

Nirvana lives up to its name

Madeline Healy

IT WAS tempting to head to Noosa for breakfast. It was also tempting to enjoy a night out in Montville.

But when my family and I travelled to Nirvana in Montville, in the Blackall Range, we ended up walking through the front door and staying put.

It is that kind of place – a huge family retreat not far from the Kondalilla Falls and close enough to Montville village that a stroll through the town is definitely not out of the question.

Nirvana has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, a well-equipped kitchen, dining room, lounge and bar and entertaining area. The house is surrounded by verandas and an outdoor relaxation area with couches that are the ideal spot for catching up on some reading.

There is also a swimming pool and more than a hectare of land.

We decided to cook up a feast on

Essentials

Staying there:
From \$40 per person per night (based on six guests staying seven nights), or \$60 per person per night (six guests staying two nights).
More information: 5478 5478 or www.nirvanamontville.com

the Saturday night we spent at the house – my parents, brother, husband and two small children had plenty of space to spread out and enjoy. You can use the barbecue and dining table outside or move indoors to the well-designed, comfortable kitchen and dining area.

Owners Rekha and Shekhar Sharma bought the property in mid-2007 to fulfil their dream of owning a holiday home.

They come from quite different

backgrounds – Shekhar has a masters degree in genetics while Rekha used to teach early childhood studies in India and at QUT.

“Nirvana has always been a dream of ours,” Rekha says.

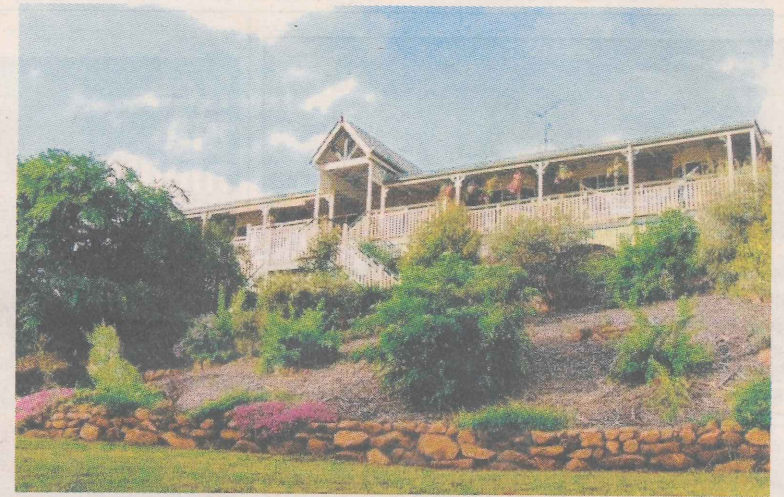
“We both love people and interior decoration. We furnished Nirvana ourselves without any professional help. The decor is a blend of Indian, Indonesian and Thai influences.

“We had no hesitation in stripping our own home of furniture and home decor and at one stage our house resembled a burgled house.”

The result is a house, while not overly luxurious, that is quiet and comfortable, perfect for catching up with friends and family and taking time out from life.

“We are very passionate about Nirvana and our aim is to make the experience a memorable one for our guests,” Rekha says.

“Our guest book comments are a great source of encouragement and motivate us to keep increasing and



UNCROWDED HOUSE: Nirvana suits a getaway with family or friends.

improving the facilities and features at Nirvana. We are constantly asking ourselves what more would we look for in a premium holiday home.”

If you do decide to venture further, have lunch at one of the cafes and restaurants in Montville.

You could also drive on to Maleny

and check out the art galleries and shops. There's a cheese factory here, and Flame Hill Vineyard at Montville and Maleny Mountain Wines offer tastings.

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve is perfect for a picnic, and Kondalilla Falls are a must see.