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from the MD



Welcome

Ethel Nyembe
Managing Director

At Diners Club we believe in partnerships, in building new relationships, and strengthening the bonds that have been carefully nurtured over the last 70 years. These relationships are the bedrock upon which our success, and the success of our partners is built.

Equally, innovation is at the forefront of what we do, as we continually work towards pushing the boundaries of service excellence for our Clubmembers and corporate clients alike.

In this edition of *Signature*, we take a look at two relationships that break the mould in the sector, both enhancing the merchant experience, and improving accessibility and ease of use for card holders through new technologies.

Signature magazine is both a showcase for this innovation drive, and a glimpse into the Diners Club International brand ethos of *travel, lifestyle, and entertainment*. In this edition, *Signature* explores bespoke destinations both near and far, comes to grips with the concept of sustainable fashion, and experiences the art of sculptor, Alex Chinneck, on an architectural scale.

Join us on this exciting journey of innovation and discovery, of exploration and enlightenment, and discover how the Diners Club lifestyle becomes more accessible to you, every day.

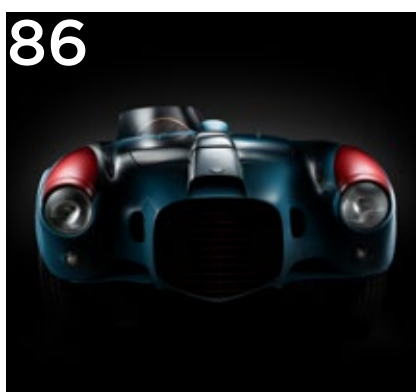
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DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

Managing Director
Ethel Nyembe

Marketing and Events Manager
Hester Hahn

TJT MEDIA (PTY) LTD

Managing Director
Pam Komani / pam@tjtmedia.co.za

Publishing Director
Bernie Hellberg Jr / bernie@tjtmedia.co.za

Editor-in-Chief
Deidre Loots / deidre@tjtmedia.co.za

Design & Layout
Caroline Nkoe / caroline@tjtmedia.co.za

Media Traffic
Chelsey Stain / chelsey@tjtmedia.co.za

Accounts
Candy-Lee da Silva / accounts@tcbmedia.co.za

ADVERTISING SALES

National Sales Manager (Business Development)
Chantal Barton / chantal@tjtmedia.co.za
+27 79 626 0782

National Sales Manager (Regional & SADC)
Bryan Kayavhu / bryan@tjtmedia.co.za
+27 83 785 6691

GAUTENG

1st Floor, Unit G, Castle Walk Corporate Park,
11 Kuiseb Street, Erasmuskloof, 0081
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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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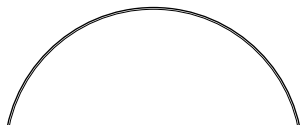
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GO THERE



JOURNEYS BY JET

There was a time when travel was different, when the journey was anticipated, and carefully planned. A time when passengers were guests, when dashing pilots and daring socialites took to the skies. When the pioneers of aviation blazed trails across the world and opened new horizons, linked communities and made the world that little bit smaller. Now, Journeys by Jet bring you historical private jet expeditions and escorted journeys that follow in the footsteps of these travel pioneers, including the Imperial Airways/BOAC "Empire Routes" between London and Cape Town through the Mediterranean and Africa. The flying boats may be no more, but Journeys by Jet recreate their style and elegance onboard their all-business class Boeing 737, offering traditional British Silver Wing Service staying in heritage hotels en route. The expeditions will be virtually all-inclusive of flights, accommodation, gratuities, meals and drinks. Join Journeys by Jet as they retrace the journeys of the pioneers, aviators, and passengers and remember their legacies in true old world style. www.journeysbyjet.com

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NAMIBIAN WONDERLAND

72 Hours in Swakopmund and beyond

With the highest dunes in the world, the deepest canyon in Africa, wild seascapes, a rich abundance of wildlife and vibrant cities, Namibia remains a travel anomaly for many South African tourists.



ABOVE: *The Strand Hotel on the Mole*

Namibia is the perfect long weekend or long-stay destination, and with its vast size, sparse population, and stable political disposition, it offers you the opportunity to confidently move off the beaten track and explore one of the most spectacular landscapes on earth.

Despite being easily accessible from South Africa by air, Namibia seems to be more popular with European tourists than regional visitors, a state of play that the local tourism authority, Destination Swakopmund would love to change.

For visitors from Gauteng,

especially, Namibia – and in particular Swakopmund – offers the ideal breakaway destination, whether you're looking for a long weekend sojourn, or you long for a more extended stay in the world's oldest desert.

SWAKOPMUND

A must-stop on any iconic Namibian road trip, Swakopmund is a porthole into the country's German history. Bavarian-style buildings with wooden outlined windows line the streets, and the seaside town is an oasis planted between the Skeleton Coast and the endlessness of the Namib.

South African visitors need only



*Bavarian-style buildings
 with wooden outlined windows
 line the streets, and the seaside
 town is an oasis planted between
 the Skeleton Coast and the
 endlessness of the Namib.*

a passport to enter Namibia, as both countries form part of the Southern African Development Community. There are regular flights with Air Namibia from Cape Town and Johannesburg that land either in Walvis Bay, a half-hour drive from Swakopmund, or at Windhoek's Hosea Kotaku International Airport. From here a 30-minute connecting flight to Walvis Bay airport will have you taking in the fresh seaside air in no time at all.

Interesting to note, is the origin of the town's name. According to Namibweb, Swakopmund is derived from the Nama word "Tsoakhaub", which can be translated as meaning "excrement opening". An offensive, but accurate

description of the waters of the Swakop River at the time of coming down in floods carrying masses of mud, sand, pieces of vegetation, and other organic material.

Established by German colonists in 1892, the city's colonial landmarks include the Swakopmund Lighthouse and the Mole, an old sea wall. Next to the lighthouse, the Swakopmund Museum documents Namibian history, while, inland, the elegant Swakopmund Railway Station, now a hotel, also dates to the colonial era.

OVERNIGHT DELIGHT

The Mole, or the Swakopmund 'waterfront' is home to the iconic Strand



Hotel (part of the O&L Leisure Group), and is within walking distance of many Swakop landmarks and activities. The Strand offers a contemporary, comfy stay in the heart of Swakopmund, and has become an accommodation staple for both local and international travellers who demand excellent service, yet appreciate local flair.

The Strand Hotel caters both for large groups and intimate breakaways, offering accommodation at various levels, and for diverse budgets.

Every aspect of the Strand Hotel Swakopmund has been developed according to international four-star standards. With eight different room and suite options, and a choice of four restaurants at the hotel itself, The Strand has become the benchmark

against which all hotels and lodges in Namibia are measured.

Central to the accommodation offering in Swakopmund, The Strand is also home to Atlantic Spa, where trained staff offer numerous specialist treatments in a relaxing and comforting environment. I certainly recommend spending an hour or two of your 72-hour Namibian adventure to unwind and recuperate here.

For dinner, pop down to one of the restaurants overlooking the ocean. There are three to choose from – the Brewer and Butcher pub-style restaurant, a luxe sushi bar and seafood restaurant called the Ocean Cellar, and a more relaxed bistro called the Farmhouse Deli. I recommend the brewery, where you can sample some

of Swakop's homemade beer while savouring the signature Baby Back Ribs prepared in a Jack Daniels marinade.

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

Kick off your weekend in Swakopmund by walking the streets in search of unique local products and experiences. From The Strand hotel, stroll along the promenade to Café Anton for a delicious baked snack and coffee, or pass it by in favour of Slowtown Coffee Roasters, at the bottom of Daniel Tjongarero Avenue, which operates with a 100% Namibian team and is a chic, trendy addition to the touristy strip of shops with a wonderful view of the town lighthouse.

Once fuelled up, tackle the Swakopmund Museum, which is just



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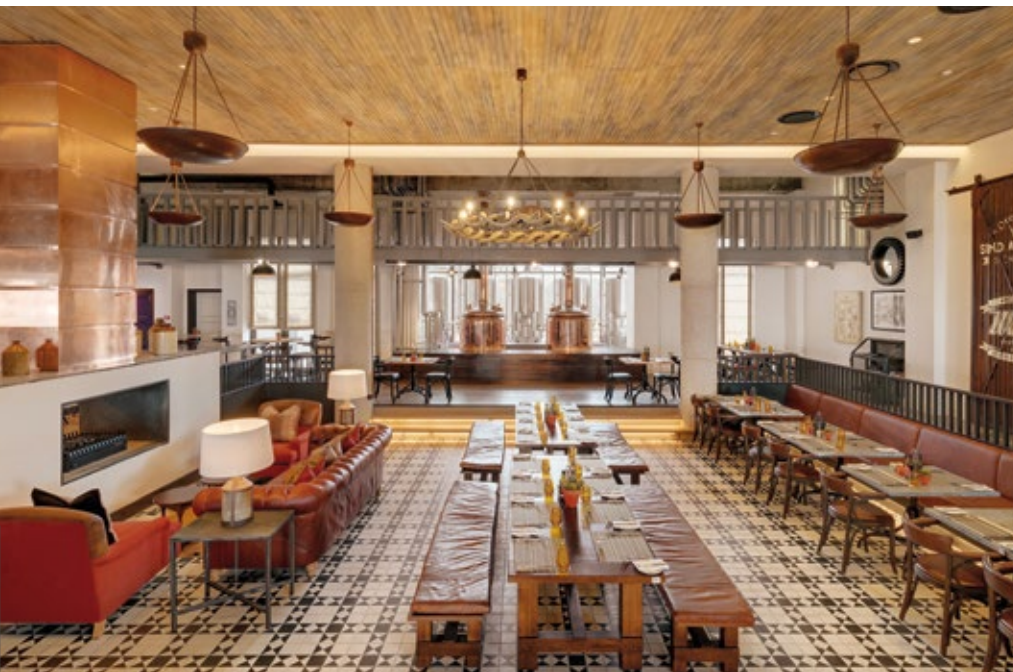
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LEFT: Cape Fur seals at Pelican Point



LEFT: *The iconic Brewer & Butcher Restaurant*

behind the lighthouse and facing the beach. The largest privately owned museum in Namibia occupies the site of the old harbour warehouse, and there's plenty to see.

Swakopmund is perfect for pedestrians. Wander the streets to explore some of Swakopmund's historic architectural treasures that date back to the colonial era of the late 1800s, some with their exterior timber panelling reminiscent of a mix of German and English Tudor style still beautifully maintained.

Buildings and monuments of note in the city include the Freudhaus and Hohenzollern buildings, the War Memorial, Princess Rupprecht House, and the Kaserne buildings that originally



how to get there

Air Namibia operates daily routes between Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek from Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, as well as selected flights to Walvis Bay airport. Visit www.airnamibia.com.na for detailed route and schedule information.

served as a military barracks.

HEAD TO WALVIS BAY

On the way to Walvis Bay, you will pass quad-biking outfit Desert Explorers (www.namibiandesertexplorers.com), who offer an exhilarating option to explore the dunes that stretch between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

It is an adrenaline rush on four

wheels to rival the best of them, and the views from the top of the dunes are stunning as you find yourself in the middle of the Namib Desert itself, surrounded by undulating sandy hills for as far as the eye can see.

Or make a stop at Bird Island, a 17,000 m² platform about 400 metres offshore. Completed in 1937, it is inhabited by thousands of nesting seabirds whose guano is harvested for



its astronomically high market value, to be used in fertilisers and other products.

Meaning “Whale Bay” in Afrikaans, Walvis Bay is the sister town to Swakopmund, and thrives on both tourism and commercial shipping to maintain its economy.

Discovered by Bartolomeu Diaz in 1487, founded by the Dutch in 1793, and annexed by the British in 1910, the town and its commercially significant

harbour became part of the South African Union and was only returned to Namibia in 1994 by the outgoing South African administration.

Tourist activity centres around the deep emerald lagoon that absolutely teems with wildlife. The activity *du jour* is to take a catamaran tour of the bay to view the 50,000-strong Cape Fur seal colony at Pelican Point.

Depending on the tour and operator

– our operators were Catamaran Charters – travellers can enjoy more than just the view, as a champagne brunch, complete with a selection of oysters and canapés, can be enjoyed.

Namibian oysters are famous the world over and thrive in the sheltered, nutrient-rich, lagoon waters. The oyster farm, identified by the rows of colourful bobbing barrels that float the nets, nurtures thousands of oysters

BELOW: Farmhouse Deli at the Strand Hotel offers homestyle local fare



It is an adrenaline rush on four wheels to rival the best of them, and the views from the top of the dunes are stunning as you find yourself in the middle of the Namib Desert itself, surrounded by undulating sandy hills for as far as the eye can see.



ABOVE: Hohenzollern Building in downtown Swakop

at any given time. These will mature in as little as 12 months. In France, the same process takes up to four years, and the oysters produced there cannot compete with the fleshy, creamy ones produced on the Namibian coast.

Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and surrounds charmed me with the warmth of their people and the beauty of the landscape that surrounds them. With 11 ethnic groups and a strong German and South African heritage, Namibians pride themselves on their solidarity across a rich and diverse

multi-cultural society. Their hospitality, or *gemütlichkeit*, is as unforgettable as the ancient landscape that frame this Namibian Wonderland. 19

by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **bernie hellberg jr** / o&l leisure /
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where to stay

Strand Hotel Swakopmund is the perfect venue for travellers wanting to explore this iconic Namibian town, which has become a popular destination resort for international, Namibian and SADC visitors. With its extensive facilities that include unique, and creatively entertaining restaurants, bars, deli, lobby-lounge, sea-facing terraces, and state-of-the-art conference facilities, all set on the Mole – an historic site surrounded by the ocean on three sides – the Strand Hotel is a destination in itself for visitors to, and residents of Swakopmund.



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CAPITAL GAINS

Getting the low-down on Southern Africa's great capital cities

Not every city is worthy of capital city status. This is in spite of its infrastructure, booming markets and service offerings. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a capital city is “a city that is the centre of government of a country or smaller political area” and can also be “the most important place for a particular business or activity.”

If you're up for business or touring at places that “matter most”, then these five African capital cities are bound to leave you spoilt for choice. Here's how to experience the very best that the capital cities of Harare (Zimbabwe), Windhoek (Namibia), Gaborone (Botswana), Maputo (Mozambique) and Lusaka (Zambia) have to offer.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

In several African cultures, the dead are not *dead*. They remain

with us forever. Africans argue that [deceased] bodies are given the same, if not more “respect” than the living. They are spoken to before being sent off to live on in an eternal dimension. Many African tribes revere the dead as sacred entities, who when honoured, can allegedly bring some illumination to the living.

One dare not think that Harare is just known for revering the dead. Far be it! The city teems with life, and the very name, Harare – said to be a corruption of *Havarari* from the name given to a Zezuru Chief of the northeastern part





ABOVE: *Summer Blooms in Gaborone*

*True to the spirit of Africa,
 to understand a place and its
 essence, you need first to uncover
 its past. While the past is by
 no means an indication of
 one's destiny, it is intricately
 interwoven into the beliefs and
 ideologies of many who call
 Namibia home.*



ABOVE: National Gallery of Zimbabwe

of Zimbabwe, a Chief Harava – means “they never sleep”.

True to its name, the living and dead come alive in Harare. Even nature awakens in all its splendour, such as can be seen at Harare Botanical Gardens. Many come here to breathe and let the therapeutic silence of nature engulf them.

While there is much to see and do in Harare, if a picture does indeed speak a thousand words, then the visuals from First Floor Gallery would attempt to portray unending words. If you are an art lover, then this is the space for you.

This well-known contemporary gallery speaks in both old and new

voices that come from a place that never sleeps and never gives in. It is a creative space that longs to be the voice of the voiceless in Harare, the ever-so-bright continent of Africa, and the world at large.

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

True to the spirit of Africa, to understand a place and its essence, you need first to uncover its past. While the past is by no means an indication of one's destiny, it is intricately interwoven into the beliefs and ideologies of many who call Namibia home.

Inaugurated in 2002 by former State President Sam Nujoma, Heroes' Acre – a memorial for Namibian war heroes – commemorates Namibia's independence, as its location in the isolated hills of Windhoek is commentary. Here one can drift away from the hustle-and-bustle of everyday city life, drawing nearer to nature in a space that commands your attention, and rightfully receives it.

Heroes Acre is home to both occupied and unoccupied tombs. It is a resting place for former and future heroes. Some of those commemorated in this sanctuary are not buried here, but their spirits are recognised in this grand place that is absolutely worth seeing when visiting Windhoek.

GABORONE, BOTSWANA

Although Gaborone is a bustling and modern metropolis, there are many reasons why the Gaborone Game Reserve is one of the most popular

BELOW: Dusk in Windhoek



RIGHT: *The Christians Church and
Downtown Independence Memorial to Dr Sam Nujoma*
BELOW: *Maputo Skyline at Night*



tourist attractions in the area. Known for its picnic areas, visitor centres, and the abundance of wildlife within its borders, the reserve is also home to an assortment of birds and animal species.

