

P.O.A.

If you have to ask, you probably can't afford it.



The Eagle has Landed

An exclusive Bay of Islands resort is having no problems attracting both local and international guests – even though its rack rates can be up to \$37,000 a night.

Eagles Nest is a collection of five self-contained luxury villas located on a 30ha coastal estate.

The price tag for Rahimoana (pictured), its most exclusive offering, includes a personal trainer, a housekeeper, a chef and host, a private beach, the use of two Porsche vehicles, all meals, wine and French champagne.

General manager Callum Farnell said the resort's cellars are extensive: "You name it, we probably have it and if we don't, it will be here within 24 hours."

Eagles Nest owners Daniel and Sandra Biskind came to New Zealand from North America and Australia, and wanted to create a resort that showcased the best of what New Zealand had to offer

in terms of luxury accommodation, services, amenities and facilities

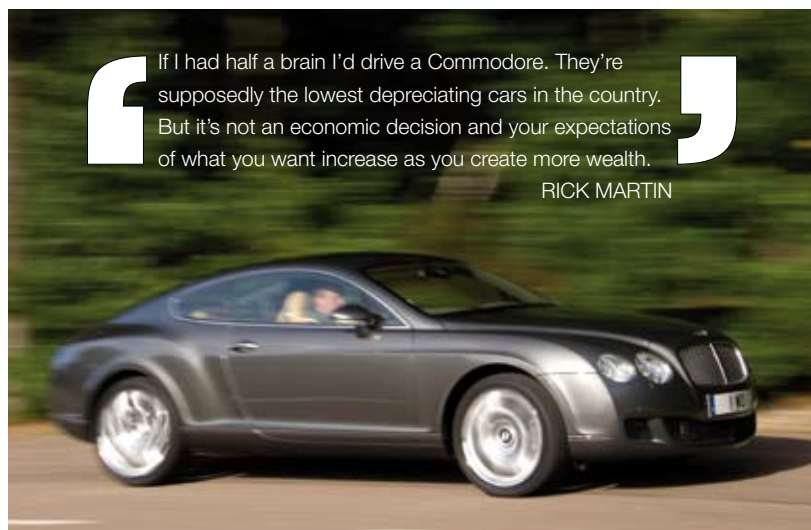
And it seems to be working.

Eagles Nest has a strict policy of not revealing the identities of its guests, rumoured to include Hollywood stars Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins.

This policy has meant the resort has remained relatively under the radar here – but Farnell isn't concerned. "It is true that the estate is relatively unknown here but we don't seek recognition or awards. We let the property, services, staff and facilities speak for themselves which does offer many benefits including return custom.

"We have chosen to offer all of our guests total privacy, security and a haven out of the spotlight."

Lester de Vere, Galen King/Lucid Design



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RICK MARTIN

Need for Speed

Early next year, New Zealand will get its first delivery of the new Bentley Continental GT Speed (pictured). Priced at around \$475,000, it is the most powerful production Bentley ever (600bhp) and the first that can top 200mph (322km/h).

If sales of the Continental GT are anything to go by, the Continental GT Speed should do well here. According to Bentley importer Mike Clark, of Independent Prestige, New Zealand has one of the highest ownership rates of the \$400,000 Bentley Continental GT, second only to the United Kingdom.

"If I had half a brain I'd drive a Commodore. They're supposedly the lowest depreciating cars in the country," says Cornerstone Group's Rick Martin. "But it's not an economic decision and your expectations of what you want increase as you create more wealth."