



MOLLIES

23 February 2010

LOVE LETTER TO GUESTS

Tatler Magazine, the style bible for the thinking Brit, has elevated Mollies to its 101 Best Hotels in the World. Such status has previously been granted infrequently for New Zealand, and then mostly for overseas-owned hotels or super lodges. For 2010, the honour has been bestowed on the boutique, family-owned and operated small hotel in St Mary's Bay in Auckland.

"Everything is beautifully done throughout, thoughtful, flamboyant, charming," waxed the typically sceptical magazine. "It's a seductive place that will win you over. The hotel is a love letter to guests from the owners Frances Wilson and Stephen Fitzgerald."

The owners were surprised by the award, which was assessed incognito. "This is our baby," says Frances Wilson, "and to have her yet again in the spotlight on the international stage is such a reinforcement of the personal, very caring passion that we, and every staff member, bring to looking after our guests."

Tatler noted "a super-swift talented staff gliding about with glasses of champagne" and the signature devotion to opera performance that sets the tone for every evening dining experience. The magazine's list this year featured hotels with "old fashioned star quality" says travel editor Melissa Stevens, "cossetting, thrilling, and out of the ordinary".

In the Tatler annual guide, other Top 101 places to stay include the Mandarin Oriental in Bangkok, London's Ritz, and the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai. Huka Lodge in Taupo also tops the list and received an award for its enduring excellence.

Tourism Auckland Chief Executive, Graeme Osborne, has commended Mollies for "an outstanding accolade".

"The lengths gone to by Mollies to present a superior quality offering with such a high class point of difference makes this award totally deserved. To be ranked in the company of some of the world's big-name hotels is a true credit to Mollies' enduring quality. Auckland can really be proud of this superb boutique hotel," he says.

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