

# NELSON | TASMAN BAY



*One of New Zealand's sunniest cities, Nelson hums with creative energy. An art sanctuary and culinary melting pot Nelson and the surrounding Tasman Bay regions are a veritable smorgasbord of inspired charm.*

**ATTRACTING ARTISTS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE** who work with glass, metal, stone, wood, clay, sand, paper, ink, paint and fabric, Nelson is an exotic blend of creativity and class. An absolute must visit is the World of Wearable Art Museum.

In 1987 Suzie Moncrieff staged a promotion for a rural art gallery. An utterly ingenious idea, Suzie's 'Wearable Art' fast became an iconic symbol of New Zealand's creativity. Mesmerising, unforgettable, an entirely unique way to appreciate, experience and promote art and fashion New Zealand's Wearable Art Show has been astonishing and captivating patrons for over twenty years. Renowned for the individuality of the designers, the special effects, music and showmanship of every performance, the event is a world-class experience. Evoking emotion, inspiring amazement, there is no need of elucidation, no cultural barriers – it is universally spectacular.

Enchanting, alluring, warm and effervescent, Nelson entertains, relaxes, surprises and enlivens the soul. From the pleasantly quaint city to the golden sands of Motueka, Kaiteriteri and Ruby Bay the Tasman district is quite simply glorious. Wineries are scattered like rare gems around the Moutere Hills and Waimea Plains. Sail the sparkling waters of Tasman Bay, quite possibly the warmest, silkiest and clearest water around New Zealand. The sea here glints like sun on opal and the sand slips through fingers like gold satin.

Seafood is fresh, straight off the boats from the miraculous waters of Cook Strait and the Marlborough Sounds. Crayfish, blue cod, snapper, green-lipped mussels and scallops are abundant, and delicious, cooked for your delectation by local chefs and are best washed down with some of the regions premium wine or beer. The region produces some of the country's award-winning wines and lagers. The epicentre of New Zealand's hop cultivation, Nelson brews tantalising beer fit for a king.

A gateway to three of the world's most beautiful national parks, Nelson buzzes with activity in the summer months. Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, and Nelson Lakes National Parks are centres for both ecotourism and adventure but it is the tranquillity, the peace and the solitude many come for.

Some come to experience something simply wild. Catering to the discerning traveller Nelson

company Simply Wild combines scenic explorations with culture and adventure for an exclusive and expert insight into their truly unique backyard. And what a backyard it is!

Motueka-based Tasman Helicopters is the ultimate extravagance in luxury experiences. An award-winning company, every team member aims "to exceed your expectations and provide a five star service to you, our valued clients." And they do. The choice of royalty and celebrities, Tasman Helicopters are the very best at what they do.

Whatever reason draws travellers to Nelson there are plenty of reasons to stay. One of these is Eden House in the Orinoco Valley. Graciously set on forty-eight acres of sculptured private grounds, Eden House is a journey deep into the heart of serenity. Ideally located between Nelson and Abel Tasman National Park the property is a prestigious asset to the region voted by UK's Tatler as one of the '101 Best Hotels of the World'.

Or perhaps a spiritual and physical healing retreat is your fancy. Be pampered, treated and spiritually enlivened at Split Apple Retreat, a stunning cliff-side haven with emphasis on wellness and restorative relaxation.

For the water lovers there is much to celebrate in this sparkling region. Charter an exclusive yacht with Yonder Star and sail your way around the breathtaking Abel Tasman or take a Sea Limosine to a private picnic spot.

