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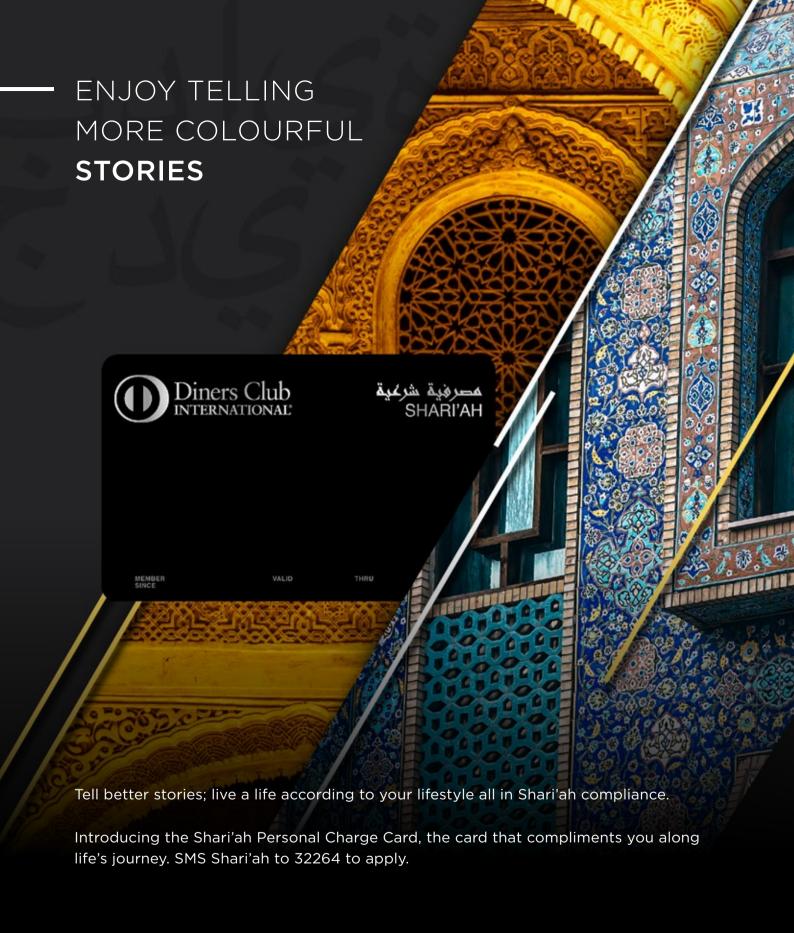




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from the MD



Welcome

Esh Naidoo

Managing Director

As a Diners Club cardholder myself, I share the passion for life and for truly bespoke experiences that define how Diners Club members view the world that we share. And after 70 years of learning from our own experiences, Diners Club International is singularly qualified to provide our members with the services, solutions, and opportunities that you have come to expect.

Over these seven decades, Diners Club has consistently worked to adapt to the changing needs of our members, who continue to trust Diners Club to be their trusted travel, lifestyle, and entertainment companion.

In South Africa, in particular, the Diners Club team understands the unique challenges that our members experience, and focus our efforts to making your Diners Club member

journey as hassle free, as rewarding, and as entertaining as possible.

This edition of *Signature* is crafted with this Diners Club philosophy at its core. Carefully curated to be both relevant and informative, I invite you to join me on a journey of discovery that reaches from the farthest stretches of the globe, to right here on home soil.

Whether it is the vivid colours of Vietnam's most magical landscapes, the outstanding cuisine at one of South Africa's most esteemed restaurants, or a sporty road trip through Portugal that excites you, there is something for every passion in this edition.

Here's to another 70 years of companionship, and to exploring the treasures of our beautiful planet together. Here is to our mutual journey to belong. •

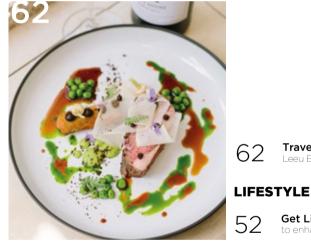
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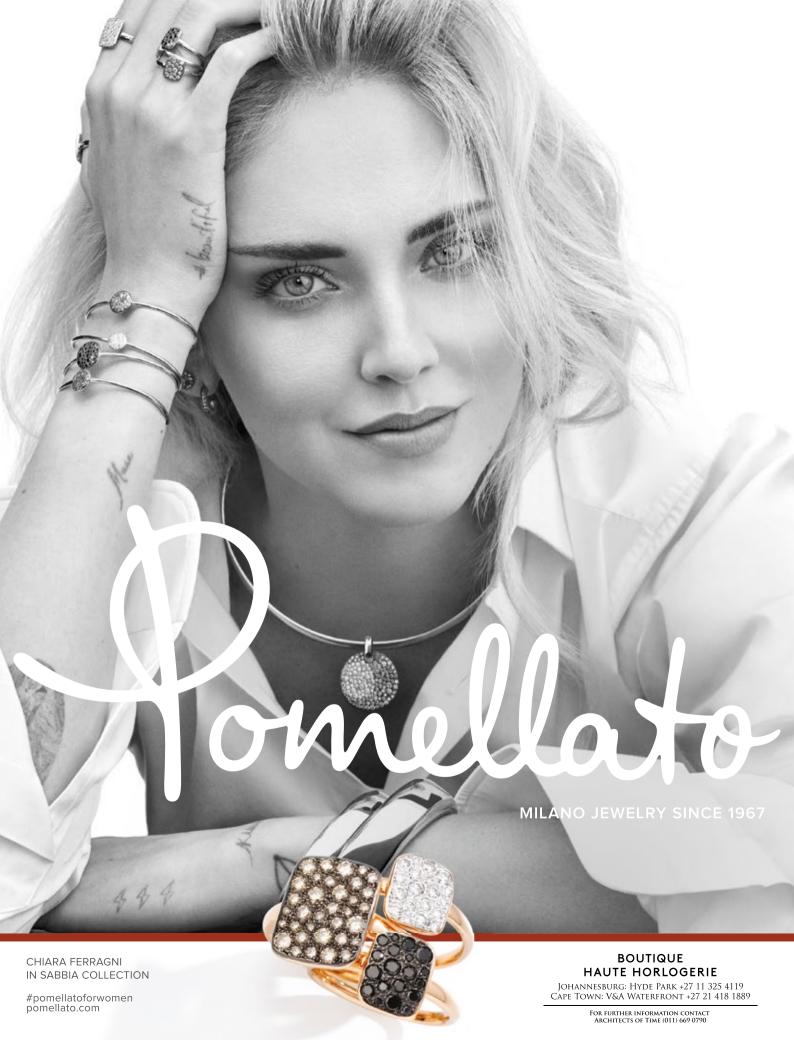
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Visit the jewel of the Mountain Kingdom and experience luxurious accommodation, excellent service, and the best contemporary cuisine. Take in the 360-degree view of the city skyline at Sky Restaurant, situated on the top floor.