Gaborone is also ideal for meeting royalty. The Three Dikgosi Monument is a bronze sculpture that celebrates the country's rich royal heritage. The people of Botswana are not afraid to celebrate their own, and this monument, erected to inform both current and future generations to of their traditional leaders, is a shining example of the people of Botswana's national pride.

Meaning "kings", the *Dikgosi* - statues showcase three kings: Khama III of the Bangwato, Sebele I of the Bakwena, and Bathoen I of the Bangwaketse. They stand as proud symbols of the rich traditional culture of this mighty nation. It is common for events to be held at the monument and what better location than one that is accompanied by royal embodiments.

For an intricate understanding and representation of this nation's cultural artefacts, Botswana Crafts is your go-to destination. It is one of the largest handcrafts centres in Gaborone. Here, one not only learns much about traditional beads, but one can find out about how and why some traditional crafts are made. The market is a one-stop destination for local-inspired African souvenirs.

While at the market, be sure



to visit The Courtyard Restaurant for delicious traditional food and delectable desserts. The restaurant offers the opportunity to get a sensory experience of Botswana's culturally significant dishes.

MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

Despite occasionally suffering the wrath of tropical cyclones and other devastating storms, the Mozambican capital city buzzes with life, culture, infrastructural advancements, and friendly people. Maputo comes alive with a tapestry of experiences, sensations

and tastes. It has a rich heritage that is ever so attractive to visitors who are eager to understand the history of this east African capital city.

And what better way to commence your travels than at a museum. The Museum of Natural History of Maputo, Mozambique was established over a century ago, and is still going strong. Initially known as the Provincial Museum, the name was changed to Dr Álvaro de Castro Museum before the country's independence, and finally changed to the Natural History Museum after this historical occurrence.



With green public spaces such as the Tunduru Gardens, you need never leave downtown Maputo. Designed in 1885 by Thomas Honney, a British gardener, this public park is excellent for taking relaxing strolls and its gardens are a breathtaking and popular tourist destination.

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA


In Zambia, nothing is ever named coincidentally, as Zambians believe that there should always be more to a name than merely the way it sounds. It is opined that Zambia's capital city received its name from a village that was named after a historical Chief, Lusaka. The city embodies the spirit of African tenacity, cultural pride, and leadership that lives on in its name.

The Lusaka National Museum is a famous Zambian attraction, and is well known for presenting local history in a captivating way. It is a place that locals and tourists turn to for any cultural and tribal information that is worth knowing.

Be sure to visit this interactive space for a front row seat to contemporary art. It is not just a well-presented space but also strives to offer a personal touch in using paintings and other artistic representations to present the way of life of the people of Zambia. The nation's development journey, as well as child-friendly displays, are features to experience when visiting the museum.

Animal lovers should head over to Lusaka National Park for a relaxing *braai* (barbeque) and an opportunity to be out in the bush, surrounded by

wild animals. Kalimba Reptile Park in Lusaka is a must see to get a grip on Zambia's scaly creatures.

Africa offers unforgettable travel experiences for everyone. Whatever the depth of your pocket may be, new adventures are waiting to be uncovered. There's so much to learn about African culture and heritage, and being such a warm continent, pun intended, Africans are happy to share the intricacies of their way of life. 

by *phindiwe nkosi* /
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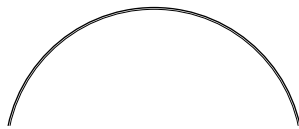


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LIFESTYLE



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Following in the footsteps of SA's favourite mandarin, ClemenGold, a new brand of seedless lemons are due to woo chefs, home-cooks, health enthusiasts, mixologists and lovers of all things lemony with its zesty convenience. LemonGold brings you the promise of culinary convenience in every squeeze. No more hassle with unwanted pips in your salad, favourite lemon-enhanced dish or healthy home-pressed juice or smoothie. Available exclusively at Woolworths from June 2019.

SHIMANSKY BRILLIANCE

A diamond's cut is one of the most important aspects when it comes to grading – and its subsequent valuation – as it showcases the fire that burns within each diamond's heart. Often confused with a diamond's shape, the cut refers to how well the diamond has been cut and polished, regardless of its final shape. A poor cut can affect a diamond of even the highest colour and clarity grading, while an excellent cut can massively elevate the appearance of a diamond of low colour or clarity grading. The world-first patented Shimansky Brilliant 10 diamond features 71 facets, precisely aligned for the ultimate display of brilliance. When viewed from below, the cut delivers a pattern of ten hearts, and when viewed from below, a pattern of ten arrows – perfect symmetry which captures both the eyes and hearts of diamond



connoisseurs. The Brilliant 10 diamond cut takes up to three times longer to achieve, and can only be polished by a handful of skilled master diamond polishers. The essence of this patented cut is its ability to reflect light: the light that enters the diamond is reflected back with almost no light leakage – a world-first in the diamond industry. Shimansky Brilliant 10 diamonds are available exclusively at Shimansky. www.shimansky.co.za



NIX & TEE

Any journey, no matter how long or short, always begins with the first step. For many, this could be the journey to improve your health, or of finally addressing those external niggles that have made you feel insecure. Founded by Nicolette Wepner and Turid Stacey, the newly opened Nix & Tee Wellness and Aesthetic Centre in Dainfern is dedicated to encouraging clients on their journey to achieving beauty, healing, and living a fulfilling life. Nix and Tee's intense interest

in aesthetics, deep-seated love of helping people, and years of experience in the aesthetic industry and as nurses, serve as the inspiration behind Nix & Tee. Nix & Tee offers various aesthetic and therapeutic treatments aimed at enhancing your inner beauty and improving your wellbeing. Skin needling, chemical resurfacing, redermalisation, skin-booster treatments, and body contouring, are just some of the aesthetic treatments on offer, while the latest aesthetic technology further complements their aesthetic and wellness services. Nix & Tee also offers the services of a plastic surgeon and aesthetic physician who consult and perform botulinum toxin injectables, dermal filler and threads. www.ntaesthetic.co.za



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LIVING IT UP IN LIVINGSTONE

From capital city to adventure hub, Livingstone has matured into a vibrant tourism hotspot with something for everyone

The relaxed town of Livingstone, located a mere stone's throw from Victoria Falls, is a fantastic base for exploring the Zambian side of the Seventh Natural Wonder of the World. Attracting many travellers to the falls each year, the town is a tourism hub in its own right.

Livingstone may be best known for its proximity to the Victoria Falls, but this historic town also boasts some of the best adventure activities in the world.

Once a bustling settlement named after intrepid explorer, Dr David Livingstone, and home of the country's first newspaper, Livingstone has matured into a stand-alone destination, and the perfect base from where to explore this southern region of Zambia.

Proclaimed as the capital of Northern Rhodesia – as Zambia was known at the time – Livingstone officially came into existence in 1905.

By this time, the awe-inspiring Victoria Falls bridge had been built, which opened up a railway link between the Zambian copper belt, and coal deposits at Wankee, now Hwange, in Zimbabwe.

Being the capital city at that time, Livingstone enjoyed exponential growth, and its Edwardian heritage can still be seen in the colonial buildings that line the main street. The town lost its capital in 1935 when the Zambian administration moved to the current capital, Lusaka.

It may not be the centre of Zambian commerce any longer, but there is a certain charm about the town, ensuring that it remains a hotspot

for travellers visiting this part of the Zambezi River and Victoria Falls.

SEE THE SIGHTS

Museums: The Livingstone Museum is Zambia's oldest and most significant museum, operational since the 1930s. Visitors can move through from Archaeology to Ethnology and the Art Gallery, then through Natural History to the History Gallery. There is an extensive collection of David Livingstone memorabilia, and a library.

The Railway Museum will entertain steam engine enthusiasts with historical locomotives and coaches from the pioneer days, and a



photographic collection from that era.

Livingstone has some remaining buildings from the colonial era, including the North Western Hotel, St Andrews Anglican Church, and Coillard Memorial Church.

Cruising: Visitors to Livingstone can relax and view the passing scenery aboard the African Queen, a two-deck cruiser, departing from the local boat club.

WHAT TO DO

Golfing: Livingstone has a magnificent parkland 18-hole, par 72, golf course, set in tranquil manicured gardens. The Livingstone Royal Golf and Country Club has a beautiful historical Edwardian

Club House with a long veranda overlooking the fairways. There are two eateries at the club, one for casual meals and the other for a la carte dining. Other facilities include a pro shop, gym, lawn tennis, swimming pool, play area, and spa.

Fishing: Enthusiasts can spend time testing their skills on the beautiful Zambezi River where Tiger Fish, Bream, and many other varieties of fish can be found.

Flights of fancy: Try Microlighting over Victoria Falls, looking down at the massive two-kilometre long slice into the earth, and following the gorges for eight kilometres. Alternatively, take a helicopter flip or fixed wing flight over the falls.



Walks & Guided Tours: The Rain Forest walk next to the Falls is a must, but be sure to take a raincoat as getting wet is par for the course.

Craft Markets: There are numerous colourful markets craft outlets in Livingstone. Visitors can browse the many examples of ethnic art, furniture and curios on offer.

Restaurants: Livingstone has a variety of eateries, independent restaurants, and international hotels, and pubs with everything from Indian cuisine, Chinese food, pub meals, fast food, and light coffee shop lunches.

GET YOUR ADVENTURE ON

White Water Rafting: One of the most intense experiences is white water rafting down the Zambezi River – a wild rollercoaster journey rafting from the base of Victoria Falls through the Batoka Gorge. There are no fewer than 13 thundering rapids when the river is high – usually March to July – but once the water level drops, the full 23 rapids can be experienced.

Bungee Jump: For a life-changing rush, take a leap of faith from the highest bridge jump in the world. The bridge, stretching across no man's land between Zambia and Zimbabwe, is 111 metres high

and spans the Batoka Gorge, with the mighty Zambezi River below.

Riverboarding, Abseiling, & Gorge Swinging: River boarding resembles surfing, but on the Zambezi River through rapids. If the water seems too daunting, try abseiling down the gorge, high wiring, gorge swinging, or rap jumping with a safety harness and as much courage as you can muster.

HOW TO GET THERE

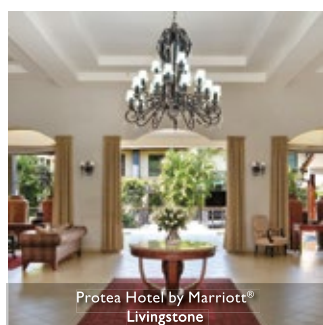
By Air: Scheduled flights operate from Lusaka, and internationally from Johannesburg, as well as from several African countries. Livingstone Airport is also well served by a number of charter companies.

By Road: From Lusaka, Livingstone is approximately 470 km south on the Kafue Road. Just after the Kafue River Bridge, take the turn right towards Mazabuka. From Victoria Falls town, cross the border on the Victoria Falls Bridge, and continue up the road for 11 km to Livingstone.

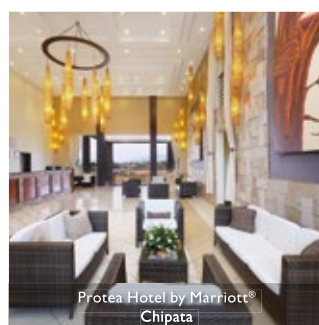
By Ferry: From Botswana, take the ferry at Kazungula to cross the border. Continue east for about 60 km to Livingstone. 📍

by *bernie hellberg jr* /
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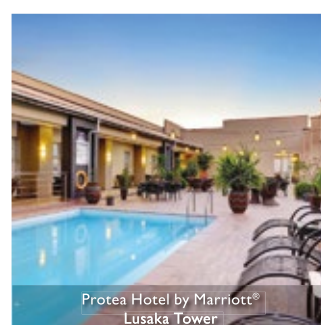
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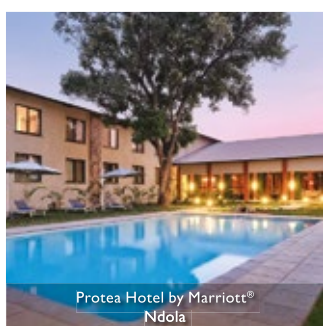
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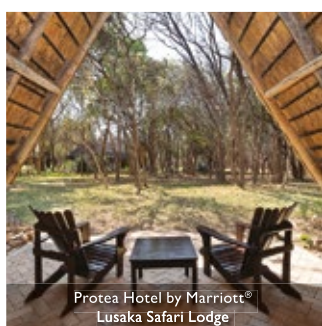
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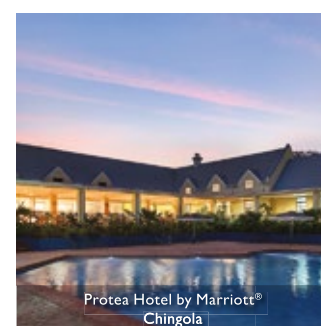
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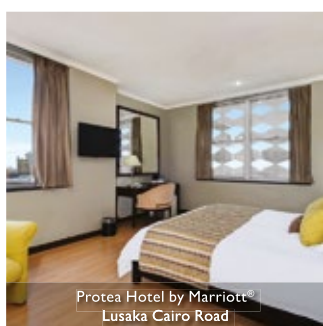
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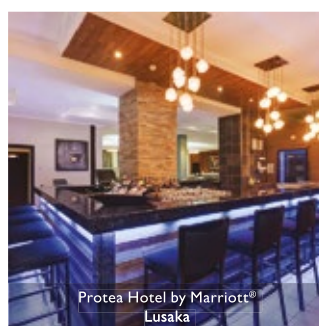
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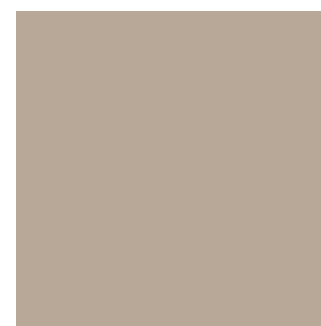
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THE RESTING PLACE

AZURA QUILÁLEA

*Feel like an uber-privileged castaway
on Azura Quilálea Private Island*

Revealed in brilliant detail from a private helicopter transfer, the string of islands that make up Mozambique's Quirimbas Archipelago are dotted like raw pearls along the Indian Ocean, joined by a string of translucent, cyan water. Welcome to Azura Quilálea.

Quilálea is one of a duet of luxury Mozambican destinations operated by Azura Retreats – Benguerra being the other. Quilálea is nature's pièce de résistance of the Archipelago – the only island with its own house reef. This means you can slip into the water from the beach, scuba dive or snorkel, and immediately immerse yourself in a kaleidoscope of colour and exotic marine life. It is part of the Quirimbas National Park and is home to nesting turtles, superpods of dolphin, migrating humpback whales and even seahorses. It is from this cocoon of luxury and conservation that you melt into utter serenity.

Turtle beach on the island is jealously guarded by Azura staff, allowing the turtle to bury her eggs under the damp sand using

her strong back flippers. If you're lucky enough, you may catch a glimpse of the baby turtles emerging from their hatcheries, working together to free themselves and pop out of the sand, wriggling towards the sea en masse. It's a bucket list privilege.

SUPREME PERSONAL SERVICE

It is not only the destination, but also the service that is the signature of this sublime experience, which is why each bungalow is assigned its own personal host. 'Nelson's' personal service is faultless. It's intelligent coddling – unobtrusive and anticipatory. He has a great sense of humour and soon he is gently in tandem with the rhythm of the guest.

Your personal host introduces you to one of the nine, finely appointed villas. The décor and the crushed shell pathways pay homage

to the preservation of the island by temporary custodians of Mother Nature's paradise. Villas have coral stone walls, soaring Makuti thatch roofs and stone floors inlaid with shell mosaics. King-size beds are swathed in clouds of mosquito netting and the local Baobabs are hewn into basins and shower heads.

ADVENTURE GALORE

For an island of only 35km², there is much to experience. Fishing trips often produce a delicacy for dinner. A guest lands a 24kg Wahoo (a new record on the island) and another, a dog-toothed tuna. 'Barry's Wahoo' is beautifully prepared by Chef Julio and Chef Abacar who was born and raised in the Quirimbas Archipelago. The fresh catch is merged with local Arabian and Portuguese flavours, utterly unforgettable in its freshness.



helping out

Both properties were mercifully intact after Cyclone Kenneth reached landfall and ravaged many parts of the country. A Just Giving campaign has been set up by Azura's Rainbow Fund charity, in order to raise funds which will be channelled to families in the local community.

☞ *Slip into the water from the beach, scuba dive or snorkel, and immediately immerse yourself in a kaleidoscope of colour and exotic marine life.* ☞

and presentation – delicious, unpretentious food. The resort also supports the local fishermen, their dugouts arriving daily to offer a smorgasbord of fresh line-fish, calamari, mangrove crab, lobster and prawns.

