



WHAREKAUHAU

PALLISER BAY EST. 1844

Sample Itinerary – “VIP Incentive Group – Country Luxe/Private Festival”



This was hands-down one of my favorite events to get creative with. It was an impossible task on paper, but some lateral fireside thinking and ‘boom’ a dream event was created that still retained the Wharekauhau spirit!

We were asked to create a bespoke buyout for an incentive group out of NZ/Australia who come together once a year for a high performers reward. Initially they suggested they needed accommodation for 120-150 persons, and they asked us to think laterally in how that would look, giving we only usually would have about 40 persons onsite...this was going to well exceed our capacity. This group took all 16 of the Cottage Suites, the three-bedroom Foley Villa ...**AND** constructed a village of 40x ‘glamping’ tents. The whole concept was to leverage the remote country feel against the pure luxury/once in a lifetime feel.

<p>Day 1</p> <p><i>“The setup”</i></p>	<p>We closed the lodge for 24 hours before the event to allow the construction of the glamping village and entertainment stage to commence. The planners were onsite from 6am through to 10pm ensuring every little detail was taken care of, so that even though the glamping village was not a traditional cottage, they were kitted out with the same amenities (just without the underfloor heating)!</p>
<p>Day 2</p> <p><i>“The arrival</i></p>	<p>Guests arrived in a mixture of coach and helicopter to a large grazing table in the Country Kitchen. After registering they were all escorted to their Cottage, Villa, or glamping tent. Senior staff were given the glamping tents, and the Cottages went to junior leaders in the company to show them the aspirational value of career growth!</p> <p>The guests all joined at the lodge for aperitifs and dinner. The glamping village came with its own social area setup so to keep the coming night extra special we sent our hospitality staff down there to create a ‘haybale Wharekauhau bar’, and share our cornerstone hospitality ethos and custom made Lighthouse Gin cocktails.</p>
<p>Day 3</p> <p><i>‘The party’</i></p>	<p>A full farmhouse breakfast in the Country Kitchen & breakfast-in-bed for the glamping tents.</p> <p>The morning was at leisure, and guests were able to head off and explore the property’s hiking trails, and just catch up on rest. Morning a-la-carte spa slots booked for facials and massages. Guests were welcome to come and collect their ‘<i>explorers picnic lunch</i>’ in the morning and enjoy a picnic at their preferred spot on the estate.</p> <p>The only rule for the day was that from mid-afternoon the instructions was to return to the courtyard. The courtyard had been converted into the biggest BBQ area you have ever seen! Central was a stage that various musicians (domestic and international) played well into the night. The courtyard was lined with a ‘festival-feel’ series of bars and food stations, each providing a different food, wine or gin story!</p> <p>We stopped for a semi-formal 3 course farmhouse dinner in the main lodge, and attached marquee. A chance for speeches and awards!</p> <p>The live music and party continued into the night with the entire lodge being illuminated in company colours lighting, and midnight fireworks display to light up Palliser Bay</p>
<p>Day 4</p> <p><i>‘The departure and pack-out</i></p>	<p>A full farmhouse breakfast in the Country Kitchen & breakfast in bed for the glamping tents.</p> <p>The property departed via coach and helicopter at 12noon.</p> <p>The property remained closed until 12noon the following day as we dismantled tents and returned the lodge to normal</p>