

Media Release

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Cape Lodge Voted Amongst World's Best Winery Hotels

Western Australia's premier boutique hotel Cape Lodge has made a UK The Times list of the world's top 20 winery hotels.

The renowned Margaret River establishment found itself in rarefied company spanning the great wine regions of the world in a story that appeared in the respected UK daily newspaper in Britain this week.

Cape Lodge was one of only two Australian winery hotels that made the list, the other being the celebrated Tower Lodge in the Hunter Valley, NSW, which was recognised as a "romantic escape".

Apart from its magnificent setting, ambience and impeccable service, Cape Lodge was particularly applauded and recommended for its outstanding restaurant.

The hotel has an international reputation for its fine cuisine, prepared by award-winning chef Tony Howell.

Visiting Australian journalist Judith Elen recently described Mr Howell's creations as "a menu of exquisite dishes full of satisfying subtleties," and in-house specialties such as home-baked sourdough and smoked salmon.

"Breakfast decisions are agonising," she said, describing the selection as "an inspiration for the day."

In recent years Cape Lodge has produced its own sauvignon blanc and shiraz from a small vineyard on the property, both of which are of exceptional quality and great examples of their Margaret River pedigree. Both are favourites among the guests.

The Times accolade is the latest in a string of Australian and international awards bestowed upon the exceptional property situated near Yallingup in the Margaret River Wine Region, 290kms south of Perth.

Cape Lodge General Manager Drew Bernhardt said he and his staff are honoured by the award.

"We are thrilled by the recognition in The Times," said Mr Bernhardt. "When you look at some of the marvellous estate hotels and lodges listed in both the old and new world wine regions, we feel pretty special to be part of such a group.

"It's also a great article for wine tourism in general, and just goes to show that Margaret River is very much on the world map of premier culinary and wine travel destinations.

“Britain is a strong market for the hotel as well as Margaret River itself, and we are always happy to welcome more guests from there!

“I tip my hat to all our staff, and particularly Tony and his team in the restaurant. They continue to work wonders with superb local and Australian produce, and maintain a standard second to none.

“The Times piece is also proof that discerning travellers and media alike have taken the time to enjoy the exceptional Cape Lodge experience as well as discover this beautiful, relaxing corner of Australia,” said Mr. Bernhardt.

The Lodge has continued to grow from relatively small beginnings, and periodic renovations and additions have helped maintained its unassailed luxury accommodation positioning in the wine region.

Cape Lodge was voted Luxury Travel Magazine’s Best Boutique Hotel in Australia 2009 and listed as one of the “World’s Best 100 Hotels” this year.

It has been rated in the Top Ten Best places to stay in Australasia and South Pacific Region in Conde Nast's Reader’s Choice Travel Awards in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

In recent years it has consolidated its place as one of the world’s finest dining establishments by repeatedly making the top 10 in the annual Conde Nast Traveller magazine Gold List Awards.

The lodge rated eighth in the "Best for Food" category of the Gold List 2008 overcoming competition from many of world's most celebrated hotel restaurants.

A superb lakeside restaurant boasts a 14,000-bottle cellar. There are 22 bedrooms and suites at the hotel, a two-bedroom cottage and a private luxury five-bedroom villa in the grounds. The hotel has also recently opened a beautiful swimming pool and a Gourmet Retreat and Cookery School.

The Cape Dutch-style property features tennis courts, beautiful gardens, wine and gourmet tours, horse riding, fishing and bush eco-tours as a part of the exclusive experience and is a member the newly formed Luxury Lodges of Australia portfolio.

For further information regarding the Times listing or Cape Lodge please contact Drew Bernhardt on phone +61 8 9755 6311 or email drew@capelodge.com.au. Information about the property can also be obtained from the property web site www.capelodge.com.au.

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