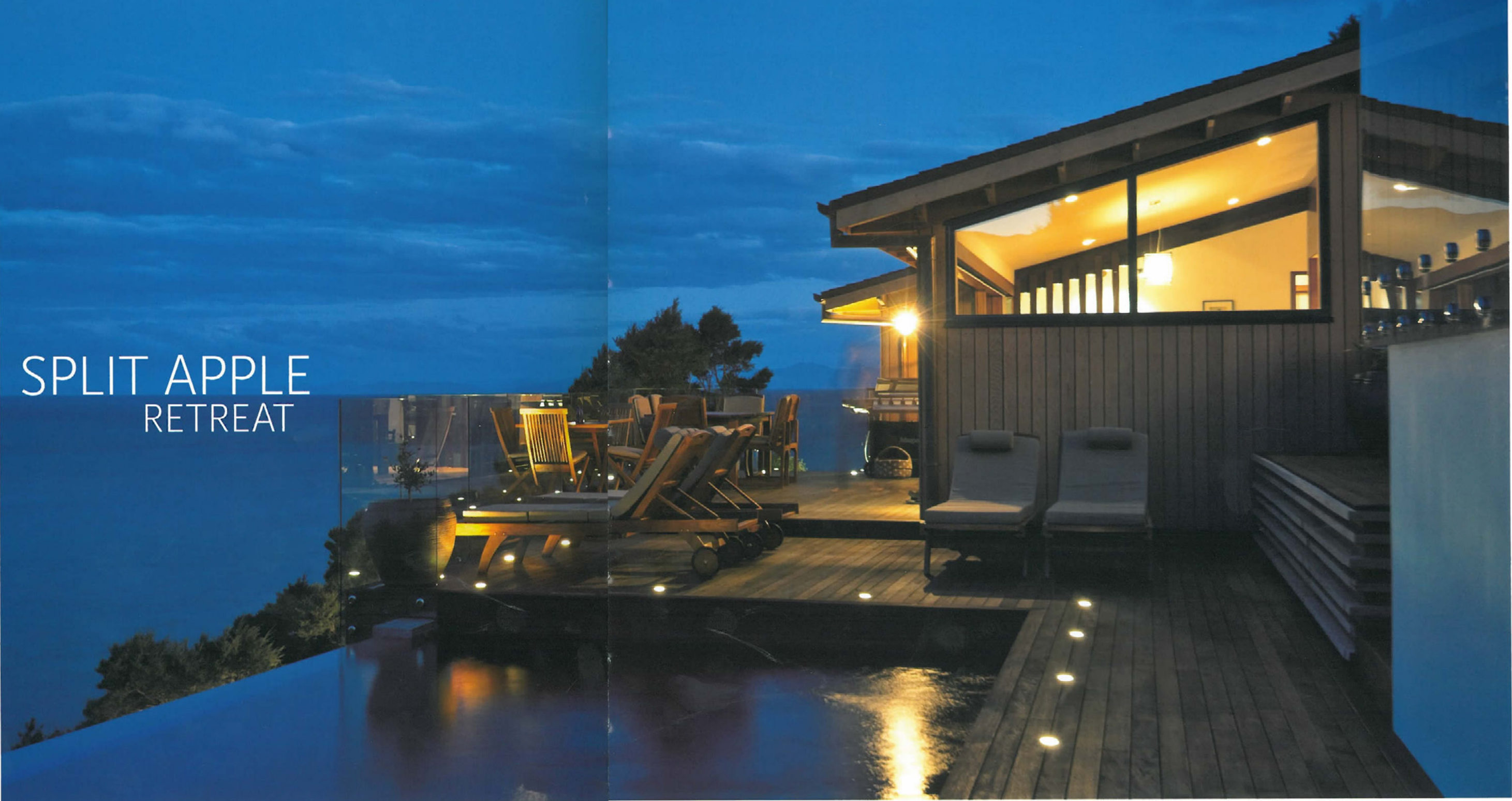
And for the fisherman, Nelson and Tasman Bays is the country's most preeminent fly-fishing province with an abundance of pristine rivers and waterways providing literally hundreds of miles of plenteous fly fishing water. The quality is amazing, you will be spoiled for choice of the locations available. To best indulge in this premium sport choose to stay and be privy to the experience and expert guidance of Stone Fly Lodge and Owen River Lodge; both luxurious 5 Star Lodges dedicated to the art and action of fly fishing.

Nelson and the Tasman region, home of the geographical centre of New Zealand, are as tantalizing as a handful of gems. Be swept into the dazzling arms of this entralling and blissful province.





## SPLIT APPLE RETREAT



Photography Daniel Allen, Nelson

**AN ECLECTIC BLEND OF JAPANESE** Shinto Temple and contemporary naturalist architecture, this enlightening hideaway offers the serenity of the aqua-hued ocean from its cliff-face location. Only minutes from Abel Tasman National Park, one of the world's idylls, Split Apple Retreat is a first-class haven where one's body, mind and soul are nourished and revitalised.

Conceptualised by husband and wife team Lee and Pen – ironically with the same last name as the nearby sunshine city of Nelson – the couple have perfected a soothing, natural environment while providing guests with the benefits of their individual specialities. Retired from the busy life of a doctor, Lee – a devotee of longevity medicine – now focuses on the health and wellbeing of Split Apple's guests. Lee is a true Renaissance man. His impressive collection of oriental objets d'art stems from his mother's passion for Asian artefacts. His collection boasts a 3rd century

gandhara from India, a significant array of 3rd to 19th century Oriental relics and an entire cabinet filled with antique Chinese snuff bottles. Add meditation, Pilates and classical music to this lively American's interests and you have a rather interesting juxtaposition of a gentleman. Lee also imports rare, exotic teas from China, Japan and beyond. Oolong from the high mountains of Fujian China – every cup is a quest into the mystical and spiritual East. Not to mention the wine; Lee and Pen have a private cellar any sommelier would envy.

A sojourn at Split Apple Retreat brings your life into perspective. From contemplating the humbling expanse of clear blue sea to strolling its golden beaches, surrendering to your own private meditation and Pilates sessions to Pen's lovingly prepared food; once you walk through the 300 year old Buddhist temple gate, everything makes wonderful, energising sense.

Taking inspiration from the natural environment and local organic fare, Pen, a chef and culinary artist, has designed her menus to be as good for you inside as they look and taste on the outside. Being married to a doctor specialising in nutrition has helped her add authenticity but the flavour is all Pen's. She devises a culinary programme for every guest using low glycemic index ingredients and taking into account likes, dislikes and her own special perception of what you need for pure good health.

Split Apple Retreat's commitment to mind, body and spirit health has been internationally recognised by an invitation to join Healing Hotels of the World. Properties must be invited to become part of this exclusive international association, so the accolade is an extreme honour, particularly considering Split Apple is the only New Zealand property to have been selected for this privilege.