



Media Release

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Five stars for River Birches

Qualmark, New Zealand tourism's official quality assurance agency, are delighted to announce that River Birches, Turangi, have been awarded the Qualmark five star rating.

Brainchild of owners Jason and Rebeca Bleibtreu, the incredible River Birches offering was renovated last year with the help of award-winning Te Puke based architect David Page.

With three secluded rooms, River Birches embraces 'quality not quantity', and is perfectly situated on the lower reaches of the Tongariro. This stunning operation appeals both to international and domestic visitors, who are interested in either pursuing the excellent local outdoor activities or simply relaxing.

Qualmark CEO Geoff Penrose said that "the River Birches operation is truly world class, and promises to deliver a lifetime of fond memories for visitors fortunate enough to stay".

"I personally congratulate the River Birches team for reaching five star status, it was well deserved and represents a welcome addition to both its category and to New Zealand's wider accommodation offering", added Mr. Penrose.

This award has thrilled lodge owners Jason and Rebeca Bleibtreu, who renovated the property into its present boutique lodge format last year with the help of architect David Page of the award-winning Page Henderson practice in Te Puke.

"Much credit must go to Marilyn and Chris Wright, our lodge managers, who are truly fantastic hosts and make all guests, international or local, feel very much at home at River Birches", says owner Jason Bleibtreu.

"Qualmark defines their five star rating as 'exceptional; among the best available in New Zealand'. We're simply delighted to have a respected independent assessment system such as Qualmark judge River Birches so highly," added Mr. Bleibtreu.

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