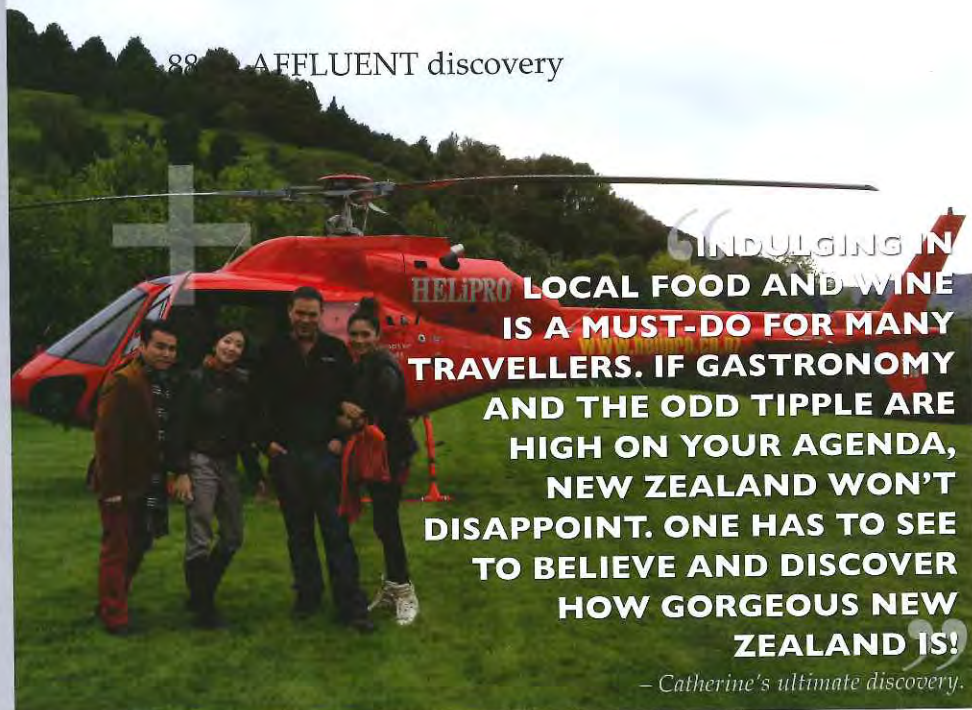
www.hapukulodge.com

DAY 8 & 9 - CHRISTCHURCH

The breath-taking beauty of South Island continues to astound Catherine



Grand Scheme
From the
entrance (this
pic) to the
bedroom (left)
the Lake Timara
Lodge is a
sophisticated
retreat.



“INDULGING IN LOCAL FOOD AND WINE IS A MUST-DO FOR MANY TRAVELLERS. IF GASTRONOMY AND THE ODD TIPPLE ARE HIGH ON YOUR AGENDA, NEW ZEALAND WON'T DISAPPOINT. ONE HAS TO SEE TO BELIEVE AND DISCOVER HOW GORGEOUS NEW ZEALAND IS!”

— Catherine's ultimate discovery.

and Paul as they made their way to the final leg of their tour – Christchurch. Hailed as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Christchurch was voted as the Top 10 City To Visit by Lonely Planet in 2013. Without a doubt, its ocean backdrop to the Alps make it an ideal destination for skiing, surfing, whale watching, alpine spas and wineries. Also known as Otautahi in Maori which means ‘the place of Tautahi’, it is the largest city of South Island. Despite the earthquake which happened here in 2012, the city has rebuilt itself and is ever-evolving and flourishing; thanks to an overhaul that has transformed it into a ‘city in a garden’.

www.christchurchnz.com

Adrenaline junkies will love the HELIPRO Alpine Landing and Picnic which consists of a helicopter ride that flies west over the Canterbury Plains and towards the remote Southern Alps where one can view the incredible Waimakariri Gorge offering stunning

views of this river canyon – a gateway to South Island's Main Divide. However, the excitement does not stop there. www.helipro.co.nz

On this trip, Catherine and Paul arrived in style at the French Farm Restaurant after spending time in the helicopter to view the dramatic landscape. Boasting an impressive French-provincial style, French Farm Restaurant is set behind a sensational view of the harbor and hills with well-maintained gardens set on 3.5 acres of land. Catherine and Paul tucked into a hearty lunch consisting of gigantic mussels in white wine sauce and chunky fries.

The eatery itself has a long history, including a Kahkatea tree believed to be over 600 years old, which towers on the side of the main restaurant. All this lends an inviting and intimate ambiance tinged with sophistication. Best of all, diners can experience the restaurant's weekly themed nights as well as booking into its classic

French-European decorated rooms. Escape into pure indulgence when you book a room here which comes with sumptuous breakfast and four to five course dinners which will take place from December 2013.

For bookings, contact Kerry at frenchfarmwinery@xtra.co.nz www.frenchfarmwinery@xtra.co.nz

Blessed with a plethora of natural wonders, New Zealand is magnetic and mysterious. From the affable locals to quaint small towns, everything has a way of feeling personal, intimate, connected. Even though Catherine and Paul journeyed into middle earth for nine days, it just left them yearning to find more gems and stories hidden across this magnificent country. +

TRAVELLER'S CHECKS

+ GETTING THERE

Singapore Airlines flies twice daily to Auckland and daily to Christchurch www.singaporeair.com. Air New Zealand (from Wellington to Nelson). www.airnewzealand.com.

