

# Enchanting rural hideaway

**Chris Pritchard**

BEHIND wild-looking gardens, lushly combining Australian and Asian plants, sit five secluded cottages with five-star innards and indulgences such as on-tap massage and beauty therapies.

Owners David and Daniela Kennedy run a charming hideaway on Mt Tamborine. It is quintessentially rural despite being only 60 minutes' drive from Brisbane's CBD, and even closer to the Gold Coast.

The former owners ran an esteemed Japanese restaurant for in-house guests, but the Kennedys confine themselves to breakfasts, which are delivered to the cottages.

They have, however, kept the gardens, with their fountains and Confucian statues, much

as they were. In the past year they have also refurbished the stone cottages, adding spas, DVD and CD players, and garden courtyards. They have given the interiors a brighter and more contemporary look.

Opposite the cottages is a cliff top, offering panoramic sunset vistas. Near it are the beginnings of marked trails through heavily forested national parkland.

Other diversions include visits to a rapidly growing collection of local wineries (two are no more than a stroll away). Neighbouring Eagles Heights has a thriving strip of galleries and craft shops. Golf, tennis and horse riding are at hand. And the beaches of the Gold Coast can be reached by car in 45 minutes.

## theinfo

**Witches Falls Cottages**

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**Rates:** From \$195 per cottage per night (for two people, including breakfast); two-night stays are required at weekends, with packages, including breakfast, from \$495 per cottage (two occupants).



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