



For immediate Release
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Select Announces Its New and Exceptional Travel Experiences for 2008

Select, the marque of excellence in unique accommodation and travel experiences throughout Australia, New Zealand, Asia and beyond, is proud to announce its new Member properties for 2008 with a distinct shift toward more diverse luxury accommodation markets. This year sees the *Select* brand develop further into the Asian market with properties in Thailand and add its first Member in the UAE. *Select* gained additional properties across three Australian states and further expansion in New Zealand. Several of the exciting and exceptional properties joining *Select* in 2008 are brand new and expected to open later this year. All new Members are described briefly below and can now be viewed on the extensive website www.selecthotels.com.

Ralph Kelly, *Select*'s Managing Director, says, "I am delighted that *Select* has continued to be so eagerly embraced by properties around the region, particularly in Asia and now the UAE. My team and I are extremely excited to be able to promote such a diverse and superlative group of unique travel experiences to the world in 2008".

New Properties in Australia:

Meadowlake Lodge, Milton, NSW:

www.selecthotels.com/meadowlake

With only 3 luxuriously appointed guest rooms, Meadowlake is a haven for a lucky few. This award-winning 5 star lodge is located in the fertile rural area of Milton and is set amongst beautifully landscaped gardens on New South Wales' beautiful south coast. The three spacious, light-filled guest rooms are in a private wing and the level of appointment is superb, with comfort a priority. All guest rooms look out onto the impressive garden, are individually styled and offer superior accommodation in a country manor. Each has a generous sized en-suite, which is flooded with natural light and have both a shower and separate bath. The calm and beautiful interior with its luxurious furnishings blends stylish sophistication with quiet country. The dramatic collection of artwork throughout the house is exceptional and is generously shared with the guests. The sitting room has an open fire for cool winter evenings and the dining table seats 8 with comfort. Meadowlake Lodge has been built with an exquisite eye for detail making it the ideal rural retreat from the noise and bustle of city life. The Lodge is only 10 minutes from Mollymook Beach and is close to the walking trails of Morton National Park.

LOCATION: 3 hours drive south of Sydney and 2.5 hours east of Canberra on the NSW south coast.

More...

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New Properties in Australia (cont'd):

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Resort:

www.selecthotels.com/wilderness

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat is perfectly located in the south western corner of Kangaroo Island, adjacent to Flinders Chase National Park discreetly nestled amongst 113 acres of pristine natural bushland and in close proximity to the major attractions on the island. The heart of the retreat is the courtyard where friendly wallabies, possums and birdlife frolic in the tranquil bushland garden. A unique mix of eco-friendly features, the retreat offers exclusive guest facilities, a range of accommodation from courtyard and spa suites to lodge apartments sleeping 5 people, a superb licensed restaurant, friendly wildlife and tranquil wilderness setting which combine to provide an unforgettable Kangaroo Island experience.

LOCATION: Kangaroo Island off the South Australian Coast.

Select Burnham Beeches, Dandenong Ranges (opening late 2008)

www.selecthotels.com/burnhambeeches

Select Burnham Beeches, Dandenong Ranges, is a superb example of Art Deco's Streamline Moderne style architecture and a unique reminder of that romantic and flamboyant era. Burnham Beeches was formerly operated as a boutique hotel from 1988-92 by the luxury Aman Resorts Group and, once restored to its former glory, will be operated by *Select* and feature 50 guest rooms and suites: some with balconies and all providing stunning views over the extensive gardens. Conference facilities for up to 100 will be developed to the highest standard and a spa and wellness centre are also planned. The hotel is situated in 56 acres of grounds adjoining the Alfred Nicholas Gardens and adjacent to the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

LOCATION: Sherbrooke Road; just 45 minutes from Melbourne's CBD

New Properties in New Zealand:

Kourawhero Country Lodge, North Auckland

www.selecthotels.com/kourawhero

Located just one hour drive north of Auckland CBD, nestled in a private, bush clad estate, Kourawhero Country Lodge is peaceful and luxurious, offering wonderful New Zealand hospitality. The architecturally stunning lodge sits at the top of a valley overlooking picturesque farmland with expansive views of Kawau Island, Little Barrier Island and the other islands of the Hauraki Gulf. The Lodge provides the perfect first stop on the way north and is an ideal gateway to the neighbouring Matakana Coast Wine Region and numerous other local attractions. With only eighteen suites Kourawhero Country Lodge offers an intimate experience for those in search of peace and relaxation, but also has the flexibility to provide a private retreat for corporate meetings. During your stay you will experience relaxed and personal service from Kourawhero's owners - the Mann Family, who will ensure that you receive the finest food and wine, all in a sophisticated, peaceful atmosphere.

LOCATION: 1 hour's drive north of Auckland on New Zealand's North Island.

More...

New Properties in New Zealand (Cont'd):

Select Braemar Lodge and Spa, Hanmer Springs (opening May 2008)

www.selecthotels.com/braemar

Select Braemar Lodge and Spa is unique in this beautiful region of the South Island. As the only luxury lodge of its kind in what is known as the Alpine Pacific Triangle, this brand new property is in the boutique luxury class, offering unparalleled levels of service, comfort and style. The Lodge is just 9 kilometres from Hanmer Springs, a charming alpine village that is famous for its fresh clean air and thermal springs. The design is contemporary, with the building materials predominantly solid granite and cedar weatherboard. The main lodge comprises the reception, lounge, bar and dining areas, while 24 large guest suites branch off the main building. Panoramic views across the Hanmer Basin to the surrounding mountains ensure a truly alpine experience is guaranteed, with the added opportunity to experience the magical thermal waters of Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa. Continuing the theme of relaxation and therapies, Select Braemar Lodge has its own Asian-inspired spa, with a gymnasium, plunge pool and treatment rooms, all overlooking the tranquil hills.

