

**qualia Named Best Resort in the World
2012 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards**



17 October 2012: qualia, Hamilton Island's world class luxury resort on the Great Barrier Reef, has been named the **Best in the World** and **Best Resort** in the Oceania region in the 2012 *Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards*.

One of only four properties to ever receive a flawless score in the survey's 25-year history, qualia has also become the first Australian property to ever top the prestigious survey. Scoring a complete 100 in all categories including Rooms, Service, Food, Location, Design and Activities, qualia has been described by *Condé Nast Traveler* as 'sheer perfection' and 'flawless'.

A unique Australian expression of world-class luxury, qualia's vision to deliver an exceptional experience from award winning cuisine to the finest resort leisure facilities anywhere in the world sees it topping a list that includes many of the world's most highly recognised luxury hotel chains and names.

'This recognition by such sophisticated and well-travelled readers is truly gratifying,' notes Sandy Oatley, Chairman of Hamilton Island Enterprises.

'When we bought Hamilton Island nearly 10 years ago and developed the vision for qualia, it was to create a luxury oasis that maximised the sheer beauty of the idyllic location with a standard of service that was uniquely Australian, yet that would meet and exceed the expectations of the most discerning travellers from around the world. This award is testament that we are doing our job.'

Situated on Hamilton Island's sun-drenched northern-most tip with breathtaking views of the surrounding Whitsunday Islands and tranquil Coral Sea, qualia's unique design combines a sense of space, openness and harmony that draws the outside in. Set amongst native Eucalypts, the 60 luxurious pavilions are an indulgent space to unwind in, with either a sundeck or private infinity edge plunge pool.

For something truly special, guests can experience qualia's Beach House. With its main bedroom and ensuite, spacious entertaining area with large flat-screen TV with surround sound, 10-person dining

area, private full-sized swimming pool and separate guesthouse, the Beach House is an indulgence like no other.

The resort's myriad recreational offerings include two tranquil infinity-edged pools, two bars and restaurants, a private dining room, library, fitness centre and Spa qualia, which offers an array of unique, indigenous Australian treatments. Guests of qualia also have full access to Hamilton Island's world-class Yacht Club and 18-hole championship golf course on neighbouring Dent Island.

qualia also hosts several special events for its guests throughout the year, including the popular Australian Ballet 'Pas de Deux in Paradise' outdoor performance, Great Barrier Feast series featuring internationally acclaimed visiting chefs for gourmet culinary weekends and the annual Audi Hamilton Island Race Week – the largest offshore sailing regatta in Australia.

2012 **Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards** will be featured in the November issue of the magazine and now at www.cntraveler.com/rca. For more information visit www.qualia.com.au.

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Notes to editors:

qualia, Australia's world class luxury resort on the Great Barrier Reef, is located on the secluded and breathtakingly beautiful northern-most point of Hamilton Island. qualia has 60 elegant one-bedroom pavilions and a Beach House, each set among eucalyptus trees with postcard views of the idyllic blue and green waters of the Whitsundays. Two superb restaurants and Spa qualia cater exclusively to guests of the resort. Hamilton Island can be accessed directly from all east coast international gateway cities in less than three hours. qualia is a member of Relais & Châteaux and welcomes guests 16 years and over.

'qualia' is deliberately spelled with a lower case 'q' as it is a reflection of the relaxed, understated nature of this property.

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Instagram: Connect with us: @qualiaresort, Mention us: #qualia

Twitter: @qualia

The **Condé Nast Traveler** Readers' Choice Survey, begun in 1988, is available through a secure Web site at condenasttraveler.com/vote. This year's tabulations of 46,476 responses were done by Global Market Insite, Inc., of Boston.

Organisation: The questionnaire contains lists of candidates in various categories (Cities, Hotels, etc.). Individual candidates are judged by relevant criteria for each. Those that receive a required minimum number of responses are deemed eligible for a Readers' Choice Award.

Evaluation: Each candidate is rated, criterion by criterion, on a five-point scale: excellent, very good, good, fair, and poor. Those scores, which represent the percentage of excellent and very good ratings, are averaged to calculate the final score published here. For example, King Pacific Lodge's rating, 96.9 is the average of its scores for all criteria: Food/Dining, Location, Overall Design, Rooms, Service, and (for resorts) Activities/Facilities.