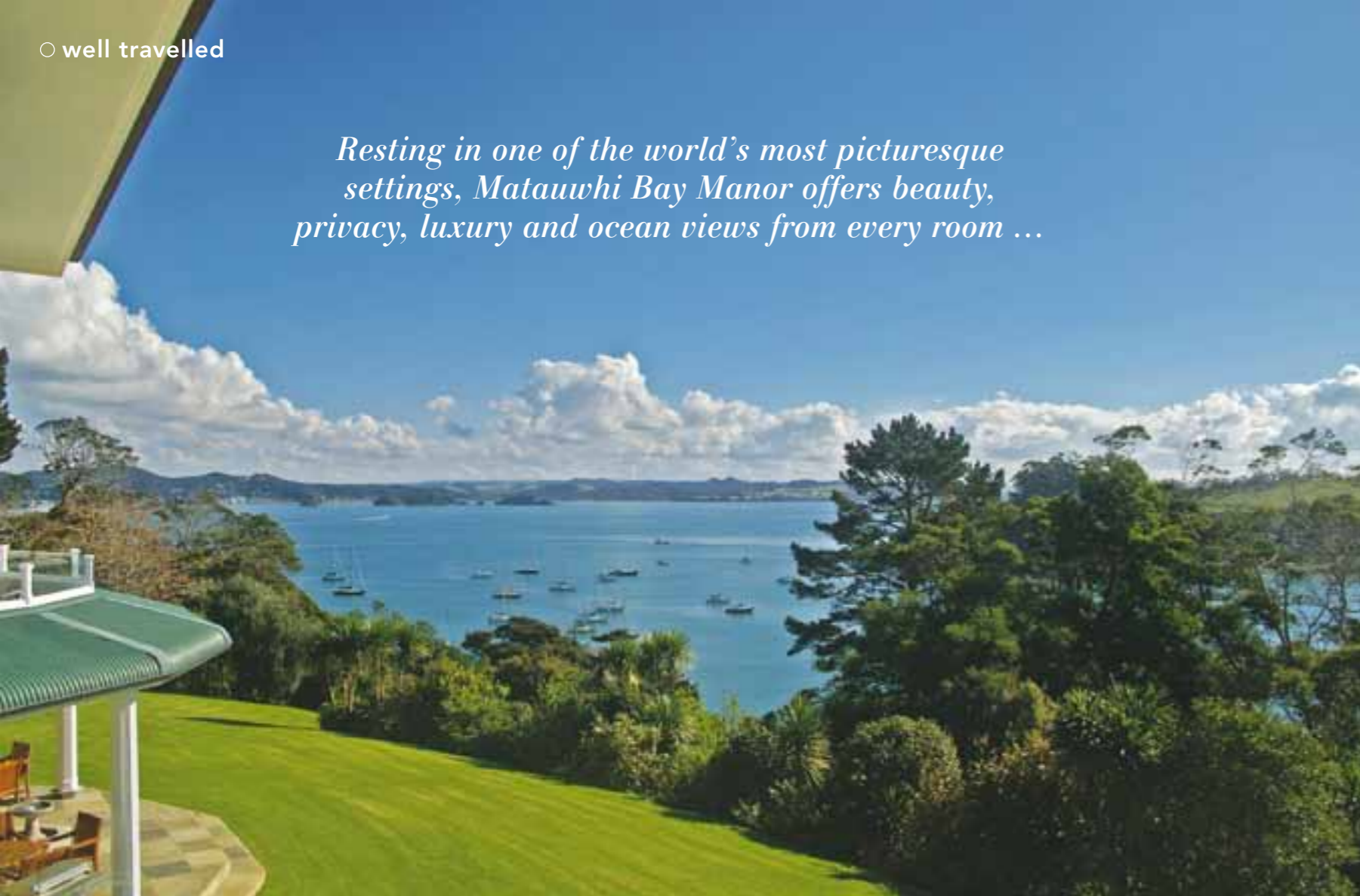


*Resting in one of the world's most picturesque settings, Matauwhi Bay Manor offers beauty, privacy, luxury and ocean views from every room ...*



# Bay of Beauty

**Why not introduce - or reacquaint - yourself with the magic of New Zealand by visiting Matauwhi Bay Manor on the beautiful Bay of Islands?**

words Susan Lang-Lemckert

Resting in one of the world's most picturesque settings, Matauwhi Bay Manor offers beauty, privacy, luxury and ocean views from every room – perfect for relaxation, or for recharging ahead of the next round of activities.

