



## *A quest fulfilled*

*It was quite a sacrifice giving up high-flying professional hotel careers in order to bring their young family back to New Zealand for a more grounded life, but a year down the track the Simon family is settled on their new path as the Napier franchisees for Quest Serviced Apartments.*

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Ruben and Fiona Simon arrived in Napier with their two young sons, fresh from Indonesia and straight into the finishing stages of the impressive redevelopment of a historic central Napier building. A few short weeks later, Quest Napier welcomed its first guests and now, after a busy first year, they are all fully immersed in their new Napier lifestyle.

Built in 1919 for the Ancient Order of Foresters, the gracious Spanish Mission building is now home away from home for visitors to Napier – whether for business or pleasure, for a night or a year! The original front section features gracious apartments with high ceilings and native timber floors, while the newly constructed rear floors contain contemporary studios and one bedroom apartments. There are even versatile options for apartments to interconnect, giving a larger option for families or small groups.

The interiors have been finished with contemporary fittings and furnishings, meeting all the expectations of today's traveller. "The Quest brand is known for a high standard of facilities and stylish décor at good value rates," explains Ruben. "With such a lovely building, our guests tend to refer to us as a boutique hotel."

The combination of quality and location is attracting guests who enjoy staying centrally so they can enjoy the buzz of the city – restaurants, shopping, galleries and culture - then venture further afield for the other pleasures of Hawke's Bay.

Golf has become a strong area of interest throughout the year. With the magnificent course at Cape Kidnappers and several other highly-regarded courses in close driving

distance, guests are enjoying variety and value in a world-class golfing experience.

Food and wine is another year-round draw card and the Simons enjoy helping guests discover how close they are to winery cellar doors and restaurants. "People are delighted that within a few minutes drive they can be at wine destinations like the Mission and Church Road, or can take the beautiful drive out to Haumoana and through the Tukituki Valley, with wine and food trail stops along the way."

Fiona says they are already seeing lots of return guests. "It is such a great feeling to be welcoming people back and to start getting to know our regulars." It still amazes them, however, that a lot of international travellers are moving so fast that they are not getting the chance to fully appreciate the country. "They arrive and discover that Napier has so much more to see and do than they had expected, so often a one night stay can extend to two or three. But some itineraries are not flexible, so there is often disappointment when they have to move on too soon."

Quest Napier's first birthday has come and gone with little time for celebrations. The Simon family is fully immersed in their new lifestyle. "The kids are right into school and sport," says Fiona, "and we make the most of our limited time off doing things like playing golf and enjoying the easy-going outdoor lifestyle." A glance around the reception area shows traces of their past life, with pieces of Asian furniture and collectables on display. But this just goes to show that after a hectic start, they are now unpacked and well settled into their Napier way of life.

[www.questnapier.co.nz](http://www.questnapier.co.nz)

*Left: The Simon family.*

*Above: Historic exterior and modern interior.*