

Celebrating
25 years



RETREATS • RESORTS • HOTELS

25 Quick Questions for a Peppers Legend

1. **Name?** Damian Sillars
2. **Position at Peppers?** General Manager, Peppers Salt Resort & Spa
3. **Which Peppers retreat or resort do you work at?** Peppers Salt Resort & Spa
4. **Have you worked at any other Peppers retreats or resorts?** Yes, including Peppers Convent Hunter Valley, Peppers Guest House Hunter Valley, Peppers Anchorage Port Stephens, Peppers Links Resort Port Douglas, Peppers Delgany Portsea, Peppers Springs Retreat Hepburn Springs, Peppers Pier Resort Hervey Bay
5. **How many Peppers Retreats or Resorts have you stayed at?** 12
6. **When did you start working at Peppers?** 1998
7. **Describe your first day at Peppers?** It was an exciting time as Peppers Hotel Group had acquired the property from the previous Owner Brian Ansell, all of a sudden we had BDM's a Marketing Department and Head Office – went from being a stand alone property to part of a boutique Hotel Group overnight.
8. **What does Peppers mean to you?** Peppers is not about a room, a building or a location (all of these things are important), it's the genuine people you will find in a Peppers property that will make an "experience" for our guests.
9. **What do you do to make your guests feel special?** Greet everyone with a warm smile and friendly greeting; it's often the simple things which will make a guest feel welcome. I always ensure that when I see a guest I acknowledge them with a smile if from a afar or with a greeting if in range.
10. **How do you relax away from work?** Most of all spending time with my beautiful girls, also lots of exercise including gym, walking, tennis and golf and cooking.
11. **Favourite food?** Any curry, particularly a good authentic Thai curry.
12. **Favourite wine?** Sem Sauv Blanc for white and a good hearty Shiraz for Red
13. **Favourite colour?** Blue
14. **Favourite person (s)?** Had to change to persons – My beautiful girls for keeping me grounded, My beautiful Wife for also keeping me grounded along with unconditional love and support and My beautiful Mother for giving me a great upbringing and support through the years.
15. **Favourite place in the world?** Maya Bay, Thailand
16. **Describe your funniest Peppers moment?** Whilst trying to retrieve something from the pond circling the Reception area at Peppers Links Resort (Now Mantra Links Resort), I inadvertently fell in – just as the local Sun Palm Bus was heading through our drive way. I ended up totally saturated and obviously very embarrassed.
17. **And your happiest Peppers moment?** Winning the GM of the Award for Peppers segment last year, along with the other finalists of Stella Hospitality Group
18. **And your biggest Peppers achievement?** Going through pre-opening with various Builders, Developers and trades people and then finally successfully opening a new Resort "Peppers Pier Resort"

19. **Any tales of famous people staying?** I had the pleasure of hosting Craig Piligian and his family at Peppers Guest House a few years back, he was the Executive Producer of the Survivor Series when it first aired and is one of Hollywood's greatest TV Producers
20. **Do you feel proud to work for Peppers?** Absolutely
21. **If so, Why?** The Peppers brand was so unique to NSW 11 years ago, it has grown so much in that time both in scope of brand – the addition of Resorts and Hotels along with destinations, additions of properties, but overall it has remained unique and the consumer holds it in high esteem, it's been great to have travelled that journey.
22. **Any special Brides and Grooms you remember?** All Brides are "Special" LOL☺ but have had great fun looking after all of our fantastic couples throughout the years
23. **If you could invite any 4 people to enjoy dinner with you (at Peppers of course), who would you invite?** James Hird, ex-Essendon Captain for good footie stories, Judith Lucy for some good humour, Matt Preston to talk food and Garry Crittendon to talk wine.
24. **Any stories?** Too many to tell!
25. **How will you be celebrating 25 years of Peppers?** A nice food and wine experience at a Peppers property Restaurant – most probably "Roughies" and having a good chat to my wife about all the Peppers stories we've shared throughout the years.