

LIVING



**LET THE
STAYCATION BEGIN**

Ganni wool tweed jacket,
\$598, and pants, \$389
from Workshop; Amber
Seats pearl drop earrings
\$329 at Superette; Mi Piaci
boots, \$360.

ISLAND IDYLL

At The Landing, you get to put your feet up in fine style. With its six private beaches, celebrated vineyard and four architect-designed properties to choose from, visitors want for nothing and are inevitably captivated by its magic.

A visit to The Landing's Vineyard Villa should perhaps come with a warning or two. Firstly, there's the very likely chance that you won't want to leave. And then there's the fact that once you do come to terms with the reality of returning home, you'll then spend hours thinking about how you can convince Nat Cheshire, the architect behind the breathtaking property, to work his magic on your property. The Vineyard Villa is just one of four Cheshire Architect-designed properties situated on the sprawling Bay of Islands coastal property that makes up The Landing. Northland native and Britomart developer, Peter Cooper purchased the idyllic piece of land back in 1999. For the past two decades, Cooper has reinvigorated the remarkable 400-hectare property, planting native trees and restoring archaeological sites of significance. With its six private beaches and award-winning vineyard it doesn't take a lot to fall head over heels with The Landing and each of its four residences – all available for luxurious staycations. There's the grand Cooper residence which played home to Obama last year; the undeniable romantic Boathouse perched on the magical waterfront; and the striking Gabriel residence with its panoramic view. ►

Nestled within The Landing's award-winning vineyard, the Vineyard Villa possesses a cosy charm that is impossible to resist. Designed by award-winning architect Nat Cheshire, the house nestles among the vineyards and offers panoramic views.



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NAT CHESHIRE



From Auckland city, The Landing is a 55-minute helicopter flight or a 4-hour drive. From Auckland International Airport, access is via a 35-minute scheduled flight and a 30-minute drive. It is possible to transfer to The Landing from Auckland Harbour with Auckland Seaplanes. Visit thelandingnz.com for more information.

They are all captivating in their own way, but there’s something enigmatic and unforgettably charming about the Vineyard Villa. While Nat’s father Pip was at the helm for the other three properties, Nat explains that Vineyard Residence was the first property on which he took the lead.

“The other houses are major bespoke houses for owners. This was a much smaller proposition, it’s almost like a bridge for people,” he explains. What it lacks in size – which is of course, subjective – the villa makes up for in character. Its remarkable relationship with the surrounding land is possibly the most salient feature of the residence. “The starting point was that it wanted to dig its heel into the ground,” says Cheshire. “It really wanted to say it would be there for a very long time and part of the house *had* been there for a very long time.” Cheshire is referring to the stonewall created by boulders extracted from The Landing’s expansive landscape. “It’s the spine of everything,” Cheshire says. “It wanted to project itself both forward and backwards in time.”

To balance the dramatic nature of the stonewall, Cheshire explains that the lighting of the living space needed to be very open; so open in fact, that the house can transform into what Cheshire describes as a covered terrace. Throwing all caution to the wind, Cheshire decided to reinvent the concept of both doors and windows, designing floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that wrap around the entire living space and open up completely. “When it is fully open, especially in those idyllic Bay of Islands months, it really is like you are living on the deck of a boat and you’re outside rather than in a house.” It felt only natural, says Cheshire, that the bedrooms became the opposite of the living space. “The idea is that you’re entering a space that’s a bit more romantic, not in an amorous way but it’s cabin-like. It’s almost like you have entered a second building, it’s a place of shelter.”

Cheshire says it was a deliberate move to mark the beginning and end of the day. “The landscape up there can be so overwhelming – it’s a 360 degree view – and it’s still and hot, or it’s windy, or it’s sunny and blinding.

“It’s important to be able to retreat from that.”

