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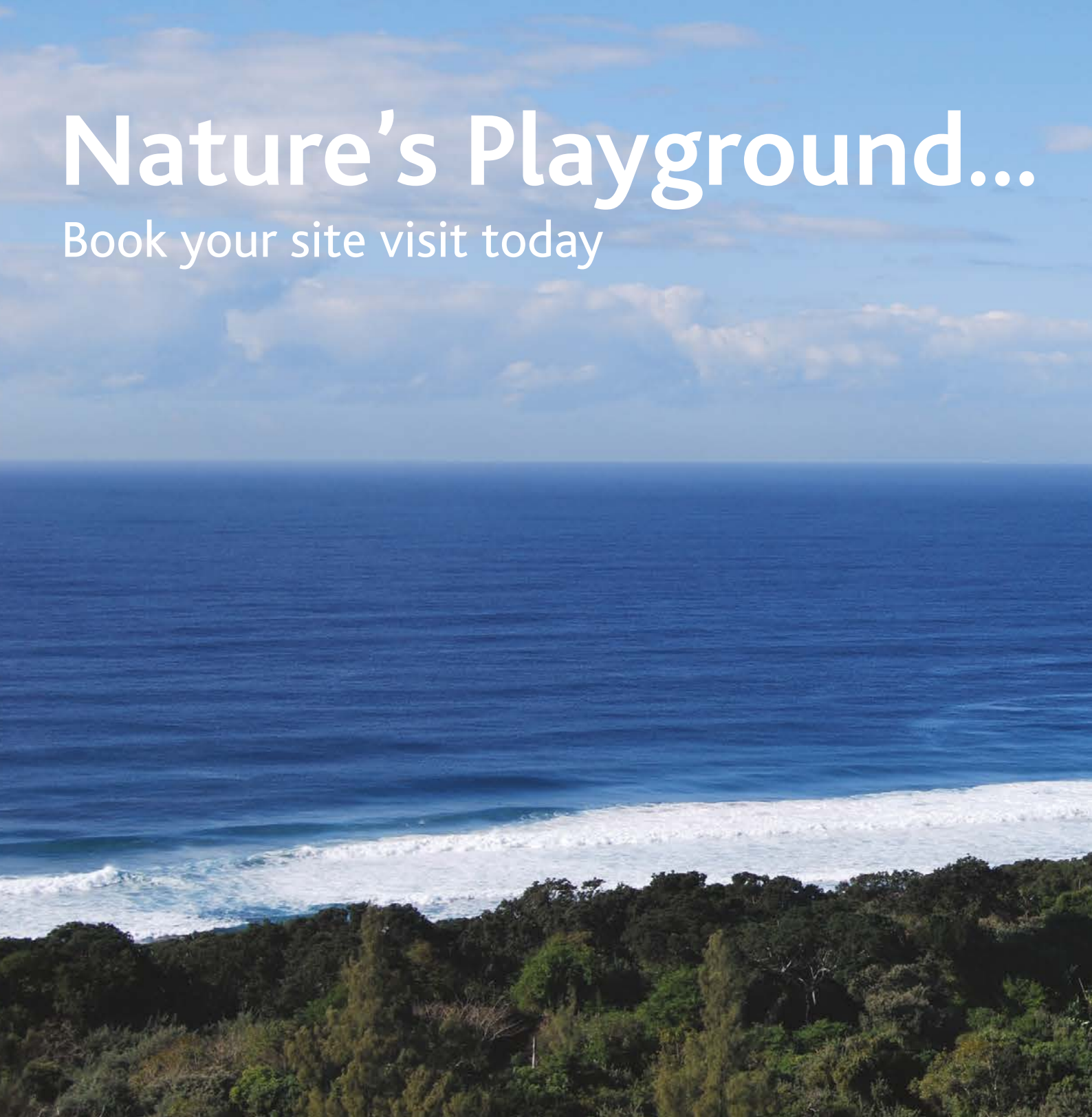
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from the **MD**



Welcome

Lesego Chauke-Motshwane
Managing Director

Belonging, to the team at Diners Club International, means more than merely being a cardholder. It is about being exclusively connected to a network of like-minded individuals with whom we share a vision of the future, respect for the past, and the passion to live our lives to the fullest extent possible. While being a Clubmember is an exclusive acknowledgment of your individuality, being a part of a greater collective gives you access to unmatched services and experiences by which Diners Club has become known over the last seven decades.

This copy of *Signature* magazine is one such benefit that we proudly offer our Clubmembers and select corporate partners. With each new edition, we hope to share with you – if only a glimpse – the possibilities afforded you as a valued Clubmember.

The success of the Diners Club brand is built on the pillars of *travel*, *lifestyle*, and *entertainment*, and *Signature* reflects that ethos. Showcasing the best of what is available to Diners Club Clubmembers is the magazine's singular aim. In this edition, we explore the four corners of the globe – from the Americas in the west, to the Southern Hemisphere's most alluring winter escapes – and focus on discovering Antarctica as the main feature. Bespoke design concepts, the latest fashion trends, and a visit to the *2018 Eat Out Diners Club Service Excellence Award* winning restaurant, The Test Kitchen, complete the editorial offering.

Join us on this exciting journey of discovery, where 'belonging' takes on an entirely new meaning.

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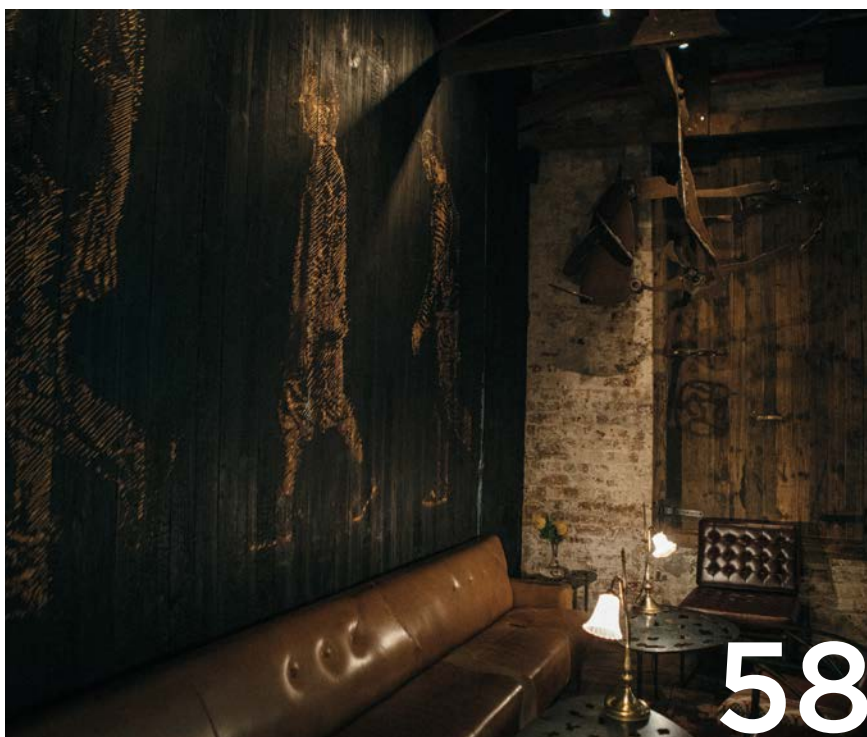
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www.tjtmedia.co.za
www.freemagazines.co.za

PRINTING

Business Print Centre, Pretoria

Submissions of articles and photographs for publication are welcomed, but the publisher, while exercising all reasonable care, cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Please ensure that all material is sent by email to bernie@tjtmedia.co.za.

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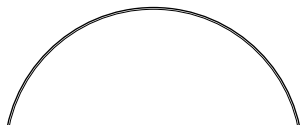
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SEE NIHON IN YOUR NIKES

They say that the best way to truly experience a country is to walk it, and with the much-anticipated Rugby World Cup being hosted in Japan this year, there is no better time to explore this country on foot than in 2019. Walk Japan is the pioneering operator of off-the-beaten-track tours of Japan, and provides expertly led tours to immerse visitors in Japanese society, culture and history. Over its 25 years of existence, the company has developed a broad range of tours delving into many areas of unexplored Japan. Its pioneering trail is along the ancient thoroughfare of the Nakasendo Way, which winds through the rural and mountainous countryside from Kyoto to Tokyo. The latest highlights include the Izu Geo Trail in the Izu Peninsula, one of the most unique geological areas on Earth, as well as the Oita Hot Spring Trail, which explores Oita Prefecture – Japan's mecca for onsen hot springs. www.walkjapan.com

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Winter WONDERLANDS

*Signature's selection of the greatest Southern Hemisphere
winter getaways*

You can't wish away the winter. It stands as a testament to life's seasonality. Earth needs winter to regroup. As animals hibernate in their long-awaited sleep, Mother Nature coats a snow-white blanket over her inhabitants. It is a magical time to get away and see the Southern Hemisphere as you've never seen it before.

Whether you love the bush, snow, beach or the city; there are many perks to packing your bags, booking your flight ticket and getting away for that much-needed winter holiday. Nothing warms the heart like a bit of adventure, particularly when you are spoilt for choice.

HEAD FOR THE BUSH

Unlike when shrubs are lush and green in the hot summer months, the land is somewhat bare and exposed during winter. This makes it the ideal season to head to the bush for game viewing is optimised. Depending on where you are, you may also find comfort in being exposed to fewer mosquitoes during this time of year.

For an unforgettable, luxurious bush safari, Camp Kuzuma in Botswana should be the winter bush destination of choice. From a pampering bush spa, to hearty meals and luxurious offerings, this destination knows just how to warm you up.

Meaning "hunter" in Botswana's indigenous language, *Kuzuma* lends its name to the 5-star lodge that features

unmatched game viewing pleasure in the area. Even from the comfort of your armchair, Camp Kuzuma offers you a front row seat to animals frequenting the camp's waterhole. It is not only land animals that show off; there are nearly 200 species of birds that also call this place home.

Owners Stefan du Plessis and Rudy Visser, have placed ecotourism at the forefront of the experience on their three-hectare land concession. By working closely with the authorities, Mother Nature benefits in that all animals are free to roam freely across the 11,800 hectares of traversing rights in the natural Kazuma Forest Reserve.

Camp Kuzuma is passionate about sustainable tourism. Their efforts are not only paid lip service, but are backed up by the establishment being accredited by the Green Choice certification scheme. In a bid to generate green footsteps, Camp Kuzuma operates off the grid, using 66,300-watt solar panels that store energy from sunlight, and maintains an eco-green sewerage system that recycles water and kitchen waste. *For more info, visit www.campkuzuma.com. Fly direct to Kazuma Forest Reserve on SA Airlink. Go to www.flyairlink.co.za.*

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AfriSki Mountain Resort in the highlands of Lesotho personifies all that an African winter holiday should be. As a guest, you will be spoilt for choice with snow activities usually enjoyed by our international counterparts from colder continents. From budget accommodation, lodges, mountain chalets and apartments; there is something to lure guests to extend their stay beyond the colder winter months.

AfriSki offers skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, and a host of other activities for the family. It is ideal for visitors who are not afraid of the cold and want to actively participate in a variety of available sporting and seasonal outdoor activities. There are multiple trails, and ski slopes at 3,222 metres above sea level, to excite even the daring guest to the Mountain Kingdom.

AfriSki also caters to families and couples that want to enjoy the exclusivity of a luxury ski holiday while indulging in hearty food from the on-site restaurants, or just cuddle next to evening log fires as they share the happenings of the day. It is a must-see destination for those who want a European winter experience on the African continent.

For more info, visit www.afriski.net.

GET TO THE BEACH

Bondi Beach is one of Australia's most iconic beaches for many reasons.

“Winter is a magical time to get away and see the Southern Hemisphere as you’ve never seen it before”



The white-sand crescent of Bondi makes it a delight for visitors who desire an escape from the city, and a favourite for swimmers and surfers who just can't resist the call of the curling waves.

Bondi's beach scenery is downright inviting, and so is the laid-back atmosphere. There is so much to do and see. For starters, you can finally meet the celebrity lifeguards who have become local celebrities in their own right, and if you ask nicely when they're not busy saving the day, you may be able to get that enviable *selfie* with the reality show stars themselves.

Enjoy seaside fare from any of the local cafes, or stroll barefoot on the beach at sunset. Or if you're feeling energetic, join the many walkers, hikers, and joggers who make use of the cliff top Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk to soak up the magnificent scenery. Don't forget to wrap up your time Down Under by sipping on a virgin cocktail or beer. Who knows, you may meet some friendly mates to exchange travel adventures while laughing away the winter blues.



CITYSCAPE RETREAT

Often referred to as the “Dubai of Africa,” Sandton, Johannesburg, is more than just South Africa’s economic hub. Its name created from the fusion of two of its suburbs – Sandown and Bryanston – Sandton is where you can join South Africa’s elite as they shop in some of the country’s most elegant boutiques and indulge in the suburb’s many 5-star hotels; including the Michelangelo, Hilton, and Radisson hotels, to mention a few.

While in the area, make sure to pop into Sandton City mall as well as the iconic Nelson Mandela Square, where stylish boutiques make way for

a variety of restaurants to make your Sandton winter holiday unforgettable. For your convenience, Gautrain’s rapid rail link can quickly connect you to various destinations, including O.R. Tambo International Airport.

There are many reasons to get out-and-about this winter. Why sit at home and freeze, when you can get out and experience the Southern Hemisphere anew? From warm, hearty dishes to unforgettable safaris, ever-flowing waters and luxurious city retreats; there’s a perfect holiday waiting just for you. 📍

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POSTCARDS

FROM THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

*Natalia Rosa gets more than a passport stamp when she embarks
on a polar expedition to the White Continent...*

by *natalia rosa* /
photography by *stefan dall & karsten bidstrup*





ABOVE: Chinstrap penguins are sometimes called the 'welcoming committee' because of their 'smiling' face. Photo: Stefan Dall



“It is this decidedly human way of behaving that inspired polar explorer, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, to describe Antarctica’s penguins as the ‘little people of the Antarctic world’.”



LEFT: Port Lockroy is home to the world's most southerly public post office. Photo: Stefan Dall

The postmistress at the world's most southerly public post office has a penchant for penguins and a dextrous hand for stamping postcards.

She lives in a hut on a tiny island in Antarctica, no bigger than a football pitch. There's no shower, no flushing loo, but Hannah Johns and her merry band of polar adventurers are like Santa's elves at the bottom of the world, without the reindeer.

Standing from my vantage point at the top of Damoy Point that austral 'summer' day, I could see the charcoal huts on Port Lockroy with their tasteful red trim not far below – the proud Union Jack, the only indication that this little parcel of land was on loan to the British on the last continent that belongs to no one nation or flag.

Port Lockroy, or Port LaCroix as it was named in 1903 by a French Antarctic expedition after its financier, was first used as a natural harbour

for whalers. In the 1940s it became a British Base for Operation Tabarin, a secret expedition launched under the pretence of patrolling the Antarctic from German U-Boats. What the British actually wanted was just to keep their claim on Antarctica. Even here, you can't escape politics.

After the war, it became a civilian research outpost. The resident male scientists, a little short on female company, turned to art to express their yearning on the walls of the



LEFT: Oh the life of a leasy seal in Antarctica. Photo: Stefan Dall

hut, leaving behind painted murals of glamorous Hollywood actresses, which were mysteriously painted over in the 1980s, only to be rediscovered when the room was being converted just a few years ago.

Today, these glamour gals are immortalised in a series of British Antarctic Territory stamps called the Port Lockroy Painted Ladies, which can be procured from the post mistress herself, along with postcards and all manner of other Antarctica souvenirs – the proceeds for which are used to maintain an on-site living museum, Bransfield House.

It is thanks to Hannah and her crew that travellers journeying to this white wilderness are able to dispatch a few scribbles on the back of a postcard in an attempt to capture the ethereal landscapes that seem impossible to convey in a brief text or email.

It's a landscape she shares for just a few months with the resident penguins, whales, seals and seabirds which thrive on the world's driest, highest and coldest continent, and one that a privileged few get to visit every year.

TREADING LIGHTLY ON LAND

From that distance, the penguins around Port Lockroy seemed like tiny

black ants hopping in and out of the pink craters they had carved out of the snow – the distinct colour made by the remnants of their krill diet which also leaves a rather fishy fragrance in its wake.

We had landed on the west coast of Wiencke Island, home to a Gentoo penguin colony of over 1,600 breeding pairs, which had clearly not been briefed, as we had, to maintain the five-metre distance that the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) mandated to ensure safe and environmentally responsible travel to the Antarctic.

Shuffling up the penguin highways in single-file, so as not to make walking (read waddling) even more difficult for a bird that is vastly more comfortable in water than it is on land, we made our way from the landing site to the vantage points that had been carefully flagged by the expedition crew of Hurtigruten's* MS Midnatsol.

A bright turquoise hut overlooked the snow-covered shores of Dorian Bay on which a lone seal was lounging, looking not unlike a giant smooth rock amidst a world of white. A metre away, a pair of Gentoos stood together on a shelf of ice surveying the bay beyond.

We sat transfixed, watching as they seemed to bicker like an old married

couple over whether or not to take the plunge. "You go. No, you go. No, after you", as the other Gentoos wading in the polar 'pond' watched from below.

Our attention focussed on the arguing couple, we hadn't noticed a cheeky Chinstrap penguin rounding the seal and making its way rather deliberately towards the crimson-clad giants sitting uncomfortably in the snow.

No other Chinstraps in sight, there was no peer pressure to dictate his movements and so he posed, preened and pursued us through the ice as we returned to the landing site, our allotted one and a half hours' on land over, dodging penguin traffic jams along the way.

WHY HUMANS LOVE PENGUINS

It is this decidedly human way of behaving that inspired polar explorer, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, to describe Antarctica's penguins as the "little people of the Antarctic world".

Cherry-Garrard – a member of Robert Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova expedition – grew to greatly admire these hardy little creatures, found only south of the equator living in the harshest conditions on earth. "Had we but half their physical courage, none could stand against us... Their little



TOP LEFT: *Snowy sheathbills set up shop on one of the huts. Photo: Karsten Bidstrup*

TOP RIGHT: *Penguins are infinitely more graceful in water than they are on land. Photo: Stefan Dall*

ABOVE: *It's a bit of a hike up the hill for the best views of Damoy Point, Port Lockroy and Dorian Bay. Photo: Stefan Dall*

bodies are so full of curiosity that they have no room for fear."

Our little Chinstrap was so brazen in his curiosity that he shuffled over a hundred metres following us through a landscape that is at the very limit of what we as humans can endure.

And yet, there are people like Hannah, Cherry-Garrard and the explorers of the Golden Era of Antarctica Exploration – those who found, named and over-wintered in places like Port Lockroy – who couldn't wait to return to this inhospitable extremity covered in ice.

Delphin Ruche, a French biologist

on board Hurtigruten's MS Midnatsol who has wintered in Antarctica, said while humans didn't belong in these extremes, it is the love, passion, drama and adventure of Antarctica that intoxicates us.

For some, perhaps, it is *not* knowing what is happening in the world right now. The isolation is so acute that nothing else, but survival, actually matters.

Much to Hannah's relief, the days of having to survive on a seal brain omelette are long gone. While very little has changed in Antarctica since Gerlache, Amundsen, and Scott set foot on the continent, we have become a great deal

more concerned about preserving this last frontier and the wildlife that find sanctuary in its snowy midst.

Signing my name at the bottom of the postcard that Hannah and her team would stamp and dispatch, felt a bit like putting a treasure in a time capsule to be discovered in another life. I'll turn that postcard over in a few months and be taken back on another journey to the edge of the world, but right now I know it's actually really not that far away. ⑩

Hurtigruten is represented in South Africa by Development Promotions.



ABOVE: Tender boats ferry passengers from the MS Midnatsol to land.
Photo: Stefan Dall

off to the antarctic?

- Check if your expedition will be led by an IAATO member tour operator.
- Pack two sets of landing gear – one inner thermal layer, a secondary woollen layer, an outer layer and a final layer if the third isn't waterproof. You'll be warm.
- Put your camera and phone down and take in your surrounds.
- If you're carrying a camera, unless you're a serious photographer, a normal hybrid camera is fine. No need to bring tripods and filters.
- If you are prone to seasickness, eat only dry food or green apples.
- Don't bother buying snow boots. Hurtigruten will supply with you boots for

landing. Simply pack comfortable shoes, like sneakers for on-board use.

