

# Prize of a lifetime

**IAN STANHOPE** shot the red stag of his dreams when he took a fabulous stalking trip to the South Island of New Zealand, won at the 2006 Game Fair

**I**an Stanhope and his guide, John McInnes, had been stalking up and down the New Zealand hills for five hours when they finally spotted the perfect trophy red deer stag.

"We shimmied on our stomachs into position above him and confirmed he was indeed the type of beast we were after – and then he disappeared into unstalkable cover," says Ian. He waited another hour, peering 120m almost vertically down. It was enough to give a mountaineer vertigo. And when the beast finally reappeared, the fog rolled in and hid it again!

**'We scrambled down to the stag and just couldn't believe the massive size of his rack – it was a 14-point Imperial'**

Ian had another anxious half-hour before the fog lifted. He and John spent the time discussing – in whispers – the challenges of shooting at this angle, and techniques for overcoming the slope.

Ian is experienced with a .22 on rabbits, but a novice with the Remington 700 .330 Winmag in his hands. Chambering a 150-grain round, he aimed slightly low on the chest to account for the extreme angle, and fired a single round. The stag dropped.



**Ian Stanhope (left) and guide John McInnes, with the splendid 14-point New Zealand red stag that Ian shot**

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The story began at the 2006 CLA Game Fair, when Ian won the five-day stay-and-stalk prize in a raffle held to launch the Kaytor Peaks Estate. The estate is set over 5,500

of prime deerstalking country in the ruggedly beautiful South Island of New Zealand. As well as red stag trophy stalking, Kaytor Peaks also provides hunting for fallow buck, arapawa ram and alpine goat.

"What we have at Kaytor Peaks is a trophy stalker's dream," says Gary Joll, who recently joined the team as general manager and master stalker. "It took a pretty special project to lure me out of retirement," he says.

**Sport abroad**

The day was spent stalking up and down the stunning New Zealand hills



**Ian was an experienced shot with his .22, but not a deer rifle**

OUTSIDE DAYS



Having bagged a 14-point imperial on his first ever stalk, Ian agrees that Kaytor Peaks is special: "I can sum up the whole trip in one word – fantastic."

As part of the prize, he and his wife Mary explored the spectacular Kaikoura Peninsula and went whale-watching, visited vineyards and relaxed in the famous Hamner Springs mudbaths. Their visit in mid-

May was timed to make the most of the weather and the famous New Zealand red rut.

Howard Day from Outside Days, sole European agent for Kaytor Peaks, accompanied Ian on his stalk and was delighted to see him shoot his trophy of a lifetime. "The stories alone were worth the flight," he says, "let alone returning with a stunning trophies like this one." ●

**'YOU CAN DO THIS'**

Kaytor Peaks is located two hours north of Christchurch on South Island, New Zealand. For information visit [www.kaytorpeaks.co.nz](http://www.kaytorpeaks.co.nz) or call 00 64 3 6855 916. Outside Days is sole European agent for Kaytor Peaks, and offers a range of field sports across the UK and abroad. Other destinations include Morocco, Canada, France and Bulgaria, and sports vary from small walked-up days to falconry, fishing and stalking. For details visit [www.outsidedays.com](http://www.outsidedays.com) or call 07880 887712.