

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007



REMARKABLES LODGE

QUEENSTOWN • NEW ZEALAND

## SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS EASY, FISH ARE JUMPING...

*"Thank you so much for looking after us so well. We have had the most wonderful stay. Great food, a beautiful setting and lovely walks which we would never have found without your help."*

James and Priska, UK, February 2007

What a glorious month February was in Queenstown – long sunny days and dry as a bone. Fortunately our water comes from a waterfall on Remarkables Mountains so we are able to irrigate our lovely gardens and guests bask in the afternoon sunshine, admiring the flowers and prolific



fruit trees and watching the deer grazing. Or chatting to Demian, the resident chef, while he picks fresh herbs and soft fruits in preparation for dinner.



After a day's activities guests returning to the lodge enjoy the late afternoon sunshine long after Queenstown has gone into shade. And our outside fireplace is a great

place to have pre dinner drinks and canapes and meet other guests while making the most of the long days.

As we move into March the fruit trees are maturing and soon Demian will be bottling fruit and making breakfast preserves in preparation for the winter and next summer. A new addition to his repertoire this year is local Otago cherries – as big as plums – soaked in Pinot Noir and left to marinate for six months to be ready for next season's guests.



One of Demian's signature entrees using fresh summer ingredients and locally smoked gravalax

## STEWART ISLAND – THE EASY WAY

New Zealand has recently recognised yet another South Island gem that epitomises everything that is special about the country. Clean air, dense green countryside, kiwi birds in the wild, and a little slice of New Zealand as it was decades ago – undeveloped and unspoilt. But by definition such places are hard to get to and you need a bit of inside knowledge to know how to organise it.



Strolling along one of Ulva Islands beautiful unspoiled beaches

Many of our guests have commented that they had heard good things about Stewart Island but they thought



Grommit the weka greets his friend Peter, Sails Ashore's owner

they'd need an extra few days to do it and their agent didn't have a lot of experience booking there. So we decided to take the 'hard' out of a Stewart Island trip and wrap it in with a visit to Queenstown. Now guests can sample the delights of the island and agents have a one-

stop booking process.

Our 4 night package includes:

- two full days in Queenstown
- three nights at the Lodge
- one overnight in Stewart Island at Sails Ashore B&B
- two excursions to see Stewart Island - including the wonderful bird life on Ulva Island
- all transfers, transport and accommodation

See [http://www.remarkables.co.nz/Stewart\\_Island.shtml](http://www.remarkables.co.nz/Stewart_Island.shtml) for more details.

## FLY FISHING

Congratulations to our guests this season who have had a 100% success rate - from total beginners to the very experienced - all caught trout. Options from the Lodge include 4WD transport, boat or helicopter to experience some of NZ's finest trout streams.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

The following excerpt was published on the **Great Outdoors** website magazine in January 2007

### SOUTH ISLAND REDUX

By Peter Potterfield.

It was at the post office where I checked in for the flight back to Invercargill and Queenstown, New Zealand's most popular tourist town. Raucous and cosmopolitan, the heavy action here is the very antithesis to Stewart Island's funky remoteness. I'm back to do the Greenstone Track, not just one of the country's storied trout streams, but one of the prettiest valleys on the South Island. I had seen the Greenstone while doing the Routeburn Track several years ago, and vowed to return for a closer look.

I finish up my long journey at the Remarkables Lodge, the place that some say set the standard for comfort in Queenstown a decade ago. It's recently been restored to its former glory by a British couple who, after sailing around the world, thought it might be fun to be inn keepers. The rocky Remarkables -- the mountains you saw in Lord of the Rings -- rise just behind us, dusted with new snow from a storm. But lodge owner Brian Savage and I are sitting on the lawn in warm sunshine, talking a mile a minute over an outrageous sauvignon blanc, as we await the other guests for dinner.

The food at the lodge is famous around Queenstown, but even better is the way it's



Journalist Peter Potterfield has written more than a dozen books on outdoor adventure. He has contributed to Outside, Conde Nast Traveler, National Geographic Adventure and other major magazines. He helped develop online adventure reporting as editor of MountainZone.com and was a finalist for the National Magazine Award for General Excellence as editor of Pacific Northwest magazine. Potterfield is currently editor of GreatOutdoors.com, where he writes his regular column



served, at the "lodge table". Here is a place where visitors from around the world gather like a family over good conversation and fresh local ingredients expertly prepared.

Tonight I'm reminded of what a small country New Zealand is. I've learned that Brian, and his wife Colleen, have arranged with the Taits down on Stewart Island to create a package for people who want to experience both Queenstown and the wilds of Stewart Island. One of the guests is Louisa, who grew up here and now operates a helicopter company in Queenstown that actually picks up guests from the lodge and flies them to remote cabins in the back country for a few nights of adventure, complete with a chef. Simon Wilkinson, fishing and back country tramping guide, is here, too, as he frequently sets up a few days of fly fishing for lodge guests so inclined.

For my last day in New Zealand, it's hard to imagine a sharper contrast to the recent stormy miles in the mountains, or a better way to end an adventure: in extreme comfort, among friends. It's the Kiwi way, and that's what makes it so much fun to come back again, and again.

For the full article see <http://www.greatoutdoors.com/published/camp/international/secondtimearound>



### QUALMARK 5 STAR AWARD

The lodge has again been awarded a Qualmark 5 Star rating with a score of over 90 percent (the threshold for 5 Star is 84%). Independent inspectors classified the lodge as "exceptional, among the best available in New Zealand".

And our guests seem to agree:

***"A wonderful place with better cuisine and service than any 5 star hotel. A truly great experience to stay here. Attentive but not overbearing service. And hosts who are genuinely interested in their guests."*** Mike and Jean, January 2007



**FODOR'S GUIDE** has also rated the lodge very highly in its latest edition and we are attracting some very complimentary reviews on Trip Advisor.

**Remarkables Lodge.** After a few years of relative quiet, this lodge has undergone an extensive refurbishment and is back to its beautiful best - only better. Sitting almost right under the mountains, it has extensive views of the jagged grandeur of the Remarkables Range. Out of the windows deer wander in the nearby paddocks, and the silence is deafening. A splendid evening meal is included in the rate, and may include prawn ravioli for a starter, Moroccan rack of lamb, and poached pears for dessert. The Remarkables ski area is nearby, and if you can drag yourself away from the outdoor fireplace in the garden, there's the usual stimulating range of Queenstown activities available just a 10-minute drive away.

*Fodor's Guide 2007*



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