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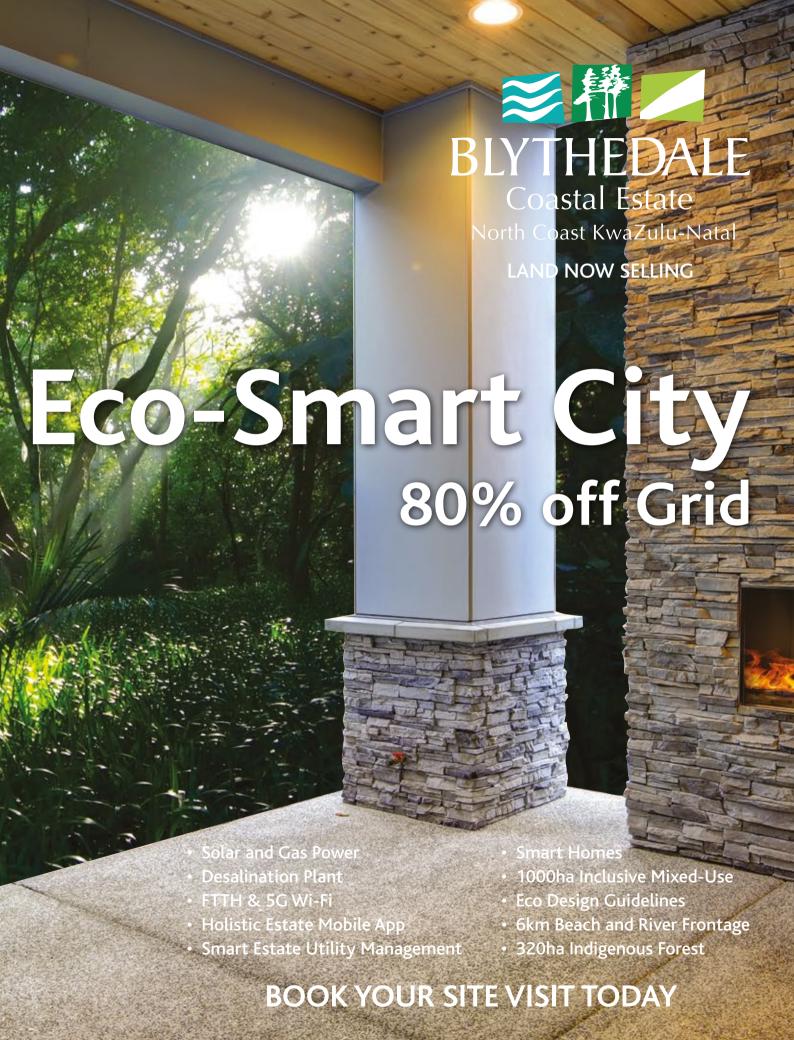
















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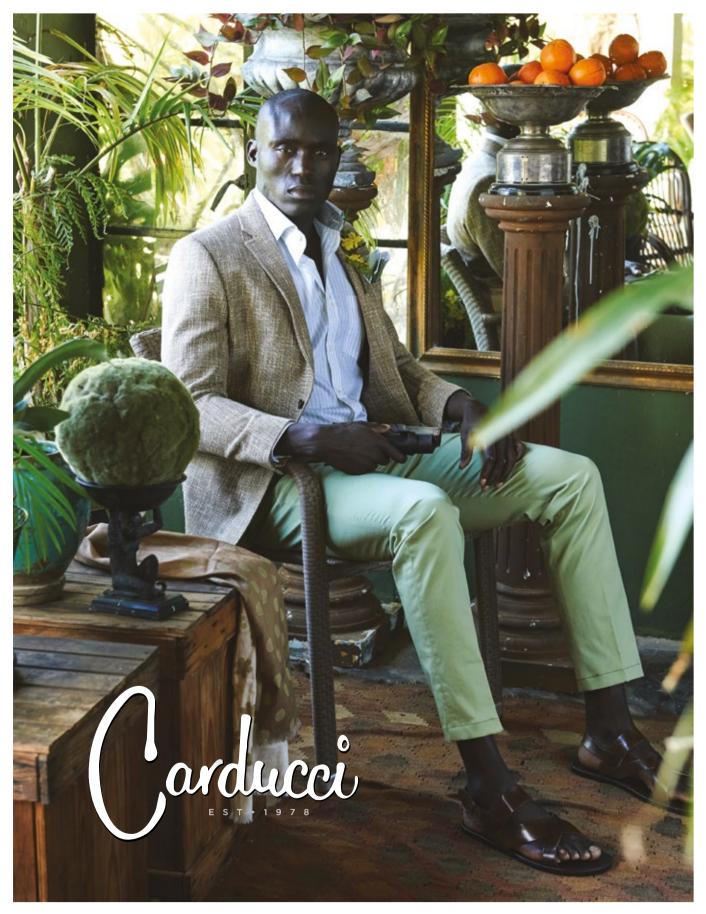
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PARIS IN STYLE

A delight for all the senses, the Pierre Yves Rochondesigned Keppler Hotel, is ideally located where the Champs Elysées meets the Avenues Montaigne and George V in the heart of Paris' high district of fashion, business, and entertainment. This intimate, homelike oasis within a Haussmanian-style building that dates back to the 19th century, features 39 exceptional guest rooms, including five top-floor suites. Reminiscent of a private apartment, each of these suites boasts a private terrace with exquisite views of Paris and the Eiffel Tower. With its bold black and white themes throughout, all blended with sophisticated contemporary touches, Keppler Hotel is a classic example of French elegance and a Parisien icon in its own right. www.preferredhotels.com