- All the landings, cruising, meals, accommodation, tea, coffee and water are included.
- Antarctica is far away, but not that difficult to get to. After a flight from South Africa to Buenos Aires, Hurtigruten will fly you to Ushuaia (3 hrs 30 min flight). There, you'll board your Hurtigruten ship bound for Antarctica. You'll spend a total of 3-4 days of the whole journey on the Drake Passage.
- You don't need to be physically fit to

participate in the activities, but you will need a medical certificate, which is handed to the ship's doctor.

- If you have dietary requirements, these are fully catered for on-board. Simply advise Hurtigruten or your local travel agent before you embark on your voyage.
- Inside and outside cabins are comfortable and comprise two single beds generally. Facilities on board include a buffet restaurant serving Norwegian-inspired cuisine, a bar and lounge, an observation lounge, a coffee shop, a gym and sauna, a lecture room, two open decks and a Science Centre, among others.



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LOSE YOURSELF to Find Yourself

Gaining some perspective in the Peruvian Amazon

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

- Albert Einstein

"This is a good antiseptic. It can be used on cuts to remove toxins," explains Samir, a tracker and shaman from the Ashaninka tribe in the mighty Las Piedras basin. He crushes the bright green leaves between his fingers and they transform into a deep purple paste, which he swipes on my cheeks and forehead. "It's also good camouflage." We continue to climb, crawl and stumble through the dense, humid vegetation, encountering spider

monkeys, fire ants, and all kinds of exotic creatures, as he explains each medicinal plant we find in great detail. We soon come to a clearing where Rustos – an ex-logger who laid down his chainsaws in favour of conserving and protecting the rainforest – is waiting on the boat, and soon we're back on the mighty river, heading upstream to our base in the deep Amazonian jungle.

There are a number of major contributing factors that led me here. I have always been fascinated with the Amazon – considered to be the

CC *The Las Piedras River (the
 “River of Stones”) is a
 wilderness frontier – home to
 an immense diversity of life,
 and some of the planet’s last
 remaining indigenous people
 living in voluntary isolation.*



very lung of the planet we inhabit. Not only is it undoubtedly the world’s most important, biodiverse ecosystem, it is also a significant player in the global climate, and home to some of the last uncontacted tribes on Earth – vulnerable, indigenous people who hold vast amounts of ancient knowledge and wisdom about the medicinal uses of plants, and the inner workings of nature. A knowledge that needs to be safeguarded. As forests burn and global warming worsens, however, the impact is continuously undoing the fragile processes of nature that have been refined over millions of years. Half of the largest rainforest on Earth is in danger of disappearing entirely, and it should be our goal to prevent this catastrophe.

After landing in Peru’s capital, Lima, another three-hour flight takes me to the jungle city of Puerto Maldonado – otherwise known as the gateway to the Amazon. It is here that I meet up with friend, co-founder, and director of ARCAmazon – a non-profit organisation with a mission to protect the Las Piedras basin, which is an important watershed in Peru’s south-eastern Amazon. The Las Piedras River (the “River of Stones”) is a wilderness frontier – home to an immense diversity of life, and some of the planet’s last remaining indigenous people living in voluntary isolation.

David Johnston, a South African-British entrepreneur and conservationist, left a world of materialism in 2009 and

has dedicated his life to conserving this remote, unstudied and largely unvisited area from rapidly expanding deforestation. After setting up ARCAmazon – Alliance for Research and Conservation in the Amazon – he, together with a team of researchers and members of the native communities living along the river, set up the Las Piedras Amazon Centre (LPAC) about four hours upriver in the deep jungle. The centre provides a base to develop research, sustainable living and livelihoods, technology innovation, and creativity for conservation outcomes.

As we board the boat and head upriver, the sheer energy and might of the river and the surrounding rainforest is hardly describable in words. It is something that has to be seen, and felt, to be understood. To our right, David points out the beginning of the corridor (or strategic zone) of the rainforest that ARCAmazon has protected to date – some 4,460 hectares of virgin, untouched jungle. On the other side of the river, the roar of chainsaws in the distance followed by a colossal 300-year-old Ironwood falling to the forest floor is heart-wrenching. The stark reality of this uphill battle against consumerism becomes more and more evident. And it is a desperately sad one.

My spirits are lifted as we dock the boat, take a short walk through the jungle and arrive at LPAC. It is an awesome space, completely immersed in the natural environment and constructed






with a mix of responsibly sourced hardwood timber, recycled vinyl (the roofs are large advertising billboards from Lima), and rammed earth. The communal space is exceptionally spacious and extends to two raised platforms, as well as a kitchen that feeds everyone from local community members, volunteers and researchers, to students, creative minds, and explorers - like us. The accommodation is described as rustic, "with a Medicine Man-style charm" and consists of raised, covered wooden platforms, with beds, composting toilets and rain showers. Camping facilities are also available throughout the camp.

The camp is the starting point for more than 50 km of hiking trails through the rainforest, which extends across the 11,000-acre conservation area that LPAC protects. Rare and abundant Amazonian wildlife such as the jaguar, harpy eagle, anacondas, and spider monkeys all live within the reserve, and roam freely - sometimes even into the camp. On our arrival, a large female anaconda from the nearby crystal stream had just been caught and brought back to camp to be tagged and photographed for research purposes, before being released in the same spot she was found. Never a dull moment, I can assure you.

I spent six days in the jungle, learning everything there is to know about the plants and animals, climbing to the top of Ironwood trees to the immense rainforest canopy, and watching the bright macaws

as they gather in their hundreds each day at the clay licks on the river. I admired huge Brazil nut forests and cocoa plantations, listened in awe at the cacophony of the rainforest symphony, and visited the local communities to share stories and learn about their sustainable practices, yet, ultimately, it was time to go. With a heavy, yet full heart.

The work done at LPAC by ARCAmazon brings together local and international alliances, including the native communities in Las Piedras to offer sustainable livelihoods, and protect what is dear to us all, and the planet. It is important work - work that we should and can all be a part of. Deep in the wilderness, is where you lose yourself, to find yourself. For more information, visit

www.conservetheamazon.org. 

by **julie graham**
photography by **avel martiarena**



how you can help

- Donate directly to the ARCAmazon website.
- Contribute your time and skills to the ARCAmazon initiative - they need support from people with diverse skill sets.
- Visit as a tourist or a group leader, with your own ideas, or to collaborate. The aim is to get as many people involved in actively conserving the Amazon as possible, so become part of the Alliance.
- Talk to people about the Amazon. We can guarantee it will lead to some interesting conversations as people become more curious



PERCEPTIONS OF PERU

Deon van der Walt discovered that he suffers from geographic *misidentity* when visiting the Peruvian capital of Lima.

I think I am uniquely qualified on the topic of geographic *misidentity*. Firstly, because I just coined the phrase, and secondly, to explain why I needed to invent it in the first place. See, 'the west' is persistent in its thinking that South Africa is home to street-roaming lions and suburban areas dotted with potty-trained hyenas. Hence my inspiration to dream up my new identity crisis. But, then again, does this make me a hypocrite?

Why such introspective rhetoric you might ask. Well, the reason is simple; I was about to embark on my first-ever trip to South America, and, well, since it wasn't to the glitzy streets of say London, or even the rolling Cotswold Hills. Nor was it the vibrant city sphere of New York. I was off to Peru.

Understandably, I was a tad worried. This is, so I thought, the continent that consists entirely of the Atacama Desert, the Andes, and the Amazon – not forgetting the drug cartels that run rampant in these parts. Such is the malicious nature of misrepresented perceptions.

Where I once pictured Peru to be barely more than ruins and sand, I found a vibrant culture on the pebbly shores of the Pacific Ocean, glued together by

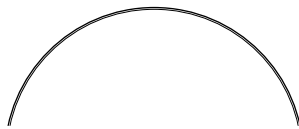
a love for fine cuisine – like a signature dish the Peruvians call *Ceviche*, which is essentially a lemony-tasting fish-in-glass kind of deal. And, of course, the hard-hitting drink called *Pisco Sours* – a combination of Pisco, lemon juice, and frothed egg white – the origin of which is an interesting story for another edition.

However, and this snugly fits in with my former misconceptions of Peru, the desert where I also happened to spend the majority of my time in the country. Sure, it is an inhospitable environment, no matter how you look at it, but in the same breath, it's a magnificent landscape of dune fields that stretch as far as the eye can see.

My one take-away from the experience is that of a country of sand, yes, but also of sours, fish, and friendly faces that greet complete strangers with the customary *Buenos días*. And yet, there's more to it than that. Substance, culture and above all else – a country so beautiful, it takes your breath away. So yes, there you have it; I seem to, indeed, have been a hypocrite! ☹

by **deon van der walt** /
photography by **istockphoto.com**





LIFESTYLE



MONITOR AUDIO

Renowned for exemplary speaker cabinet construction and finishes, Monitor Audio has been at the leading edge of loudspeaker design and technology since 1972. Their quest to design an elegant and powerful loudspeaker that will grace any environment has culminated in the creation of the Studio range. With a sleek silhouette, unique design touches, and technologies gleaned from Monitor Audio's flagship Platinum II series; Studio sets a new audio benchmark. Studio's grille-less design ensures that the speaker's voice is clear and true, while the two metallic-silver RDT II speaker cones deliver high-end performance that will delight audiophiles. The honeycomb tweeter cover adds a contemporary edge to the speaker's form, and the bespoke aluminium badge at the cabinet's base is a stylish design touch. Hand crafted, and available in a sleek satin black, white or grey finish, Studio (R22,490) is exclusively available through the Homemation specialist distribution network. www.homemation.co.za

THE LIGHT LINK

South African bespoke lighting company, Willowlamp's nature-inspired silhouettes and affinity for symmetry have become recognisable hallmarks of the lighting brand's identity. Now, in a departure for the company, The Link art piece presents a new direction and stylistic development for founder and Creative Director, Adam Hoets. The clean lines and crisp sensibility of the design give it a contemporary character, which opens up a wider stylistic scope for decorators and homeowners alike. A dramatic and sculptural geometric design that represents large abstracted chain links, the piece features two different metallic tones to enhance the sense of three-dimensionality. Customisable in that additional links can be added to the chain to create a longer version of the design, The Link



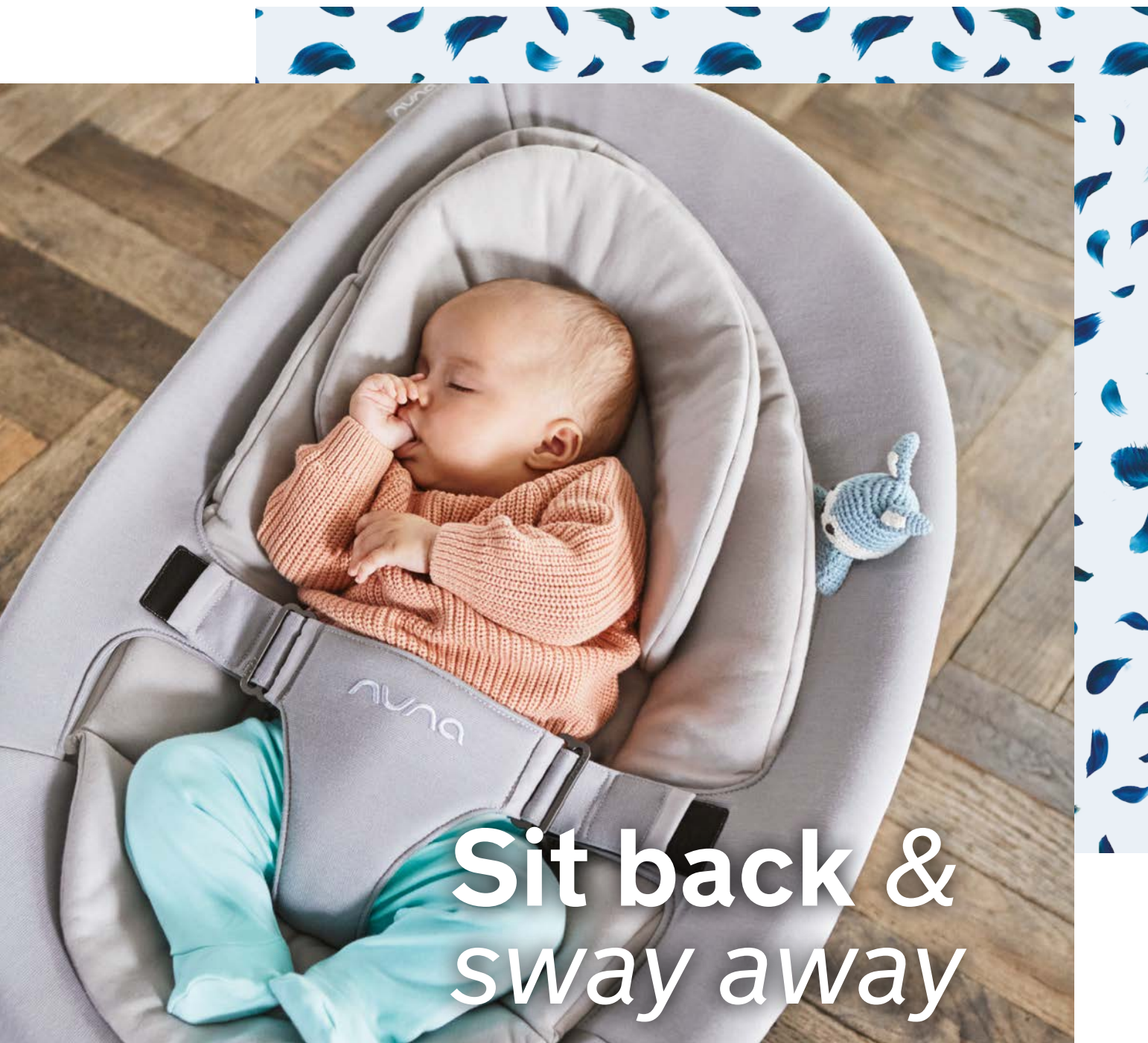
can be made even more impactful for double- or triple-volume spaces. The Link illuminates by an array of G4 UFO LEDs and is available in a choice of eight colour options. www.willowlamp.com



MAGNIFICO DESIGN

Adam Court, the sole designer for luxury artisanal brand, OKHA, immediately fell in love with the "Verde Magnifico" marble when he saw it. The stone's visible layers of history speak to OKHA's South African locality of

cosmopolitan, polyglot, and multi-cultural charm. Court conceived the Magnifico side table and the Magnifico coffee table together, inspired by the raw marble. Firstly, the side tables are hand-crafted, made in varying sizes and weights, which represents OKHA's small artisanal position as well as its global expression. Their irregular shape of the "perfect triangle" and "perfect square" cut off at the edges are a testament to the vast natural geologic surroundings of Cape Town and South Africa, which inform OKHA's design process and choice of materials. www.okha.com.



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SAFARI HIGHLIGHTS

Experience the best of Botswana & Zimbabwe

As Zimbabwe slowly begins its re-emergence as a travel destination, to take its rightful place alongside neighbouring Botswana as a safari destination, *Signature* travelled to both countries to experience two bastions of travel excellence from Africa Albida Tourism.

South Africa has no shortage of 5-star safari destinations to choose from. With local and international tourists flocking to the many hundreds of local lodges and retreats, the local safari business is booming.

Over our northern borders too, safari tourism is alive and well, and *Signature* recently ventured to the Chobe National Park in Botswana, and Zimbabwe's naturally wonderful town of Victoria Falls, to take in some of the best experiences that South Africa's northern neighbours have to offer.

NGOMA SAFARI LODGE

Chobe National Park - Botswana

Although it feels incredibly remote, Ngoma Safari Lodge is adjacent the Chobe National Park – an hour's drive from Botswana's Kasane airport, and a three-hour drive from Victoria Falls International Airport – and is set high on a ridge overlooking the spectacular Chobe floodplains.

Exuding eclectic African elegance, Ngoma's boutique characteristics and attentive service set it apart from the

norm. From arrival, and throughout your stay, expect to be greeted by name by the lodge staff, as well as the knowledgeable guide – for game drives and river cruises – assigned to you for the duration of your stay.

Eight standalone huts that extend along the ridge from the main lodge comprise the Ngoma accommodation set-up. Classically decorated using indigenous materials and artefacts, Ngoma's suites offer luxurious respite from the day's activities. As the lodge is not fenced, a constant movement of animals can be observed from the large-pane windows overlooking the floodplain. Take a refreshing outdoor shower, relax on the private deck, or take a dip in the plunge pool during the day – that is, if a thirsty elephant hasn't drained it overnight...

The Ngoma experience includes an open bar and exceptional cuisine that is of a remarkably high standard, considering the relative remoteness of the location. Hearty breakfasts lead into light lunches on the deck, or a picnic lunch if out on safari. Evening drinks – either during the game drive or around an open fire on the terrace – are naturally



by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **africa albida tourism**



BELOW: *Sunset view from the Ngoma deck*

pack for the occasion

While you can be sure that all your needs will be met at these Africa Albida Tourism properties, packing for the journey is half the fun. Signature recommends TUMI's ultra-lightweight and stylish luggage options for any trip. www.tumi.co.za





followed either by a sophisticated three-course dinner at the lodge, or a Boma *braai* (barbeque) that impresses with its abundance of local fish and game dishes, vegetable dishes and desserts.

What to do in Chobe

Being a short drive away from the Chobe National Park, an all-day guided drive in the reserve, combined with a Chobe river safari, is a great way to experience the region, which has one of the highest concentrations of game in Africa, including 129,000 elephants.

VICTORIA FALLS SAFARI CLUB

Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe

Located a mere four kilometres from the Victoria Falls, and situated within the magnificent grounds of the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge resort,



RIGHT: Traditional dancers at the Boma



*Exuding eclectic African elegance,
Ngoma's boutique characteristics
and attentive service set it apart
from the norm.*



LEFT: Victoria Falls Safari Club viewed from its watering hole



Africa Albida's flagship Safari Club development offers uninterrupted views of the unspoilt Bushveld and spectacular sunsets from each of its 16 Club Rooms and four Club Suites.

Although adjacent the formidable Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, the Safari Club is secluded enough from the main lodge to justify its upmarket status. Boasting its own Club Lounge and terrace, where guests can enjoy all meals including breakfast and dinners, take daily high tea, and enjoy canapés and complimentary sundowners, the Safari Club effortlessly lives up to its butler-style service reputation. Meals can also be taken at the main lodge, where the spectacular Buffalo Bar and Makuwa-Kuwa restaurant are built on various levels offer remarkable views across to the waterhole and national park. A beautiful two-tiered swimming pool lies

beyond the Buffalo Bar.

What to do in Victoria Falls

At lunchtimes at the lodge, guests can participate in the Vulture Culture experience, where a local vulture expert will guide you to a greater understanding of threats currently facing the local vulture and raptor population.

Naturally, a day-trip to the Victoria Falls is a must, so hop on the complimentary shuttle to town and the falls.

And don't miss out on all the fun at the nearby Boma, where you can try drumming and dancing with the local band, sample the plentiful local culinary delights - including Mopani worms, if you dare - or pay the resident witch doctor a visit for a glimpse into what the future might hold for you. ⑩

getting there

Fastjet offers regular flights to Victoria Falls International Airport from Johannesburg. Experience top-notch service on one of their 49-seater jets, with a few thoughtful touches to smooth your flight included. All customers travelling with fastjet benefit from a generous 23kg checked baggage allowance and complimentary drinks and snacks onboard. www.fastjet.com





CHARTER FOR SUCCESS

ExecuJet charters that make business sense

The ExecuJet name is synonymous with African business aviation. Since 1991, the company – which is part of the global Luxaviation Group – has been paramount in establishing, and later accelerating, the development of this relatively new market in South Africa. From its first operation set up at Johannesburg's Lanseria International Airport, catering to the region's booming safari tourist industry, ExecuJet has expanded quickly across the continent: to Cape Town in 2006; Lagos, Nigeria, in 2012, and Seychelles in 2017.

From that first safari charter operation in Johannesburg, ExecuJet has since become renowned for its

service across Africa and abroad. The company also now ranks as the second largest operator of corporate aircraft in the world – managing more than 250 aircraft, from 26 Fixed Base Operations (FBO) across the globe.

WHY CHARTER?

Flexibility – ExecuJet operates to each client's individual schedule, affording them flexibility when waiting for a scheduled flight just isn't an option. Especially when travelling in and out of territories that do not have regularly scheduled flights.