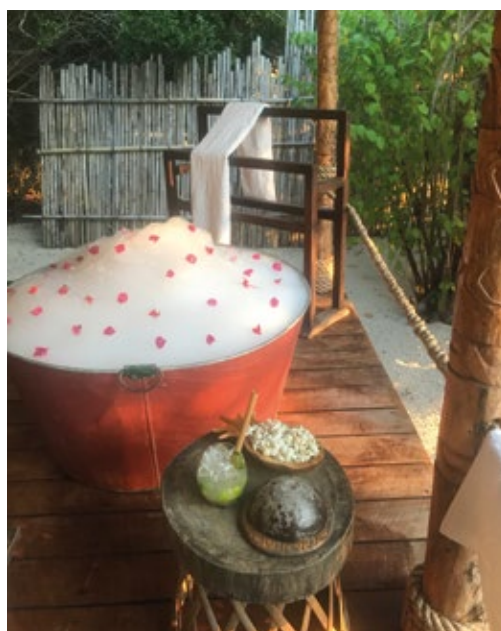
Night snorkelling is a signature activity at Quilálea. At sunset, the 12-hour day-shift on the coral reef ends, the water morphs into a soft, velvet black and the reef glows with its own soft light, the coral alive in tentacles of a feeding frenzy. You are gentle gate-crashers at this all-night underwater party. A hawksbill turtle moves unperturbed and languorously towards the surface, centimetres away. As he takes in a breath of fresh air we hold ours, knowing we're privy to something really special. You have just swum with one of the oldest creatures on earth.

The Marine Walk with its 4.8-metre tidal

change – exposes a vast area alive with creatures. It's a miraculous parting of the sea with the dulcet tones of a marine orchestra. The distinct gloop as a bubble in the sand pops in slow motion. the tinkling of a crab as it launches sideways then settles clumsily into its burrow home. There are Cowrie shells of different hues with shy tenants, a baby eel which slithers through the thin layer of water and large clams scattered casually around.

SAVOUR SPECIAL MOMENTS

The return from the Marine Walk reveals another surprise and delight. Like an illusionist, Nelson has conjured up a large tub on your deck, complete with a dome of bubbles and decorated with a potpourri of petals. You sink in, watching the sunset while sipping one of the patented Quilálea



cocktails. Later, a craft gin tasting on the beach – the upside down boat serving as the bar – is both authentic and enchanting. As is everything on the island.


Kudos must be given to the GMs, Claudia Pellarini and Leon Joubert, whose hands-on and creative approach to the guest experience is unparalleled. They're warm, vibrant, engagingly, interested and interesting hosts. Their nurturing leadership means the warm, personalised service infuses every aspect of your stay. Both are underwater photographers and PADI scuba instructors with well over two decades of experience in hospitality around the globe. The high percentage of

return guests is a testimony to this.

The attraction of the island is not new either. It has the only accessible beach in the Archipelago even at low tide, and through the centuries it became saw a steady stream of Arab and Portuguese traders.

'Lálea' is an adaptation of the Swahili, 'Ulala' which means – nice resting place. Quilálea is just that and so much more.

For more information, please visit www.azura-retreats.com/quilalea-introduction.

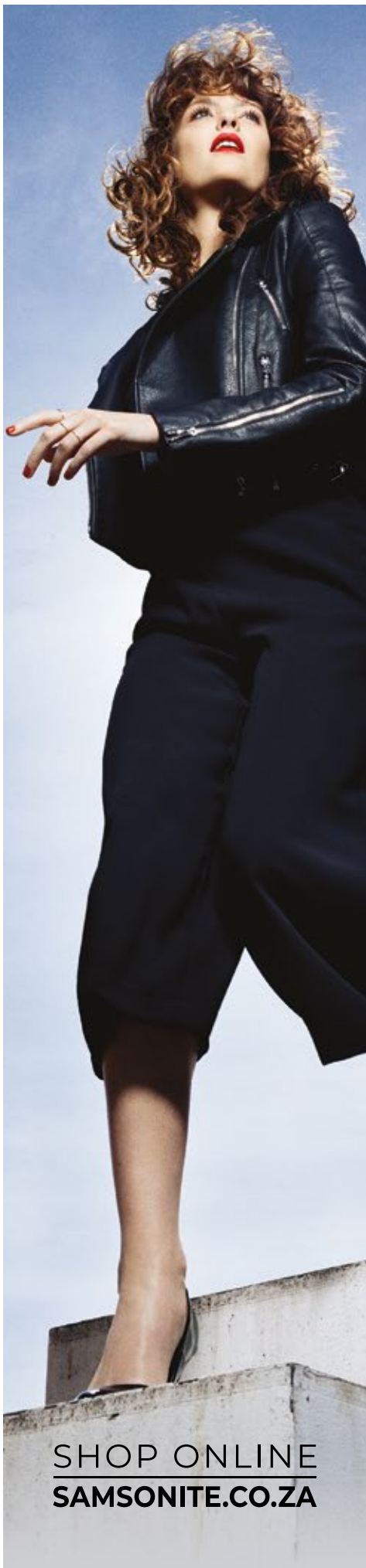
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by **kathy malherbe** /
photography by **azura quilálea**

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THE BEVERAGE THAT UNITES & DELIGHTS

Coffee, arguably the most 'aromatic' noun in the English language, has a history buried in the mists of time

First discovered in Ethiopia in the 11th century, these berries have launched an industry and trade between nations and continents that run into billions of dollars.



Coffee as a drink grew in popularity in Turkey in 1555 when the beans were roasted over charcoal fires, then finely ground and slowly boiled in water – a process that will cause shivers down the spines of latter-day coffee snobs.

Europe was quick to develop a taste for this magnificent beverage, and to the city of Venice goes the honour of having launched

the first coffee shops where people from all walks of life – mainly artists and students – came together. In fact, London's coffee houses (1660) were dubbed 'penny universities' as they were patronised by artists, politicians, writers and poets who all gladly paid the entrance fee of one penny.

THE INSTANT ERA

Sadly, humankind will always try to improve on perfection, and it was a matter



of time that, for the sake of *convenience*, the instant option would emerge. The dubious honour as the developer of a stable soluble 'just add water' brew goes to Satori Kato – a Japanese-American chemist who patented his invention in 1903.

In times of hardship and political instability, such as the blockade against France in 1808 during the Napoleonic Wars, a pretty herbaceous plant with bright blue flowers 'donated' its roots in the form of

chicory as a substitute for the real thing. Entirely devoid of caffeine, chicory is still used to this day.

EMERGING TRENDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is only during the last 20 years or so that our country has woken up to the reality that there's life after instant. Whereas there were only 20 roasters ten years ago, this number has now grown to more than 100.

Bespoke and exclusive coffee shops are to be found in all major cities, and even smaller towns now have coffee shops and restaurants also serving locally produced coffees.

Even international global chains such as Starbucks have been drawn to this lucrative new market, but the going has been tough because local establishments such as award-winning Truth in Cape Town's Buitenkant Street, as well as the

☺ Many speciality coffee shops also roast in-house – in full view of patrons who watch in awe as the aroma-free grey-green beans are turned into magnificently aromatic blends. ☺



sublime Aroma Group in Pretoria (Hillcrest, Silver Lakes, Hazelwood) and Tribeca which enjoys a national footprint through its linkup with Woolworths are all capable of beating Starbucks at its own game.

Although quantities are small at this stage, South African producers are active on the KZN South Coast (Beaver Creek, Port Edward), and Sabie Valley Coffee in Mpumalanga where the focus is on top quality Arabica – rather than higher yielding Robusta.

Although not growers but rather importers who blend and roast to suit a wide range of discerning tastes, Masterton's of 92 Main Road, Walmer Port Elizabeth, has undoubtedly put Nelson Mandela Bay on the local coffee map. Established in 1924, the company sources top-quality beans from major suppliers in Africa and South America where Brazil (35%) is currently the undisputed king of the coffee countries.

The advent of democracy and the subsequent opening of foreign missions in South Africa – staffed by true coffee lovers – have also provided impetus to the increasing popularity of coffee in its various styles as a drink of choice.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In many instances, the transition from instant to real coffee started with a curious and somewhat tentative purchase of a French Press (which we know as a plunger) and a 250 g packet of *Wiener Mischung*.

Available in various sizes – from 200 ml single cuppers – to larger pots enabling





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be epic. serve great coffee

Established in 1991 by Italian-born, Alessandro Morrico, Morrico Specialist Coffee Supplies is committed to bring South Africa to an internationally matched level of coffee quality, and coffee skills.

Investing in the Future

MORRICO is heavily invested in the future growth of the professional coffee industry in South Africa. As such, MORRICO has been the main sponsor of the South African Barista Championships since 2010, and plays a key role in preparing talented local Baristas for participation in the World Barista Championships.

In 2014, Ciro Coffee Academy began employing hearing impaired persons with the aim of training them in the art of being a professional Barista.

In partnership with Ciro Coffee Academy and the Specialty Coffee Association of South Africa (SCASA), Morrico Specialist Coffee Supplies became involved with the project, and sponsored the first 'Deaf Barista Competition' in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2017. The competition, which is conducted according to WBC standards, strives to introduce hearing-impaired candidates to the world of coffee.



four people to each enjoy a cup – these plungers were delicate in that their sieves had to be damage-free – otherwise you'd be chewing on the grinds.

Paradoxically, these plungers also provided a most pleasing *crema* – always a reasonably reliable freshness indicator.

Other methods of drinking *real* coffee included the ubiquitous aluminium espresso pots and even *one-cuppers* making use of six-centimetre paper filters placed, with their holders, on top of a mug.

Many speciality coffee shops also roast in-house – in full view of patrons who watch in awe as the aroma-free grey-green beans are turned into magnificently aromatic blends. These machines, usually fully imported mechanical works of art, such as the exquisite Morrico Euro-Roasters range, face some competition from locally developed Genio Roasters, while Giesen W6 roasters are still

being used in smaller operations such as Highlands Coffee Roasters in Clarens where the enthusiastic Chris Pefanis is in charge.

THE FUTURE?

As long as busy individuals have (and want) to interact with their peers, friends and business associates, coffee will remain the dominant lubricant of social interaction.

Whether it's a flat white, cappuccino, Americano, mocha or even an espresso doppio, your ability to distinguish between (and pronounce) these offerings will set you apart as knowledgeable and trustworthy.

And all this just by sharing a decent *cuppa* with likeminded people. ☺

*by group editors /
photography by [istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com/) / morrico*

Victoria Arduino

1905



New Specialty Machine



MULTI BOILER TECHNOLOGY



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LET'S GET SOCIAL

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IQOS WORLD REVEALED BY ALEX CHINNECK

*Renowned sculptor, Alex Chinneck, reveals
IQOS World at the 2019 Milan Design Week*

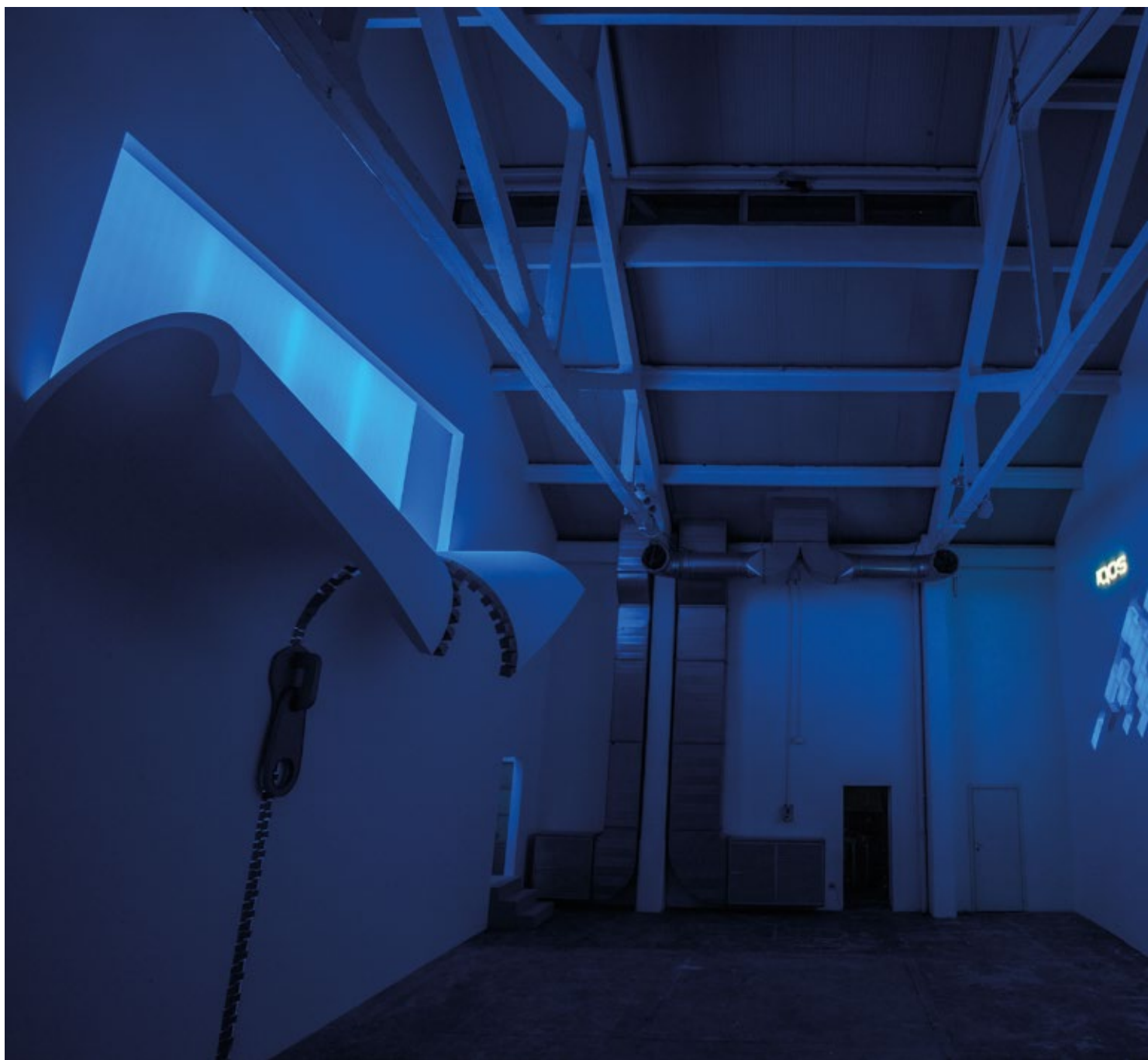
What started in Milan as the Salone del Mobile in 1961, a fair to promote the best in Italian furniture design and accessories, has become the global event in the design industry calendar. This year, IQOS selected the event to showcase IQOS World revealed by Alex Chinneck.

A six-day fair of enormous, aircraft hangar-sized exhibition halls on the outskirts of Milan, the Salone del Mobile is just one part of Milan Design Week, which takes over the entire city each year in April. It is one of the most influential events on the global design calendar, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

Created in 1961 to shine a spotlight on Italian furniture, art, luxury, and design, the event has ensured that the quality of Italian furniture is known to all four corners of the globe, with half of all visitors coming from outside of Italy.

Besides showcasing contemporary design and innovation, Milan Design Week connects business to culture, building the story of past, modern, and future design, and sets the trend for premium products worldwide.





IQOS AT MILAN DESIGN WEEK

Philip Morris International Inc., a global leader in the transformation of the tobacco industry, presented IQOS World revealed by Alex Chinneck at Milan Design Week 2019. IQOS, the flagship innovation in PMI's smoke-free portfolio, will hosted the exhibition to the public in early April 2019.

The IQOS World exhibition – visited by more than 50,000 people during Milan

Design Week – is an artistic expression of the future, brought to life through collaboration with well-known sculptor Alex Chinneck, whose art is distinguished by his bold and disruptive vision. Alex's unique talent for combining art, architecture and theatre in his work, manifests on a monumental scale: The architecture itself, both inside and out, becomes transformed into a work of art, taking on new and unexpected shapes. The



walls and floor become metaphors for a process of transformation, evoking - through imaginative portals - seemingly infinite routes to a newly imagined future.

"By taking familiar materials and architectural forms and making them behave in extraordinary ways, we are working with IQOS to change visitors' perceptions of what is possible", said Chinneck. "Through the repeated use of the zipper, we have opened





up the fabric of a seemingly historic Milanese building to playfully re-imagine what lies behind its facade, floors and walls. Ethereal light pours through each opening, filling the space with colour and filling the work with a sense of positivity and potential”.

Presenting an alternative vision of the future is the thought that guided PMI to collaborate with Alex Chinneck. According to Frederic de Wilde, President EU Region for the company: “PMI is leading the transformation of the tobacco industry – one that is based on science and innovation. Our aim is to create a smoke-free future; that is, a future where smoke-free products like IQOS replace cigarettes to the benefit of society”.


Milan Design Week is the most important design event in the world – it

premieres the latest trends, and plays host to events, exhibitions and presentations that complement the design of IQOS.

IQOS 3 and IQOS 3 MULTI represent the latest versions of the flagship smoke-free device from Philip Morris International. They are characterised by an ergonomic and elegant design, and the latest innovation uses a state-of-the-art system that involves heating the tobacco sticks, thus preventing smoke.

Design and innovation, therefore, have the power to have a positive impact on the lives of people who smoke and, collectively, the future of public health.