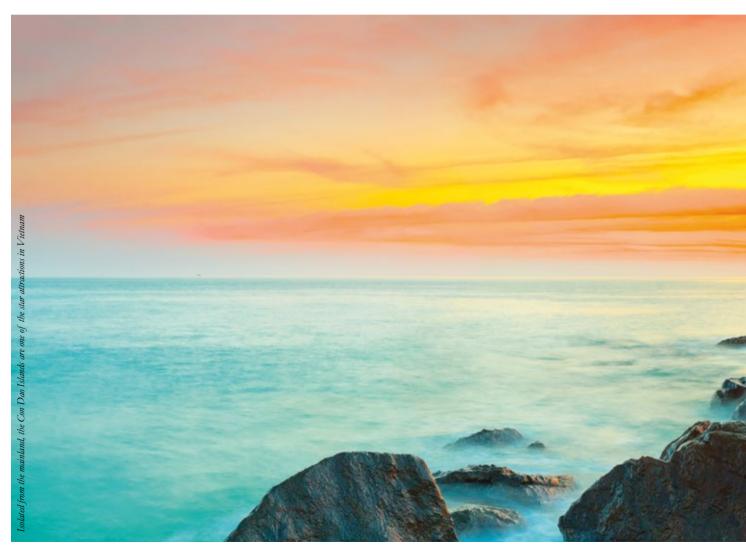
Ha Long Bay

ome fascinating range of historical and cultural attractions, Vietnam is one of Southeast Asia's most beautiful countries, attracting millions of travellers to its lush mountains, bustling cities, and golden beaches. Despite rapid modernisation in Vietnam's urban centres of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the country's ancient landmarks and sweeping natural landscapes continue to offer abundant sightseeing opportunities. From tropical forests that house thousands

to a of rare wildlife species, to a Saharang range like desert landscape complete with
historical adventure activities, we have compiled
cultural a selection of the most exceptional
one of landscapes in Vietnam, complete
beautiful with photo opportunities and
lions of experiences for the perfect
rountains, Vietnamese vacation.

HA LONG BAY

Arguably Vietnam's most recognised landscape, boasting over 1,600 limestone islands and islets, the UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay (or Halong Bay), is located in northern Vietnam and



boasts surrealistic scenery and a wide range of bio-diverse plant and animal species. Instantly recognisable from its starring role in numerous films throughout the years, Ha Long Bay is a must-visit destination for any first-time visitor to Vietnam.

Getting there: Ha Long Bay is reachable by car and minibus from the city of Hanoi (170 kilometres away), or by joining one of the numerous day tours available from the city. If time is of the essence, an hour-long helicopter transfer is possible, or you can opt for an exhilarating seaplane trip from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay.

CON DAO ISLANDS

Con Dao Islands comprises 16 uninhabited islets just off the southern coast of Vietnam, each offering expansive beaches shaded by evergreen trees. The main (and only inhabited) island, Con Son, was once the site of French-run prisons for Vietnamese activists who were involved in the independence movement. Today the island is a popular snorkelling, swimming, and diving spot.

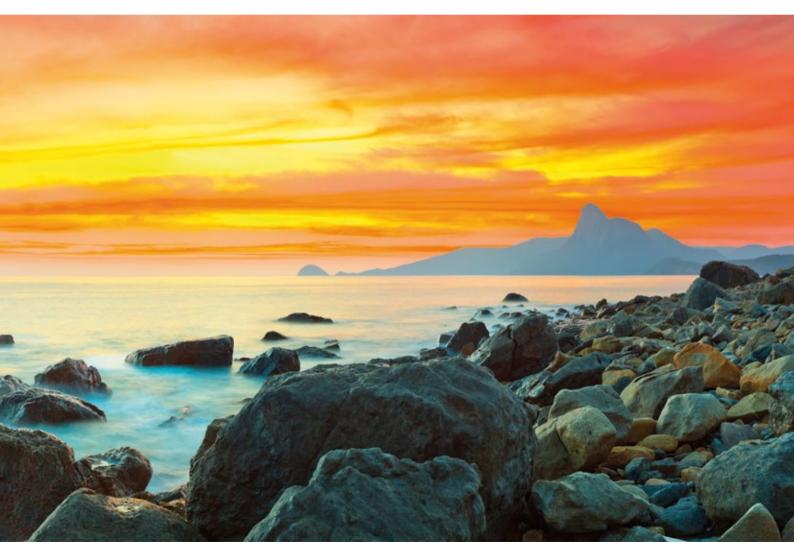
The more remote Con Dao Islands are renowned turtle breeding sites, where sea turtles lay their eggs between June and September each year.

Getting there The Con Dao Islands are accessible within an hour's flight from Ho Chi Minh City with Vietnam Airlines (VASCO) being the only carrier with regular flights to the island.

SAND DUNES OF MUI NE

Characterised by signature whiteand red dunes, the Sand Dunes of Mui Ne offer picturesque Sahara-like desert landscapes and adrenalinefueled activities that include sandboarding, kite flying and quad-biking.

The White Dunes are by far the larger dunes, and are known by the locals as Bau Trang or White Lake. Conversely,





the Red Dunes might not be as impressive in size as their white counterparts, their reddish-brown colour makes for an excellent photographic backdrop, while sand-sledging is a popular activity on the dunes.

Getting there: Numerous tour

operators in Mui Ne offer day trips to the dunes, although one can easily make your own way by rental car or hotel shuttle if you prefer to explore the golden dunes at your own pace.

FAN SI PAN MOUNTAIN



Sapa, a small mountain village in Lao Cai Province, is located approximately 350 km northwest of Hanoi, close to the Chinese border. Here, the Hoang Lien Son range of mountains, which includes Fan Si Pan, Vietnam's highest peak.

This unassuming little town is home to varying ethnic groups – including the Hmong, Dao, Tay, Giay, and Xa Pho – although Sapa also welcomes a diverse range of visitors who are attracted by the highland tribes, iconic rice paddies,

and forest treks. Blessed with aweinspiring natural beauty, Fan Si Pan Mountain - and the village of Sapa - are not-to-be-missed highlights for any trip to Vietnam.

Getting there: Book a cabin on the overnight train from Hanoi to Lao Cai, then reach the village of Sapa by minibus or taxi. Fan Si Pan Mountain is situated approximately nine kilometres southwest of Sapa, and is reached on foot. Three- and five-day hiking trails are









available between October and March.

MEKONG DELTA

The infamous Mekong Delta consists of several river canals that snake their way through the southern Vietnam plains. Locally known as "The River of the Nine Dragons", the 15,000m2 delta is lined with riverside villages, Buddhist shrines, floating markets, fish farms, and rice plantations. Great for travellers looking to explore a more traditional part of Ho Chi Minh City, day trips to this natural attraction are available at various price points, often including stops at prominent villages such as Ben Tre, My Tho, and Cai Be.