Convenience – Clients who need to get closer to their intended destination than a scheduled flight allows often prefer charter. Sometimes a client's business leads



him to explore new frontiers, and an aircraft is required to on an unprepared airstrip. In these cases, ExecuJet can supply an appropriate aircraft for the circumstances.

Time-saving – When time is of the essence, and teams need to move between various locations in a day, delays from a scheduled carrier could mean the difference between signing the deal, and losing it. Charter is always on schedule.

Privacy – To charter affords the client the privacy and anonymity from the public eye, as private charter flights mostly depart from private terminals or FBO's.

When booking a charter, it is not necessary for the client to be an expert on various business aircraft, as the ExecuJet charter team will propose the best aircraft for the intended trip. A charter request would include the

proposed travel itinerary, with the date and destination, as well as the number of passengers.

ExecuJet will deliver a bespoke service onboard and will engage with the principal passengers' personal assistant to ascertain what is preferred fare or reading, or any other services that may be required to make the experience as comfortable as possible. Once the client is in agreement with what is proposed, the flight will be booked, and a confirmation of the aircraft type, registration and crew details will be sent.

It is a common misconception that charter is reserved for business flights only, but ExecuJet also offers various other charter flight options, including safari fly-ins, helicopter flips for special occasions, or a family outing to a private island or bush lodge getaway.

Whatever the reason, regardless of the season, to charter always makes business sense. ⑩

pilatus pc-24

The PC-24 offered only by ExecuJet in South Africa, and is the only aircraft to combine the versatility of a turboprop with the cabin size of a medium-light jet, and the performance of a light jet. Seating eight passengers in comfort, with in-flight connectivity, this brand new Pilatus PC-24 can comfortably reach destinations in Africa, for business or pleasure. Lanseria to Dar es Salaam or Cape Town to Luanda in less than three hours.

Contact the ExecuJet charter team for a proposal on the Pilatus PC-24 super versatile jet. www.execujet.com

by **philip du preez** /
photography by **execujet**



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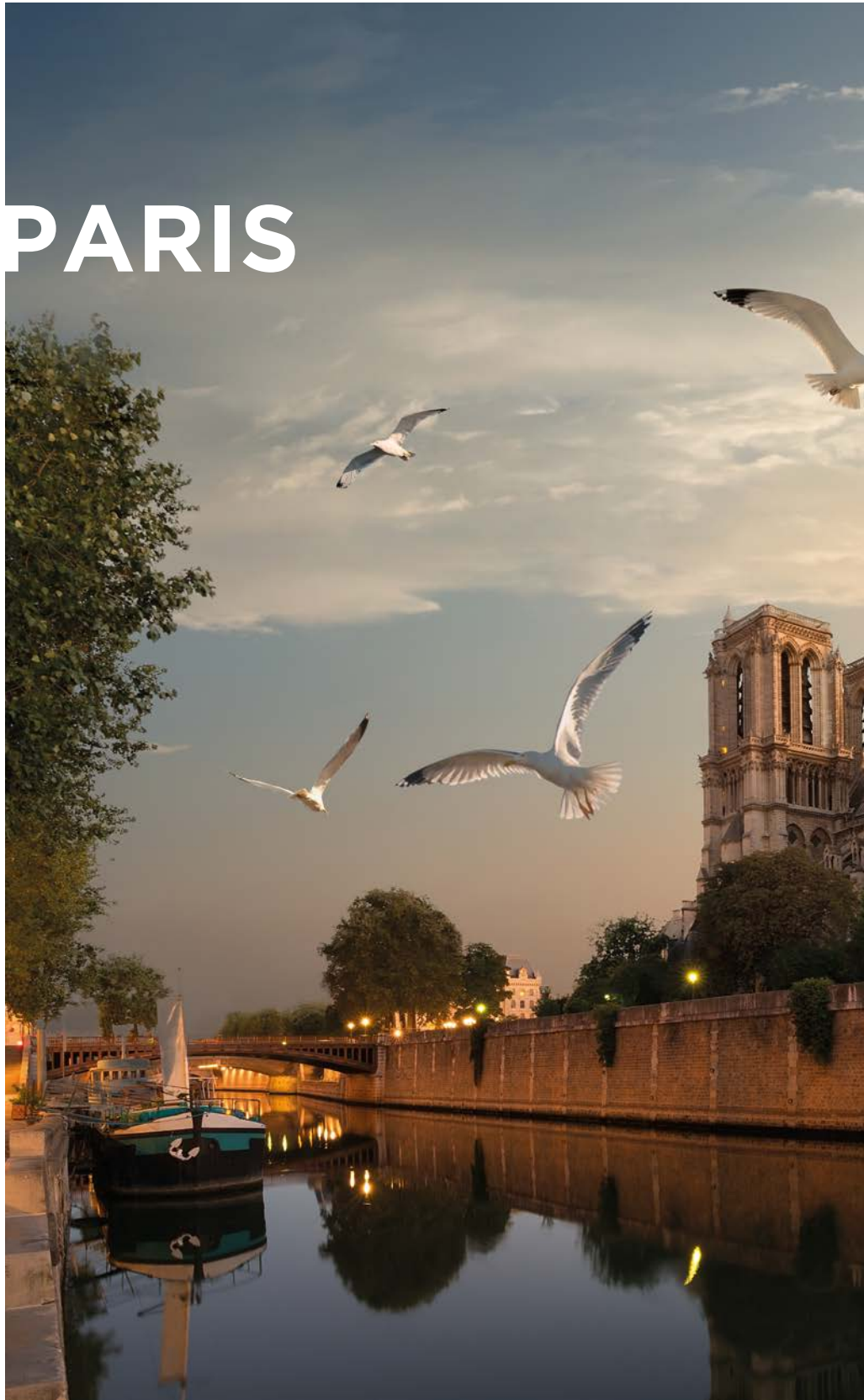
In a city that reflects the past a great deal more than the present, there is no better way to explore its rich heritage than taking the stairs to cultural enlightenment and the best possible views of Paris.

For those who like to climb, Paris can be more challenging than the French Alps. There are roughly 300 steps up to the Sacré-Coeur in Montmartre; 704 steps to level two of the Eiffel Tower; 284 steps to the top of the Arc de Triomphe; and 385 steps up to the famous gargoyles at Notre Dame. Fortunately, there is an elevator to all levels of the Eiffel Tower, while a funicular goes up to the Sacré-Coeur. However, at the Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe, it is stairs only.

THE NOTRE DAME

Victor Hugo's famous novel, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, has served the notoriety of la Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris very well. Yet, the understanding of its history and the first-hand experience of this majestic Gothic cathedral, surpass any literary attempt to capture its essence.

The Gothic style of the Notre Dame





CC

"The lists of the dead will move you. The cars that drive around the monument will terrify you!"

DD

de Paris serves as a symbolic reference to that which is lofty and therefore focused upwards – rose windows of stained glass, ornately crafted spires, ogee archways, ribbed vaults, flying buttresses, and the guardians of grand cathedrals, the Gargoyles. Each is distinctly Gothic, and all distinctly Notre Dame de Paris.

Constructed in three stages, work on the cathedral began in 1163 and was completed in 1250. The massive interior can accommodate over 6,000 worshippers, and is dominated by a multitude of four-knave domes, enormous rose windows, and a 7,800-pipe organ.

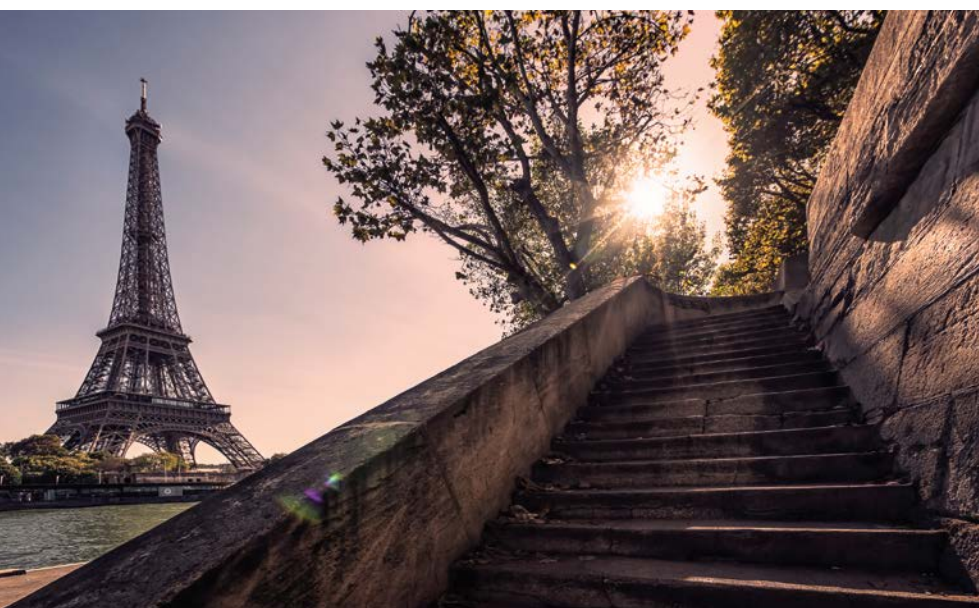
From the base of the north tower, visitors can climb to the top of the west facade for a close-up view of the famous gargoyles and a magnificent vista over the Seine and the city beyond.

The cathedral is busy at the best of times, but particularly so on Sundays, when much of the building is closed to visitors.

Admission to the cathedral is free; Stairs to the Towers Euro 10.00 (youth under 18 enter for free).

THE EIFFEL TOWER

This towering edifice was built for the World Fair of 1889, which was held to commemorate the centenary of the French Revolution. Named after its designer, Gustave Eiffel, it stands 320 metres high and held the record as the world's tallest structure until 1930. The Eiffel Tower was almost torn down in 1909, but salvation came when it proved an ideal platform for the antennas needed for the new science of radiotelegraphy.



Not everyone was happy when it was first built; many Parisians considered it an eyesore and wanted it pulled down, but today it is one of the world's most visited attractions. The first and second floors can be reached using the stairs, and elevators take visitors to the magnificent view at the top.

In the shadow of the tower, a grassy expanse that was once the site of the world's first balloon flights, is now the ideal spot for a late afternoon picnic with French wine and cheese.

Admission to the top level using the elevator: Adults Euro 20.50; Youth Euro 12.70 (aged 12-24); Children Euro 6.40 (aged 4-11); Toddlers enter for free (under age 4).

THE BASILIQUE DU SACRÉ-COEUR AT MONTMARTRE

Topped by the imposing and brilliant-white Sacré-Coeur Basilica, Montmartre is the highest hill of Paris. Montmartre is the last village in the big city of Paris, and despite the influx of thousands of tourists each year, it still maintains a subtle and unique atmosphere.

Commissioned by the Catholic Church, building on the basilica began in 1875 under the watchful eye of architect Paul Abadie, but six architects succeeded him before the building was finally completed in 1914. At its consecration, the church was titled a basilica, that is to say, a place of pilgrimage. Inside the basilica, the mosaic of Christ and the crypt are of particular interest. A visit to the dome, which stands at an elevation of 200 meters above sea level provides a panoramic view spanning all of 50 kilometres on a clear day. It is thus the highest point in Paris after the Eiffel Tower.

The many painters at the Place du Tertre, directly behind the basilica, are always ready to sketch a face. They remind one of the many penniless artists who once lived here, including the likes of Renoir, Monet, Van Gogh, and Picasso.

Walking at random across the hill, visitors are bound to 'discover' beautifully kept gardens, old houses, steep streets





and staircases with magnificent views over Paris. Montmartre tends to be very crowded during the weekends, so visitors are advised to visit Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur during mornings and on weekdays.

Admission: Access to the basilica is free; Joint access to the crypt and dome Euro 8.00; Children 5 (4-16, children 4 and under enter for free.

THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE

Standing in a direct line between the Louvre and the Grande Arche de la Défense, and placed in the centre of a massive traffic circle at the top end of the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, the Arc De Triomphe links the past with the present and offers terrific views in all directions.

An imposing landmark, 50 metres high and 45 metres wide, the Arc De Triomphe was commissioned by Napoléon in 1806 to celebrate his victory at the battle of Austerlitz. The monument was eventually completed in 1836, by Louis-Phillipe and not Napoléon, and at the cost of ten million Francs. In today's terms, ten million Francs will not even buy you an apartment on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées.

Today, visitors can see the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, killed in the First World War, and his flame, lit as a memorial to all those killed in action. The Arc is a site both of memories and current events and celebrations. As one commentator summed it up, "The lists of the dead will move you. The cars that drive around the monument will terrify you!"

The primary and by far the most popular access to the Arc De Triomphe is via the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. A popular promenade for young and old, the Avenue des Champs-Élysées has long symbolised the style and joie de vivre of Paris. The 2-kilometre long, 70-metre wide stretch of double lane road is the ideal place for evening walks, fine cuisine, and shopping. And for those travelling on a tight budget, the window-shopping should provide for more than enough vicarious fulfilment.

Admission: Adults Euro 12; Youth Euro 10.00 (aged 18-25); Children U/18 enter for free. ①

by *wilhelm loots* /
photography by *istockphoto.com*

final passage

Although Napoléon Bonaparte commissioned the construction of the Arc De Triomphe in 1806, he never passed through the completed monument until the day of his funeral procession in 1840.



LE BRISTOL PARIS

Unrivalled elegance in the City of Lights

Le Bristol Paris is chosen by the most discerning of travellers for its ability to deliver an authentic Parisian accommodation experience. This exquisite palace in the heart of the City of Lights has now completed renovations, firmly cementing itself as a benchmark for luxury hotels across the globe.

Le Bristol Paris is by far one of my favourite hotels in the world. Arriving to its gilded splendour during my most recent visit in the midst of an icy European winter, I was overcome with the feeling of never wanting to leave. All too familiar with its reputation of service excellence, I arrived expecting only the best, much to my delight, it was even more exquisite than I had remembered.

Having recently completed renovations, Le Bristol Paris encapsulates Parisian elegance in a way that one would only have seen in films and paintings.

Located in the aristocratic Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, near the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Le Bristol Paris has welcomed guests from around the globe since 1925. Celebrated for its

luxury and service of the highest calibre, Le Bristol Paris was the first hotel in France to receive the title of “palace” and has been voted Best Hotel in the World by numerous associations across various categories.

Using the concept of ‘class from the past and present’ as creative inspiration, Le Bristol Paris has undergone a complete interior renovation, resulting in the unveiling of rooms and suites divinely in tune with the times. These new designs follow the renovation of all three restaurants, the courtyard garden, bar and spa at the palace. Under the direction of Countess Bergit Douglas, the architectural firm MM-Design created spaces for the palace that retained all of its Louis XVI refinement, while simultaneously playing with softness in colours and simplicity of lines. However, don’t be fooled into thinking that the redesign of the hotel

only took place on a large scale. The concept of ‘class from the past and present’ has been utilised in even the finest of details throughout the hotel in the form of period lamps with porcelain feet, brass reading lamps, light oak bookcases with contemporary lines and Louis XVI-style beds adorned with throws in pale shades of ochre, taupe, celadon green, and blue-grey.

Measuring more than 40m² in size, and adorned with high ceilings and tall windows which flood the space with natural light, the rooms at Le Bristol Paris are among the most spacious hotel rooms in Paris. Attention to detail and exceptional craftsmanship abounds, from the detailed inlay of antique rosewood furniture, to the precise rendering of characters in an antique engraving.

When the day is done, the intimate atmosphere created by the heavy silk



LEFT: Chef Eric Frechon



curtains sends a gentle invitation to draw the day to an elegant close. In addition to hotel rooms, Le Bristol Paris also offers guests a grand selection of different suits, ranging from the 55m² Junior Suites to the Royal and Signature Suites that occupy no less than 300m². With rooms that are generous yet intimate, spacious yet warm, each suite typifies Parisian class.

Without losing sight of its soul, the redesigned rooms and suites showcase the palace's forwarding thinking style, using the finest materials from the most prestigious design houses, including Loro Piana, Pierre Frey, Taillardat and Kingcome Sofa. Le Bristol Paris defines luxury by embracing the new, the rare and the wonderful. Created with true craftsmanship, the hotel's 190 spacious rooms and suites are equipped with every conceivable modern comfort.

The palace-like ambience at Le Bristol Paris is accentuated by the presence of the hotel's most elegant guest: Fa-Raon, the beautifully soft Burmese cat, who remains entirely

indifferent to the impression he makes. I encountered Fa-Raon at the concierges' counter, where he suavely stalked past us with an unconcerned allure about him. Just like the palace he calls home, Fa-Raon effortlessly exuded timeless elegance *à la Française*

SUPERB CUISINE

Le Bristol Paris also offers gastronomic excellence from its three in-house restaurants. Exceptional cuisine is created in Epicure, which celebrates 10 years of holding three stars in the prestigious Michelin Guide. The 1-Michelin Star luxury brasserie, 114 Faubourg, is embellished with street views of Paris, and Café Antonia welcomes guests for afternoon tea or a less formal, yet always exquisite breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

In another gastronomic milestone, Chef Eric Frechon celebrates 20 years at 112 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré.

OETKER COLLECTION

Le Bristol Paris is a member of the Oetker Collection, a selection of some

of the most exquisite hotels in the world. The Collection has one-of-a-kind properties in some of the world's finest locations, including the French Alps, the French Riviera, London and the Caribbean. All hotels within the Oetker Collection are committed to delivering unparalleled guest experiences clad with authenticity and supreme luxury. It is not surprising that Le Bristol Paris has earned the loyalty of the world's most privileged guests, a group of people who, over generations and decades, continue to return to this luxurious palace. After experiencing first-hand the latest renovations within the hotel, I can verify that the Le Bristol Paris is even more remarkable than it has been throughout its extraordinary history.

For more information, please visit www.lebristolparis.com. ①

by **deïdre loots** /
photography by **le bristol paris**



A Wine Odyssey

"It is the wine that leads me on, the wild wine that sets the wisest man to sing at the top of his lungs, laugh like a fool - it drives the man to dancing... it even tempts him to blurt out stories better never told." - Homer, The Odyssey

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FINELY CHARMED

*Refinement at the Core
of Castille Paris*

Ideally located in Paris's first arrondissement, mere steps away from the legendary "Maison Chanel", the iconic Castille Paris has its roots firmly planted in Parisian culture and fashion.

Although nestled in the heart of the City of Lights, the iconic Castille Paris – a member of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts L.V.X Collection – blends Parisian haute couture with Italian elegance. Oozing sheer sophistication, Castille Paris has entrenched itself as a benchmark for luxury hotels across the globe and, upon entering this fine establishment, it is not hard to see why.

With its 108 rooms, of which 21 are suites, Castille Paris not only meets expectations but also seems to exceed them in every conceivable way. Accommodation options range from Duplex Suites to Superior rooms and, additionally, the Dolce Vita Apartment, available on request, is a luxurious 80m² living space that defines opulence. Rooms and suites effortlessly blend minimalism with dramatic 1930s French style, remaining as comfortable as they are elegant.

In terms of décor, all furnishings and materials have been meticulously thought out and utilised in such a way that it complements the hotel's elegant Parisian

surroundings. All rooms are generously proportioned – some boasting private patios – and are equipped with all necessary amenities, including 24-hour room service, luxurious bathroom amenities, Wi-Fi, a minibar, and smart television.

Castille Paris also offers an authentic gastronomic experience. L'Assaggio restaurant boasts a "traditionally modern" take on Italian and Piedmontese cuisine, with the menu conceived by Michelin-starred chef, Ugo Alciati, who started his culinary career at the tender age of 15.

Chef Ugo prepares food in such a way that his passion is tasted as vibrantly as the fine ingredients that he uses in every dish. Adding to Chef Ugo's already formidable team, L'Assaggio recently welcomed Pablo Sabariego on-board as Executive Chef. Alciati and Sabariego form a formidable duo in the kitchen, owed to their shared gastronomic philosophy of simple seasonal menus, top-quality ingredients and local excellence.

Adjacent to the restaurant, the L'Assaggio Bar invites guests to enjoy a glass of wine while unwinding before

dinner. With a selection of lighter dishes available, the bar menu is by no means limited to peanuts and crisps. Also, the Salon de Thé offers a sampling of rare fine teas and sweet treats – the perfect way to round off a day of immersing oneself in the excitement of all that Paris has to offer.

For business travellers, Castille Paris offers three conference rooms with the capacity to accommodate up to 55 delegates and is equipped with the latest technologies to ensure a successful gathering.

