



## **GPT ACQUIRES AUSTRALIA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL WILDERNESS RESORT**

### **WILL & CELIA BURRELL SELL EL QUESTRO RESORT**

**June 29, 2005:** Australia's most successful wilderness resort, El Questro Wilderness Park in the Kimberley region of Western Australia is being sold by owners, Will and Celia Burrell to the GPT Group.

The Burrells have transformed the 1 million acre property from a working cattle station into a world renowned resort, attracting celebrities, film makers and lovers of the outback.

Voyages, a subsidiary of the GPT Group, will take over management of El Questro on, or about, July 6, 2005.

El Questro Wilderness Park is made up of the Homestead, Station Township Bungalows, Emma Gorge Resort, Mount Cockburn Safari Lodge and Riverside Camping. Emma Gorge is being re-established and will re-open for the 2006 season, following flood damage earlier this year.

The resort also has air strips and a variety of touring programs that explore the vast, 1 million acre property.

Commenting on the sale, owner Will Burrell said: "The property has been very successful because of Accor's strong management skills, global sales and marketing, and a remarkably successful public relations program that gave the resort such a high profile around the world. They were instrumental in helping Celia and I turn around the fortunes of El Questro when they took over management in 2000."

"We are terribly sad to be leaving the property after 15 years, however the only thing that has grown more rapidly than visitors to El Questro over the past few years, has been our family, and so it is a good time to sell the property and concentrate more on our family."

"It has been a privilege working with such a professional team as Accor, and the work they have put into the resort will benefit Voyages."

According to Grant Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of Voyages, El Questro fits in very well with Voyages' philosophy of providing visitors with incredible, memorable experiences in spectacular locations.

"El Questro is a beautiful property, offering an array of accommodation styles, that will complement other properties in our portfolio," Mr Hunt said. "The Kimberley region of Western Australia is equally spectacular and will sit well alongside places like Kakadu National Park, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, the Great Barrier Reef and Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park where we also operate."

"Our successful management of award winning properties such as Longitude 131, Lizard Island, Cradle Mountain Lodge and Silky Oaks Lodge (to name a few) will ensure the excellent work of Will and Celia, as well as the Accor management team, will continue at El Questro."

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