Getting there: Take a full-day guided Mekong Delta day cruise from Vuon Kieng Pier in Ho Chi Minh City, and explore the traditional culture.

lifestyle, and customs of villagers along the river banks.

HO CHI MINH CITY

With its broad boulevards and French colonial-era architecture, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) is the eternally elegant business and financial hub of Vietnam. The city's prominent history dates back hundreds of years to the Khmers who initially settled the region, through the Vietnamese takeover during the 17th century, and the French conquering of Saigon, as it was then known, in 1859.

At the peak of the Vietnam War in 1969, the city had four-and-a-half million inhabitants who were all evacuated when Saigon, and the rest of the South, fell to North Vietnam in 1975.

Today, Ho Chi Minh City is a popular

tourist destination due to its fascinating culture, classic French architecture, sleek skyscrapers, and ornate temples and pagodas. The city boasts a bustling nightlife, with rooftop bars that overlook Saigon (the city centre) and beyond, while fantastic restaurants offer a combination of French, Chinese, and, of course, local Vietnamese cuisine.

Getting there: Several major carriers operate daily flights from Johannesburg and Cape Town to Ho Chi Minh City, via various hubs across Asia and the Middle East. 19

by bernie hellberg jr / photography by istockphoto.com



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ISLAND PARADISE FOUND

Azura Benguerra Island Retreat

Boasting crystal-clear waters and views to thrill, Mozambique is undoubtedly one of the most sought-after travel destinations in the world. Travelling to Mozambique for the first time can be an exciting prospect for even the most seasoned travellers, and then, to find the perfect retreat from where one can while away the time in this beautiful country, should lead you no further than the Azura Benguerra Island Retreat.

s its name suggests, Benguerra pride of place on the northern shore of the breathtaking Benguerra Island, 14 kilometres northeast of Vilanculos, the closest town, and site of one of several Mozambican international airports. While travelling to Vilanculos necessitates a transfer via South Africa, from the moment one arrives on the island - via private helicopter if you prefer. I was overcome with happiness in its purest form. I had travelled to Mozambique with somewhat high expectations; when I left, however, I found it difficult to put into words just how much my expectations had been exceeded. Aside from the pristine beauty of the island,

it was the hospitality of the staff at Azura Benguerra that stole my heart.

STEPPING INTO PARADISE

Upon arrival, the island greeted me with its white sands, crystal-clear water, and an overall sense of calm. Introduced to the retreat by my host Pedro – a native Mozambican man with a big smile and an even bigger heart – I was shown the variety of comfortably luxurious dining rooms, lounge and bar areas, the water sports centre. Finally, also, the 20 villas positioned directly opposite the beach. The Azura villas take having the ocean at your doorstep to a new level. Azura Benguerra was the first eco-friendly retreat in the country, having been hand-built by the local community and operated in partnership with it.







The fact that the hosts at Azura are all local inhabitants adds to the personalised experience at the retreat, as they know the island inside out. On my last night at Azura, Pedro explained to me how he is part of one of the island's local soccer teams, proceeding to tell how they have matches every Sunday afternoon. This conversation helped me to realise that the staff at Azura view their work as a part of their day-to-day lives, rather than merely a job. Throughout my stay, I did not hear Pedro complain once. This man loves his job through and through - Azura is part of who he is. The Azura hosts take enormous pride in their innovative dining layout, with small but discernible touches that make the experience all the more special. For my last dinner on the island. Pedro set up a candle-lit affair for one, on the beach, where I was welcomed to a fully laden table surrounded by palm leaves and tiki torch candles that dotted the shoreline.

ALL THE LUXURY YOU NEED

When it comes to retreat amenities Azura Benguerra leaves no box unchecked. All villas on the property - which were all hand-built by local artisans - offer guests everything they could want on an island getaway. The villas are spacious, overflowing with natural light and filled with that typical island charm that cannot be replicated. All villas come equipped with full tea and coffee stations (replete with the most incredible homemade chocolate chip cookies), a minibar. Wi-Fi, air-conditioning. outside showers, and luxurious bathroom amenities. The pièce de résistance, however, is the private patio and pool at each villa; perfect for a morning americano as you watch the island awake, or a glass of champagne as you bid it goodnight. Nestled among the retreat's indigenous palm tree gardens, the villas offer luxurious seclusion as their outstanding feature. Although guests can look out onto the beach with its spectacular ocean view, the villas are completely private- a tranquil oasis where the outside world seems to fade away.

The public areas of the retreat, which include the restaurant, bar and lounges, are

located on the beach, and perfectly serve as an enduring reminder that, no matter what activity you are enjoying, you find yourself in paradise. There is a boutique in the reception area which sells locally-made treasures as well as anything you may have forgotten to bring with you such as sunscreen, hats and sarongs. There is also an indoor lounge where guests may browse the retreat's painstakingly curated book collection. As an avid reader, this room was a paradise for me, and I found myself curled up on the couch getting stuck into my book on most evenings, winding down after days spent exploring in the sun.



EXPLORING THE ISLAND

Regarding excursions, Azura offers many activities to its guests, including island tours, whale watching, scuba diving and snorkelling. I joined a snorkelling and island-hopping excursion on one of the





retreat boats, and it was an experience I will truly never forget. Lunch orders are taken the day before so that when you reach your lunch destination (another secluded island no less), your meal has been prepared and is waiting for you. The guides set up a simulated restaurant environment so that you can enjoy this bespoke culinary experience on the beachfront, interrupted only by the soft crashing of the waves. Personalised and meticulously curated, this experience will exceed even the wildest imaginings.

Azura Benguerra Island Retreat stole my heart as it will yours. Paradise in its purest form, the complete luxury and genuine warmth of the staff, and the impeccable attention to detail left me feeling invigorated, fully rested, and sincerely humbled, as it will for any who make their way to Mozambican shores.

For more information on Azura Benguerra Island Retreat, please visit www.azura-retreats.com.Tourism Corporation Africa offers an iconic collection of camps and lodges across the African Continent. Visit www.tourismcorp.co.za. 19

by maxine volker / photography by azura benguerra island retreat







ICON

COLLECTION





or decades, zoologists, animal behaviourists and other scientists have pondered how Connochaetes taurinus (the common Blue Wildebeest) has developed such a finelyhoned instinct for survival when food and water become scarce.

