

Waiheke's Oyster Inn makes global magazine 'it' list

Definitely flavour of the month, the Oyster Inn in Oneroa has been named on international *Travel and Leisure* magazine's 2013 'Best New Hotels' It list.

Mentioned at number 28 in the 'beach' category, it is the only New Zealand hotel to make it on to the list, keeping company with hotels like the Dorado Beach in Puerto Rico and the Jumeirah Port Soller in Mallorca, Spain. There are 63 hotels on the list.

Co-owner Andrew Glenn says the honour is a coup for the boutique hotel, which will feature in the June issue of the magazine in America.

"We are just humbled and amazed to be among such gorgeous properties around the world."

He says the list is compiled by a global roster of contributors who visit numerous international locations in categories like 'rustic', 'city', 'renovation' and 'resort' and then whittle down the possibilities to compile their annual list.

"We had a travel journalist from Australia, who was connected to *Travel and Leisure* stay with us in February, but we weren't expecting to receive this information over the weekend. It's fantastic."

A very popular and widely read publication in America, the listing is likely to substantially increase the Oyster Inn's profile with well-heeled American travellers.

The entry refers to Waiheke as the 'Montauk' of New Zealand, likening it to a beach resort at the tip of New York's Long Island within the town of East Hampton.

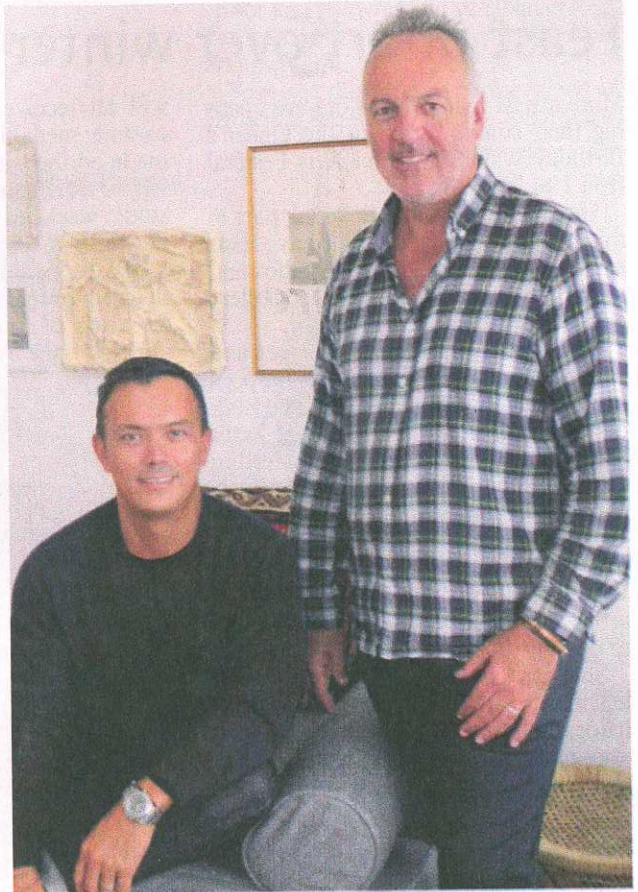
It says the island combines "the cool cachet of your prototypical seaside town (beach shacks made of castoff wood; laid-back residents) with a sophisticated edge."

"Kiwis have known about it forever, but the world is just catching on, thanks to the Oyster Inn, a three-room retreat near Oneroa Beach modelled after the rustic houses, or baches, that dot the island."

It describes the Oyster Inn as set "in a Victorian-era newspaper office", with guest rooms that are "small but sweet, all white-washed walls, exposed rafters, and colorful kilims."

"We whiled away the day at the patio café overlooking Oneroa Bay, happily ordering platters of bivalves plucked straight from the sea. Turns out they didn't name it Oyster Inn for nothing."

Travel and Leisure is based in New York City, published 12 times a year and has 4.8 million readers, according to its



The Oyster Inn is enjoying a great run of publicity after international magazine *Travel and Leisure* singled the boutique hotel out in its latest hotel review list.

Above – Owners Andrew Glenn and Jonathan Rutherford-Best.

corporate media kit.

It is put out by American Express Publishing Corporation, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the American Express Company. The company also publishes *Food & Wine*, *Travel + Leisure Family* and *Departures* magazines

The accolade comes after the Oyster Inn made Auckland-based *Metro* magazine's Top 50 restaurants for 2013 and Maitre'd Clare Dunleavy was nominated as a finalist for Restaurant Personality of the Year in the same awards. • *Julianne Evans*

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