



Service and views are tops at the Hilton Auckland

After flying for more than 20 hours and arriving at the Hilton Auckland at 5am, the welcome from the young receptionist was a joy — “yes of course your room is ready”, he said enthusiastically, writes Jeny Burns.

But there was more. When he asked if he could assist with anything else, the AFL football scores came to mind.

Within minutes he was back with a full list of the scores!

It's service like this that ensures you never forget a hotel. But there's something else that makes the Hilton stand out — its location.

From the time I stepped on to my balcony and looked out over Auckland's Waitemata Harbour I became one of the hotel's fans. The views were fantastic.

The Hilton is built 300 metres out to sea on Princess Wharf, and according to the hotel's publicity material “the design inspiration is the luxury liners that tie up along side the hotel”.

There were no ships in port during my stay and I'm not sure how I would feel opening my blinds one morning to find a huge cruise vessel outside my window, but apparently many people love the idea.

I personally would prefer my experience of sitting on my large



balcony with a clear view of the harbour, watching all the action in the distance.

Light and airy are two words that come to mind in describing the hotel's stylish and contemporary rooms.

No two of its 158 rooms and eight suites are completely the same, although all have private balconies and decks.

My room featured a king size bed with feather down duvets, woven carpet, a chaise lounge, a good size desk, which also featured a hands free phone, two voice lines, a data line and fast Internet connection.

A large television offered local, satellite and pay television.

The generous sized bathroom included a separate shower and bath, de-mist mirrors and audio facilities.

In-room facilities included tea and coffee, in-room safe and ironing board.

The evening turn down service included mineral water and a card outlining weather details for the following day.

Hotel facilities include a heated outdoor lap pool, sundeck and in-house fitness centre. The hotel's restaurant ‘White’, offers great views across the harbour. The restaurant is split level with one of its architectural features being the “long table” at the entrance for single diners or couples who want to mix.

Finding somewhere to eat while staying at the Hilton isn't a problem. Princess Wharf is home to an abundance of restaurants, bars and cafes. Then there's the Viaduct Basin, home of the America's Cup. This very impressive development features even more restaurants and shops.

While the Hilton isn't located in the heart of the CBD, it's only a short walk and the ambience and views of the hotel ensures it's still extremely popular with the corporate market.

For more information phone 0011 64-09-9782000 or visit the website www.auckland.hilton.com