Although broad-shouldered and muscular, the Wildebeest is, however, not renowned as the animal kingdom's intellectual giant - an accolade that surely must go to the African Elephant.

FOOD IS EVERYTHING

Driven by the relentless search for food, the annual migration of thousands - some observers even mention millions - of Wildebeest reaches a peak between July and August each year when the animals, accompanied by herds of Zebra and often also Thompson's Gazelle and the occasional eland, enter the 1,510-km2 Masai Mara in search of lush grasslands.

Focussing on *The Crossing* - when the Mara River will be traversed -

the group, seemingly, switches to autopilot for a journey that will end in disaster for some, at the hands of predators, crocodiles, and the fastflowing waters of the Mara.

Remaining, to the delight of scores of predators, until October or November when the return journey will be undertaken, when lions, leopards, cheetahs and hyenas all grasp this festive opportunity to prey predominantly on the elderly, the frail, and wobbly-legged offspring born during the migration.

The Great Migration, as it is popularly known, is not an isolated once-a-year event, but rather a constant migration of animals which begins in the 65,000-km2 Serengeti ecosystem and during which, over 1.5-million animals slowly make their way.

Owing to the massive size of the herds, food and water reach depletion levels within six to eight weeks - with a subsequent sense of panic in the ranks - which will ultimately launch their departure.

But what triggers this mass migration to the Tanzanian south?

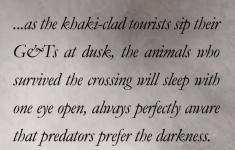
How do the animals know where to find food and water? Evidence would suggest that weather patterns play a significant role, and that the animals instinctively respond to these phenomena.

Finally, the day arrives, as the Wildebeest gather on the banks of the Mara River. Eyes wide in fear and with labouring breath, they scout for the safest and surest path through the water, and onto the safety of the opposite bank. The juveniles and slower animals, especially, are noticeably fearful, fully aware of their potential to become crocodile dinner, and of the likelihood of drowning.

Meanwhile, Marabou storks and other carrion dispensers stand ready to perform their tasks as clean-up agents.

This is nature's way and, although seemingly cruel to human observers, it is an efficient control mechanism to keep the environment clean and disease-free.







HUMAN SPECTATORS

Homo Sapiens thrives on drama, a fact that goes some way to explain why visitors from all parts of the world flock to Kenya and Tanzania for the annual migratory spectacle. They arrive in game viewing vehicles, with telephoto lenses at the ready; reliant on their knowledgeable guides to find them that elusive perfect photographic or viewing spot.

The popularity spell that the Great Migration casts over tourists also requires five-star infrastructure that ranges from fly-in safaris to exquisite accommodation, and ultimately also







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Owing to the massive size of the herds, food and water reach depletion levels within six to eight weeks — with a subsequent sense of panic in the ranks — which will ultimately launch their departure.



to the quality of the guides. Fine cuisine that would not be out of place in the capitals of the world is taken for granted – and there is a deliberate (and successful) attempt to create an authentic "Out of Africa" experience.

And as the khaki-clad tourists sip their G&Ts at dusk, the animals who survived the crossing will sleep with one eye open, always perfectly aware that predators prefer the darkness.

ACCOMMODATION

Whether staying at the conservancy or in the main reserve, one is virtually guaranteed the discerning experience you seek. The Masai Mara Reserve offers superb plains scenery, yet it is recommended that visitors focus on the five main migration zones northern, eastern, southern, western and central - when planning their trip. Considered Kenva's best park and one of Africa's highest wildlife density regions for predators, the reserve provides unmatched safari activities including hot air ballooning, as well as possible bush walks with armed rangers in attendance.

Only the fortunate few will enjoy



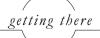




emotional impact on the viewers. Emotions will range from anticipation to excitement and also sadness at the inevitable demise of so many beautiful animals.

But this is nature's way, and it will not change - unless humankind, in our perversity, cannot resist the urge to intervene. ••

by **bernard hellberg** / photography by **istockphoto.com**



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COLOUR CODING **TOURISM**

Understanding the New Colour of Travel

Most travellers may be familiar with green tourism and its broad reference to sustainability in tourism, and there are a multiplicity of tourism colour references that dare to entice niche market travellers across the world. From green to black, white, blue, pink, red, and yellow; colour steps in to change the game.

s the international travel industry becomes more segmented, niche travel solutions are increasingly sought after. Signature unpacks the meaning of colour coding in tourism for a better understanding of the bespoke experiences on offer in South Africa and beyond.

GREEN TOURISM (SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL)

It is often said that green is the new black. While this phrase can be accurate for industries such as fashion and infrastructure, it is unfortunately not so in the tourism sector, as both colours refer to entirely different things. In this context, green tourism refers to sustainable tourism. It is often used as an overarching theme to refer to the two main branches of green travel. Firstly, it can refer to the adaptation of responsible tourism travel that considers the environment as well as sustainability practices. Secondly, it deals with eco-tourism, which is also hinged on responsible travel that is associated with natural areas. South Africa is blessed to have multiple green tourism destinations, which is one of the country's defining attractions for international tourists.

WHITE TOURISM (MOUNTAIN TOURISM)

White tourism, also known mountain tourism, is gaining particular traction in Europe. It is a drawcard for tourists wishing to experience snowcapped mountains and their associated green valleys. It is worth noting that white tourism is popular among interns and various professionals within the European hotel and catering industries, who want an opportunity to work (and perhaps play) on the continent's snowy mountains. Kenya and Tanzania for its Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro peaks, the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, and South Africa's Drakensberg and Drakenstein mountains are also of interest to adventurers seeking this unique travel experience.

BLUE TOURISM (MARITIME TOURISM)

The popularity of the first Blue Tourism Forum at the *l'Agence Française de Développement*'s (AFD) offices in





Paris in 2019, reaffirmed that blue tourism should not be overlooked as an attraction for maritime aficionados across the globe. The forum was titled: "Sustainable Blue Tourism: towards a sustainable coastal and maritime tourism in regional seas" and assembled thought leaders from across the world to discuss all things relating to maritime and coastal tourism, and the protection of our oceans. Blue tourism is of particular importance to countries

with accessible coastlines that market themselves as coastal attractions. Cruises, water resorts, and various eco-tourism offerings also form part of this niche.