LOCATION: 10 minutes from Hanmer Springs Village or 90 minutes from Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island.

New Properties in the Pacific:

Fiji Orchid, Nadi, Fiji (opening April 2008)

www.selecthotels.com/fijiorchid

A respite from the rigours of travel, the Fiji Orchid is a luxurious base from which to break your journey before or after an international flight. This is a sojourn for a discrete market — people for whom the art of travel is to pause at each step of a journey and savour the experience rather than feel rushed to catch their next plane. This was once the treasured property of Raymond Burr, the Hollywood star of “Perry Mason” and “Ironside”. The two existing houses have been transformed into a gourmet restaurant and eight inspirational bures with a very modern flavour are dotted around the location of Burr's orchid garden. Each air-conditioned bure has a king-size bed, timber-trimmed bathroom, separate toilet, mini-bar and TV/DVD unit. In the main house, there are two day rooms with ensuites for short stays. Between flights, travellers can cool off in the natural landscaped pool or be pampered in the massage bure, which offers Fijian inspired treatments. Five-star appointments together with attentive staff offer a very personal experience. Stay at either end of your island escape and discover Fiji as it should be – an indulgent journey to wander through at a leisurely pace.

LOCATION: 15-minute drive from Nadi International Airport.

New Properties in Asia:

Wanakarn Beach Resort, Phuket, Thailand (Opening March 2009)

www.selecthotels.com/wanakarn

Wanakarn Beach Resort & Spa, set in an unique and tranquil environment, offers the discerning traveller complete relaxation and escape from the outside world while being pampered in true Thai style. Wanakarn has all the right ingredients for a truly luxurious escape: it offers generously sized and well-appointed villas, exquisite dining options and an abundance of sports and leisure activities. Guests have the choice of relaxing by their own private pool, or at the large infinity pool, on the river beach, or on the soft and crystal white ocean beach kissed by the gentle waves of the Andaman Sea.

LOCATION: Thaimuang, Phang nga, 40 minutes drive from Phuket International Airport.

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New Properties in the Middle East:

Emirates Al Maha Desert Resort and Spa:

www.selecthotels.com/almaha

Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa is set in 225 square kilometres of pristine desert landscape just 45 minutes from the cosmopolitan city of Dubai, the thriving centre of commerce and leisure in the Gulf. It represents nearly five per cent of Dubai's land area and is the largest piece of land ever dedicated to a single project in Dubai. An oasis of luxury and enchantment, Al Maha lies within an award-winning conservation area where desert wildlife abounds. It's also the only resort within the area where visitors can experience the true beauty and majesty of the desert and observe the indigenous wildlife. The Resort offers a range of 42 luxuriously appointed suites including the ultimate 540 sq. m., 3 bedroom Presidential Suite with handcrafted furnishings, antiques and artefacts and its own large private swimming pool. Surrounded by indigenous flora and cascading water features, and offering panoramic views of the desert and the distant Hajar Mountains, Al Maha's Jamilah Spa & Leisure Centre boasts state-of-the-art 'LifeFitness' equipment, a sauna, steam room, interior jacuzzi and ice-cold plunge pool. Complete body massage treatments are available in a choice of single or double massage rooms that connect with hydrotherapy and Rasool therapy rooms. Relaxation can also be found outside, in the pool which overlooks the infinite desert horizon.

LOCATION: 45 minutes from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

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Select Member properties for 2008 are:

AUSTRALIA: *The Observatory Hotel, Sydney, NSW; Lillianfels Blue Mountains Resort & Spa, Katoomba NSW; Tower Lodge, Hunter Valley, NSW; Kims Beach Hideaway, Toowoomb Bay, NSW; Arajilla Retreat, Lord Howe Island, NSW; Meadowlake Lodge, Milton, NSW; Hotel Lindrum, Melbourne, VIC; Select Burnham Beeches, Dandenong Ranges, VIC; Hotel Pension Grimus, Mount Buller, VIC; Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat, Kangaroo Island, SA; The Lodge at Tarraleah, Tarraleah, TAS; Couran Cove Island Resort, South Stradbroke Island, QLD; Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa, Mossman, Far North Qld;*

NEW ZEALAND: *Carrington Resort, Karikari Peninsula, Northland; Kourawhero Country Lodge, North Auckland; Mangapapa Petit Hotel, Hawke's Bay; Select Braemar Lodge and Spa, Hanmer Springs; Grasmere Lodge, Arthur's Pass; Huntley House, Christchurch; Otahuna Lodge, Christchurch; Millbrook Resort, Queenstown; The Spire Hotel, Queenstown; Fiordland Lodge, Te Anau; Corstorphine House, Dunedin*

PACIFIC ISLANDS: *Fiji Orchid, Nadi, Fiji; Nukubati Island, Fiji; Toberua Island Resort, Fiji; Royale Takitumu Villas, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Tikehau Pearl Beach Resort, Tikehau, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia; Manihi Pearl Beach Resort, Manihi, Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia*

ASIA: *Saman Villas, Bentota, Sri Lanka; The Regency Wing of Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Mom Tri's Villa Royale, Phuket, Thailand; Veranda Resort and Spa, Hua Hin, Thailand; Wanakarn Beach Resort & Spa, Phuket, Thailand*

MIDDLE EAST: *Emirates Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai, UAE*

Please contact us for more information or for high-resolution images of **Select** properties or visit us at www.selecthotels.com