PMI has given itself the mandate to help adult smokers who would otherwise continue to smoke, to switch to potentially

less harmful alternatives. To date, more than 6.6 million adult smokers in 44 markets around the world have quit smoking and switched to IQOS – playing an instrumental role in building a smoke-free future. 

by **bernie hellberg** /
photography by **marc wilmot** /

“Through the repeated use of the zipper, we have opened up the fabric of a seemingly historic Milanese building to playfully re-imagine what lies behind its facade, floors and walls.”



alex chinneck

The work of British sculptor, Alex Chinneck, is monumental in ambition and impact.

Uniting the disciplines of art, architecture, theatre and engineering, his practice pushes the boundaries of materials and their sculptural potential. Since realising his first major public artwork at 28 years old, the artist has become known for producing surreal sculptures of an architectural scale that distort the world around us.

In Alex Chinneck's alternative universe, where the normal rules associated with materials no longer apply, brick bends, tarmac curls and stone hovers. The artist takes particular pleasure in introducing sculptural fluidity to

typically inflexible forms.

Completed artworks to date include sliding the brick facade from a three-storey property; constructing a full-size melting house from 7,500 wax bricks; creating the impression that a stone building on London's Covent Garden Piazza was floating in mid-air; inverting a 37-metre electricity pylon to stand on its very tip; and unzipping the walls of a 1960s office building.

Beguilingly simple narratives belie the enormous complexity behind the execution of the artist's work. Nevertheless, it always inspires awe and selected projects have been listed among the UK's annual cultural highlights.

Each has proven to attract crowds and

stimulate conversation. Temporary projects, lasting less than one month, have received more than one million visitors and generated extensive, international media coverage.

Whatever their scale or setting, Alex Chinneck's artworks respond to their environment, transforming perceptions of place and making the world seem momentarily magical. Their disruptive nature challenges our understanding of familiar objects and materials, making the ordinary appear extraordinary.

www.alexchinneck.com/

Instagram: **@alexchinneck**

THE COUPÉ KING

Audi's flagship Q8 coupé arrives to critical acclaim

Admittedly, my opinion of the first crossover coupés and their tapered rooflines has vacillated between lukewarm and loathing since the arrival of the first of their ilk a few years ago. Being either too bulbous or too stumped at the rear, I just couldn't get a handle on them in the looks department. Until the arrival of the Audi Q8, that is, which is a compelling luxury SUV that blends sportiness and utility like no other in its class.





Hearing the name Audi Q8 for the first time, you would be forgiven for expecting the numerically superior (to the Q7) Q-car to be an even larger and grander version of the already enormous Q7. Set your eyes upon it, however, and you swiftly realise that the new MBE-platformed sports-utility hardly bears a passing resemblance to its big brother. This is thankfully also true for its segment competitors, the Mercedes-Benz GLE Coupé and the BMW X6.

The Q8 may be an SUV, but it's of the coupé variety, a fact quickly confirmed by the severe swoop of the roofline down to the glass. In person, however, this does not appear harsh, just beautifully sculpted, proportionally perfect, and a mere 38 millimetres lower than the Q7.

The rest of the design looks like it was lifted from a science fiction movie poster. The ever-thinning headlights (now in an animated high-definition Matrix LED configuration) and ever-expanding octagonal grille being the centrepiece of Audi's latest

new design language. The taillights (also LEDs) feature an extended rear light strip across the breadth of the Q8's rear lid that comes to life in a signature illumination pattern when unlocking the car via remote control.

COOLER ON THE INSIDE

Unlike many of its competitors, the Audi Q8 doesn't compromise style for spaciousness. Where the roofline dips, there's little if any noticeable loss of space in the cabin, particularly in the rear headroom department. At 1.84 metres tall, I could comfortably sit upright in the rear, while ingress and egress also are not as compromised as it is in the GLE Coupé, for example.

Although the Q7 packs up to seven seats, the Q8 maxes out at five and is only 66 millimetres shorter than its larger sibling. It is also 27 millimetres wider, a fact that adds to the feeling of spaciousness and helps the Q8 to reach a segment beating (according to Audi) load capacity of 605 litres.

Continuing the spacecraft theme inside, Audi's MMI Touch Response infotainment system is one of the best available on anything bar the Tesla Model X. The first MMI system was revolutionary when it debuted, but in this form, it is simply sublime.

Stacked one above the other, the 10.1" (above) and 8.6" screens contain the traditional entertainment, navigation and phone components, while the latter maintains climate controls and other functions, including a writing pad. The result is a fuss-and-button-free system that provides haptic feedback like a smartphone



(this still needs some work in my opinion, as the feedback seems to lag somewhat and requires vigorous touch to activate) and controls the vehicle's formidable suite of techno bits. Virtual Cockpit is added as a standard feature, as is a multiple-speaker Bang & Olufsen sound system with 3D virtual sound.

In terms of interior trim, there's some of the usual vinyl-type material up top, and the vents are cleverly hidden in the dashboard. Just the right amount of matte-finish wood adds a touch of luxury to the cabin.

MORE THAN A COMMUTER

At launch, the Q8 comes only in turbocharged petrol form, although a turbodiesel version is on the way mid-2019. The 3.0-litre turbocharged V6 turns out 250 kW and 500 Nm of torque and is good for a zero to 100km/h sprint time of 5.9 seconds.

Despite being of similar heft, the Q8 feels more agile on the road than its big bro, the V6 providing ample get-up-and-go when the throttle is encouraged. The standard rear-biased Quattro all-wheel-

CC Besides the distinctive coupé-like roof, the Q8's silhouette is punctured by statement bulges over the wheel arches known as 'Quattro blisters'. DD



by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **audi south africa**

drive is always on, and always provides adequate grip when required. The eight-speed automatic transmission exists mainly in the background, and shifting is a silky affair that is hardly noticeable in the cabin.

A new 48-volt mild hybrid system (MHEV) is baked into the drivetrain but has limited functionality other than lengthening the stop-start system time and reducing consumption by up to 0.7 l/100 km according to Audi. It's far from the Mercedes-Benz's EQ Boost system, which can provide additional power and torque in small bursts, but is a step in the right direction for future Audis.

IN SUMMARY

The Audi Q8 has both old and new competition to contend with – current BMW X6, incoming Mercedes GLE Coupé, and Porsche Cayenne Coupé being the most prominent. If I had entered this round batting against the idea that an SUV coupé could be anything more than a compromise of fashion over function, I have been well

and truly caught out. The Q8 is both stylish and capable, and has plenty of space for people who expect both of these attributes, and more. Audi has come out swinging with the Q8, and in our opinion, it is worth every cent of its R1,388,000 base price tag. **11**

need to know

Q8 55 TFSI

Engine – V6; 2,995 cc turbo

Power – 250 @ 5,000-6,400 rpm

Torque – 500 @ 1,370-4,500 rpm

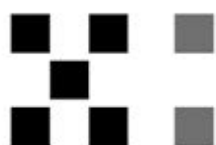
0-100 km/h – 5.9 sec

Top Speed – 250 km

Fuel – 9.0 l/100 km

Price – R1,388,000

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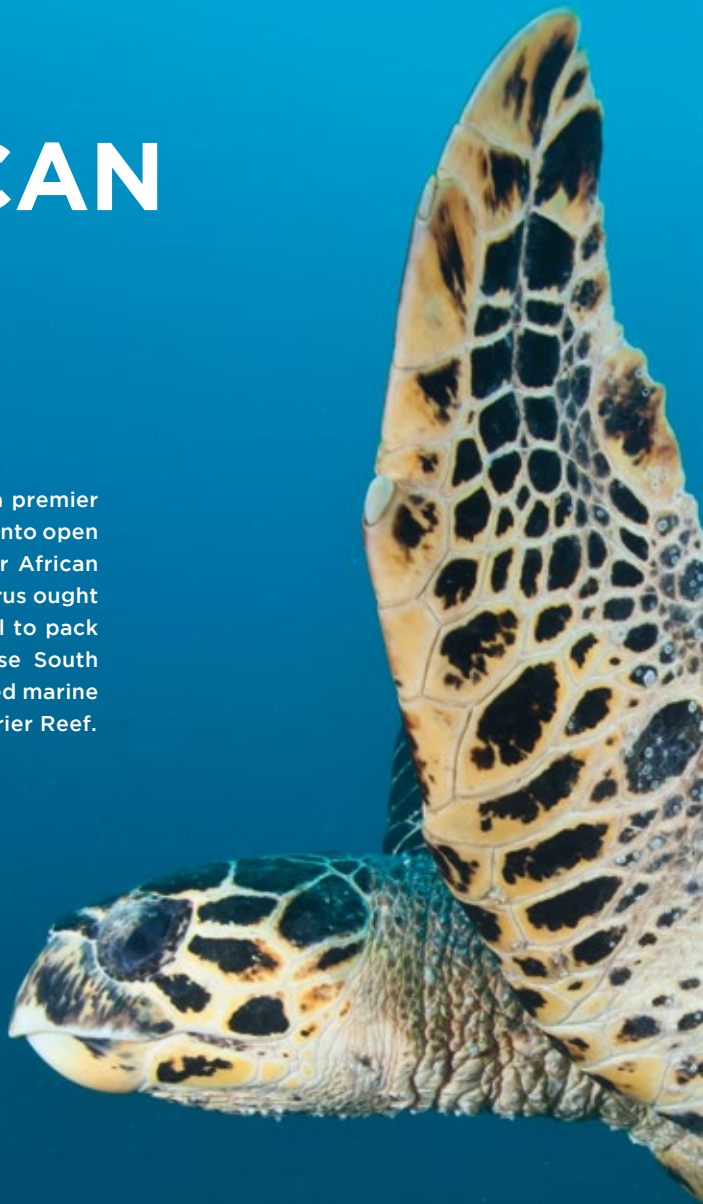
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A SOUTH AFRICAN SCUBA SAFARI

South Africa is fast becoming the international Scuba destination of choice

It is common knowledge that South Africa is marketed overseas as a premier safari destination. Cargo loads of tourists with sensible sun hats climb into open vehicles driven by epauletted bush jocks, to ogle at the pride of our African menagerie, especially the obligatory Big Five. What the marketing gurus ought to mention to potential visitors, is that khaki is not the only material to pack into suitcases. Neoprene should be the material of choice, because South Africa's 2,500 km coastline has one of the most vibrant and most varied marine ecosystems on the planet. It is even better than Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

While there is much to be said about the Barrier Reef being the largest and most populated coral reef in the world, the South African coastline is more varied and, it must be noted, a lot more exciting. Here are two reasons why: Benguela and Agulhas, two binary ocean currents. One is a frigidly cold but mineral-rich current running northwards from the depths of the South Atlantic, past Cape Town and up the West Coast. The other originates in the tropics of the Indian Ocean, slides down the East Coast and along the South Coast, and brings beautiful warm water with it. The current peels away in the face of the oncoming cold current at the point where Cape Town's peninsula





cleaves a neat wedge between the two great oceanic forces.

WARM WATERS

The warm current is responsible for an extensive coral reef system that runs the length of East Africa as far down as Cape Vidal in KwaZulu-Natal. This is the farthest south you will find coral systems, and these are particularly profuse, thanks to the relative lack of silt-carrying major river systems that enter the ocean here, between the Tugela and Limpopo Rivers.

The long, sandy dunes along this coast provide the ideal spot for hundreds of egg-laying Loggerhead and mighty Leatherback turtles. The deep waters off the continental shelf provide the coral with more mineral sustenance than most other coral systems around the world, as well as allowing access to some very large denizens of the deep. Humpback, Bryde's and Southern Right whales use the counter eddies close inshore to make their annual northbound breeding and mating migration easier.

Ocean roaming squadrons of filter-feeding manta rays and Whale sharks show up at certain times of the year, while further south near Durban an offshore shoal called Aliwal provides a base for dozens of Ragged Tooth sharks that gather annually for a great marine ball to find a mate. Aliwal is also the home of one of South Africa's finest wrecks, The Produce, whose submerged decks are forlornly guarded by the world's largest skeletal fish, the darkly secretive Brindle bass.

THE GREATEST SHOAL ON EARTH

The most exhilarating dive on the





planet – the Sardine Run – takes place annually off the wild cliffs of Pondoland and has been dubbed the “Greatest Shoal on Earth”. To dive in a bait-ball of sardines packed like... well, you know... while being bombarded by dolphins, sharks, diving gannets, seals, penguins and whales (often all at once) is as good as it gets with scuba diving. Nothing else in the world can compete with the Sardine Run’s thrill factor.

But that is not all. Port Elizabeth has its own annual marine migration, in this case, of squid, which makes for a novel and striking entry in any dive logbook.

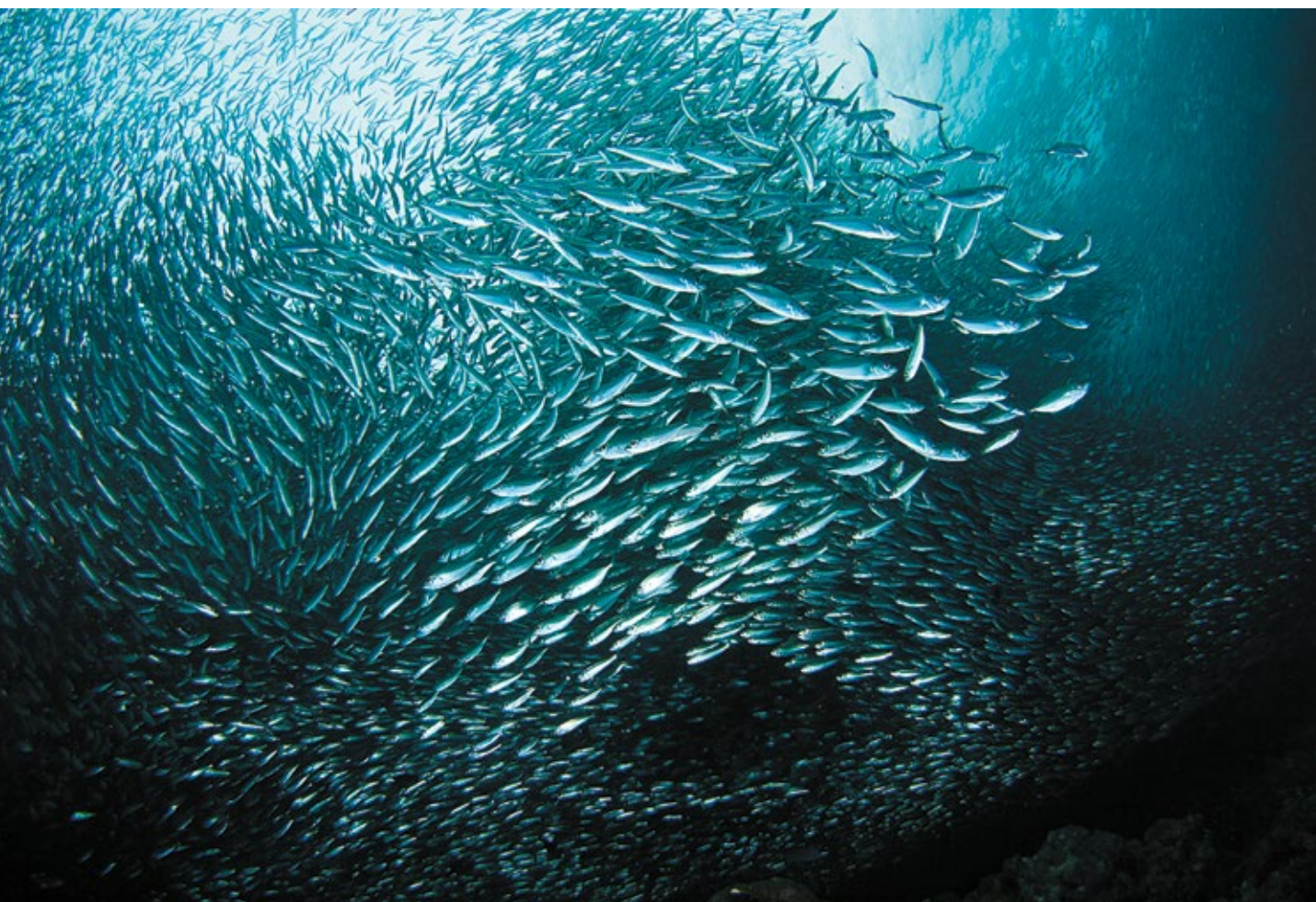
CHILLY ENCOUNTERS

Cape Town’s waters may be a bit on the cooler side of fresh, but they are also home to a unique marine system, similar to the Galapagos and rivalling the famous Cape Floral Kingdom on shore, both in terms of variety and endemism. Here divers can swim among giant kelp forests and, in places, come face to face with eerily ghostly Cow sharks or enthusiastically playful Cape fur seals.

Cape Town is also a shipwreck diving paradise, and there are thousands of wrecks dating from the 15th century right up to last year. Despite its reputation as the Cape of Storms, Cape Town surprisingly has the easiest and calmest dive sites in the country, which makes it the best spot to learn how to dive. Beginners simply need to walk down the beach and into the water to enjoy a memorable dive no more than a couple of metres deep.