And because this magnificent resort caters for just eight to ten guests at any one time, it is the perfect destination for a relaxing getaway, a romantic liaison or to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary.

Naturally a property of this calibre has a vast array of activities for guests to choose from – you

can tee off at the Bay of Islands Golf Course in nearby Kerikeri, or perhaps Waitangi Golf Club, which offers breathtaking bay views along with its excellent facilities.

Guests also have access to the Manor boat for fishing or sightseeing trips, and kayak use ... or resort staff can arrange local tours tailored to your personal requirements – be that shopping, hiking or visiting wineries ... the choice is yours. You could overnight round the Bay of Islands on the *Ipipiri*, a 150-foot cruise ship, or enjoy a helicopter tour of the area that will pick you up at Matauwhi Bay

Manor and drop you back there afterwards.

If quiet contemplation is more your style, the 12 acres of immaculate grounds provide a perfect haven for breathing in the beauty and tranquility, and there's even a path to lead you down to the resort's private pebble beach.

The Manor also boasts a produce garden, ensuring the freshest vegetables, herbs and free-range eggs complement the locally-sourced venison, beef and lamb, plus the abundant 'fruits of the sea' which are used to create the resort's delicious fare.

The Matauwhi Bay Manor facilities are second to none – they include a heated plunge pool and spa, a conservatory overlooking the bay, four fireplaces, lounge and reading room, a sauna, snooker table and bar, and gym equipment. And the rear deck and bar – also looking across the bay to historic Waitangi – provides the perfect setting for a sundowner.

Elegance is evident in every element of Matauwhi Bay Manor ... from the opulent fittings to the luxurious finishes – chandeliers, marble and timber, to name but a few. And the furnishings, described as 'a mix of antique grandeur with a Middle Eastern influence', reflect the extensive travels of current owners Bruce and Diana Munro.

"The previous owner had extremely high standards and expectations for craftsmanship," explains Nicole Aprato, Matauwhi Bay Manor Partner and Bruce and Diana's daughter.

"And that, combined with the fact he imported furniture and materials from overseas, meant the building process took about ten years – until 2008, when my parents purchased it."

After many years overseas (most recently in Dubai), Bruce and Diana dreamed of

operating an exclusive accommodation venue with the aim of eventually bringing all of their family together to incorporate their collective experience into running it. Earlier this year that dream was realised when their children Nicole and Ben, together with their respective partners and children, relocated to Matauwhi Bay Manor to become actively involved with its day-to-day management.

The family's extensive overseas travel has given rise to a deep understanding of different types of people and their expectations of a holiday experience.

"We offer an experience customised to the guest, and we take the approach that anything is possible," says Nicole. "We offer guests the opportunity to have their holiday planned for them by finding out their interests prior to arrival, so we can work out the perfect itinerary to optimise their stay. On the other hand, if it's simply luxuriating and relaxing they wish to do, then we encourage guests to treat the Manor like it is their home away from home.

"We've lived in the Middle East, Asia and other parts of New Zealand, and I've never lived in a spot as beautiful as this," says Nicole.

"I remember when I first arrived here – I asked the builder: 'Do you get used to the view when you're seeing it every day?', and he said: 'No, you don't – you always appreciate it'.

"And it's true. It's always great to come through the gates [at Matauwhi Bay Manor] and see that breathtaking view. It's unique ... like nothing I've ever seen anywhere else." ●

## Special offer for Cove readers

### MATAUWHI BAY MANOR

Enjoy 4 nights for the price of 3 (twin share) in either the Fantail or Kingfisher Suites

Includes: Transfers from Kerikeri Airport, 18 holes of golf plus transport to and from the course at the Bay of Islands Golf Club ([www.bayofislandsgolf.co.nz](http://www.bayofislandsgolf.co.nz)), breakfast daily

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