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SCENIC RIM RETREATS PROVE WINNING EDGE

QUEENSLAND'S Scenic Rim proved its winning edge as one of the State's leading destinations for first class accommodation experiences winning two major categories at the Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association (HMAA) awards on Friday evening.

Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge beat a class field to win the coveted Best Luxury Hotel award while the Scenic Rim View Cottages also flew the flag for the region, claiming the honours for Best Hosted Accommodation.

Held at Royal on the Park Hotel, Brisbane, the 2008 Queensland HMAA Awards for Excellence Gala Diner recognised the cream of the State's accommodation sector, attracting more than 300 industry leaders contesting more than 25 divisions.

The victory was the latest in a stellar list of achievements for Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge which took home the Best Fine Dining and Restaurant of the Year trophy for the fourth year in a row at the 2008 Restaurant & Catering Queensland Darling Downs Awards for Excellence in June.

The retreat has also won Tourism Queensland's best luxury accommodation awards in 2006 and 2007 as well as the Best Fine Dining Restaurant 2006 title at the Restaurant and Catering Queensland annual awards

Manager Matthew Simpson said he was delighted with the latest award for the property, attributing the success to an outstanding team effort.

"It is very rewarding, and a tribute to all involved, to receive this acknowledgment for consistently delivering the highest quality guest experiences," he said.

Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge is an architecturally stunning mountain retreat with a focus on fine food and wine.

Located 90 minutes south west of Brisbane and two hours from the Gold Coast, Peppers Spicers Peak Lodge is surrounded by World Heritage Listed Main Range National Park.

The retreat exudes an intimate and relaxing ambience, ideal for escaping the pressures of modern life and experiencing one of South East Queensland's most naturally breathtaking environments.

Another outstanding drawcard for the region is fellow HMAA award winners the Scenic Rim View Cottages – an idyllic retreat for couples set in the heart of the Scenic Rim. The exclusive and private five-star cottages are situated in the Fassifern Valley overlooking a wonderful country landscape with majestic views of the Great Dividing Range.

The HMAA Best Hosted Accommodation award builds on previous accolades for the property including Queensland Tourism's Cutting Edge Directions award in 2006 and the Award for Excellence by an Emerging Tourism Business at the 2005 Ipswich and Valleys Tourism Awards in 2005.

For additional information log onto www.spicerspeaklodge.com.au or www.scenicrimviewcottages.com.au

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High resolution images available online at

<http://www.spicerspeaklodge.com.au/media.asp>