



## **Gwinganna wins prestigious International Spa Award**

SpaFinder, Inc., the global spa resource, has announced that Queensland's Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat has been named spa-goers' favorite spa in Australia as part of its sixth annual SpaFinder Readers' Choice Awards. Nearly 250,000 votes--a record for the Readers' Choice Awards--were submitted worldwide by readers of SpaFinder publications, making the awards the most complete consumer assessment of the global spa market.

"Our Readers' Choice Awards are without question the global spa industry's premier awards – our answer to the Academy Awards," said SpaFinder, Inc. President Susie Ellis. "Now that there are nearly 13,000 resort, hotel and destination spas operating worldwide, for Gwinganna to be singled out by our readers represents a significant honor."

Reflecting the rapid globalisation of the spa industry, SpaFinder readers selected their favorite spas globally--from traditional spa destinations like Thailand and the Caribbean, to emerging spa markets like China and Russia. In all, ballots were cast for more than 1,500 different spa properties around the globe. Voters were asked to only cast ballots for stay spas they've personally visited within the past three years.

Ms Ellis said "On a recent visit to Australia, I decided to visit Gwinganna since our readers voted it their favorite spa in Australia. Now that I have actually experienced their program, I can see why it has become so popular so quickly. Who would have guessed that one of the best and smartest spa programs in all the world is only a few years old and in Australia?"

"What sets Gwinganna apart is the staff, the setting, the program, the cuisine, the treatments...in fact they do everything well. In many ways I found Gwinganna to be a glimpse into the destination spa for the 21st century".

"It isn't often that a spa which has only been opened a few years becomes a top spa award winner so quickly. But after visiting Gwinganna, I can understand why. They have incorporated the best of spa practices from around the world and made it their own. The result is a spa with a perfect balance which creates that balance in its clientele," said Ms Ellis.

Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat's Readers' Choice Award will be formally presented during an invitation-only gala at the new Spa by Guerlain® in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel of New York on October 14th, 2008.

Gwinganna offers a range of different retreats starting on set dates throughout the year. A two night weekend retreat starts at just \$790 per person twin share, fully inclusive of all organic meals, accommodation, all activities, use of all facilities and \$100 spa credit. Visit [www.gwinganna.com](http://www.gwinganna.com) for more details or phone 1800 219 272, or international +617 55895000.

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Set in the Gold Coast hinterland with ocean and valley views, Gwinganna Lifestyle Retreat has a serenity and soul that will inspire the desire to live a healthier life. Experience innovative wellness programs, specialty spa treatments, superb organic cuisine and extensive facilities. Just 30 minutes from Gold Coast airport, Gwinganna offers two styles of accommodation including restored Heritage rooms or the superior Orchard Suites built from Australian reclaimed timber. All feature their own bathroom or ensuite. Programs are 2, 3, 4, 5 or 7 day stays and have set arrival dates. Packages are fully inclusive of all organic meals, accommodation, all activities and some spa treatments. Courtesy transfers are available at set times from Gold Coast airport.

*About SpaFinder, Inc. - The world's largest spa media, marketing and gifting company, SpaFinder, Inc. connects millions of wellness-focused consumers with thousands of spas worldwide. SpaFinder's media properties include the award-winning Spafinder.com, SpaFinder Lifestyle webazine, Spa Enthusiast, and the worldwide spa directory, Global SpaFinder. Founded in 1986, the privately held company is headquartered in Manhattan. Visit Spafinder.com for a Complete List of 2008 Readers' Choice Winners*

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