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Bewitching Holiday Experience

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Sometimes you just need to get away and leave the weight of the world behind – even if it is only for the weekend, as Sun Reporter KARA LOLLBACK did.

ESCAPE TO LUXURY ... at Witches Falls Cottages you can relax in your cosy accommodation, indulge in a sea shell massage, sip champagne in the double spa bath and enjoy delicious food. But if you can drag yourself away, a photography workshop with Danielle and Nick Lancaster is a must.

LESS than an hour from the hustle of the Gold Coast is a village that feels like it is a world away.

It has everything you need to learn the three Rs – rejuvenation, relaxation and of course, romance.

Witches Falls Cottages, at the top of picturesque Mt Tamborine, offers the perfect solution for a weekend getaway.

Nestled within beautiful bushland the stone cottages each have split level living and sleeping areas, a cosy fireplace and beautiful meals, prepared by the lovely owners David and Daniela and delivered to your door.

But the major drawcard is the double spa bath in the glass-encased bathroom looking onto a private courtyard – perfect for a lazy night sipping champagne and stargazing.

If you can bring yourself to get out of your complimentary robe and enjoy what Mt Tamborine has to offer you will be more than pleasantly surprised.

Renowned Australian photographers Danielle & Nick Lancaster make their home on the mountain where they run their own photography workshops and retreats.

In 2004 the couple published *Out Around The Bullo*, a series of photographs capturing life in the remote Australian shire.

They use their experience in the field to teach the tricks of the photography trade to photographers and keen amateurs.

The fantastic experience will see you switch your camera off automatic forever and use simple techniques Danielle and Nick teach to create the perfect shot.

After two hours of excitement and learning with Danielle and Nick you may need to wind down a little, and what better way than with a massage in the privacy of your own Cottage?

Ripple Massage is exclusive to Witches Falls Cottages and offers a number of massage packages, including the Sea Shell Massage experience.

Using a mix of reef shells, the massage taps into the uplifting energy of the shells for a deep and calming massage.

This unusual technique is new to Australia and was sourced by Ripple owner Alison Shaw.

The shells, which are used to de-stress the body and work deep into the tissue, are filled with aromatherapy oils and heated up before being tickled onto your back.

A face scrub and a foot bath are also part of the service and the whole experience is so incredibly calming and rejuvenating, the hour-and-a-half on massage therapist Julie's table just flies by.

Starting at \$120, there are a variety of shell massage packages available to suit everyone's budget and desire to be pampered.

The difference is definitely in the details when it comes to the Witches Falls experience – the friendliness, the ambience and the concentration on relaxation leaves you feeling uplifted.

Perfect for a well deserved weekend, it's hard to believe this charming place is just half an hour from home.