



MEDIA RELEASE

SILKY OAKS LODGE ANNOUNCED AS NEW MEMBER OF LUXURY LODGES OF AUSTRALIA

February 13, 2013: **Silky Oaks Lodge**, long recognized as Australia's premier rainforest lodge experience has joined **Luxury Lodges of Australia (LLOA)**, further strengthening the message that Australia's era of experiential luxury travel has come of age.

"The long-standing reputation held by Silky Oaks Lodge, its spectacular location, outstanding rainforest experience, and significant rebuilding and upgrades in the past four years, make Silky Oaks Lodge a natural fit for this collection of experiential luxury properties" commented James Baillie, Chair of Luxury Lodges of Australia.

Paul and Barbara Van Min directors of Silky Oaks Lodge stated that, "We are enormously excited about joining Australia's very own group of luxury properties of which all guarantee such high standards for the guest experience."

"Silky Oaks Lodge has a truly unique location overlooking a rainforest river vista and the property adjoins the ancient World Heritage Listed Daintree National Park" adds Paul. "Our company has been continually investing into the property since 2009 continually striving to meet the expectations of Australian and international luxe travelers seeking the kind of unique unforgettable experiences that are offered by the Luxury Lodges of Australia group."

Silky Oaks Lodge is located at the extension of the Mossman Gorge, overlooking the Mossman River --- adjoining The Daintree National Park in far North Queensland. Just 20 minutes drive north from Port Douglas and 70 minutes from Cairns airport, the lodge offers 36 suites ranging from newly built Billabong suites upgraded and renovated River and rebuilt Deluxe Tree Houses.

The lodge also boasts a multi award winning in-house Healing Waters Spa, and offers a beautiful dining experience in the open-sided Treehouse restaurant, utilizing the bounteous fresh produce from the surrounding fertile regions.

Luxury Lodges of Australia was formed as a result of the dramatic change in the Australian travel landscape over the past decade, which has seen the emergence of a new breed of exceptional lodges and camps in some of Australia's most beautiful and outstanding regions.

Never before has Australia had a critical mass of experiential luxury properties to appeal to global travellers and adventure seekers.

With the addition of Silky Oaks Lodge, the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection is comprised of eighteen of Australia's leading independent luxury tourism properties. The lodges are independently owned and operated, but are united by their delivery of uniquely Australian experiences and a strong sense of place.

Each lodge has its signature experiences and activities to showcase the unique and extraordinary aspects of its region – whether it be the incredible natural landscapes, the wildlife, the food and wine. It is these experiences that define the new Australian luxury and showcase Australia's extraordinary diversity.

James Baillie said: "Australia is now, more than ever, one of the most exciting and desirable travel destinations globally. Australia's diversity is unique. No other country in the world has the breadth and depth of experience we have. Now, for the first time, in many of our remote regions, this is now offered at the luxe levels expected by experience-seeking luxury travellers."

The collection has brought together many of Australia's innovators and leaders in hospitality, tourism, food and wine, and regional development; and their passion for delivering authentically Australian luxury experiences over and above offering a great place to stay, is ingrained in their unique lodge offering.

Luxury Lodges of Australia
Hi res image library

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Editors Notes:

Background: Experiences offered by the lodges cover almost anything you would want to do in regional Australia. You can swim with whale sharks (Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef), snorkel and dive at some of the world's most beautiful reefs (Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo Reef), hike world renown trails (Mount Gower on Lord Howe Island, Wineglass Bay Freycinet, The Flinders Ranges), taste some of the world's best wines (Barossa, Margaret River); and some of Australia's outstanding regional produce (Lake House Daylesford, Cape Lodge, Appellation at The Louise Barossa Valley, Kangaroo Island); horse-ride (in the dramatic Blue Mountains landscape and Wolgan Valley), sail (the Whitsundays), fish for Barramundi (The Kimberley, Kakadu), golfing (Dent Island PGA Championship Course, Hamilton Island), discovering Australia's extraordinary wildlife (Southern Ocean Lodge), birdlife (Bamuru Plains), desert and indigenous culture (Longitude 131 - Uluru).

Lodge staff will go out of their way to: provide private introductions to winemakers in the Barossa Valley, find the best fishing spots in the Kimberley, offer expert guiding and wilderness and wildlife knowledge at Bamuru Plains, Sal Salis, Wolgan Valley and Southern Ocean Lodge; professional diving and snorkeling guidance at Lizard Island; offer private cooking classes with the chefs at Spicers Clovelly Estate or Pretty Beach House; or create culinary adventures and master classes with the exec chefs from Cape Lodge, Lake House and Saffire. And now the Daintree rainforest of Far North Queensland.

