

# MEDIA RELEASE



**MINERALSPA**  
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## Mineral Spa Named Best Health & Wellness Tourism in Victoria

Mineral Spa at Peppers Springs Retreat has received yet another highly acclaimed accolade, winning Best Health & Wellness Tourism at the Melbourne Airport 2006 Victorian Tourism Awards on Monday evening.

The victory comes less than two weeks after being awarded Best Destination Day Spa Experience at The Australian's 2006 Travel & Tourism Awards, held at the Gold Coast on Friday 10 November.

Now in their 22nd year, the prestigious annual Victorian Tourism Awards showcase Victoria's exceptional tourism operators, businesses and individuals from 28 categories, with the recipients of awards representing excellence for the state's tourism industry. However, this is the first year that the Health & Wellness Tourism category has been introduced to the awards.

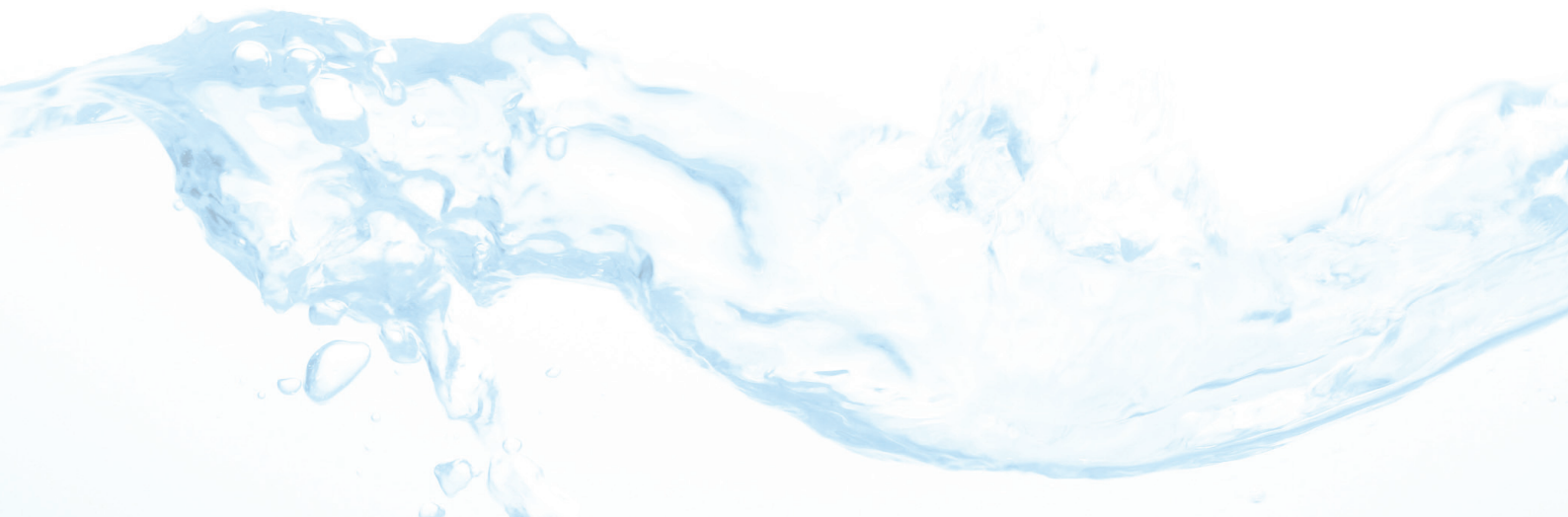
Owned by Malcross Management, the Mineral Spa at Peppers Springs Retreat proprietors, Chris Malden and Wayne Cross together with spa manager Ainsley Cant, accepted the award from Melbourne's Lord Mayor John So.

Chris Malden, who is a committee member of the Marketing Campaign Committee for the Daylesford and Macedon Ranges region, said: "This award is a fantastic result for both the Mineral Spa at Peppers Springs Retreat and the region. It is an inspiration for the staff, but more importantly the Spa Country of Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges retain this strongly contested product of health and wellness in our region."

"It's amazing and still very surreal," said a jubilant Ainsley Cant. "This is the first year the Health & Wellness Tourism category has been included at the Victorian Tourism Awards and it's thrilling to win. The award is further testament to the strength of Mineral Spa and its influence on drawing tourism to the region."

Entry for the Victorian Tourism Awards is based on the preparation of a comprehensive submission by individual tourism businesses, which are then assessed by a select panel of noted tourism, travel and hospitality industry experts.

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“The difference for me with this award is that it was such an intensive, exacting yet enlightening process, where every component must be answered. The award also provides very detailed feedback regarding your submission, which guides and assists towards improving your business.” It really is a very positive and rewarding experience,” said Ms. Cant.

Present at the awards was Victorian Tourism Minister John Pandazopoulos. “The awards process is not an easy one nor is it meant to be. The awards recognise people striving for excellence – it’s not about being first past the post,” said Mr Pandazopoulos.

The gala presentation ceremony for the Melbourne Airport 2006 Victorian Tourism Awards was held in the dazzling Palladium/River Room at Melbourne’s Crown Entertainment Complex.

Since the Mineral Spa opened in December 2004, both the awards now fully recognise that the facility is a pre-eminent centre for wellbeing, as it continues to excel in the day spa and tourism industry.

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