INLAND DIVING

Oh, and while on the subject of learning to dive, let us not forget about South Africa’s inland dive sites.



In Gauteng alone, there are two clear water quarries – Bass Lake and Miracle Waters – that are perfect for learning the art of bubble-blowing and, as a result, hold the unusual title of being the country’s most visited dive sites. Then there is the gin-clear natural pool of the Eye of the Marico that, despite its clarity, remains the country’s best-kept dive secret. And for those “techie” divers with a macabre fascination for dark deepwater caves, there are the natural sinkholes of the three “gats” (holes) – Wondergat, Boesmansgat and Badgat – where world deep diving records are continually broken.

Now ask yourself: Can the Barrier Reef truly match all of that? 🐠

by **nicky furniss** /
photography by **wilderness safaris** / [istockphoto.com](https://www.istockphoto.com)





Bakubung Villas

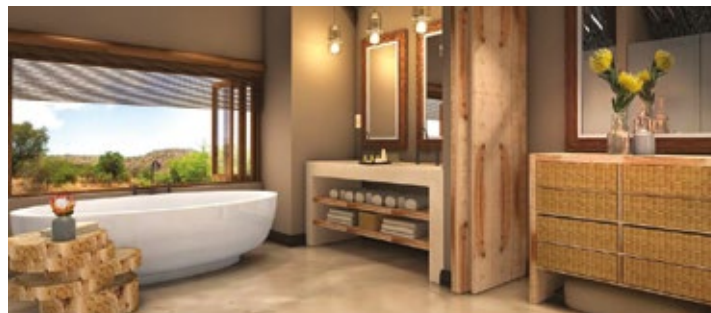
In the Pilanesberg National Park

Less than two hours' drive from JHB, you could have your very own private luxury lodge within Bakubung Bush Lodge, which is known as one of South Africa's iconic bushveld resorts and is situated in the stunning, Big 5, malaria-free Pilanesberg National Park.

The Bakubung Villas project is a very unique property investment opportunity which rarely presents itself, allowing investors to acquire their very own piece of this prestigious resort for themselves, with only 22 private stands.

Investors can now enjoy the best of both worlds, by owning your very own private lodge with the Big 5 roaming within meters of your patio, yet still enjoy all the incredible services and facilities offered by the resort and its hotel. Some of which include a luxurious new day spa, a variety of dining experiences and bars, wildlife centre, game drives and bush walks into the park, direct daily shuttles into Sun City.

Investors will also have the option of incorporating their lodge into Legacy's commercial rental program, providing owners with an immediate financial return. In terms of ownership, accessibility, as well as the broad array of services and facilities both onsite and neighbouring the resort, you will struggle to find a similar property opportunity which offers you what the Bakubung Villas do.



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REST IN **NATURE**

Tintswalo at Lapalala Wilderness Reserve

The Waterberg Biosphere is one of 500 UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserves on the planet, and is the only savannah biosphere reserve in the world. It is home to the latest addition to the Tintswalo group of luxury properties, a favourite *Signature* destination.



Escaping the icy grip of the Gauteng winter is an annual pastime for inhabitants of this province. Some will hit the road to the coast, others further afield to Europe or the Far East, while I prefer to head north to the warmer climes of north-western Limpopo when the opportunity presents itself. Despite being significantly closer than the undulating hills of Mpumalanga, this part of the country remains somewhat undiscovered, and whether you prefer taking a self-drive break to the Waterberg Biosphere in the Limpopo province, or a charter fly-in to the private airstrip in the Lapalala Wilderness Reserve, a visit to this UNESCO-acclaimed reserve should undoubtedly be on your bucket list.

BREAK FREE

Based, as I am, in the east of Gauteng, the mere 300-km drive from Pretoria to Tintswalo Lapalala Wilderness Reserve – in the heart of 48,000 hectares of untouched wilderness – is but a hop, a skip, and a jump from home, although the experience itself here, is very close to it.

It may be cold in Pretoria, but the reception at this family-friendly Tintswalo property is always warm.

Raised above the surrounding bush – its seven luxury tented suites with en suite bathrooms, private plunge pools, and outdoor shower facilities connected to one another by a spider's web of sprawling wooden decks – Tintswalo Lapalala is the model of effortless luxury, while the vast expanse of the game-rich reserve offers seclusion, a sustainable wilderness experience, daily game drives, and guided bush walks.

Tintswalo Lapalala forms part of the Tintswalo Lodges portfolio, a luxurious collection of four- and five-star accommodations for those seeking authentic African adventures, while still appreciating the ethos, quality and service that each of Tintswalo's ideally located flagship destinations have become known for.

Being one of only two lodges in the reserve, bespoke experiences are par for the course at Tintswalo Lapalala. Ever fish in a wilderness reserve (on a catch and release basis, of course), or enjoy a riverside picnic while sipping on





a handcrafted G&T? With 27 kilometres of river frontage in the reserve, these activities and more will happily be arranged for you. Should you crave more traditional activities, alternative pursuits include sundowner cruises, bird watching by day or stargazing by night, relaxing spa treatments, or even a romantic sleep-out experience for two, in a remote part of the reserve. Tintswalo essentially is an adventure destination with a penchant for luxury and a knack for attentive, personal care.

NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE RESERVE

In addition to the Big Five, Lapalala Wilderness Reserve is home to rare game species including Sable antelope, Roan, and Black Rhino. It's a malaria-free zone, with the significant bonus of being sparsely populated by humans.

Founded in 1981 by conservation leaders, Dale Parker and Clive Walker, the Lapalala Wilderness Reserve continues this legacy of nature preservation by remaining environmentally conscious and entirely off the grid.

The reserve is also known for its research and breeding programs of rare and endangered species as well as the environmental education program it delivers to school communities from around South Africa. Guests may even visit the Lapalala Wilderness School community project, which has to date educated over 70,000 children to respect the legacy of nature conservation over the last 30 years.

TIMELESS TOUCHES

At Tintswalo Lapalala, there is passion behind each experience; the Tintswalo team sparing no effort to transform the typical safari lodge experience into something unique. Whether this means tracking a pair of cheetahs for hours to ensure a thrilling bush walk experience, or setting up a sundowner gin tasting by the firepit, the Tintswalo team will make it happen.

The distinctiveness of the destination saturates every detail.

Mouth-watering, wholesome cuisine is served al fresco on the poolside veranda overlooking the natural waterhole, or at various remote






locations within the reserve. Evenings are spent around a blazing fire beneath the Milky Way, or by the fireplace in each theme-inspired luxury suite.

Our two-bedroom Xhosa Family Suite is inspired by the second largest cultural group in South Africa, after the Zulu-speaking nation. Stories and legends provide accounts of Xhosa ancestral heroes, including one oral tradition, which has it that the first person on Earth was a great leader called 'Xhosa'.

The two adjoining Xhosa suites each have a large private verandah and their own private plunge pool. Amenities include in-room tea and coffee facilities, air-conditioning, an electronic safe and more. The well

stocked mini bar is included in each accommodation package, as is free WiFi, house beverages, two safari outings per day, and a laundry service.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Waterberg's rolling plains and riverine gorges, Tintswalo Lapalala pays tribute to the grandeur of the Lapalala Reserve, and to the many tribes that roamed Africa centuries ago, offering travellers an authentic African experience.

For more information about the various accommodation offers and experiences available at Tintswalo Lapalala, visit www.tintswalo.com. 

special offer

Tintswalo Lapalala offers a 50% price reduction for South African travellers at the new family-friendly luxury tented camp in the Waterberg. The reduced fare includes luxury accommodation, all meals, laundry, WiFi and twice daily safari experiences. Beverages, spa treatments and other extras are excluded. Special rates are available for children, and the offer is valid until 15 December 2019.

NOT TO BE **SNIFFED AT**

*The do's and don'ts of whisky tasting
with Johnnie Walker*





Whether you're lucky enough to experience a whisky tasting at your favourite distillery and want to get it right out of hand, or you simply want to broaden your horizons as an amateur whisky connoisseur, Johnnie Walker brand ambassador, Reginald Mthembu, walks *Signature* through the process of tasting whisky, the right way.

While most of us have the wine tasting process down pat, savouring a decent dram the right way is a skill I have yet to master. Where does one start exactly, and do you taste whisky the same way as one tastes wine? To answer these, and other, burning questions, we turned to the tastemaker tasting masters at Johnnie Walker.

PROPER GLASSWARE

While this isn't paramount, the shape of your glassware can improve your whisky tasting experience. Aim for a snifter, as the broad base allows the aroma to develop while the narrow opening concentrates them. If you're at a restaurant or a distillery, chances are that you will be supplied the proper glassware. If you're

experiencing whisky at home and you don't have a snifter, a wineglass will do just fine.

THE NOSE

Nosing and savouring whisky are essential practices, as your nose can pick up hundreds of different flavours, where your palette can only discern between four or five flavours. Also, unlike wine, it is not recommended that whisky be swirled before sniffing, as the high alcohol content could overwhelm the nose, drowning out subtler aromas. For the same reason, there's no need to insert the nose deeply into whisky snifter. If swirling is inevitable, only do so gently, then proceed to whiff the scent at the top of your glass carefully.

Reginald recommends that, while sniffing, resist the urge to search for one particular scent as the whisky's



our johnnie walker favourites

Johnnie Walker Green Label

The Johnnie Walker Green Label bottle opens to refreshing aromas of fresh cut grass and fresh fruit, that play with notes of wood smoke, vanilla, and sandalwood. The rich scent of oak and cedar play lightly on the palate ending with Johnnie Walker's signature smoky finish and the refreshing flavour of sea salt.

Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve

A captivating blend of Speyside malts and Highland whiskies, the Johnnie Walker Gold Label Reserve is well appreciated for its decadence. As you open the bottle, alluring fragrances of honey and wood are discovered, and one sip reveals blended layers of tropical fruit and creamy vanilla flavours.

Johnnie Walker Blue Label

Johnnie Walker's most significant blended whisky is the Johnnie Walker Blue Label. It is made of premium and rarest old-aged malt and grain whiskies, and is best known for its multi-layered palate and remarkably smooth finish. On the palate, a silky mix of honey, vanilla, and rose petals give way to a zesty citrus freshness, before hints of sherry, dark chocolate and hazelnut shine through. Finishing with Johnnie Walker's well-known trademark smokiness and smoothness, it sets the tone for the masterpiece.

complex aromas are likely to transform in the glass. Don't be too influenced by which aromas others are recognising, and don't be afraid to smell more than once to develop a complete picture of the whisky.

TASTE

Naturally, once you're satisfied with the nose, it is time to experience the full whisky flavour. Reginald recommends that, if you're giving the tasting a serious go, that you first hold a small block of ice in your mouth, to cool the flighty effects of the hit of alcohol. As you pucker your lips into an 'O' shape, gently take a small sip while also taking in a small amount of air. Alternate between gargling and rolling the whisky around in your mouth, again without looking for any particular taste. It might take a few stabs at tasting to bring out new flavours, but when you feel like you've had a good taste of the whisky, swallow it.

Congratulations, you are now officially tasting whisky like a pro.

THE WATER DEBATE

While some would not recommend the addition of water to your whisky for tasting purposes, adding a touch of H2O can open the whisky up, adding new aroma and taste layers. Be prudent when adding water, be careful to avoid dilution, a few drops should do just fine. Preferably use filtered or spring water of the still variety, as the carbon dioxide used to produce sparkling water or soda water can affect the taste of your dram.

It's important to remember to take it slow when tasting, there's no reason to rush through the process. Remember to drink water in between different whiskies, or even between several sips of the same whisky, and try not to be influenced by others in the group. Whisky is so complex, and our senses so subjectively diverse, that one taster will always have a different experience to the next. *Sláinte!* 🍷



Gaborone, Botswana

CHECK INTO ANOTHER WORLD

Your luxury escape from the city!

Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Resort is a 4 star resort located in the heart of Gaborone's premier Golf Estate, encompassing spacious accommodation with extraordinary panoramic views of it's international 18-hole championship golf course. Though a 4-star, built to 5-star standards the 80 roomed Hotel and 8, 3 bed roomed self-catering apartments are the

epitome of comfort & deluxe precedence. Being the only International standard 18 Hole Championship Course in Botswana the Golf Estate thrives to provide golfers with an exceptional golfing experience. Furthermore, various conference, wedding and private function packages, as well as venues, are also available to suit all traveller requirements.

CONTACT:

web: www.phakalanehotel.com
tel: +267 360 4000/393 0000
mail: enquiries@phakalane.co.bw
f : Phakalane golf Estate Hotel Resort
t : @Phakalane1



HURACÁN ALA 'BOB'

Huracán LP640-4 Performante – Lamborghini's performance tribute

Famed as one of the great Lamborghini engineers of the early era, Bob Wallace left an indelible mark on the sports car brand. His legacy is alive today in many Lamborghini cars, but especially so in the Huracán LP640-4 Performante.

Dear Bob,
Just a quick update to let you know that since the 50-year anniversary, things at Sant'Agata are still going, well, bullish. And so it should, as it seems that in all these years not much has changed.

They're still doing the same things you did back then, in the founding years of Automobili Lamborghini – with the difference that nowadays, thanks to Audi, they have much more

development money available.

Recently, the chaps released a spectacular new Huracán; following the blueprint you set with the P400 in 1970. That's right; they've developed a bespoke lightweight performance version – much like your Miura-based Jota back then. A clever name that, with the syllable 'J' pronounced as *Yota* in Italian. We still wonder whether its specifications – conforming to Appendix J in the International Auto Racing rulebook of the time – were

coincidental, or not...

However, they had it easy. Unlike you and your mates Giampaolo (Dallara) and Paolo (Stanzani) who had to develop the Miura and Jota in your spare time, as old man Ferruccio had no intention to become involved in motorsport, this latest Huracán was designed with the full backing of the board.

Luckily you persevered, showing off the Lamborghini cars' great competition potential, as attested to by that stiffened, lightened and

You would have thoroughly enjoyed it on your infamous Autostrada development runs; the V10 screaming in your ear, the transmission seamlessly flipping through the gears and the spoilers snapping into their lowest-drag setting as you see off the challengers from Ferrari and Maserati.



powerful Jarama (everyone still calls it the Jarama 'Bob') and your 230 kW Urraco 'Bob' Rallye that pioneered the way forward for today's Lamborghini race cars.

Anyway, there were, apparently, some heated discussions before the 'Performante' moniker (first used in 2011 for the Spyder version of the Gallardo) was chosen for this Huracán.

While I understand why – it deviates from the traditional S, SV, and Superleggera nomenclature – I do think the badge is entirely appropriate. Also, it seems the boys in Bologna are quite serious about it, as the name has been officially registered, with an Aventador Performante version seemingly on the cards as well.

WINGING IT

The Huracán Performante sports a big rear wing – much like the one on your radical Urraco. However, with the entire trick tech available now, it is an active aero device, part of a system aptly called ALA (Aerodinamica Lamborghini Attiva). Yes, I can hear you chuckle, as you well know, *ala* means wing in Italian.

They say this system is 80% lighter

than regular sports car hydraulic systems and provides up to 750% more downforce than the regular Huracán. And, you'll love this: it has helped the Performante to become the fastest production car around the Green Hell.

Okay, its lap time of 6:52.0 has since been bettered by the much more powerful twin-turbo Porsche 911 GT2 RS, but in my view, this doesn't detract from the normally-aspirated Lamborghini's exceptional performance – achieved on test driver

Marco Mapelli's first attempt around the Nordschleife.

Big wing aside, extensive bodywork changes include revised carbon fibre front and rear bumpers and bumper skirts (those stained carbon fibre panels don't work for me as it makes the car look like it needs a wash, some might say that it creates an Italian marble effect). The splitter and diffuser also have active individual aerodynamic elements.

It is 40 kg lighter than the regular LP640-4, thanks to the



forged aluminium and forged carbon fibre body (as used in the Sesto Elemento) with hollow parts, and the position of the revised exhaust system has also been moved, to just above the rear diffuser.

I'm not sure whether you ever saw the jumble of hexagonal shapes and toggle switches making up the Huracán interior, but at least the Performante's new seat design is sporty and comfortable. And the Audi-derived TFT virtual cockpit display with MMI interface is far removed from the analogue Jaeger

instruments in the Miura, but it's very intuitive and user-friendly.

FIRE IN THE HEART

New springs, roll bars, as well as radial- and axial arm bushings have stiffened the chassis by another 10%, and its updated 5.2-litre V10 with new intake ducts now pushes out 471 kW at 8,000 r/min and 601 Nm of torque at 6,500 r/min – compared to the Jota's 328 kW at 8,800 r/min. This is enough for a theoretical top speed of 351 km/h, although it is limited to 325 km/h.

Firing up the V10, I was surprised

at how subdued it sounded at idling speed, and with the seven-speed LDF (Lamborghini Doppia Frizione) transmission in *Strada* mode, the car was docile and relaxed in town traffic.