These lodges are all about delivering a sense of place and connecting guests to their region via signature, high quality experiences. It is not about how much the same they are, but how different, and how they reflect the diversity and authenticity of the Australian experience – whether it be coastal, desert, reef, island or wilderness lodges, luxe outback camps, vineyard retreats or culinary destinations.

Essence of each lodge - Who are the Luxury Lodges of Australia? The properties are spread across diverse regions of the country and include:

1. **Bamuru Plains**, Top End - Focussing on environmental sustainability and key luxury standards, this nine room camp on the Mary river floodplain exudes 'Wild Bush Luxury' bringing a touch of style to the discovery of a remote and extraordinarily beautiful region.
2. **Capella Lodge**, Lord Howe Island - Nine contemporary beach-style suites, personal service, exceptional dining and the option to enjoy a range of activities combine to deliver a unique and exclusive Lord Howe experience.
3. **Cape Lodge**, Margaret River - One of Australia's finest gourmet establishments and private boutique hotel, Cape Lodge sits within 40 acres on its own vineyard in the heart of the Margaret River wine country.
4. **El Questro Homestead**, The Kimberley - Private, understated, exclusive homestead in the remote and beautiful Kimberley region of Western Australia. One million acres of wilderness to explore with a diverse menu of exclusive wilderness experiences.
5. **Lake House**, Daylesford – This acclaimed dining destination and accommodation lies on the shores of idyllic Lake Daylesford 90 minutes from Melbourne in Victoria's Spa Country, and is at the heart of a regional food mecca.
6. **Lizard Island**, Great Barrier Reef – A beautiful, natural, remote island retreat and northern-most reef resort with 24 white powdery beaches, five star cuisine and indulging spa treatments and an outstanding dive destination – the ultimate active reef experience.
7. **Longitude 131**, Ayers Rock/Uluru - Luxurious, eco-sensitive and romantic. With just 15 luxury tents Longitude 131° is sited to face the majestic Uluru and is the ultimate, exclusive Australian outback experience.
8. **Pretty Beach House** – Bouddi Peninsula - Perched high on the escarpment at Pretty Beach, on the NSW Bouddi Peninsula. Just 100km north of Sydney, offering a new style of luxury in 3 designer pavilions with all-inclusive rates and around the clock personal butler service.
9. **qualia**, Great Barrier Reef – Whitsunday Islands - Located at the edge of the reef on the secluded northern-most tip of Hamilton Island, with outstanding attention to design and an exceptional spa, the qualia experience is one of deep sensory sophistication.
10. **Saffire**, Freycinet - Saffire Freycinet is Australia's new luxury coastal sanctuary on Tasmania's East Coast, delivering sophisticated, intimate style and an inspirational experience.
11. **Sal Salis**, Ningaloo Reef - Where the outback meets the reef, and the best place on earth to swim with whale sharks, 9 wilderness tents and a team of passionate guides at Sal Salis offer an exclusive luxe wilderness experience.
12. **Silky Oaks Lodge**, The Daintree – Spectacularly located in the Mossman River gorge, adjoining one of the oldest living rainforests on the planet, The Daintree, and overlooking a pristine billabong, Silky Oaks Lodge offer 36 relaxed eco-luxe suites and outstanding Healing Waters Spa.
13. **Southern Ocean Lodge**, Kangaroo Island - Offering a unique fusion of nature and luxury, 21 luxe suites, breathtaking views to the great Southern Ocean, all inclusive rates, first name service and personalised experiential itinerary... the ultimate Kangaroo Island experience.
14. **Spicers Clovelly Estate**, Sunshine Coast Hinterland - A relaxed environment with old world charm, French contemporary style, fine dining restaurant, 10 suites, 22 acres of lush grounds and excellent day spa facilities.
15. **Spicers Peak Lodge**, Scenic Rim South East Queensland - Australia's highest non alpine all inclusive lodge is spectacularly located on the World Heritage listed Main Range National Park, with a focus on fine food and wine, bushwalking and mountain-biking.
16. **The Louise**, Barossa Valley - This luxury vineyard retreat combines absolute luxury and inspired design with Appellation, one of Australia's finest regional dining experiences, in the world-renowned Barossa wine region.
17. **True North**, The Kimberley - Long regarded as one of Australia's outstanding adventure tourism experiences. Cruises are activity based and designed for the most discerning traveller wanting to 'experience the destination' in some of Australia's most remote and hard to access coastal regions.
18. **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa**, Blue Mountains – The quintessential Australian bush experience, set within its own 4,000 acre conservation and wildlife reserve, Wolgan Valley offers 40 individual suites with private swimming pools, distinctive dining, luxe facilities and exceptional Timeless Spa.

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