

One for the rod

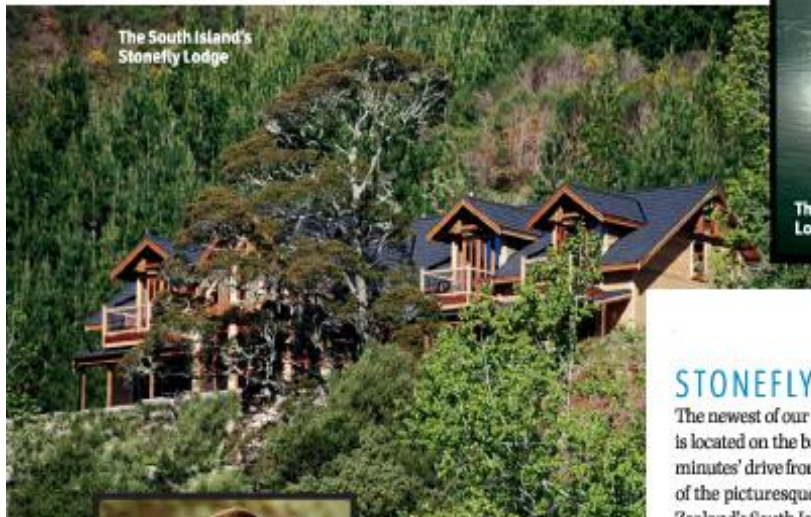
If it's a rod-and-reel adventure that really rocks your boat, here are some of the best fishing lodges in Australasia. These five-star fishing resorts cater to the serious angler without sacrificing holiday luxury.

WORDS **STEVE STARLING**



The windswept beaches of Kangaroo Island serve up salmon, tommy ruff and squid

A STEALTHY APPROACH AND ACCURATE CAST CAN PROVE THEIR UNDOING



The South Island's Stonefly Lodge



Tim Heath

WINEMAKER AT CLOUDY BAY VINEYARDS. WWW.CLOUDYBAY.CO.NZ

Favourite fishing spot?

My favourite fishing lodge is Poronui Lodge near Taupo on the North Island of New Zealand. The staff, accommodation and fly fishing for both brown and rainbow trout is outstanding. They also have an amazing wine cellar

that holds more than 10,000 bottles. Outside the lodge scene, there is nothing better than disappearing into the remoteness of the NZ back country for a week's sight fishing for big, cunning brown trout. The sense of seclusion and tranquility cannot be matched, and the quality of the fly fishing is unbelievable.

The one that got away?

I am a passionate catch-and-release fly fisherman so I guess they all get away in the end.

I get my enjoyment from outwitting a trout with the fly, being able to admire its unique markings (every one of them is different – a bit like human fingerprints) and then watching it swim back to its lie knowing that one day I may have the chance to outwit it again.



The lure of trout at Huka Lodge, New Zealand

STONEFLY LODGE

The newest of our listed lodges, which opened only last October, is located on the banks of the gin-clear Motueka River, some 50 minutes' drive from Nelson through the vineyards and orchards of the picturesque Moutere Hills, at the northern end of New Zealand's South Island.

Although brand-spanking new, this rustic stone and timber hideaway is reminiscent of a well-established North American or European hunting and fishing lodge, with large fireplaces and snooker tables. The Maltai Bar exudes a warm environment in which to unwind at the end of the day and swap those fishing yarns, tall tales and true.

Fly fishing for trout in this region draws visiting anglers from around the globe, with good reason. Big, wild-spawned brown trout dominate the district's rivers, although there are also rainbow trout in some streams and lakes. All are sharp-eyed, wary fish, but a stealthy approach and an accurate cast with the right fly will often prove their undoing. There are few things that are more thrilling to witness in the world of angling than a trout as long as your arm rising through the transparent water like a shark to seize your tiny fly. Hang on!

From \$NZ\$250 (\$196) per person per night, twin-share/low season (May-September); \$NZ\$350 (\$275) per person/high season. +64 (3) 522 4479. www.stoneflylodge.co.nz