Ornamented with high ceilings, exquisite furnishings and interiors that epitomise elegance, Castille Paris is a far cry from your average hotel stay. Period charm and Michelin-starred dining and service of the highest calibre, combine effortlessly to produce a hotel stay so unforgettable that future travel to the City of Lights will likely always include a stay at Castille Paris.

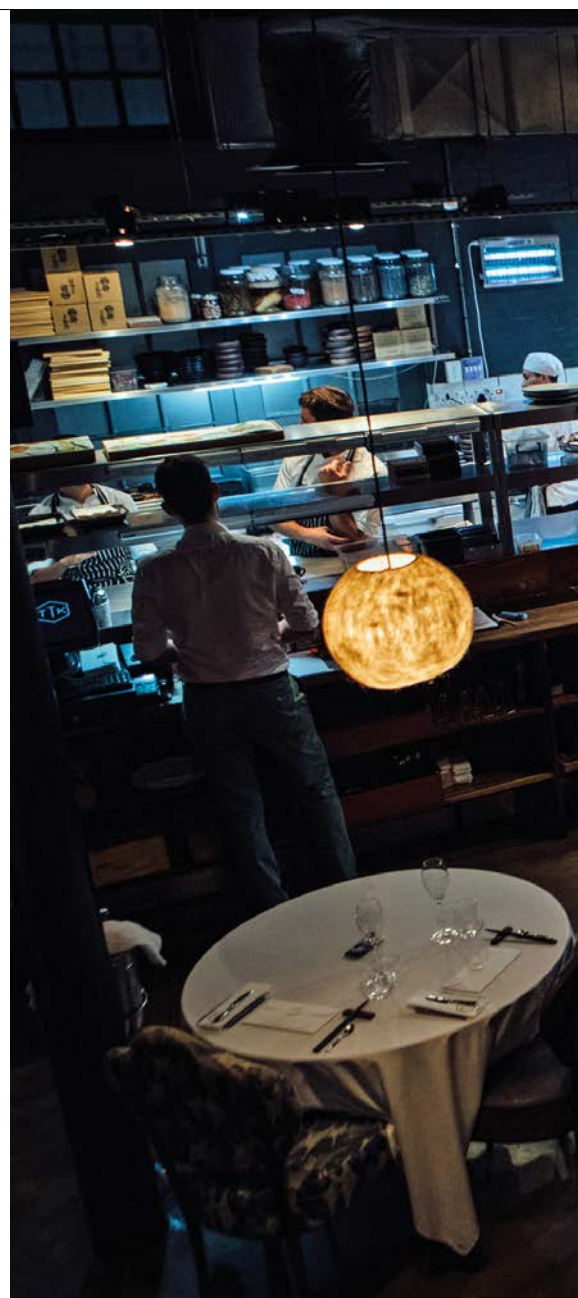
*For more information visit
www.starhotelscollezione.com.*

*by maxine volker /
photography by castille paris*

EXCELLENCE IN EVERY SERVING

Eat Out Accolades for The Test Kitchen

At the 2018 Eat Out Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards, The Test Kitchen team were awarded the *Eat Out Diners Club Service Excellence* award, a remarkable feat not easily achieved.



Renowned for his introduction of avant-garde eating concepts to the local culinary scene, The Test Kitchen offers guests a signature holistic experience that extends beyond the spectacular food. The team at Luke Dale Roberts' magnum opus operates like an orchestra: waiters serve, working in perfect harmony as if reading from the same sheet music.

Of the overall experience, an Eat Out

panel member noted, "There were pockets during the evening where we stopped talking and just watched how the wait staff worked the room. I feel this way each time I visit; it's consistently amazing." It's not the type of service so inconspicuous that you forget it exists – instead, it plays a vital role in the dining experience."

"I love my job, and I absolutely love exploring new taste opportunities with my teams – but I especially love being able to set people off on their own cheffing and business journeys, and so far



its been fantastic. I'm still really involved of course, but I really believe this is such an important part of our business", says Chef Dale Roberts, "achieving accolades, especially one as important as this service award doesn't come easy, we all make sacrifices, and I want my guys to be able to share in the rewards that are possible", he concluded.

The Test Kitchen is no stranger to winning both local and international awards, also placing at number

50 in the World's Best Restaurant Awards sponsored by S.Pellegrino & Acqua Panna. Jenny Handley Gourmet Guide Plate Awards 2019 awarded The Test Kitchen a Three Plate award, one of only three in the country, and Chef Dale Roberts won the 2019 SWISS Culinary Innovation Award.

The Test Kitchen also placed 46th in the Elite Traveller's 100 Best Restaurants in the World 2018, were also winners of the True Foodies Restaurant Awards in

the Top 10 Fine Dining Restaurant 2018 (Asia Pacific / Middle East / Africa), among others.

Chef Luke Dale Roberts is driven to provide patrons with exciting dining experiences, matched with a strong desire to mentor and empower his staff. With this vigour, another new eatery was recently opened by The Test Kitchen: Salsify at The Roundhouse with Chef Ryan Cole in the kitchen, preparing exquisitely crafted, seasonal fine dining



offerings in a space created by the portfolio's design director, Sandalene Dale Roberts.

The Test Kitchen team strive to create dynamic dining experiences. The team are winners of a growing list of awards, serving as continued inspiration. In the months before winning the Service of Excellence award, Chef Dale Roberts and 17 of his team members set off to Mauritius for a six-week tenure at the luxurious island resort of Shangri-La Le Touessrok Resort and Spa. Word soon spread of the renowned team on the island, welcoming a full house of guests to a culinary experience that incorporated many of the local Mauritian market finds.

Chef Dale Roberts is seemingly at his most creative and innovative in the kitchen. "What we do at The Test Kitchen is always a bit different. That is our constant." Luke adds: "I need to move forward. Everything in my life has to be about progress. And quality." Chef Dale Roberts continues, "The most important thing is flavour, and layers of flavour." ⑩

by *shannon correia* /
photography by *the test kitchen*

the test kitchen

The Test Kitchen serves patrons in two spaces; a Dark Room, and a Light Room. The Dark Room is the departure point for Dale Roberts' journey of culinary discovery. As cocktails are served, and the first of nine Dark Room dishes arrives, a parchment scroll secured with twine, is delivered.

With the knots unravelled, the enclosed 'Food Map' reveals the culinary treasures waiting to be discovered. But more than a visual guide to the menu, the Food Map is a link to the inspiration and experience that informs each dish in The Dark Room.

After the atmospheric initiation of The Dark Room, diners journey into The Light Room to continue their culinary adventure. Reservations are open quarterly, for the following three months, and can be made either by visiting www.thetestkitchen.co.za, or by calling + 27 21 447 2337.

To see all of the winners of the 2018 Eat Out Mercedes-Benz Restaurant Awards, visit www.eatout.co.za.



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A ZAGATO CELEBRATION

The tale of a South African-born Zagato

Fabled Italian coachbuilder, Zagato, renowned for its innovative, and sometimes eccentric body designs for some of the most esteemed vehicle marques in the world, is celebrating its centenary this year. What better time to reflect on the beguiling story behind the unique South African-conceived supercar designed by Zagato a decade ago.





For the past 100 years, Zagato Atelier – the famed Italian coachbuilder headquartered in the town of Arese in Northern Italy – has designed and built customised bodies for the world's leading motor manufacturers – from Alfa Romeo, Abarth, Aston Martin, Bristol, Bentley, Bugatti, Diatto, Ferrari, Fiat, Maserati and Jaguar, to Lancia, Honda, MG, and even Rolls-Royce.

Founded by Ugo Zagato on 19 April 1919, the concern bearing his name is the last independent, family-run coachbuilder in the world. Zagato started working at an aircraft company during World War I, and set up his company in Milan with the intent of transferring lightweight construction techniques to automobiles.

He made extensive use of aluminium – not only to make his cars lighter, but also to mould more unique shapes with the material. His lightweight creations soon competed successfully in motorsport, and this caught the attention of manufacturers and race team owners.

It also led to a close relationship with Alfa Romeo (and Enzo Ferrari, who was still with Alfa at the time, running Scuderia Ferrari), and it is no coincidence that the Zagato factory is virtually on the doorstep of the Alfa Romeo headquarters. Because of his good relations with the Milanese manufacturer, Zagato was requested

to build special cars for Alfa Romeo, Lancia, and Fiat.

During the 1930s, Zagato built a variety of very successful aerodynamic cars. His 1940s trademark was Panoramic cars, and in the 1950s his son, Elio, was instrumental in the establishment of the Gran Turismo category. The 1960s saw the advent of very successful handcrafted Fuoriserie cars, while geometric designs dominated the 1970s, and CAD and CAM designed cars characterised the 1980s and 1990s.

PERANA Z-ONE

From 2000 onwards, Zagato Atelier turned to neoclassical car designs – made-to-measure creations for distinguished clients and special projects for manufacturers including Aston Martin, Bentley, Ferrari, Maserati, Spyker, Diatto and Alfa Romeo. It is against this background that the Zagato Perana Z-One was conceived.

At the time, South African car builder, Jimmy Price, was assembling cars for Lee Noble in England as well as a range of continuation series cars under the Shelby banner at his Hi-Tech Automotive facility near Port Elizabeth. In 2003, while on a visit to Noble, the South African motoring entrepreneur investigated other possible niche car-building projects. This led him to TVR and then to MG Rover, at the time under control of the Phoenix Consortium.

While nothing came of the talks



with TVR, the MG Rover visit bore some interesting results. Having just acquired Qvale of Italy, MG Rover wanted to produce the X80 – a new model based on the Qvale Mangusta – formerly known as the De Tomaso Biguà.

Now, the Biguà was the brainchild of former Maserati technical director, Giordano Casarini, who wanted to create “an Italian TVR Griffith”. Maserati loaned him to De Tomaso to oversee the development of the Biguà, but with

the demise of De Tomaso, the Mangusta found its way to MG Rover.

While Price did not land an X80 contract (it spawned the MG XPower SV) he, however, met Casarini and mentioned to him he was looking for opportunities to expand his Hi-Tech business. Casarini, with his expansive Italian connections, suggested they meet with Zagato.

“I told him he was mad,” Price recalls. “Why would a bespoke, world-

class coachbuilder be interested in us? And what would it cost?” Even so, Casarini went ahead. He and Price met with Andrea Zagato and they agreed to develop a TVR-type supercar.

Back in South Africa, Price formed a consortium with Peter Lindenberg, Colin Lazarus, Larry Nestadt and Stuart Bromfield, and it was Lindenberg who suggested reviving the Perana name for the proposed car – as the special Ford Peranas built by Basil Green in



the late 1960s and 1970s was revered in South Africa.

The partners established Perana Performance Group, and during a follow-up visit to Arese, it was decided the car will be tailored around the bodywork of a C6 Corvette and will use GM mechanicals, including the aluminium 6.2-litre Camaro LS3 engine delivering 325 kW.

Within five days, Zagato chief designer Norihiko Harada came up with

a design for the Z-One – a stunning, head-turning GT with a pronounced bonnet and a coupe silhouette, finished off with a blunt rear end. “It was unbelievable,” says Lindenberg. “We were literally watching over his shoulder as the car took shape...”

The Z-One concept – one of only a few cars from the carrozzeria that carried the Zagato name in front – was first displayed at the Geneva Motor Show a decade ago. The chassis of the production-ready Perana Z-One was designed entirely in South Africa and built at Hi-Tech Automotive.

With 583Nm of torque from the big V8, the 1,195kg car could do the zero to 100 km/h run in less than four seconds, and reach a top speed of nearly 300 km/h. The power was channelled to the enormous rear wheels, with as much rubber surface area as the Dodge Viper, via a six-speed high-performance ZF manual transmission.

Big brakes – 325mm up front and 305mm in the rear – provided ample stopping power, while unequal length A-arms, Bilstein shocks, and Eibach springs at all four corners ensured predictable handling. A ZF limited-slip diff helped with traction on the rear wheels, but in true Noble and Shelby tradition, it had no ABS or ESP.

Perana Performance planned to build 999 cars (interestingly, Zagato also has a fixation with the number 9, normally limiting production runs to 9, 99 or 999) and to sell them for around \$70,000 but the impact of the worldwide recession meant that fewer than a dozen made it out of the Hi-Tech facility.

THE AC CONNECTION

With less than ten cars built, the production of the Z-One ground to a halt and the project floundered. However, at the time, AC Cars, the legendary British sports car builder famous for the AC Ace that served as a platform for the



“The chassis of the production-ready Perana Z-One was designed entirely in South Africa and built at Hi-Tech Automotive.”





Shelby Cobra, was again looking to establish itself as a serious player in the sports car market.

The company announced a joint venture in Germany for the manufacturing of the new AC Mk VI. A supply deal with GM meant the Mk VI would use the same Chevy V8 engine, manual transmission and Corvette-sized brakes as the Perana Z-One. It thus made sense to use the Z-One as this would dramatically cut down on development time and costs.

Moreover, AC already had a history with Zagato, as the carrozzeria did the bodywork for the Ace Bristol Zagato of the late 1950s. So, the South African-made model was rebranded the AC 378 GT (with the 378 referring to the cubic inches of its Chevy V8) and readied for display at the 2012 Geneva Show.

Famously (or infamously), the AC 378 GT Zagato was held up in customs and didn't arrive in time for the press day at the show... It was produced in left-hand and right-hand drive form at Hi-Tech Automotive, and there were even plans to build a roadster derivative.

The AC was offered for sale in Britain for £89,990 and in Germany for Euro 109,990, and there were plans to introduce the model worldwide. Due to the global economic meltdown uptake

was slow, and by the end of the project, only fifteen cars were produced, making the 378 GT Zagato a very rare and scarce sight throughout the world.

While it cannot compete with contemporary hypercars in terms of refinement and drivability, the Zagato is still super quick, an old-school supercar, and as such needs to be treated with respect. Older buyers will appreciate this, but it does not appeal to young drivers – one of the reasons Price and his concern has now moved towards retro mods; building old classics with new mechanics and electronic management systems.

However, even today, ten years on, the car appears modern and contemporary, and it is clear the styling of the Perana is now considered a blueprint for the latest Zagato styling direction, as can be seen with the Alfa Romeo TZ3 and the Maserati Mostro... and the soon to be revealed Alfa Romeo TZ4; explicitly designed for Zagato's centennial.

So, even if the only Zagato designed vehicle with South African links does not become a modern classic, its legacy will be that it changed the design direction of the oldest and only independent automotive styling house in the world. ①

need to know

AC 378 GT Zagato

ENGINE - V8; 6.2-litres

POWER - 325 kW

TORQUE - 583 Nm

0-100 KM/H - 3.9 sec

TOP SPEED - 298 km/h

TRANSMISSION - 6-speed manual

The AC Zagato pictured here will be on display at Pezula Hotel in Knysna from the beginning of April 2019.



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DIVING SKIN DEEP

SaySay.Love

Known simply as SaySay.Love, the artist tackles notions of identity, life and beauty through his creative works.

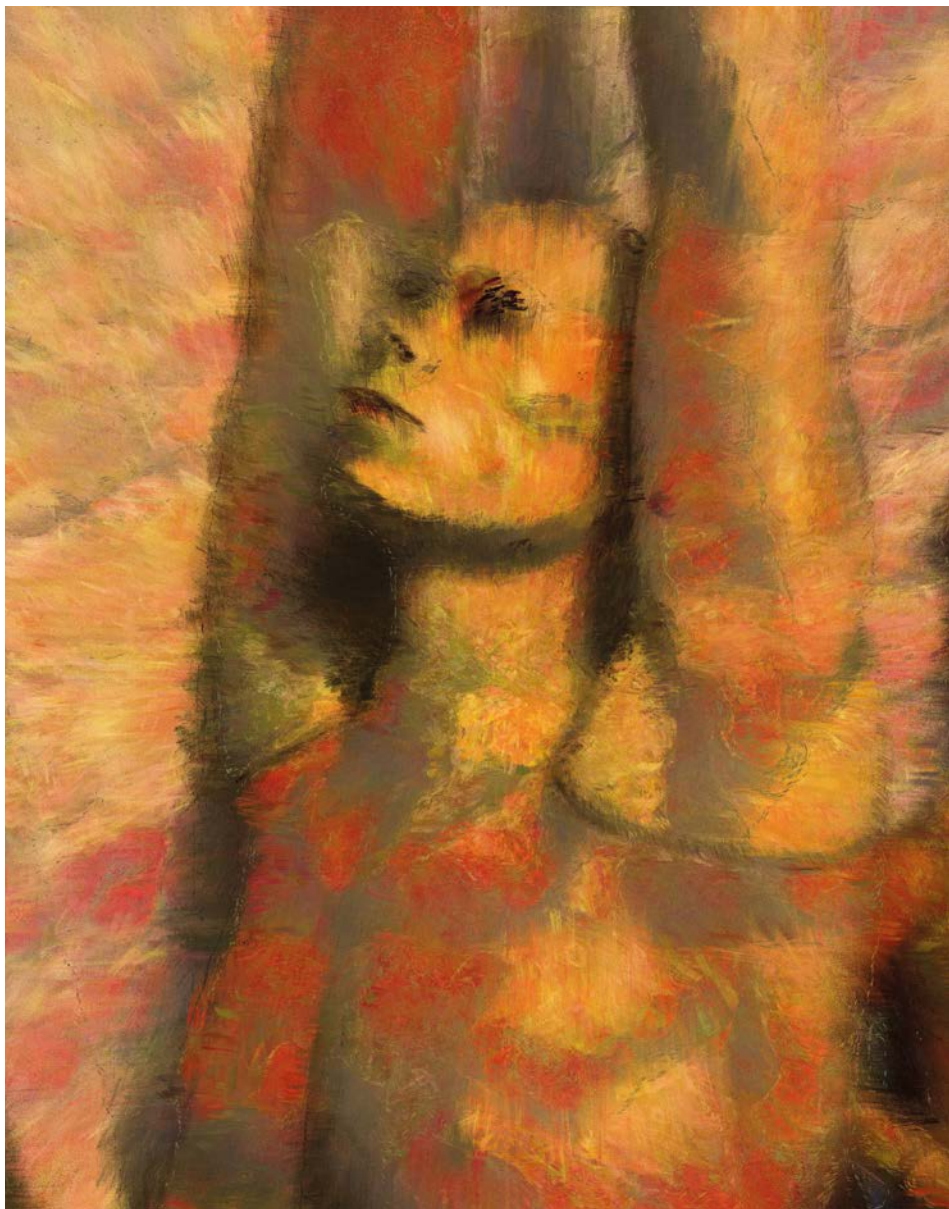
For most of my life, I hadn't recognised that I am not able to see in 3D. For me, it was always normal to see as I perceive the world, and that is how I express it in my pictures. For me, it doesn't matter what your eyes can see. In my pictures, I see the world through my heart," says SaySay.Love.

The artist produces abstract art "where the fantasy and the inner freedom starts." SaySay.Love explains, "Expressing my inner soul, my abstract world, is grown out of the real world" of his lived experiences. He values the brevity of the present moment, in which we need to be present, as we straddle between the distractions of the past and the future.

SaySay.Love describes himself as a philanthropist. "I think there could be a change for the better. As an activist, as an artist, I can only try to raise awareness and get the seed into our brains." Being a bi-annual Cape Town resident, SaySay.Love feels the pressures of the on-going drought, especially at its peak last year. "We all felt how essential water is. Having no water, it felt like love disappeared and the base of our existence was about to be taken away."

"My water series journey is not finished yet," says SaySay.Love, who questioned the substance, "which is liquid, transparent and has no real form." All of the photographs captured are done so using his perfectly "imperfect" iPhone. The artist is no stranger to the bounds of art, having lent his work to a haute couture collaboration.

SaySay.Love's current 'Skin Deep'



exhibition is an exploration of the visceral experience, whereby unbridled expression of our innermost fears and desires. Using an AI-assisted painterly approach in combination with digital photography, SaySay.Love shines light upon the archetypal twins of the psyche, dancing on the edge of the raging chaos while moving gently to the tune of the tamed and civilised mind.

