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## *Blue Lagoon Cruising*

EXPLORING  
FIJI'S REMOTE  
YASAWA ISLANDS

### **INSIDE:**

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Croatia adventure

Fashion-filled girls' trip to Brisbane



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# SNAPSHOT



*Sally Rogers*  
Southampton Traveller

We arrived at Fox Glacier cafe about 8:30am one morning, just as the clouds were just starting to lift from Mount Cook and Mount Tasman, one of the best times for views and reflections. We treated ourselves to a gorgeous breakfast of bagel topped with smoked salmon and hollandaise sauce and plenty of coffee, before setting off on our walk.

It took about 20 minutes to reach the viewing platform and the sight of the mountains reflecting in Lake Matheson was breathtaking! I'm sure this is a photographer's dream shot but it was only taken on my iPhone, which did surprise some of my photography friends!

Framed to perfection, the breathtaking view across Lake Wakatipu from Aro Hā Wellness Retreat near Queenstown. The eco-chic luxury retreat offers an all-inclusive Wellness Adventure programme based on yoga, sub-alpine hiking, functional strength training, meditation, therapeutic massage, mindfulness and detoxifying vegetarian cuisine.

Read more about Aro Hā retreat on page 28.



*Photo courtesy of  
Aro Hā Wellness Retreat.*



## Aro Hā Wellness Retreat scoops international accolades



Open for just over a year, Aro Hā Wellness Retreat near Queenstown is scooping international accolades. The eco-chic luxury retreat is located 45 minutes from Queenstown on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, protected by soaring alpine peaks.

The retreat generates more than 90% of its power needs on-site, supports environmental education, uses New Zealand's first renewably sourced distributed heating scheme and is growing an increasing

amount of organic produce on its 8.4-hectare property.

Aro Hā offers innovative, all-inclusive Wellness Adventure programmes. The offering is based on yoga, sub-alpine hiking, functional strength training, meditation, therapeutic massage, mindfulness and detoxifying vegetarian cuisine.

Aro Hā's latest international accolades are from readers of renowned travel magazine, *Condé Nast Traveller*, who named Aro Hā #8 in the Top 100 Hotels & Resorts in the World – the only Australasian resort in the top ten. *Condé Nast Traveller's* readers also named Aro Hā the #1 Destination Spa in The World.

The retreat was also named the Best New Property to Visit by *Luxury Travel* magazine, ranked #2 Best Wellness Retreat in the world by *Virgin Australia* and nominated for a Spa Finder 2014 Wellness Travel Award and three Asia Spa Baccarat Awards, including New Spa of the Year, Destination Retreat of the Year and Spa Cuisine of the Year.

Stand by for the second year of operation and more potential awards as Aro Hā has been nominated in the 2015 *Condé Nast Traveller* Spa Awards and the *Travel + Leisure* Hotel Awards.

## Devon Hotel New Plymouth transforms into a Heritage Hotel

One of New Plymouth's iconic hotels, the Devon Hotel, is now a Heritage Hotel. Centrally located, the Devon Hotel has a fresh new look, including updated accommodation rooms – many with sea or mountain views – reception and lobby, and will now be known as The Devon Hotel, New Plymouth - A Heritage Hotel.

The hotel is in walking distance to the CBD and the coastal walkway, where guests can use the hotel mountain bikes to explore the popular trail. There is also a restaurant and lounge bar and a heated outdoor swimming pool and spa pools.



New Plymouth is an eclectic mix of diverse cultures, contemporary style and a traditional friendliness that has fashioned New Zealand since colonial times. The city has numerous assets, from epic surf to spectacular gardens, international events, a legendary mountain, great galleries, fascinating museums and wonderful walks and cycle trails.