PINK TOURISM (LGBTQI+ TOURISM)

Pink tourism, also colloquially known as gay or LGBTQI+ tourism, pertains to tourism that is explicitly marketed to the LGBTQI+ community. Destinations are

often handpicked to ensure they have liberal attitudes towards community members, or for their historical significance to the LGBTQI+ community. It is also essential to verify that it is permissive, in terms of the laws of countries, and that travellers will be safe and free at all times. In places like South Africa, where gender-based violence is often a reality, it is imperative to book all pink travel with a well reputable pink



tourism is generally defined as tourism that pertains to travelling to places that are historically hinged on death

sights because of their historical value, rather than their emotive associations with mortality.

and tragedy. Tourists flock to such

YELLOW TOURISM

Claimed to be the first "International Conference on Tourism and Crime (Yellow Tourism)", this event took place at Ionian University (Ionian Academy) in 2007. At the core of yellow tourism is tourism that is related to crime in some way. It is generally accepted that the concept of "yellow tourism" draws on Dostoevsky's novel Crime & Punishment, in which the colour yellow was symbolically associated with corruption and decay. What sets yellow tourism apart is that it is spearheaded by a scientific community (along with a corresponding body of knowledge). Yellow tourism strives for the creation of sustainable tourism development strategies, guidelines and policies that promote more responsible industry standards for all people and communities involved in the tourism sector.

Understanding different the

Understanding the different colours of tourism – albeit black, white, blue, pink, red, or yellow - can make all the difference in navigating the niche tourism industry.



colours of tourism - albeit black, white, blue, pink, red, or yellow - can make all the difference in navigating the niche tourism industry. These are not merely sensational colour interpretations, but a globally accepted and negotiated kaleidoscope of colourful associated tourism. This sector also represents a globalised business industry that affects the livelihood of many: so the importance of understanding and capitalising on such niche markets is vital. 🐽

enjoyment and safety at all times. Also closely related to pink tourism is what industry has coined the "pink dollar" the phrase for the soaring profits often generated by this niche market. BLACK TOURISM ('DARK' OR

travel consultant firm to assure maximum

GRIEF TOURISM)

While black can refer to the standard, luxury or economic groupings in other sectors: black tourism refers to a specific dark tourism niche. It is also widely known as grief tourism, disaster tourism or slum tourism. Black



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



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LIVING LE LIFE

Iconic Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa Still Dazzles

Perched atop a hill overlooking the fertile Franschhoek Valley, Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa is an accommodation icon that manages to reimagine itself, again and again, each time more dazzling than before.

ating back to the 1960s, Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa - then known as Swiss Farm Excelsior - is more a resort than a hotel. Today, it remains an impressive restoration and embellishment of one of the original country retreats built in the exclusive wine-growing valley of Franschhoek, an hour's drive from Cape Town.

While there are numerous excellent accommodation options in Franschhoek (both in the village and on surrounding wine farms), none offers the luxury of space and the choice of leisure facilities of Le Franschhoek.

It may be a stunning conference venue and a spectacular wedding setting as well, yet Le Franschhoek retains it's old warm charm and boutique hotel feel, where the amenities are all luxurious, and activities abound. You can visit the Camelot Spa, taste local estate wines in the hotel's wine cellar, dine on a vast veranda overlooking the vineyards, play tennis, or even cycle through the vineyards all without leaving the premises. This is particularly convenient for a family holiday. From the pool, you look up to gigantic jagged mountain peaks that appear so close you want to reach out and touch them. During winter, these same peaks are at times blanketed in snow.

UNASSUMING ELEGANCE

The unique style of Le Franschhoek is part country house, part Cape vernacular, but each communal area and all suites have a sophisticated, uncluttered and calm feel. The entire property is dressed in white – from the washed exteriors that appear clean and contemporary, to the all-white colour palette that extends into each of the hotel's 63 rooms. Supported by metallic and colour-washed wood treatments, the look and feel may be somewhat clinical in its neutrality, but it balances perfectly against the dramatic natural backdrop.



ABOVE: Elegant terrace overlooking the orchards







Accommodation options include standard rooms upstairs in the main hotel. We recommend room 26 for its unobstructed views and generous suite-like proportions. Alternatively, book a River Suite for utmost privacy, or a Garden Suites (closer to the restaurants, spa and other hotel amenities) where children are accommodated in a clever loft area. Although none of the suites have private pools, the main swimming pool is large enough to swim lengths.

DINING IN...OR STRETCHING OUT

La Pavillion is the ideal setting to start yet another beautiful day in the Franschhoek

Valley. Drenched in beautiful natural light, the open-style restaurant will ease you into the day with sumptuous cold and hot breakfast options. Enjoy a glass of bubbly as you contemplate the day's activities.

The main restaurant, Sauvage, is a grand, high-ceilinged room reminiscent of a 'silver service' hotel dining room, but with a very sleek, contemporary feel. Spend an enchanted evening at Sauvage, and enjoy some of the best Franschhoek restaurant dining on offer. The combination of warm service and a flawless menu makes dining at Sauvage Restaurant an unforgettable experience.

When the weather is good, guests can also take lunch, or high tea, at Le Verger. Set in an orchard, Le Verger serves bistro-style cuisine that perfectly complements the beautiful natural surrounding environment.

For guests seeking a wellness experience, the Camelot Spa is a cosy private retreat where amenities and treatment options include a private flotation room and a colour-therapy massage. With a focus on hydrotherapy treatments, the spa uses Thalgo marine-extract products from France.

Given Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa's desirable location, the valley's picturesque vineyards are within easy driving distance, making the hotel the perfect base from which to explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Winelands. Visit the vineyards in the vicinity and indulge in the best that the area has to offer while enjoying the tranquillity of this magnificent setting. Surrounded by some of the Wineroute's most beautiful estates, you will have every excuse to explore the wonders of the Cape at your leisure.

For more information, or to book your stay, visit www.lefranschhoek.co.za. •

by bernie hellberg jr / photography by le franschhoek hotel & spa

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A PERFECT STAY

To celebrate 20 years since Royal Malewane opened its doors, The Royal Portfolio has produced a beautiful book which tells the story of each of its hotels and lodges, and pays tribute to the iconic South African destinations in which they are located. A Perfect Stav showcases the incredible interiors of Royal Malewane, Birkenhead House, La Residence, and The Silo Hotel, and the magical style, design, and vision of owner, Liz Biden. With the foreword by Sir Elton John, and David Furnish, A Perfect Stay is available to purchase in South Africa on The Royal Portfolio website for R800, including complimentary delivery.

www.theroyalportfolio.com

WIN!