They've done wonders with the reworked magnetorheological shocks and suspension, as it has a remarkably good ride at low speed. However, it is so low that you need to remind yourself to lift the hydraulic suspension for virtually any big bump in the road.

Selecting *Sport* using the red button on the flat-rimmed steering wheel changed the car's whole demeanour.



The V10's engine note became vibrant and visceral, the gear throws shorter and sharper and the damping quicker – everything urging you to go faster.

You would have thoroughly enjoyed it on your infamous Autostrada development runs; the V10 screaming in your ear, the transmission seamlessly flipping through the gears and the spoilers snapping into their lowest-drag setting as you see off the challengers from Ferrari and Maserati.

It was even better taking on winding mountain roads, as the smart aero, the recalibrated, more direct steering, and the well-sorted suspension kept the car firmly planted and resolutely on course while scything through the corners.

It is so finely balanced and sure-footed, with the Haldex all-wheel-drive system and fat 20" tyres providing copious amounts of grip, yet so easy to drive that it makes any driver look (and feel) great.

Admittedly, I never really got it to perform on the limit, having run out of bravado and talent long before the car did. Nevertheless, you would have loved making it dance at the extreme edge of adhesion.

LAST WORD

So, Bob, your beloved brand is in good hands, and judging by this car Maurizio (Reggiani) and his boys are doing a sterling job. Like your special Jota and Jarama, the Performante is a racecar for the road, although it lacks a roll cage.

In reality, the Performante can be seen as a tribute to you and your madcap road racers of yonder, and may just as well have been named Huracán 'Bob'.

Fact is it is a superb piece of automotive engineering, a car of which you would have been extremely proud. 🏆

by **ferdi de vos** /
photography by **lamborghini south africa**

the man, the legend

Bob Wallace moved from New Zealand to Europe as a 21-year-old racing mechanic. He joined Lamborghini shortly after the company was founded in 1963, and soon became its chief test driver and road development engineer. In 1975, Bob left Lamborghini after 12 years and settled in Phoenix, Arizona. He died in 2013 at the age of 75.



LOSE YOURSELF AT **THE LOUWMAN**

*With the largest collection of pre-1910 automobiles in the world,
the Louwman Museum is an automotive treasure*



1938 BMW 328 V8

The awe-inspiring Louwman collection consisting of over 230 automobiles is the product of one family's passion for rare and beautiful cars. Established in 1934 with the purchase of a 20-year-

old Dodge by Dodge importer Pieter Louwman, the father of the current owner, the Louwman Museum boasts several priceless vehicles from post-World War II, including a car that belonged to Winston Churchill; the Aston Martin DB5 used in the James

Bond movie, 'Goldfinger'; and a Cadillac formerly owned by Elvis Presley. At present, the irreplaceable collection is owned by Evert Louwman, and it is housed in The Hague, where Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands officially opened it on 3 July 2010. 11

1952 *Aston Martin DB3*



BELOW: 1926 Rolls-Royce Phantom Barker Torpedo Tourer



1929 Mercedes-Benz SSK





1932 Bugatti Type 50T Coach Profile



car fine art

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1952 Ferrari 375 Indianapolis



VIEW FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD

In conversation with Saray Khumalo

Describing herself as more “outdoorsy” than “sporty”, Saray Khumalo was thrust into the spotlight recently as she became the first Black African Woman to summit Mount Everest. In an exclusive interview, *Signature* discovers what motivated her to achieve this phenomenal world first.

On the 16th of May 2019, I stood on top of Everest. I embarked on this journey to reach the Seven Summits in 2012, the seven highest summits in the world, and so far I have done four. It was not just for a personal quest, but it was something I embarked on an effort to educate the African child. With these words, Saray Khumalo returned home to a hero's welcome after conquering Mount Everest – the world's tallest peak – the fourth of the Seven Summits, and by her own admittance, the most challenging. Saray's message of perseverance, and of beating the odds imposed by others – not only on women but on African women in particular – is an inspiration to all South Africans who have to summit their own Everests every day.

Everest was the fourth of the Seven Peaks of the 'Grand Slam' that you've completed. Besides Kilimanjaro, which other two peaks have you conquered?

So I've done the traverse of Elbrus in Europe, and I've also done Aconcagua, which is in South America. So Everest, in Asia, was my fourth peak.

Besides Everest, which, so far, has been the most challenging?

Over time I have learnt to respect every mountain, irrespective of how small or big it is. Looking at my journey, I've managed to summit each of the others the first time, Everest is the only one that I've had to attempt more than once. This was my second attempt if I exclude the times that the mountain was closed. On that account, I would say that Everest was still the most challenging. It's not about whether you summit the first time or not, with Everest, there is a mixture of conditions and challenges. You need to be multi-skilled insofar as you have to be able to use the ladders



and ropes, and be acclimatised to using oxygen while climbing, making Everest more challenging than the others.

What physical preparations were necessary for Everest, that perhaps were not for the other peaks?

"I have always been an 'outdoorsy' person, but the first time I went to Everest I looked around and said to myself that 'something's got to give'. I started running and cycling, as I realised that being as fit as possible is key to surviving Everest. You need to arrive with your 'A'-game; otherwise you not only put yourself at risk, but also the people around you on the mountain.

Mountain climbing, in general, is a dangerous activity, climbing Everest even more so, and many have lost their lives trying to achieve what you have achieved. How do you prepare yourself mentally for potential disaster?

"It is crucial to understand that the fear of dying doesn't stop us from dying, because death is the fate of us all. If you look at my relationship with Everest; the first time I arrived at Basecamp, 16 Sherpas had lost their lives on the mountain. These were 16 experienced climbers, and one who I

knew of had summited Everest 15 times. I am not afraid of death, but I am afraid of dying without having fulfilled my purpose.

"There is a huge link between physical preparation and mental preparation. The more you train, the more confident you will become, but you need to be real about what could happen up there. That is why it is important that, when you are training, to put yourself in situations where you are tired but you keep pushing. Having this perseverance is important, because, at some point, you will be so tired that you begin to wonder where you will find the strength to take the next step."

When you were on the mountain, what motivated you to keep pushing to achieve your goal?

For me, it is because of Climbing with a Purpose, and knowing that it is not just about me, that it's a bit bigger than me, and that I'm doing it for other people who are with me. This gives me the push to go further. But at the same time, I don't take unnecessary risks. I am very cognizant of the fact that the mountain will always be there but that my life is fragile. I want to be able to come back and enjoy it."



Besides achieving this inspiring milestone, you have also set yourself the goal to climb all seven of the world's tallest peaks. Are you already working towards completing these climbs?

"Although it has taken me some time to reach this point, I'm hoping that my milestone will help people to believe that people like me can do this, and that translates into some support. Should this happen, I would definitely like to climb Vinson before the end of the year, and take on Denali and Carstenz Pyramid after that. Then, of course, there is the North and South Pole, to complete the Grand Slam."

These are quite ambitious plans...
"They are ambitious, yes, but if your plans don't scare you, they're not big enough!"

How does your family cope with you being away, I'm sure that they are very proud of you?

"My kids certainly are, and my mother. But when I was at Basecamp, I called my mother and asked does she understand what just happened? She said that yes, she knows I broke a record, but I need to come and sit down and explain exactly what it is. It might

be a good thing that she doesn't know exactly, otherwise, she might have a problem with me going!

"Growing up with six siblings, we were seven girls, my mother always said that you don't need to depend on anybody to get stuff going for you, you can do it all for yourself. And if something doesn't work out, you need to get up, learn why it didn't work out, and do it again."

What do you hope to achieve with this milestone?

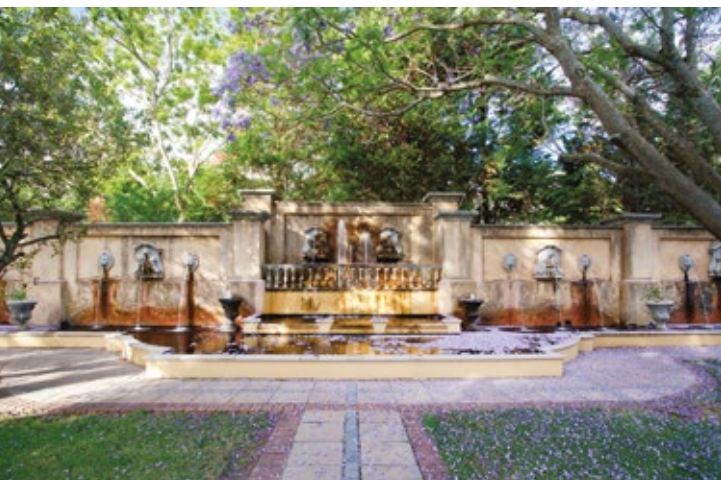
"Growing up in a community where something like climbing Everest was unthinkable, I'm hoping that the next generation of African girls, whether black or white, will see from this that the sky is the limit. It is sad that I'm summiting Everest 66 years after it was first summited, that's why I think that we have an obligation to open doors for the next generation, whether it is climbers, or skydivers, or anything else."

If you could condense your message into one concept, what is it that you would want people to learn from your experience?

"The biggest thing is to persevere, and not wait for the world to cheer you on. You have to keep pushing to open doors, and once you have achieved that, the world will cheer you on. Many times we don't do stuff because we don't get the recognition we think we deserve. The truth is that no one owes you that recognition; you owe it to yourself to realise your dream."

"I believe that we are all extraordinary, and that we choose to be ordinary. I wish for people to realise their potential, and to become the extraordinary beings that we already are." 📌

by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **julie symms** /



FRANSCHHOEK COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS



Positioned in the most romantic valley on earth, Franschoek 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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PERFECTION ON YOUR WRIST

When perfect timing is critical, A.Lange & Söhne at The Vault, Melrose Arch, is the last word in timepiece perfection

Germany has always been renowned for innovative design, superb engineering and companies that proudly carry the names of their founders. These individuals, and their products, have become household names for their timeless nature.



The History of A. Lange & Söhne has its origin in 1868, when Ferdinand Adolph Lange's son, Richard, officially became a partner in the watch company created by his father. His younger sibling, Emile, soon followed Richard in 1871. The enigmatic partnership between Richard, the outstanding watch designer, and Emile, the brilliant salesman who understood correctly what contemporary watch lovers demanded at the time, lay the foundation for the runaway success that the German watch company would soon enjoy.

exceptional quality, and grand opulence of this piece, remains unparalleled to this day.

Enter the *Fairy Tale* king – Ludwig II of Bavaria – who was renowned as the driving force behind the creation of Neuschwanstein Castle, which draws millions of visitors every year. As a gift to his favourite Wagner opera singer, Heinrich Vogel, Ludwig II ordered a solid gold pocket watch. This priceless gift is yet more confirmation that A. Lange & Söhne were, at the time, the pre-eminent leaders in their field, an accolade that they arguably hold to this day.

BUILDING A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE

The beginning years for A.Lange & Söhne marked the development of world-famous timepieces such as the *Sultan's Watch* which the last German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, ordered for the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Containing several diamonds and even solid gold screws, the

CONTEMPORARY ELEGANCE

Using only precious metals – white gold, pink gold, platinum, or honey gold – the company produces a comprehensive range of 42 models that suit the preference of every discerning buyer. Choose between manually wound, with up to 72 hours of reserve power, or select a piece with a self-winding mechanism. You might be, like us, fascinated by the



Langematik Perpetual in honey gold, which offers a one-day moon-phase correction every 122.6 years, or the Zeitwerk Minute Repeater with its groundbreaking jumping numerals display and its 771 moving parts and 93 jewels, is more to your liking.

THE MAN AT THE HELM


In a wide-ranging interview with the dynamic Wilhelm Schmid, CEO of A. Lange & Söhne, *Signature* caught a glimpse into the world of bespoke wristwatches created for the discriminating few.

As most members of the public will be accustomed to seeing the words, *Swiss Made*, on their watches, the *Made in Germany* insignia may come as a surprise, especially when considering the modest annual production on some 5,500 exclusive pieces – and all this from the humble (7,000 inhabitants) village of Glashütte in the former East German *Land* of Sachsen some 30 kilometres

from Dresden. Glashütte is also home to the company's 770 employees.

According to Herr Schmid – a great friend of South Africa, who also has a home in Plettenberg Bay – the history of A. Lange & Söhne has been marked by highs and lows, success and hard times in equal measure.

For example, October 24, 1994, was an important date for the company in the sense that it was the day that A. Lange & Söhne was re-established after four-and-a-half decades of Russian occupation during which time the company was practically dormant.

Now, after 25 years, the enthusiastic youthful workforce continues to produce timepieces which are in worldwide demand – works of art with their sapphire-crystal casebacks that permit their proud owners to view superb and timeless synergy between art, and engineering in action. 

the vault, melrose arch

Situated discreetly in High Street, Melrose Arch, The Vault is currently the only South African-based retail outlet for A. Lange & Söhne timepieces. Staffed by highly qualified individuals, this compact boutique store offers a shopping experience like no other. After all, when one has to choose between timepieces retailing at anything from R900,000 to R1.6-million and up, the ambience should reflect this, and for offering the ultimate in bespoke retailing, there's probably no other venue that will be able to match the elegant tone set by The Vault. www.vaultsa.co.za

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



ROLLING IN IT

Investing in the classics returns more than just financial freedom

Enthusiasm for rare and collectable cars has never been stronger in South Africa. What is driving the local market forward? Is it passion alone, or is the allure of something more lucrative playing an important role?

The idea of owning an example of automotive artistry can be quite romantic. Whether to evoke the glory and nostalgia of a by-gone era, live out a childhood fantasy or share in the glamorous lifestyle it conjures, the idea of doing so for the

prospect of pure financial appreciation is somewhat taboo in collector circles.

COLLECTING IN STYLE

Collectors recognise that these objects of passion have become a formidable asset class; however, passion remains their definite overriding purpose for collecting classic cars, as far as they are prepared to admit.

Knight Frank, the international investment property firm, announced the results of its Knight Frank Luxury

Investment Index (KFLII) as part of The Wealth Report 2019 launch at the Value in the Classic Car Market (VCCM) conference held in Knysna in May 2019. The KFLII tracks and compares the performance of 10 collectable asset categories including, among others, cars, wine, art, whisky, and watches.

The results show that collectable cars, as tracked by the Historic Automobile Group International (HAGI), generated a US dollar-based return of 258% in the last 10 years, beaten only by collectable



whisky (which makes its debut on the index in 2019) with a staggering 582% return for investors in US dollar terms.

ON THE LEVEL

Although these numbers are appealing, the classic car market has softened since the boom years of late, which all but came to an end in 2015 with a near 500% 10-year return on classic cars alone. The international market has seen somewhat of a correction since then. These results depict the upper echelons of the collector

car world, meaning they are not a good reflection of the South African market. The South African market was for this reason slow to respond, but respond it did.

It is no secret that classic car prices in South Africa are currently high.

This is the consensus amongst dealers and collectors. A reality, which has no doubt been underpinned by recent economic and political uncertainty and the weakening of the Rand.

These international indices, price guides, and sensational auction results,

BELOW: *Tommy Roes*





however, have very little relevance to the South African market. There are various reasons for the high prices in South Africa, but the most fundamental issue is that the local market has never been tracked and quantified in the way that more established markets have, making it very difficult to know a good price when you see one, unless you are well versed in the trade.

LIKE A DIAMOND

There are many things to consider when looking to buy a classic car.

Classic car owner, expert and author on the subject of collecting, Steve Linden, once taught me to ask three important questions to help guide the purchase of a classic car: What do you like? What will you do with it? How much are you prepared to spend?

It is challenging to presuppose which classic car will suddenly become collectable and hit a similar price trajectory of those that came before. Focus on what you like, and if you can afford it, find the best possible example of it, a special edition perhaps or one made in the most limited numbers. That way, if things don't go to plan, you

will still be left with an incredibly rare car that you love, for which there will always be a buyer.

Originality matters on most classic cars when looking to preserve value, however, collectors have been known to replace original mechanical and electrical systems for a better, more reliable and safer driving experience, as long as the original parts are kept and preserved.

Matching numbers (original engine, chassis and gearbox) is essential, especially on the rarer cars and popular marques like Ferrari, Porsche, and Mercedes-Benz, but can be less important on the more regularly traded "commodity" type classic cars.

Be aware of buying a restored car. Restoration quality could be the difference between an excellent car, and the beginning of a long and expensive nightmare, so be sure to carry out a thorough pre-purchase inspection with a qualified professional.

There is nothing wrong with making money on a classic car, many people have done so and continue to do so very successfully, just don't let the

investment potential alone guide your decisions and cloud your judgement.

The demand for rare and collectable cars in South Africa is on the rise and continues to outstrip supply. Only the very best examples, those with the highest originality, authenticity and provenance will continue to increase in value over time with any relative certainty.