+ CURRENCY

New Zealand dollar (NZ\$); at press time, \$1 equivalent to NZ\$0.99.

+ LANGUAGE

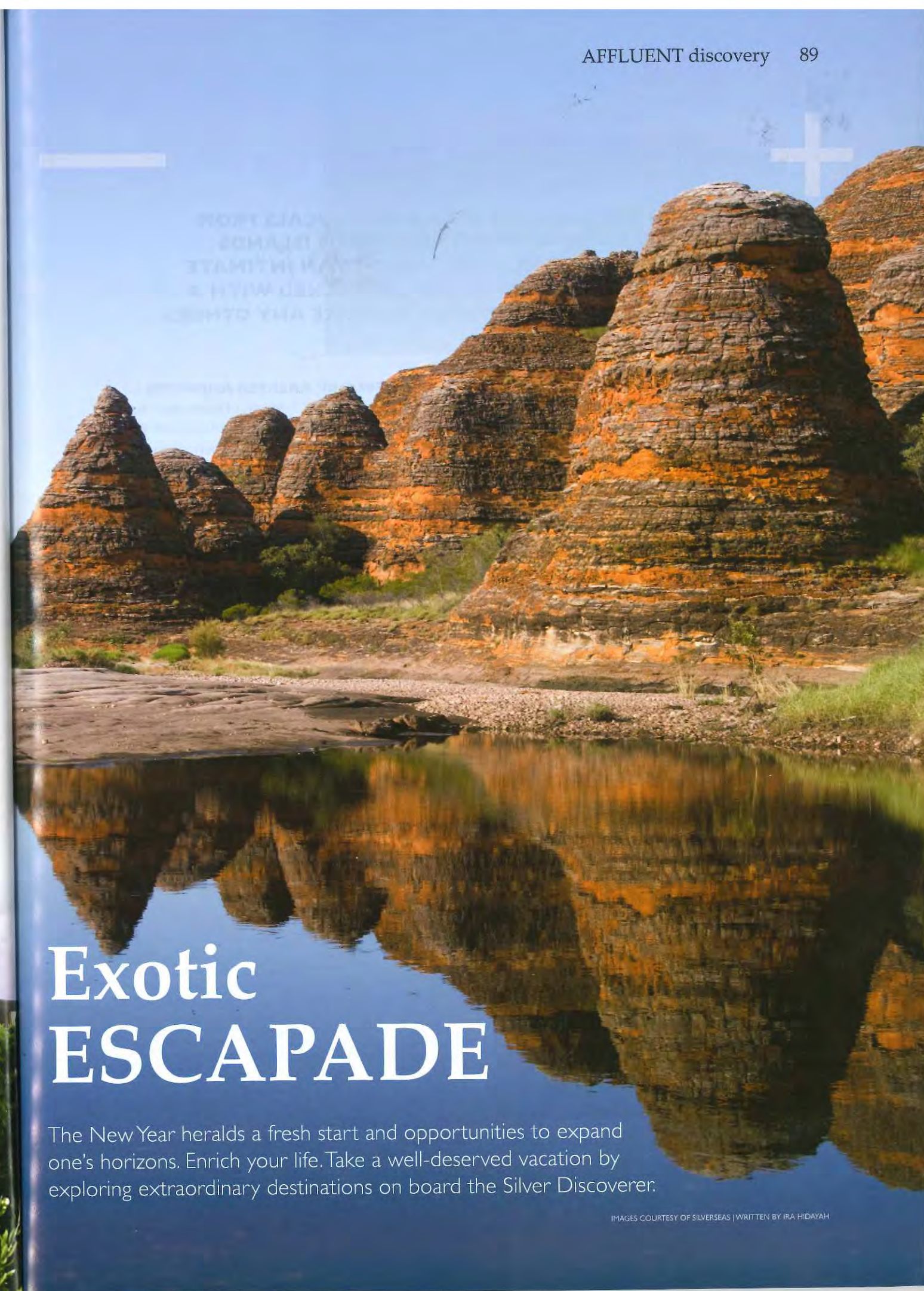
The standard Maori welcome greeting of “kia ora” is common. Say “kiwi!” instead of “cheese!” when you are being photographed.

+ SPECIAL THANKS

This personalised luxe trip for AFFLUENT magazine is possible thanks to Tourism New Zealand. Special thanks to Ms Venessa Chen, Marketing Communications & PR Manager, Southeast Asia from Tourism New Zealand (www.newzealand.com) who was our gracious host throughout the entire journey in New Zealand.

TREE HOUSES, HARUKU LODGE

IMAGES COURTESY OF TOURISM, NEW ZEALAND | WRITTEN BY IRA HIDAYAH



Exotic ESCAPADE

The New Year heralds a fresh start and opportunities to expand one's horizons. Enrich your life. Take a well-deserved vacation by exploring extraordinary destinations on board the Silver Discoverer.

IMAGES COURTESY OF SILVERSEAS | WRITTEN BY IRA HIDAYAH