

30 June, 2007

THE WESTIN

AUCKLAND

LIGHTER QUAY

FIVE STAR REJUVENATION IN THE CITY OF SAILS AS THE WESTIN AUCKLAND, LIGHTER QUAY OPENS

New Zealand's newest luxury hotel, The Westin Auckland, Lighter Quay, opened yesterday.

It is the first five-star international property to open in Auckland in six years. Overlooking Viaduct Harbour, The Westin Auckland marks the global brand's entry to the New Zealand market and the launch of a new style of boutique hotel experience.

With just 172 rooms, The Westin Auckland combines the intimacy of a small, personal property with signature Westin style, instinctive service and personal renewal.

Surrounded by water on two sides, and built around an expansive central lagoon, the elegant boutique property on Melview Developments' Lighter Quay celebrates its maritime setting.

The waterfront restaurant, café and bar open onto wide public esplanades which face the Viaduct and Lighter Quay Marinas. Two private hotel docks enable Auckland boat enthusiasts, by arrangement, to sail right up to the bar and restaurant – a first for a city centre hotel.

The Westin Auckland is also the only five-star Auckland property with a Late Club, offering an intimate bar setting until the early hours, five nights a week. In another first, The Westin Auckland becomes the first major hotel in the city to adopt a non-smoking policy, underpinning Westin's commitment to improve guest wellness by offering a clean, refreshing environment.

The guest rooms are also some of the most spacious in Auckland, all with balconies, and many with views across Viaduct Harbour or Lighter Quay. Guests will enjoy a superb night's sleep in Westin's signature Heavenly Bed® and will wash away stress in the Heavenly Shower®.

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“All elements of the hotel, and the Westin brand, have been meticulously researched and planned to deliver an experience of renewal,” said The Westin Auckland General Manager Greg Findlay. “Westin understands the rigors of travel and everything we do is aimed at responding to our guests’ individual needs – their experience will be one of renewal and rest.

“The Westin experience is about facilitating personal relaxation, and we do this in many ways, from keeping our guest rooms smoke-free, to offering superb in-room massage treatments, as well a luxury spa. We also create a soothing setting with our evening ritual of lighting candles at dusk throughout the public areas of the hotel. Ultimately, our aim is to send guests home feeling even better than when they arrived.”

Understated, elegant and friendly, The Westin Auckland is the latest hotel from innovative Melview Developments, currently the largest investor in hotel development in New Zealand with 1,800 hotel rooms either built, under construction or planned to be completed within the next five years. The company’s surge in development coincides with continued growth in New Zealand inbound tourism, particularly at the top end of the market.

Located on the corner of Viaduct Harbour Avenue and Halsey Street , The Westin Auckland boasts a prime maritime location at the base of Lighter Quay. Yachts will be permanently moored alongside the glass walls of the ground floor, providing visitors with a unique perspective.

For a relatively small and exclusive hotel, The Westin Auckland has a generous open aspect to its stylish public areas. The hotel’s restaurants and bars were all designed by acclaimed interior specialist, Tom Skyring. Dining options include Q, the signature restaurant, and Toast - the waterfront café. Guests can also unwind at The Office bar or The Late Club.

The hotel’s spa, part of an 8,000 square foot wellness centre, will also be open to the public with its own entrance on Halsey Street. The spa is adjacent to the gym, sauna, steam room, indoor lap pool and spa pool.

The Westin Auckland will be the only city hotel located directly on bustling Viaduct Harbour. Bordering Viaduct and Lighter Quay marinas, the hotel provides guests with an ever-changing panorama of private yachts gliding past the public areas and the central glass walkway between the two wings of the property. The property also offers a private dock for arriving yachts and water taxis. Guests will delight in the view of the marina available in many of the hotel’s guest rooms.

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Melview Developments is also building a second Westin property in New Zealand – the \$100m 178-room Westin Queenstown – part of the extensive \$800 million Kawarau Falls Station tourist development, scheduled to open in 2009.

Background information on Melview Developments Ltd

Melview Developments Ltd is one of New Zealand's leading property development companies, renowned for its creation of visionary projects with an emphasis on design and construction quality.

Melview Developments holds diverse development interests in hotel, office, residential and retail sector. The company was founded by Managing Director, Nigel McKenna, in 1996 and since that time has been responsible for projects valued at over \$1 billion.

The company's commitment to innovative design and construction is evident with projects including Auckland's Beaumont Quarter, Lighter Quay, The Quays, The Quadrant and The Sebel Hotel

URL: www.melview.co.nz