

R H A P S O D Y

February 2017

David Oyelowo


A serious man

American Style

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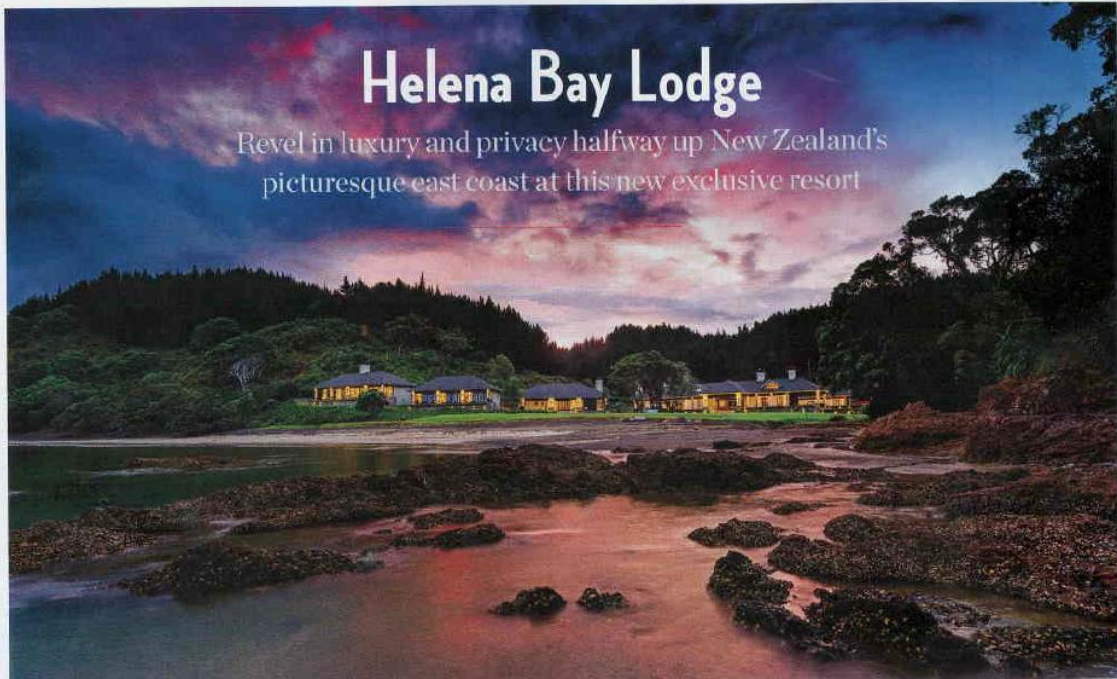
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Helena Bay Lodge

Revel in luxury and privacy halfway up New Zealand's picturesque east coast at this new exclusive resort

1 One of only 33 luxury lodges in New Zealand—and only three in Northland—secluded Helena Bay is the first to be built just steps from the soft sands of lapping bay waters where dolphins and orcas are known to play. Each of the five luxurious suites offers stunning views of one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world.

2 This adults-only retreat is maximized for relaxing. There's a 25-meter freshwater heated pool, a steam room with twinkling constellations overhead, a sauna with bundles of branches for exfoliating, and a plunge pool. Perhaps most important is the on-demand masseuse available seven days a week.

3 If you're looking for outdoor activities, options are plentiful (this is New Zealand, after all). Charter a boat to explore the Bay of Islands, or dive at Poor Knights Island; kayak or paddleboard and stop at a private beach for a picnic (prepared by the chef and delivered to your

destination); take one of the lodge's electric bikes on a spin through a lush forest and past packs of alpacas on the newly constructed nine-mile track; or ride a horse through Northland and learn about Helena Bay's cultural history with a Maori guide.

4 The lodge imported the Michelin-starred Ristorante Don Alfonso 1890 from Southern Italy right to Helena Bay. The delectable culinary experiments coming out of Chef Michele Martino's kitchen—like a candied eggplant dessert—will

Clockwise from above: the lodge sits on two miles of private coastline; biking the lush 9-mile trail; New Zealand lamb, Italian style

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induce major mouthwatering. Martino says that basil from a supermarket breaks his heart, and he vows to be 100 percent "estate-to-plate" with sustainable produce and protein within a year.

5 Want to celebrate a big milestone with a small group of your closest friends? Reserve the entire lodge. The suites adjoin, making social visits easy (your terrace or mine?), and the lodge's deep wine list—with more than 100 vintages from New Zealand alone—gives you plenty of reason to raise a glass.

