

Sunday Star Times

TRAVEL

ROOM SERVICE



VILLA TOSCANA

Ohuka Park

Whitianga

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www.villatoscana.co.nz

Where is it? In one of the Coromandel's most spectacular spots, this two-bedroom luxury villa is nestled into the hilltop overlooking Mercury Bay and the Whitianga township. Auckland's a three-hour drive away.

What does it cost? Until September 30, the tariff is \$440 per couple or \$580 for four. In summer that rises to \$640 and \$780 respectively.

Unique selling point: The view aside, it's the Italian influence - from the 13 tonnes of tiles and the terracotta pizza oven owners Giorgio and Margherita Allemano brought with them when they moved here six years ago, to the cellar full of delicious Italian wine.

Room service: Breakfast was continental and divine. Take your time over a table laden with fruit, homemade

yoghurt, toast and jam, cereal, cookies and lattes. Breakfast is included in the price, but other meals can be arranged and wine from the cellar is for sale.

Local attractions: Where to start? Pack your togs for Hot Water Beach, your tramping boots for the walk to stunning Cathedral Cove and your camera for the views.

The bed bounce test: This has been the bed of choice for many a bride and groom on their wedding night - and apparently they're all still happily married.

Do: Grab a bottle of bubbly, make the walk along the fern-lined path to the outdoor spa pool just as the full moon rises on Mercury Bay.

Don't: Panic if the family German shepherd makes it to the spa before you. He likes to guard the guests and will whimper if your splashing sounds too much like you're drowning.

Star rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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