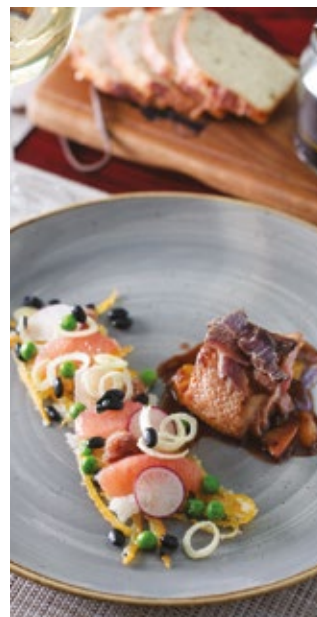
Take your time, do the research as you would before buying a stock in a company, or at least consult with an expert. Most importantly, though, let passion be your guide. Do this well, and a classic car might be the most rewarding purchase you ever make. 11

by **tommy roes** /
photography by **rm sotheby's** / **jaguar classic**



MONNEAUX RESTAURANT
AT FRANSCHHOEK COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS

A CAPE *Culinary Classic*



Situated at the picturesque boutique hotel Franschhoek Country House & Villas, fine wines and contemporary cuisine await you at Monneaux Restaurant. Savour a summer lunch al fresco on the fountain terrace, beneath the dappled shade of a towering pepper tree. In the evening, enjoy an intimate dinner in the relaxed, elegant dining room, housed in the original and beautifully renovated 1890 manor house.

For more information and bookings call us on +27 21 8763386 or visit www.monneaux.co.za
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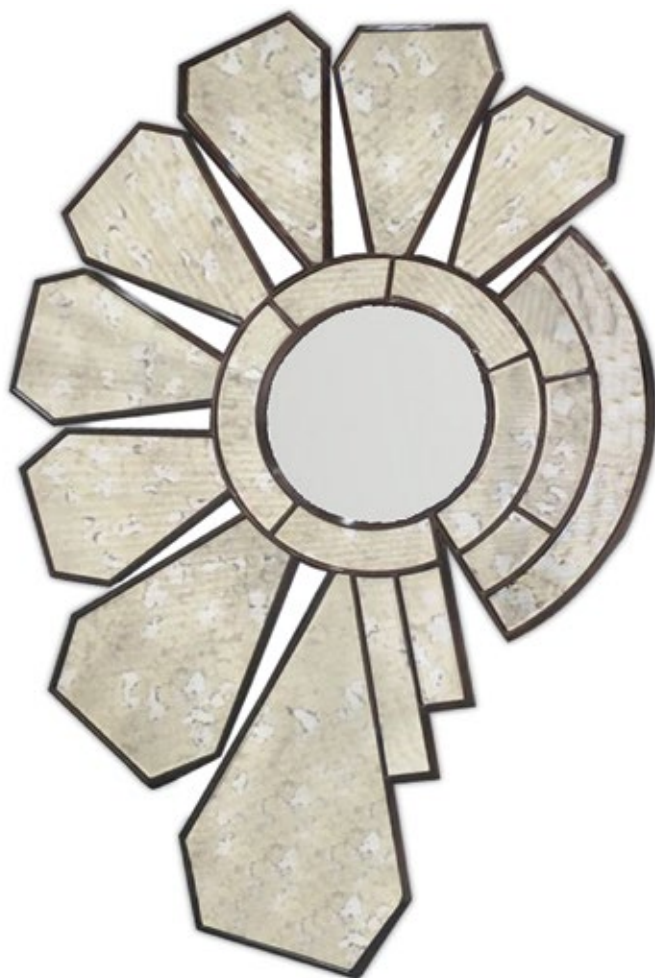
ART DECO BY DESIGN

“Florals? For Spring? Groundbreaking.” – Miranda Priestley in Devil Wears Prada

As surprising as it sounds, florals are indeed one of the biggest décor trends for the upcoming Spring season. Dress your home in retro style while keeping a foot in the present (or the future).

The Art Deco retro is an inspiring and trendy look with a glamorous and vintage feel, in equal doses, evoking a glorious past in a modern way. And giving it a twist of their own, Covet

House, and its trendsetting brand partners – including Boca do Lobo, Delightfull, Brabbu, Koket, Maison Valentina, Circu, Luxxu, Essential Home, Rug'Society, Foogo, and Pullcast – has put together these inspiring Art Deco-inspired trends for Spring 2019.



BELLA KOKET

With passion visible in every product detail, Koket's accessories are a must-have in any room. Whether in a contemporary setting or a retro-inspired space, the Bella Mirror reflects the brand's ethos of highly-defined lines that complement the perfectly round shape of this mirror. Its enticing form is sure to make a perfect focal point in any space.



AMBIANCE WEST RUG

Uniting the biggest trends in interior colours for this season – shades of brown, beige, and nude colour pallets

– and the use of prints, the West Rug from Rug'Society has a graphic design inspired by architectural photographs.



MONOCLES TABLE

The Monocles Dressing Table from Essential Home is a striking addition to any glamorous boudoir. Made from solid walnut, the dressing table offers three front drawers finished in gold plated brass. Monocles is supported on atomic legs and features a set of three bulls-eye mirrors, each with a brass rim, of which the smaller ones rotate vertically for flexibility.



BOGARDE ACCENT ARMCHAIR

Inspired by a giant of the silver screen from the 1960s the provocative Bogarde accent armchair is finished in leather, with a polished brass swivel base that conveys both style and playfulness. The Bogarde will make a great occasional chair for the home or office.



LAUTNER TV TABLE DETAIL

Retro chic, with a midcentury feel, the Lautner TV Table is made of tubular polished brass, and combines clean lines with the noblest of materials including marble on

the countertop, and varnished walnut wood on the two long-length drawers. There is a shelf at the base that provides additional storage.




BLAKE BOOKCASE

Continuing the silver screen theme, Essential Home takes noteworthy cinematographic references and turns them into unique furnishing pieces such as the Blake Bookcase. This modular bookcase system is customisable to suit any room, while its specially-made Nero marble doors have a lightweight core that is exceptionally strong.

TURNER TABLE LAMP

Enlightening these trendy collections is Delightfull's mid-century inspired lighting solutions in the form of the fantastic Turner Table Lamp. Handmade in brass and aluminium, the lamp body has a gold-plated finish, while the shade is lacquered either in black or white matte on the

outside, and a gold powder paint on the inside. The Turner lamp's five movable arcs can be rotated into the desired position, giving the table lamp a sense of fun, and allowing you to create the best composition to fit your contemporary home décor. 



TO ENTERTAIN



URBAN RENEWAL

Routed in Africa, the Moyo brand is synonymous with multi-sensory dining concepts. Now, Urban Moyo looks to redefine this signature entertainment experience within a unique, multicultural, and sophisticated urban space. With a menu that offers a veritable melting pot of flavours, both bold and refined, Urban Moyo presents a curated selection of the finest meat, venison, chicken and seafood, as well as an assortment of bountiful platters, vibrant salads and contemporary

sharing plates. The restaurant showcases the finest in contemporary interiors with a plush feature bar and lounge area that's perfect for enjoying one of Urban Moyo's signature cocktails that offer an opulent take on South Africa's nine provinces – each served in unique and extravagant glassware. Urban Moyo is open for lunch and dinner in the heart of the Sandton CBD, while Saturday lunches are accompanied by live jazz performances. www.urbanmoyo.co.za

RUN THE CITY

The FNB Joburg 10K CITYRUN will celebrate its 4th anniversary on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 (National Heritage Day). Starting in front of FNB Bank City, the FNB Joburg 10K CITYRUN celebrates the splendour of its host city. Runners (and walkers) will be treated to a 10km journey that will highlight iconic landmarks and feature lively performances by a host of Joburg's leading performing arts groups. Iconic landmarks to look out for will include: the Nelson Mandela Bridge, FNB Bank City, Constitution Hill, Mary Fitzgerald Square, Wits University and Ellis Park Stadium to name a few. www.joburg10k.com



PASSION FOR SOUND

SVS Sound, now available in South Africa through the Homemation distribution network, includes a range of subwoofers that will enhance your home or office sound system with the perfect fusion of audio innovation and passion. Audiophiles, home theatre enthusiasts, and reviewers alike, revere SVS products for delivering exhilarating audio performances on par with the finest subwoofers

in the world. Priced from R13,990, SVS products reflect a fusion of the best available technology, expert engineering, exhaustive anechoic and real-world testing, and most importantly, the SVS team's unrelenting passion for audio excellence. SVS Sound products are exclusively available through the Homemation specialist distribution network. www.homemation.co.za





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FROM FAST TO FAIR

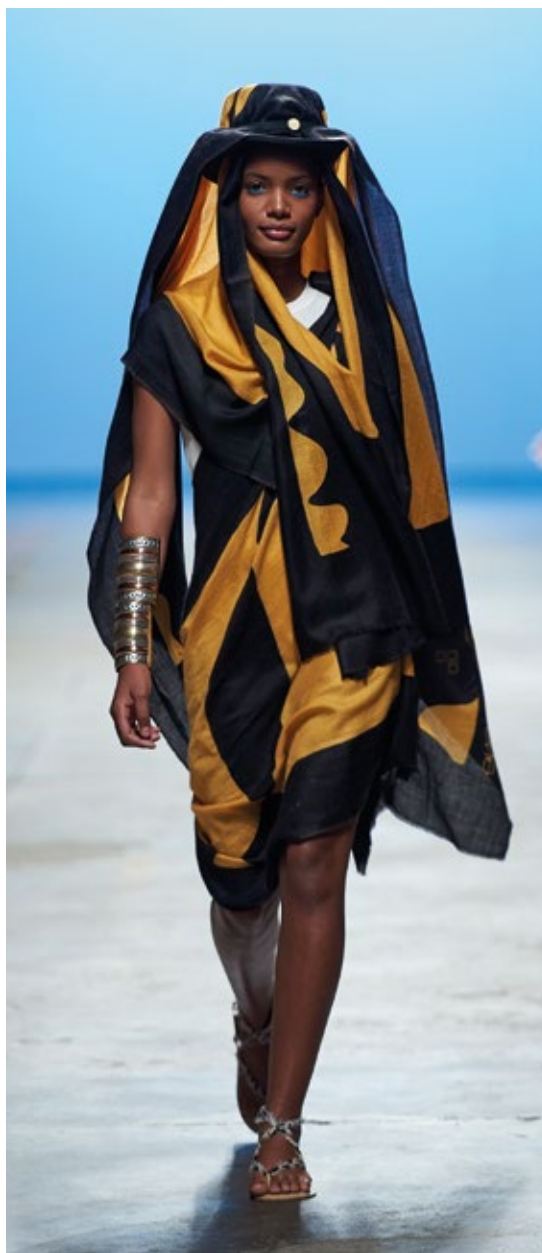
The ethical future of fashion is here



In February 2017, the South African fashion industry was abuzz when more than 70 migrant labourers were rescued from living and working in a KwaZulu-Natal clothing factory. Revealing the rampant exploitation of some workers in the fashion industry, the incident left consumers all over the country and the continent questioning who makes the clothes we wear and in what kind of conditions.

As consumers, we have become increasingly conscious of our buying behaviour, channelling the power of our public objections to make a positive difference for the people involved in the making of our clothes and goods.

As a result, today, a growing number of slow fashion brands have emerged, dedicated to ethical and sustainable practices. This is a selection of some of our favourite brands that produce high-quality, eco-friendly signature items. Enjoy shopping with a clear conscience.



TREBENE

Founded by South African based ethical fashion designer, Bushera Bashir, Trebene is an ethical fashion brand that designs, prints, and hand weaves cashmere scarves in Kashmir. These luxury scarves are hand woven and printed by Kashmiri weavers through a delicate ten-step process that has been perfected over generations. As an ethical brand, the label ensures that every stage of the production process involves fair

wages and safe working conditions for employees. Trebene also ensures that the weavers' children have access to quality education by contributing a portion of their profits towards their education.

THE JOINERY

Earlier this year, *Signature* attended South African Fashion Week. As expected, the shows were outstanding, with local designers showing that South Africa truly is at the forefront of African, and

international fashion design. However, the standout feature was the trade show, starring numerous local designers. Here we met up with the Ellis sisters, founders of The Joinery. Theirs is a sustainable lifestyle brand that proudly designs and produces bespoke sustainable products, focusing on a high-end design aesthetic with an African conscience. Each product is made from 100% recycled plastic bottles. They also make use of use eco fabrics such as Linen, Rayon, and Hemp.



FUNDUDZI

Fundudzi by Craig Jacobs is a Johannesburg-based clothing label dedicated to sustainable practices in fashion design.

"Clothing with a conscience" is their mantra, as they create capsule wardrobe solutions for free-spirited individuals seeking pieces with a distinctive signature that incorporates locally sourced textiles, and upcycled materials. Fundudzi strives to help change the perception of African design by presenting inspired ranges that are designed and created according to the highest quality standards. The name Fundudzi is inspired by Lake Fundudzi, a sacred site for the vhaVenda tribe whose home is found in the mountainous north of South Africa. 11

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DIFFERENTIATING DIETS

A look behind the science of healthy eating

There is no shortage of diets these days. From those eliminating complete food groups, to those that simply advocate for eating specific foods in abundance. Whatever your lifestyle goals may be, you can be sure that there is an eating plan to suit your lifestyle while safely supporting your goals. Signature has rounded up a few of the most popular and interesting diets if you are looking to make a lifestyle change.

KETOGENIC DIET
The Ketogenic or “keto” diet has become all the rage these days. Similar to Banting, it is a low carbohydrate and high fat (LCHF) combination diet commonly focusing on weight loss. A typical keto diet comprises a diet of approximately 75% fat, 20% protein, and 5% carbohydrates. Almost completely eliminating carbs may seem a little extreme, while consuming too much fat, counterintuitive. Yet, there is a scientific reason behind why the keto diet can work for you. By drastically reducing carbohydrate intake, and replacing it with fat, the body slowly progresses into a metabolic state called ketosis. When ketosis occurs, the body becomes incredibly efficient in burning fat (ketones) for fuel, as opposed to carbohydrates (glucose). When your fuel supply is mostly derived from fat, insulin levels decrease and fat burning increases dramatically.

What to Eat?

First and foremost, any food high

in carbohydrates should be severely limited when following a keto diet. Grains and starches, sugary foods, fruits, root vegetables, alcohol and even sugar-free “diet” foods should be avoided on a keto diet. Majority of one’s meals should consist of meat, eggs, fatty fish, cheese, healthy oils, nuts and seeds, and low-carb veggies – in other words, mostly fats and some protein.

Who should Keto?

Although the keto diet is mostly used for weight loss purposes, it likely has some benefits for those suffering from other ailments including metabolic diseases, diabetes, brain injuries, and cancer. As with any significant change in dietary approach, it is recommended to consult a professional dietician or doctor before commencing.

THE PALEO DIET

The idea behind the paleo diet is to eat the same type of food that our hunter-gatherer ancestors would have hunted, or gathered, prior to agricultural development. By

emphasising whole, nutrient-dense foods, the idea behind the paleo diet is to shift away from the Western diet and cultivated foods as many modern diseases are linked to this latter way of eating.

What to Eat?

The paleo diet encourages only the consumption of foods eaten during the Palaeolithic era. Foods within this category include meats, seafood, healthy oils and low-sugar fruit. Dairy, grains, legumes, processed foods and salt are all eliminated as part of a paleo diet. In other words, foods that are known to be inflammatory, negatively impact gut health and disrupt hormones.

Who is Paleo for?

The paleo diet is often undertaken for the purpose of weight loss, as it cuts out processed foods that are usually high in calories and unhealthy fats. However, more often than not, the primary reason for going paleo is to avoid and decrease the likelihood of developing modern chronic ailments such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

THE BLOOD TYPE DIET

This diet is based on the fairly simple notion that eating according to one's blood type is essential, as it relates closely to the ability to digest particular foods. Unlike other diets, the Blood Type diet does not focus on the elimination of certain foods groups altogether, but rather shifts the focus onto what foods are best suited to one's specific blood type. While the premise of the Blood Type Diet is intriguing, it is also fairly specific and in order for it to be effective, precision is key.

What to Eat?

According to theory, type O blood should focus primarily on a high-protein diet while limiting beans, legumes,

grains, and dairy. On the other hand, those with type A blood should follow a meat-free diet based on whole grains, fruit, vegetables, and legumes – ideally fresh and organic. B blood types ought to pick a diverse diet of certain meats, dairy, vegetables, fruit and grains, while avoiding wheat, chicken, lentils, and corn. Lastly, those with type AB blood are best suited to a diet focusing on seafood, tofu, dairy and green vegetables. Because those with AB blood tend to have low gastric acidity, inflammatory substances such as alcohol, caffeine and cured meats should be avoided.

Who is this Diet for?

Although the Blood Type Diet may result in fat loss, unlike most other diets it is not primarily used for this reason. Rather, it is undertaken for health-related purposes such as improving digestion and increasing energy levels. However, due to a lack of scientific evidence, many experts do not recommend the diet.

THE WHOLE-FOODS, PLANT-BASED DIET


Unlike other diets, the plant-based diet has both a health element as well as an ethical element. While there remains no clear definition of what constitutes a whole-foods, plant-based (WFPB) diet, it is generally agreed upon that the regimen emphasises fresh, whole ingredients and minimises processed foods. As opposed to most other diets that are often short-term with a specific aim, a WFPB diet is more of a lifestyle as it pays special attention to food quality that is locally sourced.