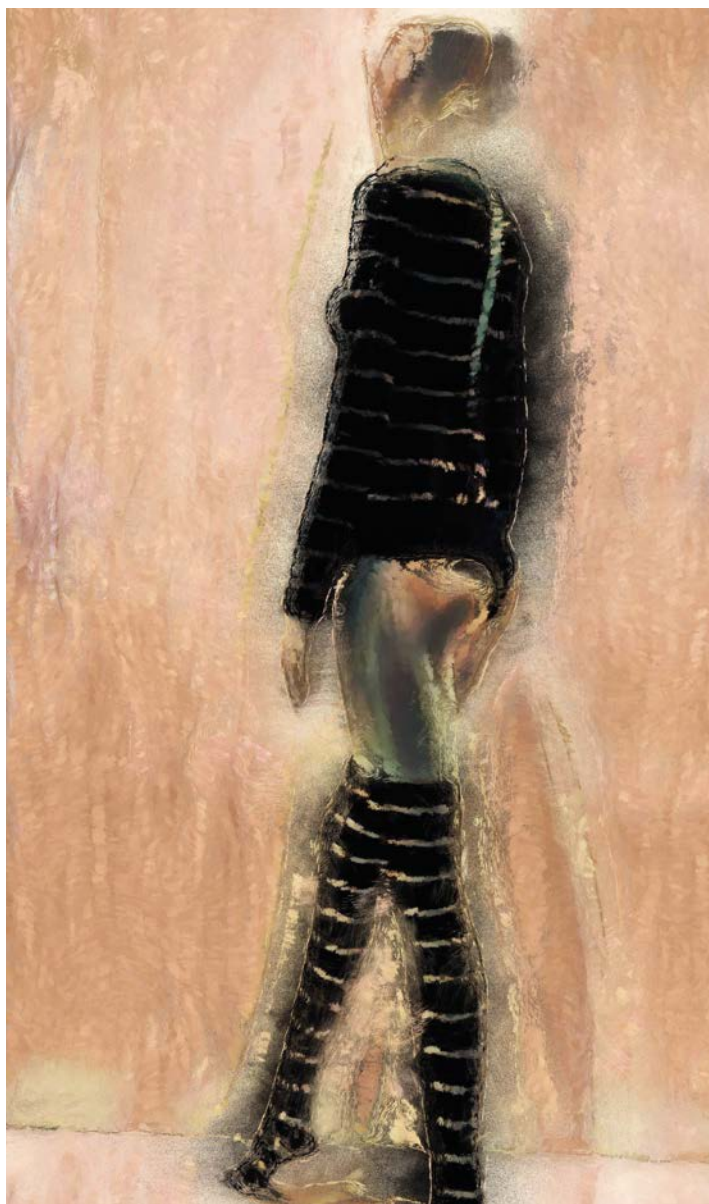
The 'Skin Deep' series steers away from perfection, making use of deliberate manipulation. Each canvas shatters a dark mirror of restraint and breaks the window wide open into the wilderness of each subject's soul, bringing it out to the shadow and onto the surface — a self-portrait of the unconscious. "Looking at these pictures for a moment, they take me on a journey into the deepest darkest parts of my psyche. The place where all the pain, anguish and dark thoughts

have, at some point, resided." He says, "My voice roars" and then my eyes find the light ... I know with every fibre of my being, that love always wins, me a human filled with unfathomable love... Equilibrium is restored."

Talking about one's 'darker side' often conjures up the worst side of humans, "but perhaps our darkest fantasies shouldn't be understood as all that demonic. Or at least that they can be much more compassionately appreciated as audacious, disinhibited, primitive, grandiose, or hedonistic – as

opposed to, say, degrading, disgraceful, or nefarious." He continues, "We all are driven by emotions, and they have been created out of our omens. Our emotions creating thoughts and those thoughts are forming our reality of how we see the world."

'Skin Deep' is a departure from his previous body of work titled 'Intimate Loneliness: Sex with things' as the artist explores the darker side to identity. In that body of work, he uses photographs of mannequins as symbolism of the world that we currently live in, emphasising a



skin deep exhibition

Cape Town

11 February to 9 March 2019
Gallery One11, 111 Loop Street,
Cape Town

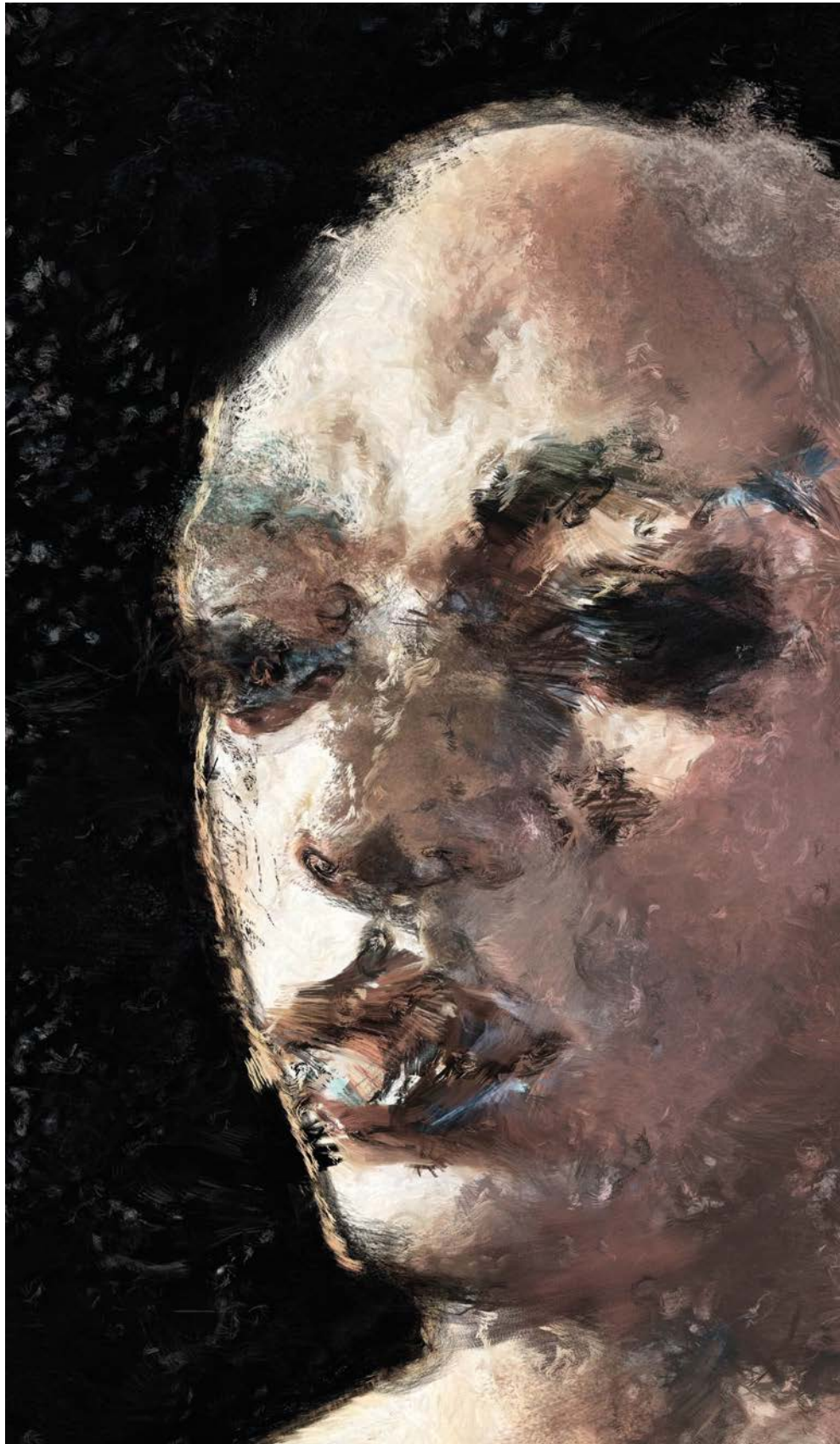
Johannesburg

20 March to 30 April 2019
Agog Gallery, 12 Lower Ross Street,
Maboneng

disconnect from reality. When looking at the emotional expression of a face, it “really depends on the angle from which we see,” says SaySay.Love. A mannequin’s expressions do not change, but different angles give us different perceptions, “So when I take pictures, I capture a mood.”

SaySay.Love, a German-turned-Capetonian, expresses his love for the country, and the ever-present energy of Ubuntu. “Even with all the difficulties and uncertainties in South Africa ... here, a human being, a soul, counts much more. And, of course, there is the beauty of nature. That is unique to me. All of that fills my heart with love, and because I see the world with my heart, I am much more sensitive to receive love, and, of course, that enables me to give back love.”

For more information on the artist and his work, visit www.SaySay.Love. ⑩





TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Spending a day (and a night or two) on Helshoogte Pass

As one of the most loved and travelled roads in the Western Cape, Helshoogte Pass links Stellenbosch with the Drakenstein Valley. There is an abundance of beauty throughout the route, making it far more than just a way to get from point A to point B.



ABOVE: *Indochine Restaurant at Delaire Graff*

As it ambles on its way, Helshoogte, or 'hells heights', passes through the quaint and rustic villages of Kylemore, Johannesdal, and Pniel. Travellers are surrounded by towering mountains, vineyards, and fruit farms – encapsulating the very essence of the wine region. Many a local gem warrants a visit when travelling over Helshoogte Pass, and we've curated a list of our favourite destinations in this scenic corner of the Western Cape.

AT HOME IN THE LANDSCAPE

Located on the highest crest of Helshoogte Pass and surrounded by expansive views of vineyards and mountains, you'll find Delaire Graff Lodges and Spa. Designed with the upmost attention to detail with the

aim of providing a sense of escape and privacy, the lodges and villa provide light-filled, luxurious living spaces which flow seamlessly outdoors inviting guests to take a dip into their private plunge pool or take a seat on their private balcony, taking in everything the incredible location has to offer. Delaire offers guests a range of accommodation choices, including one new 660m² Owner's Villa, an Owner's and Presidential lodge, six Superior lodges, four Luxury lodges and four Deluxe lodges. All lodges are fully equipped to provide guests with every conceivable modern comfort, including Egyptian cotton linen, en suite marble bathroom, living room, private plunge pool and terrace, Nespresso machine, flat screen television and Wi-Fi. The estate itself offers a wide range of on-site activities, such as a private cinema,

BELOW: *Living room at Oldenburg Villa*



BELOW: Oldenburg sleeps up to 12 persons in six bedrooms



24-hour concierge services, wine tasting, evening bubbly and canapés, gym facilities and an array of treatments at their world-class spa.

THE HOMESTEAD AT OLDENBURG

Perfectly positioned in the picturesque Banghoek Valley, the Homestead at Oldenburg Vineyards is 200 years old and has been meticulously restored to provide its guests with bespoke villa accommodation – an oasis of luxury, exquisitely furnished and thoughtfully brought back to life. Without losing sight of its heritage, the villa, which sleeps up to 12 people in six bedrooms, is modern without being excessive, and remote without being deserted. The double storey house, which boasts a large swimming pool

and deep verandas, is surrounded by expansive olive groves and vineyards – far from your standard garden. The Tasting Room at Oldenburg Vineyards invites guests to enjoy breath-taking views, which set the tone for an

unforgettable wine tasting experience. With the focus on allowing guests to truly connect with and understand their surroundings, the Tasting Room offers a range of wine tasting options. Back at the Homestead, afternoons are



RIGHT: Enjoy exquisite views from Zarguiet Estate



spectacular views Zorgvliet has to offer. There are different picnic basket options to choose from or if you're after something a little heartier, the gourmet lunch menu offers mouth-watering dishes, ranging from traditional Bobotie to sticky pork belly and lamb shank.

PAY A VISIT TO OOM SAMIE

A Stellenbosch institution since 1904, Oom Samie se Winkel, or 'Uncle Sam's Store', offers all sorts of odds and ends. Oom Samie's is a popular Stellenbosch tourist attraction, and is certainly worth making a pit stop at even if you're just passing through. Be transported back in time as you fondly remember the days of 19th century butter churns and handcrafted straw yard brooms. The rural trading post, which operates in much the same way now as it did in the Victorian era, stocks sticky toffee, dust-filled novels and rare antiques – titbits you'll be hard-pressed to find at modern department stores and supermarkets.

Although frequently used as a means to get to one's chosen destination, there are many things travellers can (and should do) on the Helshoogte Pass and surrounds. Luxurious accommodation is abundant, wineries are plentiful and with views that could kill, the captivating scenic pass not only transports travellers over the saddle that separates Simonsberg from the Jonkershoekberge, but offers much more along the way. ①

by **maxine volker**



ABOVE: *Oom Samie se Winkel in Stellenbosch*

an opportunity for exploring the farm, biking in the valley, horse riding or simply lounging at the pool with a glass of wine in-hand as the sun sets.

AN UNRIVALLED PICNIC SPOT

In the heart of the Winelands, a mere five kilometres from Stellenbosch, is Zorgvliet Wines. Built around two core philosophies, wine and hospitality. Although the vineyard also offers luxurious on-site accommodation, the location is notorious for their world-

renowned wines. The Zorgvliet range presents wines from a number of varietals, including the Cabernet Franc 2016, Malbec 2016, Petit Verdot 2016, and the Zorgvliet Cabernet Franc Rose 2017. The award-winning Zorgvliet Grand Cuvee range offers the 2014 Richelle and Simoné. Guests can opt for an indoor setting in the designated Cape Dutch-inspired tasting area, or alternatively bring a blanket and pick a spot under the Oak trees where they can take in all the greenery and

BUSHVELD BESPOKE

Renewing the soul at Mhondoro Safari Lodge & Villa

Tucked away in the Welgevonden Game Reserve in Limpopo province, one of South Africa's most serene reserves, Mhondoro Safari Lodge & Villa epitomises luxury breakaways for city dwellers looking to rekindle a 5-star relationship with Mother Nature.

It might be an overused analogy, but seeing our seemingly relentless climb up the corporate ladder as a rat race, rather accurately describes how oft frenetic city folk scuttle for their lives on a seemingly endless hamster track. For those who run the race every day; the stressed-out legions who yearn for the kind of relaxation and mental rejuvenation that only an escape to a beautiful destination can provide, the Villa at Mhondoro Safari Lodge &

Villa in Limpopo's Welgevonden Game Reserve, offers respite in a bespoke luxury environment that is unmatched in its sophistication, in the reserve.

An extensive rebuild of the entire facility - including the addition of the Villa - enhanced what was already a sophisticated environment with an elegant blend of classic African influences and contemporary European design.

With its style influences that extend beyond the cosmetic, Mhondoro is a



case at other reserves.

The Waterberg region – in particular, the Welgevonden Reserve – maintains an abundance of water, which translates into abundant animal sightings while on safari. The reserve's network of streams and gulleys are an ever-present feature of the landscape and add a particularly calming ambience to every game viewing experience.

Especially so at the Mhondoro main lodge, where owners, Frank and Myriam Vogel, added a feature unique that is both brilliant in its execution, and serene in its character. While many lodges boast nearby waterholes, only



true sanctuary for the soul, and the lodge's every characteristic seems to have been planned to serve this purpose. Following the ethos that no effort should be spared for guests to Mhondoro, the Villa offers the pinnacle of authentic hospitality for groups of up to ten, with the added benefit of exclusivity, to ensure that your retreat into one of South Africa's most beautiful natural landscapes will be an experience not soon forgotten.

The Welgevonden Game Reserve is

a leisurely two hour and 30-minute drive north from the hustle of Johannesburg and its burdens, into the heart of rural Limpopo, where the deep valleys and kloofs of the Waterberg Biosphere dissect its plateaued hilltops. Here, the Big Five roam freely in a malaria-free environment and, thanks to a strictly monitored vehicle policy throughout the reserve, guests can enjoy their bespoke bush experience without the intrusive presence of too many other game viewing vehicles, as is often the

Mhondoro features an underground hide that is connected to the main lodge via a 65-metre tunnel. Being blissfully close to the wildlife drinking at the waterhole is an experience so unique that this alone justifies paying Mhondoro an extended visit.

Life at Mhondoro centres on the vibrancy of the main lodge, yet the Villa creates an exceptionally private space where every detail has been designed to enhance the mood and ease the



Life at Mhondoro centres on the vibrancy of the main lodge, yet the Villa creates an exceptionally private space where every detail has been designed to enhance the mood and ease the senses...

senses from the excitement of the day. The subtle earth tones and natural textures of the interior welcomes you to relax on the expansive wooden deck with a private swimming pool, or to unwind in the ample embrace of a sofa in the living room. Generous spaces oppose intimate corners, as the interior and exterior lounging areas flow into the sleeping quarters.

Deliberately designed to offer respite from the world and its pressures, the Villa is limited to sleeping six guests, while another four adults and two children can be accommodated in a dedicated overflow suite that is situated next to the Villa. The luxuriously appointed private villa boasts a magnificent master suite and two additional bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms.

Villa guests can choose whether to take meals at the main lodge or to have meals served at the Villa. At the lodge, the dedicated and experienced chef's culinary creations add yet another layer of sophistication to the overall Mhondoro experience.

The style of food served at Mhondoro, is as distinctly African in its structure as it is casually European in its presentation and flair. The daily changing menu of easy summer salads paired with homemade meze for lunch, evolve into sophisticated a la carte options at dinner. Guests also have the opportunity to dine to the beat of African drums in the Boma, and experience a traditional South African *braai*. With a focus on healthy cuisine, dishes are freshly prepared from home-grown produce, cultivated in the lodge's own greenhouse.

Beyond experiencing the natural environment and exceptionally high levels of service, Villa guests have access to a number of exclusive-use facilities during their stay – the infinity pool on the Villa's main deck being a favourite spot for the travel weary to relax. A private gym and yoga room is available to help guests to exercise away the indulgences enjoyed during their stay at Mhondoro.

Naturally, even the finest destinations depend on the hospitality of their staff to ensure that every guest experience is as memorable as possible. From the service and guiding staff and lodge management, to its culinary conjurers, Mhondoro personnel are undoubtedly the fifth star in the lodge's 5-star rating, who add an unmistakable layer of personality that helps to transform the bricks and mortar of this fine establishment, into a home away from home for the sophisticated safari enthusiast.

For more about Mhondoro Safari Lodge & Villa, visit www.mhondoro.com, or go to www.welgevonden.org for information on the reserve. ⓘ

*by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **mhondoro safari lodge & villa***



CONNOISSEUR CONFECTIONERY

The rise of artisanal sweets & treats



“Mr Willy Wonka can make marshmallows that taste like violets, and rich caramels that change colour every ten seconds as you suck them, and little feathery sweets that melt away deliciously the moment you put them between your lips. He can make chewing gum that never loses its taste, and sugar balloons that can blow to enormous sizes...”

Though it seemed far-fetched in 1964, the once fantastical creations of one of our favourite Roald Dahl characters are more possible, and real, today than ever before.

Food trends have made a whole manner of edible experiences a culinary reality – Sushi can be deconstructed, certain gourmet restaurants now resemble college cafeteria halls, and there are even extremist vegans who consider cockroach milk a superfood. Where the savoury has made innovations, so have the sweets.

Artisanal confectionery began as a niche industry – with chocolate-covered nougat producers operating out of food markets – but craft candy has gained such popularity over the last few years, that you can now easily pop into a gelateria for a handmade ice cream sandwich, or order delectably inventive candies from an online dessert bar. Anything is possible, and some confectioners are taking the opportunity to think way outside of the box.

SWAN CAFÉ

According to Cape Town's only authentic Parisian crêperie, unless

you're making your galettes with traditional buckwheat and good old' elbow grease, you're doing it wrong.

Picture pears poached in red wine, adorning the décolletage of a plate bibbed by a waif-thin galette, folded neatly under a playful drizzle of dark chocolate ganache served by fluent French speakers. This whimsical eatery boasts a seasonal menu of 10 savoury galettes and seven sweet crêpes that are worth a try, today.

Visit Swan Café on the corner of Buitenkant and Barrack Streets, Cape Town, or go to www.swancafe.co.za.

BASILEI HANDCRAFTED CONFECTIONERY

According to the folks at Basilei Handcrafted Confectionery, the artisanal sweet treat maker is committed to producing the finest sweet creations with style and creativity. And it is most evident in their carefully crafted confections that are almost too beautiful to eat. When you eventually bring yourself to enjoy their floral-flavoured marshmallows, luxurious fudge, and decadent cream cheese brownies, you will appreciate that the Basilei creativity rivals only their skilled craftsmanship.