Two Signature readers could each win a copy of A Perfect Stay. To enter, SMS the words SIGNATURE and ROYAL, along with your NAME and EMAIL to 35131. Cost per SMS is R1.50. Ts & Cs apply, free and bundled SMS do not apply. Competition closes 31 May 2020.



EASIER WITH AGA

The new AGA Masterchef Deluxe 110cm cooker is perfect for aspiring chefs who dream of owning an AGA but prefer the instant control of

a conventional cooker. With new, contemporary, rotary controls, and signature AGA branded handles, the Masterchef Deluxe features powerful solid brass burners with cast-iron pan supports, and a next-generation five-zone induction hob with bridging capability for safe, cost-effective, and efficient cooking. The Masterchef Deluxe features a large multifunction oven with eight functions for masterful cooking, and comes complete with a handy meat probe that allows you to check the temperature of roasts while cooking, and a glide-out grill that runs on smooth-action telescopic runners for easier checking on your food as it grills. The AGA is gentle on food and locks in moisture, flavour and goodness, making cooking perfection easy and attainable.

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LEGEND THE FRAGRANCE FOR MEN





RARE WHISKEYS OF THE WORLD

We Explore the World's Most Iconic Drams

Whiskey is one of the most enigmatic drinks in the world, and often reach heights of rarity matched only by classic cars and significant works of art. Signature celebrates five of the world's most exclusive.

hether taken neat, on the rocks, or with a refreshing splash of water, whiskey has long been the preferred beverage of the nuanced globetrotter, and has recently experienced something of a revival, with many premium brands offering rare vintage collections that can only be enjoyed at the most exclusive of venues.

Significantly more than the sum of its parts, whiskey (or whisky) may, scientifically, be merely the result of a process of distilling grains such as barley, corn, rye, and wheat into a drinkable liquid. Yet, under the right circumstances, whiskey has the power to unite the divided, enchant the stern, empower the meek, and move the seemingly immovable.

While there may be near-limitless factors that contribute to a single barrel's unique character - from the purity of the water and the type and mixture of grain used, to the wood from which the cask is made - some whiskeys achieve a level of rarity, and taste, that cannot be emulated.

These precious whiskeys are not made available for sale in regular stores, and may only be seen at private auctions or in the most luxurious hotels, yet *Signature* invites you on a journey to discover some of the most exclusive and rare drams ever produced.

MACALLAN 1926 60 YEARS OLD SINGLE MALT (CASK NUMBER 263)

No credible rare whiskey list could begin without the record-breaking Macallan 1926 60 Year Old single malt from cask number 263. In 2019, The Macallan Fine and Rare 60 Year Old 1926 became the most expensive bottle of wine or spirit ever auctioned, when it sold for \$1.9 million (R29 Million). Described by Sotheby's Auctioneers as the "holy grail" of whiskies, only 40

bottles were bottled from cask 263, after the whisky had spent 60 years maturing in ex-sherry casks.

CRAIGELLACHIE 51

Dubbed by the brand as the "world's most uncollectable, collectable whisky", Craigellachie 51 Y.O. (of which there were only 51 bottles produced) has toured the world and been made available at special tastings in London, New York, Sydney, and South Africa – for free. In an unorthodox move, Craigellachie did not want the whiskey to be sold to the highest bidder and stored in a locked cabinet. Instead, they created Bar 51, a unique tasting experience that exposed



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the coveted bottle to aficionados (and everyday folk) all over the world. The Craigellachie 51Y.O. was distilled during December 1962, and aged in ex-bourbon hogsheads. After being taken off the wood in 2014, the whiskey was also taken off the market, and the distillery has kept the remaining bottles.

WILLET THE IRON FIST & THE VELVET GLOVE 23 YEARS OLD RYE

If there is any aspect of whiskey that needs its own memoir written. it would be the early single barrel expressions that were released when Willett returned to the market in 2006, after almost four decades. Willett's "The Iron Fist" and "The Velvet Glove" are a pair of very different rye whiskies that were produced in tandem as independent expressions with similar age and alcohol statements. As some of the earliest expressions the brand released, these legendary straight rye whiskeys are incredibly hard to find and highly coveted by those who have been lucky enough to spot them.

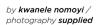
JEFFERSON'S 17 YEARS OLD PRESIDENTIAL SELECT

Universally praised as one of the smoothest and silkiest bourbon whiskevs on offer today. Jefferson's exclusive small-batch 17 Year Old Presidential Select is the stuff of a whiskey connoisseur's dreams Released on a limited basis back in 2009, and with demand on the rise as it becomes increasingly more difficult to obtain, this well-aged Kentuckyproduced wheated bourbon can be identified by its attractive copper colour - flickering from amber to mahogany depending on the light. Jefferson's has since released an 18 Year Old and a 21 Year Old Kentucky Bourbon, which may be easier for the whiskey fan to acquire



A.H. HIRSCH RESERVE 16 YEARS OLD

The myth. The legend. The history. No list of best whiskeys would be complete without A.H. Hirsch Reserve. With the combination of it created for a private client (Hirsch), distilled at what would eventually become Michter's, under the eye of a distiller that learned under Everett Beam, and bottled by Julian Van Winkle III, A.H. Hirsch Reserve has quite a storied past that has led to it consistently being ranked one of the most expensive whiskies in the world. If you can even find it to taste, you'll enjoy its expertly balanced combination of sweetness and spice in the mouth, with almost no burn on the back end. Unfortunately, for a lot of people, it will remain "The Best Bourbon You'll Never Taste".









FINDING JE NE SAIS QUOI

IN FRANSCHHOEK

Franschhoek Country House & Villas and Monneaux Restaurant

e Ne Sais Quoi is one of those French terms that simply cannot be translated. Referring to an illustrious quality of something unknown, it is the feeling that overwhelms one when you arrive at the Franschhoek Country House and Villas for the first time. Once you have experienced the beguiling hotel, and savoured the sumptuous flavours of Monneaux Restaurant, the feeling

LIVING IT UP

that you have escaped to a life of luxury.

Set in the heart of South Africa's gastronomic capital, Franschhoek, where vineyards and mountains fill the surroundings with unmatched beauty, the Franschhoek Country House and Villas offers the most discerning travellers an exclusive boutique hotel encounter.

quickly evolves into the realisation

Beyond an exceptional five-star accommodation experience, the Franschhoek Country House and Villas also offers the perfect base from where to explore the area's wines and attractions, or simply enjoy the exceptional Franschhoek Country House and Villas experience.