What to Eat?

On the whole, the WFPB diet eliminates, or severely limits, the consumption of animal products, while emphasising minimally processed foods. Refined foods such as white flour and added sugars are excluded,

while as the name suggests, most of what one consumes should come from plants, including an abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and nuts.

Who should follow WFPB?

A WFPB diet is for anyone. While vegetarianism and veganism naturally follow this school of thought, eliminating all animal products and animal by-products respectively, the WFPB diet is more flexible. Some people following this diet may strictly eat plants, while others may consume only small amounts of meat, eggs, or dairy. 

by *maxine volker* /
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WHY CHOOSE SANDTON

Sandton Central, "Africa's Richest Square Mile", is well established as Africa's financial and business capital, and continues to grow with developments that embody its vibrant, energetic 'live, work, play' environment. An impressive

illustration of its growth over the past five decades is the change from open grasslands and farms, to the proud home of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and approximately 10% of South Africa's listed companies.

With more people looking to be part of this "live, work, and play" environment and the number of foreigners travelling to Johannesburg for business on the rise, the demand for residential property around Sandton Central has grown exponentially.


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Our real estate offering is to the owner-occupier, and investor-buyer. We afford buyers and investors the opportunity to buy or invest in prime residential real estate that provides the perfect balance of excellent capital growth and steady income yields.

Each development has a determined and limited number of 'investor units' which are sold to investment-buyers, who are offered rental guarantees over a fixed term.

FutureDev Properties was founded by Akbar Hassim. "We have established ourselves not only as an independent, but also a turnkey developer - being able to buy land, finance the real estate deals, and create, control, and orchestrate the process of the development from beginning to end. Our approach to property development and investment therein involves thorough financial and delivery risk analysis, followed by focused and efficient delivery", he says.

This approach is underpinned by many years of experience, and an impeccable entrepreneurial spirit.

For additional information, visit www.futuredev.co.za. 

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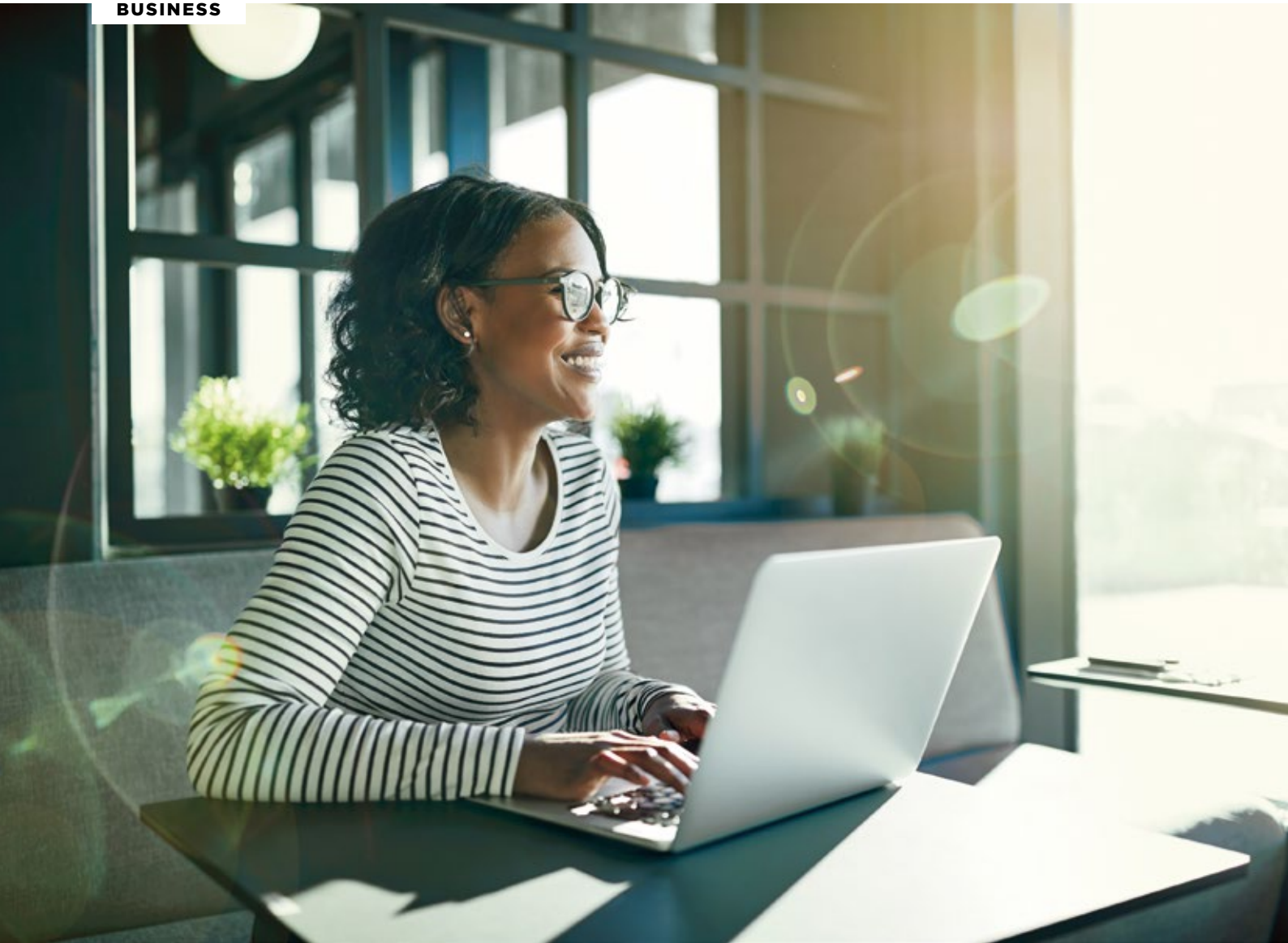
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THE FUTURE IS HERE AND IT'S REMOTE

Remote work is on the rise, and the old office environment that many are familiar with, may soon be a relic

Remote work, as the name suggests, entails working out-of-office. What was once practically non-existent has now gone from occasionally occurring (if your boss was cool like that) to mainstream practise in which more and more companies are utilising.

There has been a massive cultural paradigm shift in what is considered an appropriate workspace and companies are scrambling to keep up. Here is the lowdown on everything you need to know about working remotely.

THE ERA OF CONVENIENCE

Working out-of-office has always been the way for freelancers. A writer or designer has commissioned something, produces it and sends it on. However, it is no longer only freelancers utilising remote work. More and more employers are opting to utilise remote work permanently or several days a week. Although the idea of remote work initially appears appealing from only the employee perspective, there are many benefits for employers too. Cutting costs on office space rentals as well as computers, telephones, printers, stationary and other in-office costs are all ways in which companies benefit from allowing their employees to work remotely. Additionally, the traditional nine to five working hours also become somewhat more flexible. Employees are able to more precisely adjust their schedules as to be available for meetings or conferences which may have otherwise been tricky to schedule having been bound to the office for the whole day.

COFFICES AND HOFFICES

Coffices, or coffee shops as offices, are a relatively new trend which have seen increasing popularity in recent years. The basic idea behind these pseudo-offices is that workers essentially utilise these work-friendly eateries as a space for


getting things done. Although rocking up at a coffee shop, connecting to the WiFi and ordering one cup of coffee throughout the whole day is somewhat frowned upon, workers utilising these spaces are generally aware of “office etiquette” - don’t take up a big table if you plan on working alone for a few hours and always tip appropriately so as to make it profitable for the waiter or waitress who looks after you. Coffices provide a significant change of scenery, and many eateries are actually designed to accommodate the notion of remote working, equipped with laptop charging stations and single-seater tables.

Hoffices, on the other hand, or home offices, are essentially spaces in the home which have been converted to a simulated office space. Due to the fact that for many, spending hours at a coffee shop ordering latte after latte is not financially feasible, the notion of a home office has become increasingly appealing. Essentially, those who decide to utilise the idea of a home office simply design a space or room in their home to resemble an office. As oppose to working in bed or curled up on the couch, a desk is set up which houses electronics, stationary, paperwork and anything else that would be needed during a day in the office.

SHARED WORK SPACE

Aside from working from home and coffee shops, remote workers often utilise co-working spaces. These spaces, which have seen huge popularity in the last few years, act as hubs of productivity, technology and community while simultaneously allowing for great networking opportunities to meet others who work in a multitude of industries. Shared

office spaces are utilised by both freelancers and those with full-time jobs who have been given the option to work remotely. Entrepreneurs often utilise these non-traditional office spaces to rent out for themselves or even their small companies to work from on a daily basis. Shared work spaces can be seen as a halfway point between traditional and non-traditional workspaces as they provide the comfort of working from a more relaxed environment with having access to all the professional amenities one would find in a traditional corporate environment. One of the biggest advantages of utilising a coworking space is that employees have location flexibility through a space that can function as both a work base as well as one that provides a professional space for production meetings, interviews and conferences.

Although it takes a very specific type of worker to work remotely - self-discipline is essential to the success of this practise - one cannot argue that the very structure of work is changing. Digital nomads are thriving, and both employers and employees alike are reaping the benefits of discarding the traditional in-office nine to five work concept. This is not to say that the traditional corporate environment does not most certainly have its place - dentists would likely struggle with the concept of remote work. Still, this trend is on the rise and it is exciting. Think you’re ready to go remote? It’s a beautiful day not to go into the office. 

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



SOLUTIONS DRIVEN PARTNERSHIP

Diners Club partners with SnapScan and Merchant Capital to improve the card holder and merchant experience

In the contemporary environment, customers' expectations to provide innovative financial solutions are high, and ever increasing. For Diners Club International, this means continually seeking out new partnerships that add value to card holders, and Diners Club merchants alike.

For Diners Club card holders, the

desired experience is to transact where, when, and with whom you prefer. Traditionally, this meant that card holders had to specifically seek out Diners Club merchant partners to make their purchases, yet in an environment where smaller businesses are opening regularly with bespoke offerings, the traditional point of sale system does not always work.

Equally, these merchants are looking for ways to attract a wide spectrum of customers, and are attracted to Diners Club card holders who are seen as high net worth with disposable income to spend on travel, lifestyle, and entertainment.

BREAKING THE MOULD

Repositioning the Diners Club



LEFT: *Themba Mthethwa - The Gallery*



example of our evolution, Diners Club is actively working on new products, and recently launched the first Shari'ah compliant charge card under the Diners Club brand in the world."

This pioneering repositioning extends to finding key partnerships that support Diners Club's innovation and expansion drive, by creating new ways for card holders to use their Diners Club cards, and by adding value to its merchant base.

SNAPSCAN IS HERE

With more than 50,000 merchants ranging from large retailers to small operators alike, SnapScan has changed the face of mobile banking convenience in South Africa, giving Diners Club card holders more access to more merchants than ever before, by merely loading their Diners Club charge card to the SnapScan mobile payment platform.

According to Jamie Carolissen, Head of Growth for SnapScan, "the payment space hadn't changed dramatically in the last two decades until the last few years, as mobile payments are becoming more mainstream. The partnership with Diners Club opens new markets

for SnapScan and a world of new possibilities for card holders."

As lifestyle preferences change, the need for banking flexibility also changes, and as SnapScan closes the merchant acceptance gap, Diners Club card holders can transact more often, at more merchants, both in the real world, and online. You can also use your Diners Club card to make a charitable donation via SnapScan. It is now even possible to use your Diners Club card to pay for breakfast at your favourite Saturday-morning food market, pay any number of bills through the SnapScan smartphone app, or even pay for parking in the Cape Town CBD, and by spending with your Diners Club card on the SnapScan platform, you can expect to see even more Diners Club rewards and benefits coming your way.

To begin using SnapScan with your Diners Club card today, download the SnapScan app from your favourite app store and install your Diners Club card using the simple, user-friendly, and extremely secure SnapScan application.

MERCHANT CAPITAL

Often referred to as the funding gap, access to funding in the retail sector has long been a challenge

brand to support this innovation drive is a fundamental goal for Diners Club International in South Africa, says Kevin Lomax, Head of Merchant Solutions at Diners Club International. "Traditionally, Diners Club has had two products in the market – a Platinum Card which is typically offered to high-income earners, and a Privé product that a Platinum customer evolves to over time. As an



ABOVE: Steve Maresch - The Local Grill

experienced by business owners in the industry. As part of Diners Club's holistic offering to their merchants, they have collaborated with fintech funding provider, Merchant Capital, to ensure that merchants not only grow, but thrive.

As businesses' needs evolve, so too should their providers, which makes Diners Club's need for a partnership in the financial technology space all the more compelling. Particularly one that focuses on serving the ambitious growth of retail merchants.

Working capital is likened to air for business, and when an opportunity for growth arises, or a short term finance solution is needed that is time sensitive, Merchant Capital can process, approve, and fund a business in under 48 hours. This is not where the relationship ends,

though, for Merchant Capital, being a comprehensive funding partner, also means that the funding can be used at the business owner's discretion. A key benefit for the merchant is that repayment options will fall in line with the business' turnover to ensure that no pressure is put on its cash flow. The solution, says Ryan Cohen, Co-Founder and Chief Relationship Officer of Merchant Capital, is to provide repayment options that increase and decrease along with the cyclical nature of trading. "What we've done," says Cohen, "is create technology that works through the merchant's point of sale, this allows us to split payment at the point of transaction, retaining a small portion of each future transaction, so that repayment remains in line with turnover." As the only merchant funding provider with

this type of split collection repayment method, Merchant Capital ensures that specific funding needs for Diners Club merchants are met in a tailored and business-friendly way.

For more information on using SnapScan, or on how to become a SnapScan merchant, please visit www.snapscan.co.za. To learn how Merchant Capital can assist your business through its innovative product portfolio, go to www.merchantcapital.co.za. 11

by **bernie hellberg jr** / photography by **diners club**

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HOTELS OF HORROR

Whether staying five-star or one, some hotel experiences are best forgotten

I knew it was going to be a long night when I opened the door to my room, and before I could switch on the light, a bat squeaked as it flapped around in the thatch above.

Upon switching on the light, I discovered that this was indeed a family affair and that, obviously, I had booked into the Bat Cave for the night, because Daddy Bat had brought the Baby Bats with him for a bit of timeshare in the roof of my room.

Strangely enough, the 10 seconds of running on the spot and swatting the flying bats around my head – equivalent, I can confirm, in heart rate value to an hour's spinning class at the gym – was not my biggest problem. The reaction of the receptionist when I phoned to complain was of far greater concern.

"You do know they are harmless," he said, in a tone that suggested I should be perfectly comfortable with the fact that there was a family of bats in my room purely because I could console myself that they wouldn't kill me.

This remains within the top five of the dodgiest hotel/bed and breakfast experiences I've had in 25 years of travelling the world covering sport.

There was that time I booked into what I thought was a boutique hotel in Bloemfontein. After the second night of no sleep thanks to what sounded

like crazy farm animals in the room next to me, I was informed by the local golf professional that, where I was staying, was actually where the town's working ladies of the night took their clients. And I thought I'd booked in next to the honeymoon suite.

I once booked a room in a house in Witbank for a golf tournament I was covering there. It was the day the Lotto launched in South Africa, and the first draw was taking place that evening. I arrived to find the entire family sitting in front of the television, waiting for the draw. They pointed to the kitchen, where a plate of food waited for me. But they refused to take their eyes off the TV screen. Everything about that whole situation screamed to me to run, as fast as I could. So I did the next best thing. I lied. I lied shamelessly about a family death that had suddenly happened. And uncle, killed while fishing as he was speared through his left femoral aorta by a thrashing marlin on the deck of his boat. The lie just came streaming out. I had to leave now, I explained. And I did.

But the one that was a mixture of horror and embarrassment was a trip to cover The Open golf tournament in Southport, England. I stayed with a family that had given me their son's room, complete with Spiderman bed

cover. I had just landed and was still groggy from the flight when the father, a teacher disguised as a Tour de France cyclist, said I should join him on a cycle around the town. We covered more miles than Chris Froome. I think at some point we crossed into France.

The embarrassment lasted for a week though, because on returning home and going to the bathroom across from the son's room, I discovered the young lad had left an enormous number two there, which refused to flush. It stayed in there for the whole week, doggedly resisting any attempt to send it on its way. I shuddered at the thought that my hosts would think it belonged to me, and that their African guest clearly had the bowels of a buffalo.

Perhaps I could've consoled myself with the words of that receptionist. "You do know it's harmless, don't you?"

From staying in a tent while covering a mountain bike race, and being swamped in a flood that Noah would have been proud of, to five-star hotels, we all know that sense of trepidation when you click "Book Now", and that feeling when you open the door to your room...and it looks nothing like the pictures. 🐳

by *michael vlismas* /
photography by *istockphoto.com*



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Chris Hemsworth works hard and chooses his roles carefully. He handles pressure by taming it, and turning it to his advantage. #DontCrackUnderPressure was coined with him in mind.