Order from the family-owned confectionery company via their website, or catch them at popular markets such as KAMERS/Makers market. www.basilei.com

HONEST CHOCOLATE

If you are a chocolate lover, this boutique "bean to bar" sanctuary of sweets will certainly satiate you. Handcrafted bonbons, truffles, and tarts, decorate the display cases of this


chocolate cafe, while a menu of bunny chow and nachos with a dark chocolate spread are available for the scoffing as well. This is all thanks to co-founders Anthony Gird and Michael de Klerk who believed in conceptualising gluten- and dairy-free treats that foodies with alternative diets can enjoy too.

Visit Honest Chocolate at 64A Wale Street, Cape Town, or go to www.honestchocolate.co.za.

X&O PATISSERIE

Dessert hybrids like cookie shots and cronuts are wildly popular for a number of different reasons. Not only do they merge the best attributes of different sweet treats, but they also combine seemingly endless possible flavour combinations. Cinnamon-buttercream, chocolate-hazelnut, salted caramel, milky way and milk tart, are some flavours

the flaky doughnuts that X&O Patisserie have on offer. That not enough for your sweet tooth? Owner, Yaseen Essa, will happily use a handcrafted cronut to crown the majestic and mammoth *freak shakes his menu offers too*.

Visit the store at Shop 127, 27Boxes Mall, Melville, Johannesburg, or explore online at www.xando.co.za. 





CHISELLED *Art*

Aston Martin DBS Superleggera

As one of only two South African motoring journalists to attend the global reveal of the Aston Martin DBS Superleggera, Lerato Matebese offers a first-hand account of what it's like to drive, what he deems to be one of the most beautiful of the modern motoring era.

The small town of Berchtesgaden in Germany is a picture perfect countryside village with rolling, snow-capped hills, and some of the most beautiful scenery that is so mesmerising, it borders on the surreal.

My appreciation for the regional flora, though, is quickly drawn back to the vehicle I'm driving through some of the most sinewy, yet pristine pieces of bitumen I have encountered. The new Aston Martin DBS Superleggera,

the flagship model from the British marque's stable, is the successor to the much-vaunted Vanquish S, and its arresting looks draws droves of attention from onlookers.

FUNDAMENTAL LIGHTNESS

The new Aston Martin Superleggera is, in my books, one of the most elegantly styled vehicles to come from the British marque in years. Fundamentally based on the DB11, which by most accounts is an attractive car, the DBS Superleggera (superlight in Italian) dials up the

aesthetic-design-o-meter to eleven.

From the gaping front grille – that looks decidedly purposeful in the metal – to the long carbon fibre clamshell bonnet and low roofline, and those baroque rear haunches that elegantly dissolve toward the rump of the vehicle.

Neither a single panel nor any of the angles of the car look out of place. The entire body is beautifully sculpted, like a piece of automotive art. The new venturi air ducts on the bonnet, for instance, give the front-end a cleaner look, with there being very little in the way of additional addenda.

THE ART OF AIR

There are air blades for added aerodynamic benefit, while the remaining air is channelled over the vehicle and into an integrated spoiler. On the DBS this is a fixed gurney-like carbon fibre unit, unlike on the DB11 that deploys at speed.

There is no physical boot spoiler, but rather a slim boot lip finished in carbon fibre. Ahead of it is an incision that draws the air rushing over the car and, in conjunction with the diffuser, helps the DBS create as much as 180 kg of downforce at full tilt – the highest of any series produced Aston Martin.

At each corner there are 21-inch wheels – the front boasting a 265/35 footprint, while the rear stamps 305/30 sections in its wake. Brakes come in the form of carbon ceramics at 410 mm up front and 360 mm at the rear, to offer excellent braking performance.

UNDER THE CANVAS

At 4.7 metres in length, and spanning 1.9 metres in width while crouching 1.2 metres from the ground, the model's proportions are that of a sporty GT, with space for two adults and two small children in the back or, indeed, a case or two of the finest champagne.

The boot can accommodate two medium-sized travel bags, while the



“All 900 Newtons are summoned in unison as the Super GT shifts from being a consummate cruiser, to a low-flying British missile...”

interior is a fine blend of leather and Alcantara materials with most of the switchgear having been lifted wholesale from Mercedes-Benz, including the infotainment system. If there was an area where there could be an improvement, it is in the quality of the air vents, which I'm afraid, are out of kilter with the rest of the impressive cabin architecture.

QUINTESSENCE

As I'm comfortably ensconced in the quilted leather seats, pottering about in the vehicle's softest setting



- GT mode - there is also Sport and Sport Plus, I can't help but pore over the Alcantara and leather-swathed cabin, in admiration.

That 5.2-litre twin-turbo V12 nested just behind the front axle is barely ticking over as it toddles nonchalantly along the narrow village roads. Of course, my right foot is eager to push down on the go-faster pedal to see what this Super GT can do. However, the moment is rather inopportune, and I will have to wait until I reach a hopefully barren mountain pass.

The engine, while it shares its architecture with that of the DB11 V12, has been given slightly higher boost pressure to muster 544 kW at 6,500 r/min, with 900 Nm from 1,800 to 5,000 r/min. Allied to the ZF-sourced eight-speed automatic gearbox, it sends all that thrust to the rear wheels

through a carbon fibre prop shaft.

In ideal conditions, it is said to hurtle to 100 km/h from rest in 3.4 seconds and will keep punching forward up to its terminal 340-km/h top speed - an exemplary performer by all accounts.

ITS METTLE

Eventually the road ahead into the long-awaited German mountain pass. I flick the steering wheel-located drive mode button to Sport Plus and take over the gear changing reins from the computers. I dig deeper into the gearbox and find third gear, before mashing the throttle to the floorboards. All 900 Newtons are summoned in unison as the Super GT shifts from being a consummate cruiser, to a low-flying British missile that piles on speed at a rapid rate.

You actually run out of road before the DBS abates its relentless

acceleration. Thanks to the carbon fibre disc brakes, its stopping power is incisive and confidence inspiring, allowing for later braking into the corners - so much so that you begin to lean into the car's abilities and appreciate the sum of all the things that are good about this vehicle.

In the grand scheme of things, Aston Martin seems to be on quite a winning streak with its new wave of models, what with the new Vantage baying for the Porsche 911's blood, and the DB11 remaining the perennial GT in the stable. While, at the very upper echelons of the marque's range, the DBS Superleggera is the crown jewel of the brand - the most powerful and evocative design to come from the Gaydon stable. ⑩

by **Ierato matebese** /
photography by **aston martin lagonda**

Le coin Français

By Darren Badenhorst



CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FUSION

The newest addition to the Franschhoek scene is a restaurant truly designed for Franschhoek. Both in concept and in name, the aptly named *Le coin Français*, the French derivative of Franschhoek, embodies the essence of the valley in heritage, cuisine, art, and wine. Featuring cutting edge methods that meet time-tested French elegance in cuisine, *Le coin Français* offers two structures of fine dining tasting menus for dinner – both with excellent pairing options – as well as an a la carte menu for lunch which enables people that are less adventurous (in mind and in pocket) to experience the same caliber and sophistication of cuisine in a more casual and approachable setting.

Bookings are essential, and can be made online at www.lecoinfrancais.co.za

ART THROUGH THE LENS

Aston Martin: Decades of Beauty

For the second instalment in the series of *Signature* classic car photography, acclaimed South African photographers, Maryna Cotton and Sarel van Staden, take aim at noteworthy Aston Martins from the 1950s to today.







ABOVE: 2018 *Vanquish S* electronic key



LEFT: 2018 *Vanquish S*

BELOW: 2018 DB11





LEFT: 1960 DB4 GT

BELOW: 2016 Vantage N430



car fine art

Visit **www.carfineart.com** to view the complete Car Fine Art photo collection online. Private owners and collectors may also email info@carfineart.com to arrange a bespoke shoot, or call Maryna at +27 82 857 0479 and Sarel at +27 82 415 0474.

RIGHT: *The Course Mixologist, Joshua Carlhuate*



ALL FIRED UP

Cocktails to fight the winter chill

by *maxine volker* /
photography by *sarah de pina* / *istockphoto.com*

Ah, cocktails. Fruity, icy, refreshing and synonymous with warm summer days. With sunblock in one hand and a tangy cocktail keeping you cool in the other, this is the time to catch a tan and lounge in the sun until it eventually starts to set. But what to do when the days start getting shorter, and the nights longer? With winter almost upon us, the time has come to find creative ways to keep our cocktail cravings alive.



A classic Long Island Ice Tea or Strawberry Daiquiri just won't cut it this season, that's why we've partnered with some of the leading liqueur brands to bring you the definitive winter cocktail guide to get you through the season's

darkest of days.

Mixing it up at Sandton's hottest culinary venue - The Course - master mixologist, Joshua Garthwaite, created four unique blends using Tia Maria dark coffee liqueur, Disaronno Originale Amaretto, and Wixworth gin, for an unusual take on classic cocktails.

TIA MARIA

Tia Espresso Martini

The Tia Espresso Martini has been the classic evening pick-me-up since its creation in the 1980s.

Ingredients:

- 25 ml Tia Maria
- 25 ml Vodka
- Shot (or two) of espresso
- 5 ml sugar syrup

Fill a martini glass with ice and set aside to chill. Mix Tia Maria, vodka, and espresso with ice in a shaker and shake vigorously. Empty the martini glass and pour contents in the glass using a strainer and sieve. Finish with three coffee beans.



DISARONNO

Godfather

Elegance never fades. Discover the elegant and feminine touch of 'The Italian Lady' cocktail.

Ingredients:

- 25 ml Disaronno
- 10 ml Dry Vermouth
- 50 ml Prosecco
- Orange twist

Mix all ingredients in a shaker, pour over cubed ice and garnish with the orange twist.

WIXWORTH

The Bee's Knees

Dating back to 1920s America, when the phrase “the bee’s knees” was used to describe something (or someone) truly beyond the ordinary.

Ingredients:

- 37.5 ml Wixworth Gin
- 25 ml Honey water (1:1 ratio)*
- 25 ml Lime juice
- Lemon Twist

Pour all the ingredients into a shaker with ice, shake well, and fine strain into a chilled glass. Serve in a delicate coup or martini glass.

***THE SECRET TO A SWEET AFFAIR**

With so many local kinds of honey available, we are spoilt for choice. We suggest using local Fynbos honey to compliment Wixworth gin. Mix equal parts honey and water (1:1) to make honey water.



THE COURSE COLLABORATION COLLECTION

Ol'Scotsman

Expertly crafted by The Course mixologist, Joshua Garthwaite, we present the Ol'Scotsman cocktail from the Collaboration Collection, available exclusively at The Course. The aim of this collection, according to Garthwaite, is to “educate South Africans on how these classic cocktails should be made and how they should taste”. Often The Old Fashioned has a negative connotation of being too spirit forward with minimal flavour. If made correctly, they exhibit a whole range of flavours that compliment each other.

In the Collaboration Collection, all Old Fashioneds and Martinis are placed in bottles (to involve the customer in the process, by letting them pour their own cocktail), and boxes (each box comes filled with various surprises that stimulate the senses).

Ingredients:

- 50 ml Glenfiddich 12 YO
- 5 ml Maple syrup
- 3 Dashes Shortbread Bitters

Stir and strain into a bottle, add a tumbler, craft ice cube, and an orange zest placed into a box that is filled with items that involve the senses. Serve and surprise your guests. ⑩



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DELICIOUS DA LUCA

Prosecco brings everyday luxury to South African lips

As the sparkling wine market continues to attract more drinkers around the globe and with the growing popularity of beverages like Prosecco, every day becomes a special occasion. Readily showing up with a bottle of bubbles is now so much easier and nothing elevates an occasion like bubbly.

by *accolade wines*

Since Prosecco is easier on your pocket than Champagne, bubbles are no longer reserved for special occasions but rather seen as an everyday luxury," says Alison Pearce, Sales and Marketing Manager for Accolade Wines & Brand Owner of Da Luca in South Africa.

Early in 2018, a biennial study commissioned by Vinexpo showed the massive expansion of the sparkling wine market around the world over the next five years. The study, by International Wine and Spirit Research, revealed that younger drinkers were switching from easy-to-drink Rosé wines to Prosecco.

Da Luca is made using Glera grapes from Treviso, a province of Italy's Veneto region, which is considered one of the finest sources of Prosecco. "It is a great value, low-alcohol sparkler which is fresh and fruity – think an appealing nose of lemon peel, jasmine and passion fruit leaping out of your glass," said Pearce. "The palate is an explosion of fresh, zingy citrus and pineapple

notes. With a kiss of sweetness and a clean, crisp off-dry finish, Da Luca is ideal for hot summer afternoons."

DA LUCA SPARKLING ROSE

Celebrating great Sicilian winemaking, this exquisite sparkling rosé is a blend of Merlot and Raboso from small growers in the Veneto region in northern Italy, with a fruity bouquet and vibrant notes of raspberry and strawberry.

Prosecco has everything going for it; its lighter, delicate flavour means that it pairs well with just about any food,

from cheeses to spicy curry. Its subtlety is a winner in cocktails, while it's easy on the palate with a light effervescence, appealing to a broader market. One of the biggest drawcards is the pop-for-your-buck, which makes a lot more sense than buying pricier Champagne.

Da Luca Prosecco and Da Luca Sparkling Rosé are exemplary expressions of why Prosecco has attracted so many sparkling wine drinkers to recharge their glasses. Serve it chilled between 8 and 12°C, enjoyed on its own, in cocktails, as a refreshing aperitif, or with a hearty meal. ⑩



shopping for da luca

Da Luca Prosecco is available nationwide at these, and other, fine establishments.

- Wade Bales Wine Society
- Liquor City
- Norman Goodfellows
- Ultra Liquors: Greenpoint & Wynberg
- Wine Concepts: Newlands



AS SEEN on TV

Chef Zola Nene

Perhaps the only thing that is more captivating than Chef Zola Nene's culinary creations, is her bubbly personality and contagious smile. Zola does not just whip up a storm in the kitchen, she doubles up as a food stylist, to awaken a visually appealing, sensory taste sensation from seemingly ordinary ingredients.

by *phindiwe nkosi*
photography *matanna katz*

Browsing through her recipe books, one would not be wrong for labelling Chef Zola Nene's food as edible artworks. Zola is meticulous, and it shows in the way that she presents her dishes. There is a fusion of colours, textures, scents and tastes. Like a master artist at work, she effortlessly draws in new levels with each whisk and elevates the dish as she chops, mixes and does the seemingly ordinary. The proof, however, is in the result.

Chef Nene's food speaks on her behalf. The first cookbook by this Cape Town celebrity chef, *Simply Delicious* was a massive success, and if the critics are anything to go by, her new cookbook is set to rattle the culinary space even more.

Zola is not a new face in the entertainment spheres – viewers will also know her from her cooking show *Celeb Feasts with Zola*, which airs on DSTv's Mzansi Magic channel. She was



also a judge on the third season of *The Great South African Bake Off* as well as a guest judge on the second season of *My Kitchen Rules South Africa*.

There's just something about Zola that's hard to pinpoint. Perhaps it is how she presents complicated meals ever so simply, or in the way that she inspires anyone to cook from the heart. *Signature* caught up with this much-acclaimed chef to find out about her all-time favourite recipe, celebs with the worst table manners, her next big recipe, and more.

Why "simply" Zola?

The title is because I keep my recipes as simple as possible, so the book consists of a compilation of the simple recipes that I like to make and enjoy.

What is your all-time favourite recipe?

That's an impossible question to answer; I love so many recipes. I can't choose just one favourite.

What is your favourite recipe in your new cookbook?

I always refer to my recipes as being like my children... Parents like their children for different reasons. Choosing a favourite is impossible.

What or who initiated your love for food?

My mom is an excellent cook, so I grew up eating well. My mom would always cook up a feast for every family

gathering. I fell in love with the idea of food being part of celebrations and momentous occasions.

If you could invite anyone to dinner, whom would you ask?

Oprah Winfrey – I've always wanted to meet her. She's also a food lover, so I'd love to be able to cook for her or even with her.

My maternal grandmother – she





“There’s just something about Zola that’s hard to pinpoint. Perhaps it is how she presents complicated meals ever so simply, or in the way that she inspires anyone to cook from the heart.”

cooking with zola

Zola Nene has become quite a force on the South African culinary scene, yet her quest to show people that cooking great food needn’t be pretentious or difficult continues in her new book. *Simply Delicious*. RRP R290 from Penguin Random House



died when I was young, way before I became a chef. I’d love to share a meal with her and see what she makes of my cooking skills. They would be the top two guests on my dinner wish list.

What are the worst table manners you’ve seen from a personality? (If you’re brave, name and shame that celebrity!)

I haven’t witnessed any lousy table manners. Everyone that I’ve cooked for and eaten with had impeccable manners.

What are the easiest cooking blunders that one can make?

Burning nuts. That happens to me

so often. You take an eye off them for a second, and they burn!

What is a sure-fire dish (or cooking tip) to impress a loved one?

I think my roast chicken and butternut dish is always a winner, and it’s so simple to prepare. It’s one of those crowd-pleaser dishes that everyone loves.

If you were not a chef, what would you be doing?

I’d probably be a lawyer.

What’s your next big recipe?

Ohhh! I definitely can’t share that! You’ll have to wait and see (and taste). ⑩



FRANSCHHOEK

COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS



Positioned in the most romantic valley on earth, Franschhoek Country House & Villas is an exclusive boutique hotel reminiscent of a village in Provence yet with an elegant Cape sensibility. Set in gardens of lemon trees, lavender and vines – with fynbos draping the nearby mountains – the original, charming country maison includes 14 standard and luxury rooms as well as the award-winning Monneaux Restaurant while the 12 Villa suites are havens of privacy & understated opulence. Swimming pools, a candle-lit cellar, a treatment room and sun-down verandas are all a traveller needs as you live la vie extraordinaire.



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NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Contemporary architecture concepts for living off-grid

By an increasing margin, homes need to become less dependent on supplied services if we are to sustain our standard of living in South Africa. Here's how you can build to live off the grid.

It is an average weekday, 17h00 on the clock and I'm heading home. Instead of the normal daily 20-minute drive, today the trip takes me almost twice as long – the reason: load shedding.

What started as a routine trip home has descended into utter chaos, with

traffic lights not working, and a few drivers' common sense also lost to oblivion. In the midst of this frustration, I realise that our society's dependency on the 'grid' has ill-prepared us for the realities of living in a country where electricity demand now outstrips the state's ability to provide.

In other societies, off-grid living

is a new and fast-growing trend; one that we would do well to adopt in South Africa too. Besides the electricity grid, other potential hazards – such as consistent fresh water supply – should also make the idea of living free from the constraints of state provision, more attractive to new home builders.

WHAT IS OFF-GRID LIVING?

Simply put, an off-grid building is one that can function entirely autonomously, with no dependence on the municipal power grid, sewerage system, or water system. In an off-grid home, trash is turned into compost or recycled, and building materials are locally sourced which has a positive impact on the environment, and your wallet.

The first image that comes to mind for most people when they hear “off-grid living”, is probably that of an earth-ship dwelling constructed out of used tyres, glass bottles, cob, and earthen plaster, in the middle of nowhere, close to a stream in the woods with a veggie patch and a chicken coop.

But the current reality, and future, of off-grid living, is exciting in the sense that it creates design challenges that allow architects to become more creative and inventive with materials and spatial ratios. And to design compact and functional living spaces that provide their clients with structures that have the security and privacy of a conventional home, but without the carbon footprint.

With the rapidly growing consciousness toward sustainability in everyday life, people are adjusting their lifestyles in support of these ideals. The question arises; how we can contribute or what measures we can take to support this lifestyle? The words of two extraordinary architects resonate with me: Australian architect, Glenn Murcutt, who said: “Touch the earth lightly”, and Danish architect, Bjarke Ingles, who is quoted as saying: “In the big picture, architecture is the art and science of making sure that our cities and buildings fit with the way we want to live our lives.”

PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN *SOLAR ENERGY*

Solar is one of the best ways to





generate green energy, with technology rapidly expanding in this field. Although we are familiar with the standard, large photovoltaic panels that are visible on many homes already, an array of new products are entering the market, which is more focused on functionality and aesthetics. To name a few: solar shingles or roof tiles, and translucent photovoltaic film that adheres to standard glass panes,

and turns your windows into energy generating units.

CONSERVE WATER

Rainwater harvesting is an excellent source of grey water that can be used in your household for non-consumable use, as well as garden irrigation. Water-wise gardening – planting only indigenous and insidious plants that are

focused on your specific location – also contributes to water conservation. This will also attract more local bird life and fauna in the area to your garden. When purchasing new appliances, make sure to buy only appliances that are explicitly designed to reduce energy as well as water consumption.

