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# THE INDEPENDENT

## **FIVE BEST NEW ZEALAND RETREATS**

Independent, The (London) Dec 2, 2006 by Danielle Demetriou

### Mollies Auckland

A love of opera, and music in general, has influenced the design of Mollies, a luxurious 16-suite boutique hotel overlooking Waitemata Harbour. The owners Stephen Fitzgerald and Frances Wilson have collated an eclectic but elegant mix of global antiques and modern artworks, while in one of the salons there's a grand piano and gilded harp. A splash of leopard print might appear alongside a Chinese tapestry, or a glass table near an 18th-century Japanese chest. The airy suites are equally imaginative, while a gourmet dinner menu - think saffron-stained squid with mortadella and chickpeas - is also on offer.

Mollies, 6 Tweed Street, St Mary's Bay, Auckland, North Island (00 64 9376 3489; [www.mollies.co.nz](http://www.mollies.co.nz)). Suites start at NZ\$535 ([pound]185)