



Andrew Harper's

Hideaway Report®

A connoisseur's worldwide guide
to peaceful and unspoiled places

Our 26th Year

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Reader Requests

Readers are welcome to send letters of request for vacation advice to: Editor, Box 50, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353 USA. Fax: [406] 862-3486. We regret that your questions can only be answered in this monthly column.

Canada's Brentwood Bay Lodge

Q Have you visited the new Brentwood Bay Lodge near Victoria? Is it worthwhile? J.H.

A We published a brief pre-opening mention of the lodge a few months ago. Unfortunately, our recent stay fell short of expectations. Instead of being "nestled on a pristine inlet" as presumed, the property occupies a generally uninspiring residential/commercial location along a popular road adjacent to a ferry dock lined with waiting cars. Service levels were also inconsistent during our stay, however, that may just be a reflection of the hotel's newness. Finally, though well appointed, we felt the lodgings were overpriced for value received. In fact, most of the so-called "suites" were nothing more than average-sized rooms. Positives included a handsomely styled lobby and fine restaurant/pub, both affording scenic outlooks to the bay. An outdoor pool, small full-service spa, and water shuttle service to spectacular nearby Butchart Gardens round out the amenities. Tel. (888) 544-2079 or (250) 544-2079.

Intimate Auckland Manor House

Q Do you know of any small, first-class hotels in Auckland, New Zealand? M.M.

A We like *Mollies*, a sophisticated and stylish 15-suite inn set amid lovely gardens along a quiet residential street just above the Harbour Bridge and St. Mary's Bay, 5 minutes from city center. Owned and operated by two opera buffs, the 1870s manor comes decorated with a harmony of prized antiques, sleek modern furnishings and striking floral displays. Grand pianos abound, as well as music memorabilia from all corners of the globe. The comfy and well-appointed rooms feature every conceivable amenity, including broadband Internet access and superb baths. Extra-spacious Harbour Suites offer a full range of additional options, from full kitchens to private balconies. Another favorite is #12 overlooking the gardens, its layout augmented by a dining area, fireplace, piano and spa tub with a separate shower.

Mollie's proximity to downtown makes sight-seeing a breeze. The staff can also arrange activities such as sailing in an America's Cup yacht, golf, or tours of Waiheke Island and its 30 wineries. Many fine restaurants are in the area, including award-winning *Vinnies* a short stroll away. In-house dining from a comprehensive menu is also available with 24 hours notice. Suite for one or two, from \$745, full breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres, aperitifs included. Tel. (64) 9-376-3489 or Fax (64) 9-378-6592.

How To Access Your Private AndrewHarperTravel.com Database

We recently introduced a new and expanded high-speed website that provides you additional subscriber benefits. These benefits include –

- Free and quick online access to the last 16 issues of *Hideaway Report*, including direct links to the websites of all recommended hotels. The current issue can usually be viewed up to a week before you receive your mailed copy.
- Valuable trip-planning links to provide you instant access to U.S. State Department travel advisories, special hotel values, worldwide weather forecasts, currency exchange rates, road maps and more. Links are also provided to Andrew Harper's favorite hotels and resorts.

To view this complimentary data, just visit www.AndrewHarperTravel.com and click the words "Log On" appearing in the left column. You will then be asked to enter your personal Hideaway Report Passport Number and the zip code where you receive your subscription. Your Passport Number is the first complete block of numbers that appears above your name on each month's mailing label. This month (and this month only!), your label has been conveniently printed at the top of the front page of this newsletter. Be sure to save your Passport Number for future website visits. Alternatively, you can check the "Automatic Login" box to store your number, so you won't have to remember it again.

Please let us know what you think of this exclusive new member website. Your feedback is always welcome, as our goal is to continually update the site with travel information that is important to you. Suggestions can be emailed to harper@AndrewHarperTravel.com

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