GREEN ROOF

A green roof acts as insulation to help regulate the temperature inside the house with the added benefit of improving local air quality and, aesthetically, it creates a green space especially in urban areas where concrete is the dominant building material.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Focus on locally sourced materials and use materials that are maintenance free, or have low maintenance requirements. Re-use, re-purpose, recycled/recyclable, renewable and non-toxic materials also assist in reducing the carbon footprint of your home. Great examples are engineered wood, sustainable lumber, re-used wood, recycled manufactured materials, long-life and low-maintenance materials, low-energy materials and recycled construction systems. Straw-bale construction, Cob (straw and earth) construction, pre-fabricated panels and roof systems, post and beam construction, shipping containers, and light steel construction.

A great example of off-grid living

“In the big picture, architecture is the art and science of making sure that our cities and buildings fit with the way we want to live our lives.”



is architects HaysomWardMiller's Lochside House, which was named RIBA House of the Year for 2018. Awarded this accolade by the Royal Institute of British Architects, for the UK's best new architect-designed house, Lochside House was designed as a modest, sustainable home for a ceramic artist on the edge of a Scottish lake.

The house is formed of three buildings huddled together and is clad in burnt Scottish larch, protected by a traditional drystone wall. Lochside House is completely off-grid: all energy comes from the sun, and water is pulled up from a borehole. Inside, the rooms are made with a pared-back aesthetic. Walls are lined in white oiled timber, surfaces are skimmed with a rough textured plaster, and large windows at varying heights capture stunning views. Inside, the spaces merge with the artist owner's art collection.

There is no limit to what innovative architectural design can achieve when off-grid living is the focus, but architects cannot operate in a vacuum and need clients who have the uncompromising determination and vision to take a stand for the environment when creating a new living space. Now, more than ever, we all need to focus on sustainability if we are to maintain the environment on which we will have to become increasingly dependent into the future. ⑩



by **rudi lubbe** /
photography © **richard fraser**



Seven Reasons to Acquire an EU Passport

Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity...

Many South Africans want to attain dual citizenship, essentially to create a legacy plan for themselves and their families in another country, but also to protect against political risk and economical instability.

A European Union (EU) passport is the most sought after travel document because it gives that individual unlimited access plus the right to live, work, and travel in the whole of the EU.

The most attractive second passport plan on offer in Europe is the 'Citizenship Through Investment' programme in Cyprus. The programme is based on an investment in property. That, paired with the positive property growth and high demand for long and short-term tenants in Cyprus, makes for a very attractive investment for the short-, medium- and long term.

Seven reasons why South Africans desire Cypriot citizenship:

- Cypriot citizenship is granted in just six months.
- Citizenship offers you visa-free travel to as many as 169 countries.

- All dependent children up to age 28 are included.
- You are investing – not donating – your wealth! There are very clear rewards.
- Citizenship is passed on by descent, offering a real and valuable legacy for future generations.
- You can rent your Cyprus property out to earn an attractive Euro-based income.
- There is no inheritance tax.

In Cyprus, investing in the 'Citizenship Through Investment' programme makes financial sense. Protect yourself, your family, and your assets from domestic economic issues by taking advantage of the opportunity to secure Cypriot citizenship before the programme closes. It is open for a very limited time.

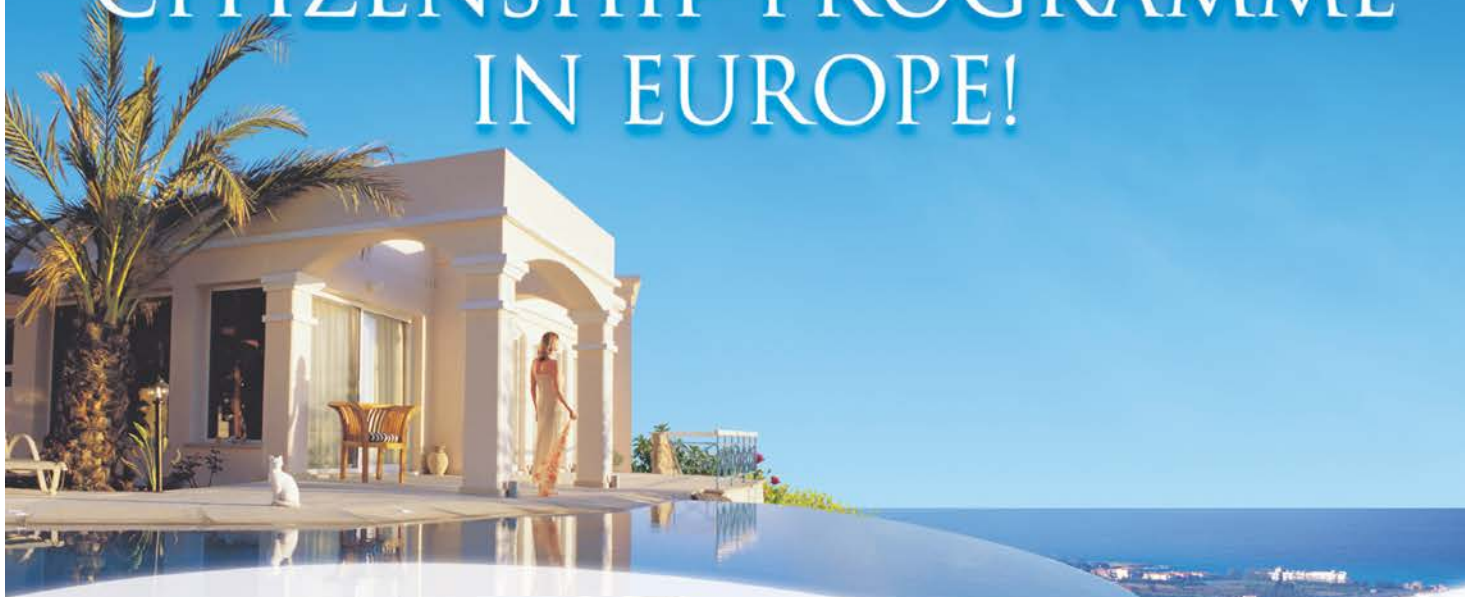
Cypriot Realty is a pioneer in actively and consistently promoting property opportunities in Cyprus. They have been successfully operating from

their Cape Town and Sandton offices since 2008. As a result, the company is recognised and respected as authoritative investment specialists in Southern Africa for promoting Cyprus as an ideal destination for acquiring permanent residency / citizenship, property investment, immigration / retirement, and even starting a Europe-based business.

Contact Cypriot Realty for a confidential meeting to discuss how they can help you realise your future in the EU. For more information, visit www.cypriotrealtylive.com. To contact them, email Jenny Ellinas, the Founder and Managing Director of Cypriot Realty, on jenny@cypriotrealty.com. You can also give Cypriot Realty a call on +27 83 448 8734. ☎

by *cypriot realty*

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Little Space

LOTS OF LOVE

Show your bathroom space some love this winter...

Redesigning your bathroom is a lot more than simply choosing a new colour to splash on the walls. Bathrooms are intimate spaces that require a delicate touch when redecorating. Every element of your bathroom, from the tiles and bathtub to the basin and mirror, needs to be selected in such a way that they seamlessly fit together. If you're ready to give your bathroom some love, take a look at some of the latest décor trends for your boudoir inspiration.

HELLO MARBLE

There is nothing quite like opening the door to a bathroom that is overflowing with elegant marble. Although available in a large variety of shades, monochromatic marble for the bathroom is a trendy choice this season. Whether you prefer white, black or grey, generous applications of marble in the bathroom this timeless, elegant material has become increasingly sought after in the interior bathroom scene. There is a multitude of ways to incorporate marble into a bathroom space, from floors and wall

tiles, to counter tops and basins.

GET RUSTIC

Certain materials are naturally warmer than others, wood being a prime example. Introducing a wooden element, be it in shades of oak, pine or ash, will breathe life into your bathroom, and will help to break up the colder ceramic elements that often dominate our bathroom spaces. Wood creates a striking contrast while still radiating minimalism and sophistication, and can exist in the form of wooden shelves, vanities, cabinets or, if you're looking to



create a dramatic effect, even a panel of wood veneer on a wall. The beauty of woodwork is that it can be incorporated into any bathroom in a number of styles – it does not need to be rustic.

STAND ALONE

Bathtubs are an integral part of modern bathroom designs, and whether you have a preference for square, oval, round or rectangular tubs, there are options galore. Freestanding tubs have come back in a big way in international design and are no longer purely functional. Slipper and clawfoot freestanding tubs, for example, create a sense of antiquity and refinement. Adding to the versatility of the freestanding, because you could, essentially, place it wherever you prefer, a freestanding tub can become the centrepiece of your dream bathroom.

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN

By their nature, plants will brighten up any room in the house. In the bathroom too, carefully selected greenery will bring an element of nature into a very intimate and sacred space. Plants that have recently begun trending on the décor scene include various bamboo varieties, ferns, orchids and begonias.

Place your plants in such a way that they accentuate the room while also receiving the ideal amount of sunlight.

MAKE A STATEMENT

An easy way of sprucing up your bathroom space without redecorating the entire room is to add a statement mirror. Albeit that a bold or unusually quirky mirror is not everyone's cup of tea, an interesting mirror will add a personal touch. Suspended mirrors create bigger looking spaces and are immediately eye-catching. If your bathroom is designed in such a way that minimalism is critical, a statement mirror is an excellent way to add something striking without disrupting the overall flow of the space.

From elegant and modern to industrial and rustic, one thing is sure: bathroom fittings are no longer just looked at as fixtures. A utilitarian space by nature, a bathroom can feel detached and impassive, and can be easily overlooked when it comes to interior décor. There is a lot to do with this intimate space, so let your imagination run wild and give your bathroom some loving. ⑩

by *maxine volker* /
photography by *istockphoto.com*



TO ENTERTAIN



BLOOMING MARVELOUS GREENHOUSE

Greenhouse, the multiple award-winning fine-dining establishment situated at The Cellars-Hohenort hotel – a proud Relais & Châteaux member – has fast become a *force majeure* on the Cape Town gastronomic scene. At The Greenhouse, each carefully crafted dish is matched with the finest Cape wines and charming service with which the restaurant has become synonymous. Establishing the restaurant's stellar reputation, Chef Peter Tempelhoff captured the culture, flavours

and terroir of the surrounding area and whimsically fused that into his dishes, creating a multi-sensory, contemporary dining experience. Now, under the guidance of Chef Farrel Hirsch, the Greenhouse team uses the most bountiful produce of the Constantia Valley to tell the story of the region. Greenhouse is ranked as one of the country's Top 10 restaurants and is the flagship restaurant of The Liz McGrath Collection.

www.greenhouserestaurant.co.za

SMOOK ART

When asked how he would describe himself, Solly Smook offers a mere three words, "Creative, spiritual, and reclusive." Inspired by a wild deviation from dogma and the truth of spiritual matter, this Namibian-born artist is highly concerned with reminding viewers of the spirit within – the beauty we seldom see. Solly Smook, who did not spend his formative years in the art world, has more than 50 group and solo exhibitions under his name and his art has found its way to every corner of the globe. Having featured in the Art Times and the South African Good Taste Magazine, to name a few, Smook's art also hangs in the homes of art-lovers on five continents.

www.sollysmook.com



DECOR DELIGHT

Since its inception in 1994, Decorex SA has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's décor and design industry with three annual expos featuring over 1,200 exhibitors. Decorex SA continues to remain ahead of the curve, growing and adapting to reflect the industry while always retaining the quality and sophistication that sets the exhibition apart. Adding another layer to this year's 'Designing for Africa – feels like home' theme, Decorex SA has partnered with proudly South African paint manufacturer, Olympic Paints, for all three of its 2019 exhibitions – Decorex Durban, Decorex Cape Town and Decorex Joburg. Decorex kicks off in Durban (21-24 March 2019), before enlightening Cape Town (1-5 May 2019), and ends the year on a high note in Johannesburg (7-11 August 2019).

www.decorex.co.za

WIN!

Five Signature readers stand a chance to win two tickets each to the Decorex show in Johannesburg. To enter, SMS the words **SIGNATURE** and **DECOREX** plus **YOUR NAME, EMAIL, and PROVINCE** to 51989, or WhatsApp 0762649990. SMS charged at R1.50. Ts & Cs apply. Free and bundled SMS do not apply. Competition closes 31 May 2019.

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Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Resort is a 4 star resort located in the heart of Gaborone's premier Golf Estate, which encompasses spacious accommodation with extraordinary panoramic views of it's international 18-hole championship golf course.

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Being the only International standard 18 Hole Championship Course in Botswana the Golf Estate thrives to provide golfers with an exceptional golfing experience.

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FASHION FORWARD FINERY

Winter accessories, Signature style

While temperatures may be dropping soon, we're finally at that time of the year where you can't get away with prioritising function over fashion. The good news is that we've put together a list of must-have accessories for him and her – starring the season's most stylish options – to help you add some warmth, and to boost your corporate or street cred too.

by Kwanele Nomoyi



Chart a course to new beginnings with Maui Jim North Star, where refined minimalism meets exquisite detailing. Lightweight titanium construction is balanced by equally lightweight and proprietary MauiBrilliant™ lenses. From music festivals to wine tours and everything in between, North Star leads the way with colour, clarity and detail in PolarizedPlus2® lens technology. R5,640 – www.mauijim.com

for HER

The TUMI Mezzanine Joan Backpack is spacious enough to for all your daytime essentials, including your laptop, and even has a side zipper to access the main compartment without opening the top. The Mezzanine collection brings a relaxed downtown vibe that's modern and minimalist, with multiple pockets to keep you well organised, whether you're headed to a business meeting or going on holiday.

R7,699 – TUMI Canal Walk, TUMI Sandton City & Wolmans La Lucia.
www.tumi.co.za



Pomellato, the Italian luxury jewellery brand, proudly introduces its colourful new bangle and ring creations for the M'ama non m'ama collection – the Italian for “loves me, loves me not.” The new five gemstone bangles are made of rose gold featuring diamonds and double cabochon gemstones of Peridot to represent pleasure, London Blue Topaz for fortune, Amethyst for desire, Garnet for love, and Moonstone for joy. Also in white gold and diamond pavé.

POA – Boutique Haute Horlogerie, Hyde Park Corner, +27 11 325 4119 & V&A Waterfront, +27 21 418 1889.
www.pomellato.com



Crystal Birch is a maverick milliner whose irreverent designs of classic hats have become beloved adornments on the heads of South Africa's fashion conscious. A finely crafted hat is like a signature, and this Bolero Boater, is made from 100% Felt, has a luxurious look and feel, and is locally produced by one of the best hat manufacturers in the world.

R960 – www.therealcrystalbirch.com



The ultimate accessory for iPhone aficionados, Louis Vuitton's cult Eye Trunk has been upgraded for the iPhone X and XS. First seen on Spring-Summer 2018 show by Nicolas Ghesquière, this new version comes with a functional lock and removable leather strap for shoulder or cross-body carry, it is a cutting-edge fashion statement. R18,300 - www.louisvuitton.com

The iconic PRADA lace up in black brushed leather re-interpreted for Spring/Summer 2019 with a transparent rubber outsole, recalling details of a typical sports shoe. The idea, inspired by the Oxford lace-up and Cloudburst sneaker, is fused to create a unique and innovative style which makes this shoe quite avant-garde and totally PRADA. R14,450 - PRADA Diamond Walk Sandton City, +27 11 326 7517. www.prada.com



for HIM

Maui Jim Shallows draws you in with its fresh perspective on the timeless aviator. The flattened, matte metal frame front, available in an enchanting array of chromatic options, achieves a distinct look

while the lightweight titanium frame, PolarizedPlus2® lens technology and MauiBrilliant™ lenses are a perfect mix of trusted durability and clarity. R4,630 - www.mauijim.com



TAG Heuer demonstrates its watchmaking prowess with an amazing new timepiece representing the next generation of tourbillon watches. The manufacture movement of this new model features a carbon-composite hairspring, produced from a gas, that replaces the well-known Elinvar and silicon versions. Get the new Carrera Calibre Heuer 02T Tourbillon Nanograph chronometer from recognised TAG Heuer specialists, to complete your new winter look.

POA - **TAG Heuer Boutique**
Sandton City, +27 11 784 7422 / V&A Waterfront + 27 21 421 8539

WIN!

Want to win the Maui Jim sunglasses featured here? SMS the words **SIGNATURE** and **MAUIJIM** plus **YOUR NAME, EMAIL & PROVINCE** to 51989. SMS charged at R1.50. Ts & Cs apply. Free and bundled SMS do not apply. Competition closes 31 May 2019.

The Joe belt by Fossil is a versatile addition to your winter wardrobe. Made from quality leather with rolled nickel hardware, this belt will continue to look great and last through anything. Available in brown or black.

R1,425 - www.wantitall.co.za



Internationally acclaimed knitwear brand, MaXhosa by Laduma, has branched into iPhone covers too. The collaboration with local beadwork designer, Vukile Batyi, to craft covers with the fashion brand's iconic Xhosa patterns, has resulted in these beautiful and durable walnut wood and soft thermoplastic polyurethane cases which are resistant to oil, grease, and abrasion.

R2,200 - shop.maxhosa.africa



The lightest TUMI luggage collection yet, the Latitude collection defies durability and engineering standards. Made from a unique and groundbreaking material, and executed in a timeless, modern design, the Latitude carry-on is the pinnacle of form and function for the travelling businessman. No matter the landscape, climate, or culture, Latitude is built to handle any journey with the utmost class.

R11,999 - TUMI Canal Walk, TUMI Sandton City & Wolmans La Lucia.
www.tumi.co.za



The iconic PRADA Cloudbust sneakers collection is lightweight and is made from cutting edge technical fabrics and uses Velcro to ensure a snug fit. Available in a variety of colours that express a sophisticated athleticism that will be your next favourite winter accessory..

R13,600 - PRADA Diamond Walk, Sandton City, +27 11 326 7517.

www.prada.com



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- Minimum of 3 night stay per property is required.
- Offer not applicable to more than 2 rooms, the above rate is applicable to a maximum of 2 people sharing.
- Package is quoted in S.A. Rands and Rates are nett and non commissionable and includes VAT at 15% but excludes 1% Tourism Levy which will be charged.
- Reservations confirmed on a pre-paid rate are subject to a 100% cancellation fee should they be modified or cancelled.
- Rates are subject to change without prior notice.
- Standard Tsogo Sun terms and conditions apply.

