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# Accor to run project

**Liz McDonald**

International hotel chain Accor will manage the \$60 million Waipara Wine Village and Spa planned for North Canterbury.

The four-star tourist complex, being developed by Auckland's Latitude Group on State Highway 1 at Waipara, north of Christchurch, will carry Accor's Grand Mecure brand.

French-based Accor already has about 30 hotels in New Zealand, with others planned, including a three-star Ibis opening this week in central Christchurch and a four-star-plus Novotel about to be built in Cathedral Square.

Latitude managing director Ken Wimsett said the Waipara Wine Village needed to be part of a group which could attract both domestic and international tourists and make the best of the interest in wine tourism.

The hotel is due to open in early 2009 with 132 hotel suites and villas which are being sold to investors for between \$270,000 and \$1.1m.

The Latitude Group recently bought the 6.4 hectare site from Waipara Wine Village Developments Ltd, which had plans to develop a smaller project on the land at a cost of \$20m.