



**OTAHUNA LODGE NAMED
“A GARDEN OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE”
BY THE NEW ZEALAND GARDENS TRUST**

The gardens of the prestigious Otaihuna Lodge outside Christchurch have been awarded “nationally significant” status by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. The Trust is the only organization of its kind in New Zealand and its leading horticultural team assesses gardens based upon a number of rigorous requirements. Thirty gardens hold the designation and Otaihuna Lodge is the only luxury hotel property in New Zealand to have such recognition.

The spectacular 110-year old gardens of Otaihuna Lodge were designed initially by noted garden designer, A.E. Lowe, who trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Today, the 30-acre grounds are comprised of several primary areas including: a sweeping Great Lawn; the “Dutch Garden” with its formal buxus hedging and prized exotic tree specimens; a vast working garden from which over 140 varieties of fruits, nuts and vegetables are sourced; and several acres of rambling, semi-wild woodland gardens.

Since the purchase of Otaihuna Lodge by Hall Cannon and Miles Refo in 2006, a sizable team overseen by Estate Manager Dave Kilday and Head Gardner Steve Marcham have worked to revitalize numerous areas of the property’s gardens. The team has worked diligently to honour the vision of the property’s founder, Sir Heaton Rhodes, and has redeveloped features including: a Victorian glasshouse; the original reflecting lake; and the ornamental woodland frog pond. Most notably, the tradition of Daffodil Day at Otaihuna has been re-instated with the Lodge’s grounds open to the public in early September to witness one of New Zealand’s largest daffodil fields.

“While the property has already won many awards since it opened in May 2007, this one is quite unique,” says Hall Cannon. “We are delighted that our exceptional team of gardeners is being recognized now by the New Zealand Gardens Trust for their hard work and vision. It is very high praise indeed that they have garnered this honour for Otaihuna within only a period of three years.”

Otahuna Lodge is one of New Zealand's premier destination retreats. Re-opened on May 1, 2007 following a significant, four-month renovation undertaken by Hall Cannon and Miles Refo, Otahuna Lodge is located just 20 minutes from Christchurch. Otahuna features seven guest suites, a 30-acre garden, heated pool, Jacuzzi, tennis court and fitness facility with a spa treatment room. The Lodge, built in 1895, was home to leading New Zealand parliamentarian, Sir Heaton Rhodes for more than 60 years. Otahuna is regarded as the finest example of Queen Anne architecture in Australasia and is a Category 1 listed building. Otahuna Lodge is a member of Relais & Châteaux and a Preferred Property of the Virtuoso Hotels & Resorts Program.

For further information or for reservations, please contact Otahuna Lodge on +64 3 329 6333, via email at enquiries@otahuna.co.nz or visit www.otahuna.co.nz.