BEVERLY HILLS

thebeverlyhillshotel.co.za



THE BUSINESS OF WELLNESS

Healthy business conferencing is the latest trend in corporate care, and leading the charge is Santé Wellness Retreat & Spa

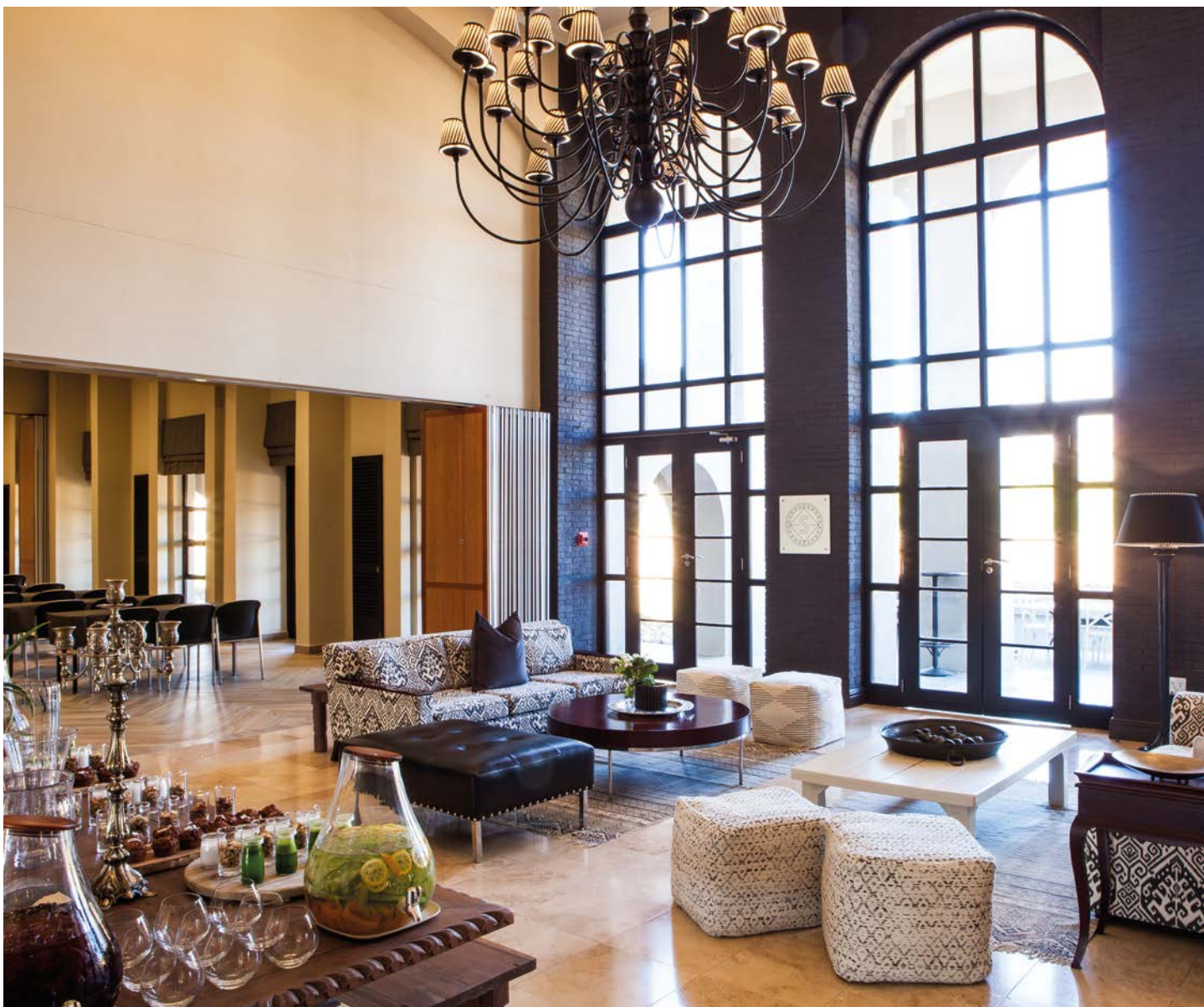
The days of stale, soul destroying corporate conferences are over, as more business events are being held at wellness retreats, where organisers and delegates can infuse their corporate culture with the benefits of serenity, and health.

When selecting a conference venue that specialises in wellness conferencing, it is critical that the venue of choice offers healthy cuisine, peaceful surroundings, luxurious accommodation, spa facilities, and a well-equipped gym. Santé Wellness Retreat & Spa in the Franschoek valley

is pioneering the concept of healthy conferencing in South Africa, as businesses across the country strive for healthier, and more productive conferencing, and aim to bring health and wellness to the boardroom table.

With world-class facilities and honestly healthy cuisine, proudly prepared without sugar, dairy, preservatives, colourants, or gluten, Santé is a model for healthy conferencing. Executive Chef Terrence Ford creates his dishes using only fresh produce from the Santé kitchen garden, and from local biodynamic farmers and suppliers.

Santé's CEO and co-owner, Ingrid



Hindle, says this new approach pays off in terms of effect and memorability. “By having a healthy conference or meeting, everyone is given a boost – by both the food and the environment – and this leads to more creativity, sharper thinking, and enhanced enthusiasm all round. It turns the event into something special – and far more appealing.

Healthy and de-stressed delegates can really help make the conference far more effective with participants punching way above their weight.” She adds.

Healthy conferencing increases concentration and enthusiasm for

the work at hand, which in turn will increase the delegate’s productivity. Happy and healthy employees are productive employees.

Sustainable conferencing is also on the upward trend and it is important to select a venue that takes their environmental responsibilities seriously, and practices its green policy through everything they offer. If you have selected a venue on its green credentials, share their ethos with your delegates.

MORE ABOUT SANTÉ

The Santé Business Forum can

accommodate up to 120 guests with four well-appointed breakaway meeting rooms of varying sizes. The Forum is fully equipped, and offers a private restaurant and bar, with both indoor and outdoor seating areas. As well as the delicious and healthy cuisine available at Santé, business guests may participate in yoga, make use of the fully equipped gym and select treatments from the world-class Day spa.

Santé Wellness Retreat & Spa has undergone a complete overhaul in recent years. This landmark retreat has been completely transformed – from the premises, the retreat and the spa



to the business conferencing facilities and accommodation, the kitchen and restaurants, the grounds and what is grown within them – everything has been scrutinised, researched and transformed. The new owners have also been relentless in their commitment to bringing a new culture to bear at the retreat – a culture that embraces and combines expert scientific and holistic technologies. Leading edge health optimizing technologies, a bio energy centre, natural products and food menus are all interwoven and united by a suite of packages and an offering that distinguishes Santé as the ultimate sanctuary for anyone wanting to ‘discover extraordinary’ and find a path to true wellbeing, healing and rejuvenation.

Accommodation – includes 10 retreat suites, 20 spa suites and a Deluxe Retreat Suite. Uncomplicated and serene luxury, generous hospitality and friendly service combine with delicious and honestly healthy cuisine.

Day Spa – facilities include steam rooms, hydrotherapy and vinotherapy baths, saunas, an indoor heated pool and Jacuzzi, a magical labyrinth and a fitness centre. There is an extensive Spa menu, which includes four speciality packages: Healthy Ageing, Detox, Rejuvenate and Relax.

Food and nutrition – believing that nutritious food is the foundation of health, Santé offers nourishment through great cuisine. Menus are designed by Executive Chef Terrence Ford, and feature fresh ingredients from the Santé kitchen garden, local biodynamic farmers and suppliers.

Health Optimizing – hi-tech medical technologies (some are the first in Africa) including some within the fields of quantum and energy medicine – is directed by Health Tech Sciences in Norway. Understanding through all-encompassing medical assessments where cellular, tissue and organ imbalances and dysfunction occur, and what the underlying trigger and causative factors are.

Bio Energy – drawing upon ancient philosophies, this combines the attributes and properties of magnetic fields, colour, light and crystals with modern science. Healing takes place through the intervention of using electromagnetic waveforms to stimulate the body’s natural healing.

Wellness Packages – The Santé team and experts have designed a range of packages that help with stress, detoxing, rejuvenation, longevity and reaching one’s ideal weight.

Exercise and fitness – a variety of activities are offered including daily yoga classes, personal training and both group and personal yoga (one on one), guided early morning walks and mountain biking and the chance to walk the Santé labyrinth.

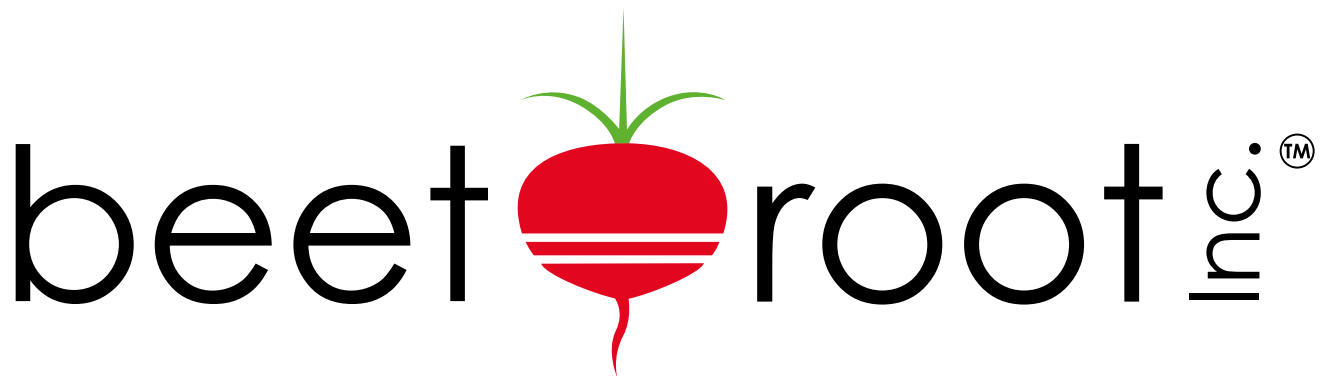
For more information, visit www.santeretreat.co.za. 

by **santé wellness retreat & spa** /
photography by **santé wellness retreat & spa**

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Ssshhh...

Achieving the Art of Stillness

There is haste in the atmosphere, a lingering presence we learn to accept. Even as I compile my thoughts to write in the midnight hour, email notifications pop up, deadlines creep in, and my mind races to my “to-do” list. Yet even then, I hear it. Something within whispers. It tells my soul to hush.

by *phindiwe nkosi* /
photography by *istockphoto.com*



Perhaps stillness is in all earnestness, an art. It is not intuitive. You can be in a silent room and have your mind wander. The absence of sound and movement is not enough to harness a fragmented psyche. There needs to be the clearing of the mind and remembering of emotions. Much is said about stillness, but here are great starting points for questors who long to acquire it.

RETREAT IN SILENCE

All too often, the selling point of a destination is its bells and whistles. What are the amenities; what entertainment is offered; what can I do there? Yet, scholars of silence the world over, embrace the journey, while seekers flock to monasteries, camping sites and temples to pay for an opportunity to be silent...

Retreating into silence can be achieved by merely quietly engaging with nature. I found stillness in my backyard, as it were, when I joined a spiritual group for a visit to the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve in Pretoria. Here, I encountered others sitting in silence with tears in their eyes, engaging in nature, visibly engulfed by its sheer beauty, encouraging us all to be silent within ourselves.

MEDITATION RETREAT

Meditation retreats are not reserved only for those longing to get away for a couple of days. Although a multi-day retreat has its benefits, one can find peace, and quiet, at any number of day retreats too. My most memorable meditation retreat experience as a day visitor was at Nan Hua Temple in the Cultura Park suburb of Bronkhorstspuit.



“The art of stillness cannot manifest without also engaging in a deeper quest for wellbeing. This is about opening up your body, spirit, and psyche to being well.”

Among the largest Buddhist temples on the continent, Nan Hua Temple overwhelms with its grandeur, and with the presence of the very friendly monks and nuns.

During temple tours, it is normal to see visitors lying face down, prostrate on the floor, while yet others undertake meditation poses. Whether you are a member of the Buddhist faith, or not, here one can silently meditate on your own beliefs, connecting with yourself, and experiencing the beauty of the universe as the exchange leaves the atmosphere around you permanently altered, for the good.

ON BEING STILL

From sharing experiences with those who are on a quest to better understand the silencing of the mind, the recurring theme is that of being still within yourself.

Being still is an active decision. While it may seem so natural, it is hard to be still in this day-and-age.

Being still includes switching-off mentally, and physically. This is not only true for silencing the mind and emotions, but also for silencing distractions such as from your devices. One cannot begin to comprehend the enormity – and simplicity – of silence until you dare to be present in the moment and avail all of yourself to being still.

LEARN TO BE WELL

The art of stillness cannot manifest without also engaging in a deeper quest for wellbeing. This is about opening up your body, spirit, and psyche to being well. Stillness is not just about looking composed and proper; It dares to interrogate the inner and outer being, sync your holistic postures, and

uncover the foundations of wisdom that are rooted in the pre-historic brain. An essential component of striving for stillness is about learning to be well, learning to listen to yourself and to change that which negatively impacts your consciousness.

GO NOWHERE

As a travel writer, I was surprised at how going *nowhere* was perceived as a critical part of the pursuit of stillness. Rather than following a predetermined route and being limited to structured paths, allow yourself to wander.

I planned such a trip, but when calling to pre-book my accommodation; I realised that I was still within the structured realm. The ideal is clear. Go *nowhere* Get in your car and drive. Allow your being to pick a flight, pack your bag and let the adventure begin. ⑩



THE 'HALAL' ECONOMY

Understanding the global rise of Muslim spending power

by *diners club* /
photography by *istockphoto.com*

According to Thomson Reuters' *The State of the Global Islamic Economy Report 2017/18*, total global Muslim spend across lifestyle sectors was \$2 trillion by the end of 2016, with \$1.24 trillion spent on Halal food and beverages, \$254 billion on clothing and apparel, \$198 billion on media and entertainment, \$169 billion on travel, \$83

billion on pharmaceuticals, and \$57.4 billion on cosmetics.

With approximately 1.7 billion Muslims globally, the Halal economy is undoubtedly starting to gain significant attention, and with spending figures now reaching more than \$2 trillion, much attention has been given to the spend on the above specific sectors. If one looks at comparative spend in these sectors:

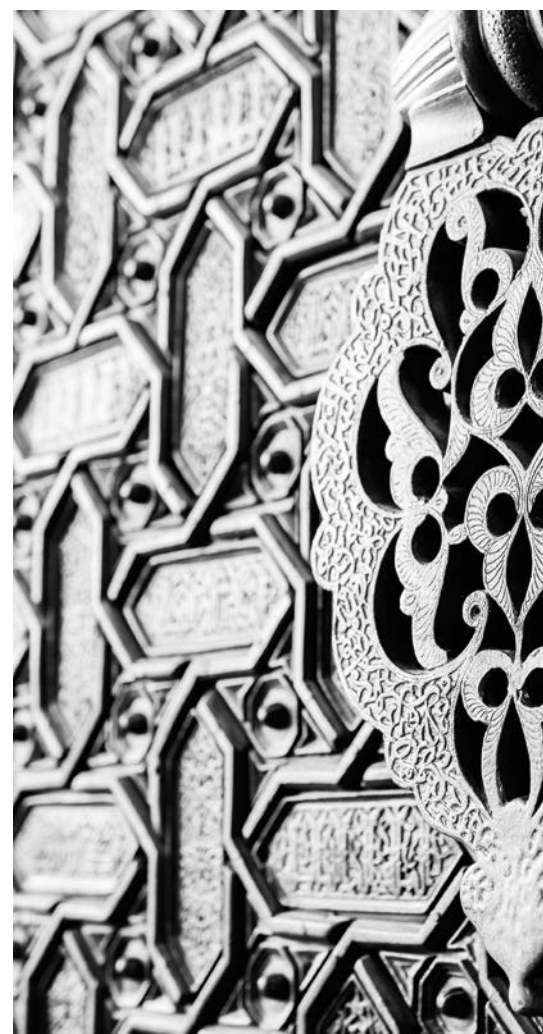
SECTOR	MUSLIM SPEND (US\$ billion)	COMPARED WITH (US\$ billion)
HALAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE	1,245	1,124 (total spend on Food and Beverage by the USA and Russia combined)
HALAL TRAVEL	169	153 (USA total travel spend)
MODEST FASHION	254	219 (UK and Germany combined)
HALAL MEDIA AND RECREATION	198	251 (UK)
HALAL PHARMACEUTICALS	83	64 (Germany)
HALAL COSMETICS	57	40 (Germany)

Over and above this, there remains much latent potential for the Halal economy to enter into an accelerated growth phase. Projections suggest that the 57 Muslim-majority OIC countries are set to grow by 6.2% until 2022 – this being noticeably faster than the global economy (Thomson Reuters).

China's Belt Road initiative will also play a significant role in this accelerated growth with 28 of the 57 OIC countries set to be involved and / or benefit from

this initiative. Pakistan as an example is forecasted to directly benefit from US\$55 billion in investments.

The major players within each of these sectors have already begun creating targeted products and offerings for this market. Fashion for instance – modest fashion now finds itself on the catwalks of all the major fashion weeks across the globe with players such as Dolce & Gabbana and H&M creating dedicated *Modest Fashion Collections*



to appeal to Muslim women. Nike and Hummel have already created *Hijab* sports lines.

On the local front, within the South African context, the Western Cape Government has recognised this, and with The Western Cape being home to possibly the largest Muslim population in South Africa, they inaugurated the Africa Halal Week through WESGRO to position the Western Cape as the Halal capital of Africa. ⑩

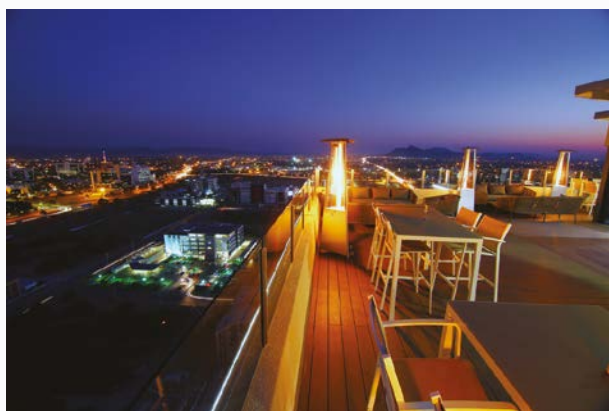


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R O O M S W I T H A V I E W

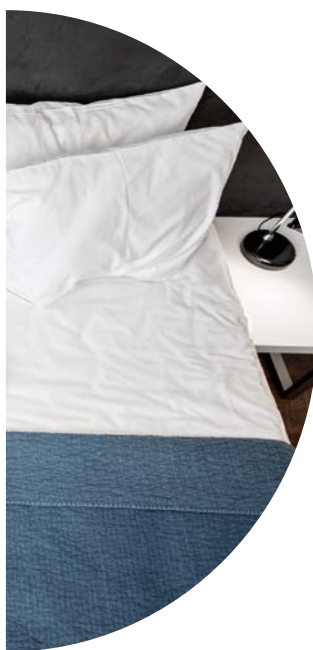
Set in the heart of Gaborone's tallest building, iTowers, at the centre of the city's vibrant new CBD is the stylish Boutique Hotel Room50Two. The quality of 54 outstanding apartments compromise of 36 standard rooms, 6 premium rooms, 12 Premium Plus rooms with balconies offering exceptional views of the city below.

ROOM50TWO A SCENIC PLEASURE



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WHEN SHARING IS SCARY

He was stark naked when he climbed into the bed, and I knew then that this was going to be no ordinary business trip...

If travel opens your mind, business travel can have the opposite effect of snapping it shut like a cheap briefcase. And business travel where you have to share with a colleague makes you think back fondly to the days of that flea-ridden youth hostel in Amsterdam that you stayed in while hitchhiking through Europe after school, remembering it as if it was the Hilton.

The biggest problem with sharing on a business trip is the other person. That's basically it. It's one thing closing a deal together. It's another thing entirely closing a hotel room door together. And that's when your colleague suddenly informs you he sleeps naked at home so why not here, in a double bed, in a hotel room with you?

I once shared with a professional golfer during a tournament in Zimbabwe. He had no room for the week and asked if we could share. He was a man of few words who had the physical build of somebody who actually had to choose between a career in professional golf or playing rugby, in the front row.

We had a double bed in the room. That first night, as I climbed in on my side of the bed (sleeping so far on the

edge, it felt like I was bivouacking on Everest) and he did the same, we put the bedside lights off and lay there in silence. I felt awkward, so I said something.

"Good night." He grunted. "Sleep tight." He grunted. Silence. And then he said, "If your leg touches mine in the night I'll kill you." We spent three days living past each other, not ever really connecting. But I hoped I'd learnt from the experience.

Alas, then came the Wild Coast Sun Country Club. It was the final stretch of a six-week long stretch on the Sunshine Tour professional circuit that I had shared with a colleague. I found out on our second night of sharing on tour that he snored. Louder than a Rottweiler under anaesthetic on a vet's table. Halfway through our tour, I'd had less sleep than parents of newborn twins. With Colic. Living in a flat above a panel-beating factory.

I had tried earplugs, sleeping pills, meditational music. Nothing helped. By our final week at the Wild Coast Sun, I was ragged. After a long day, we fell into bed. A double bed, of course. Hotel receptionists take great delight in putting business travellers in a room with only a double bed. Anyway, weeks of no sleep meant I somehow slipped

blissfully into a comatose state. Then came the dream. I was on a beach in Normandy. I wasn't so much saving Private Ryan as having the sense of saving my own privates from the bombs falling all about us. It was so realistic, in fact, that I leapt out of bed convinced a mortar was headed my way, ran for the hotel room door, swung it open and then tore down the corridor in my little tighty-white sleep shorts. It was only when my colleague leaned out the door and shouted, "Michael. I'm sorry. Come back. I promise I'll stop snoring. Just please come back, Michael", that I snapped out of my dream.

I've known fellow business travellers who have dragged mattresses outside and slept in the hallway rather than share with a snoring colleague.

A fellow sports journalist once spent an entire week sleeping on the pool loungers at the Sun City Cabanas rather than share. He said it worked brilliantly. The nights were warm, and the Hadedas were as regular as clockwork waking him up at 05h00 each day.

The only downside was room service could be a tad on the slow side. ①

by **michael vlismas** /
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