

Tourism for Tomorrow Awards

Conservation Award

FINALIST: Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Australia



Emirates Wolgan Valley

RESORT & SPA • AUSTRALIA

The 1,620-hectare Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa opened in October 2009 in a private nature reserve bordering the Wollemi and Gardens of Stone National Parks in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area in New South Wales.

By using local artisans and integrating traditional Australian architecture, the resort is designed to meld into the environment, using local stone and timbers, and landscape planting with native species, including the rehabilitation of the original farm homestead and its heritage gardens. The resort buildings take up less than 2% of the nature reserve, and have been designed using green building principles to minimise energy and water consumption.

Conservation management plans, which are updated annually, include the restoration of vegetation along the Wolgan River, creating wildlife corridors between the two national park areas, controlling invasive pest animal and plant species, bushfire control, and wood collection management. In the past three years, the planting of nearly 50,000 plants along the Wolgan River's riparian zones has helped to control soil erosion and promote new habitat for indigenous species.

Emirates Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa continues to demonstrate that it is possible to return degraded and depleted habitat to ecosystem health, and create a successful model for resort development and nature conservation.