The original Country House offers 14 particularly well-equipped rooms including six standard rooms, five luxury rooms and two cottages, which have all been designed with the utmost comfort and charm in mind. All en-suite rooms are individually appointed with all the luxuries one may desire, as well as locally-sourced amenities, and comfortable, lush duvets with embroidered percale cotton linen. In addition, the 12 luxurious Villa Suites offer guests opulence and space, and an unmatched luxurious accommodation experience. When not exploring the surrounding area, guests can also relax in the hotel pool with its picture-perfect backdrop.

DINING FINERY

The Franschhoek Country House and Villas' bespoke accommodation experience is matched in style only by Monneaux Restaurant, the hotel's on-site fine-dining establishment.

Recently fully transformed in both look and feel, Monneaux invites guests to experience their refreshed, conscious take on dining.

Living up to the gastronomic promise of Franschhoek, Monneaux stands tall among the village's culinary contenders.

In its reconceptualisation, the restaurant has introduced self-sustainable initiatives, as well as a hyper-local focus, from pass to plate. These changes have been spearheaded by its young visionary Executive Chef, Calvin Metior.

"Calvin brings along impressive skill, passion and limitless creativity, and importantly-shares our vision of elevating Monneaux to an exciting new level. He





is young, imaginative and energetic but also 'calm and collected', which is precisely the type of chef we wanted to inspire and lead this new direction," says Franschhoek Country House & Villas owner, Jean-Pierre Snyman.

Chef Calvin rose to the challenge of developing Monneaux Restaurant's revitalised offering and new contemporary menus. "Having the freedom to dream, to make my concepts a reality and to produce my own food is incredible", says Chef Calvin of his opportunity, "and to be able to do so at Monneaux Restaurant, in this beautiful country-style setting and surrounded by so much natural inspiration and superb produce in the Cape Winelands, is a dream come true."

Chef Calvin's philosophy is one of natural food with a minimalist style. Produce is selected at its peak to showcase the natural character of the ingredient. Seasonality, comfort and



value are priorities when it comes to menu design. Chef Calvin explains: "Food should be enjoyable throughout from the way it looks to the way in which it is eaten, and ultimately how it tastes."

To source the best produce, local producers and artisans are passionately sought, as this helps to keep the restaurant's carbon footprint to a minimum, while improving the eaterie's self-sustainability. Micro gardens have been established throughout the property to produce a rotating supply of fresh herbs and vegetables.

In the kitchen, Calvin has several projects already underway – including making his own miso, hot sauces and fish sauce, smoking and curing his own meat and fish, making charcuterie from scratch, and dry- and wet ageing of fish and meat. "I believe that small change is good change. By sourcing produce responsibly and locally, reducing waste and reliance on outside suppliers, recycling, turning food trimmings into compost and trying to produce as much ourselves as possible, we'll be making a difference," says Chef Calvin.

Guests and visitors to Monneaux can visit for a meal to suit their appetite, whether that be for breakfast, lunch or dinner. When it comes to breakfast, Chef Calvin asks: "What's better than knowing where the eggs on your plates are from, or that your breakfast sausages are made in-house?" The lunch and dinner menus



are designed to invite diners to customise their Monneaux Restaurant experience with a wide selection of starters and mains, as well as lighter "snack style" dishes.

Chef Calvin's experimental cooking style means patrons can expect the Monneaux Restaurant menus to change regularly with the seasons, offering both intrigue and a new experience with every visit. Guests at Franschhoek Country House and Villas enjoy complimentary offerings, including daily breakfast and afternoon drinks.

Monneaux Restaurant's variety of seating areas lend themselves seamlessly to suit all preferences. The restaurant's stylish interior is discretely divided into three individual dining rooms, creating an intimate atmosphere. Sit outdoors by the fountain terrace, beneath the dappled shade of a spreading pepper tree – ideal for lazy summer lunches and sundowners, and alfresco dinners beneath twinkling fairy lights on balmy evenings.

"This is a very exciting chapter, and we anticipate a long and successful future with Calvin. In the culinary hub of Franschhoek, it is important to differentiate and develop, while continuing to offer quality and authenticity. We believe that our new offering truly sets the Monneaux Restaurant apart as a must-visit dining destination," concludes Jean-Pierre.

For more information, please visit www.monneaux.co.za. ••





EXPERIENCE AND BELONG

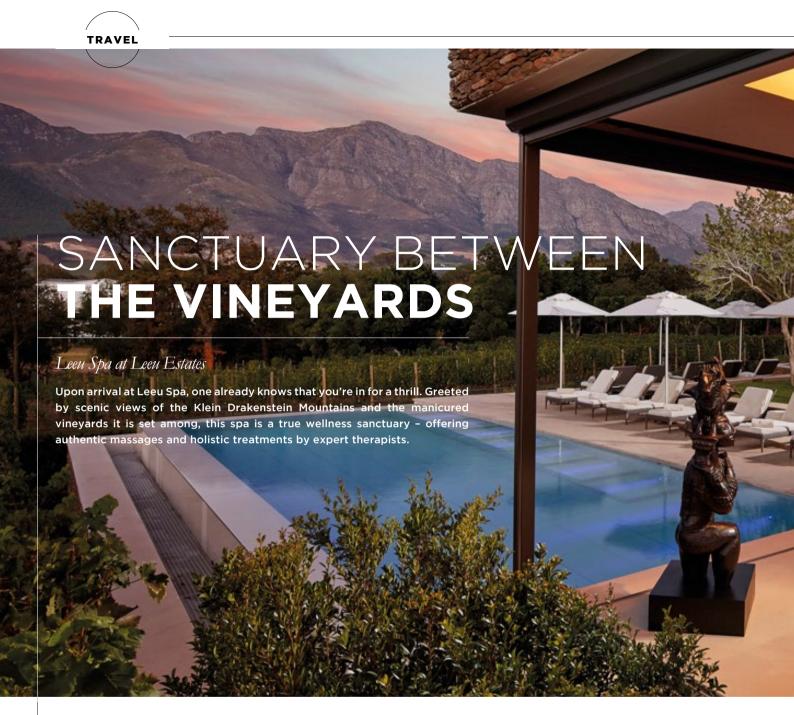
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ith its location, shape and materiality intended to create a direct link with the breathtaking natural surrounding landscape, the design of Leeu Spa was conceived as the physical and emotional foundation of Leeu Estates. It is a space that encourages dialogue with nature – a concept of a sensory experience along

a sequence of spaces that express a sense of wellbeing.

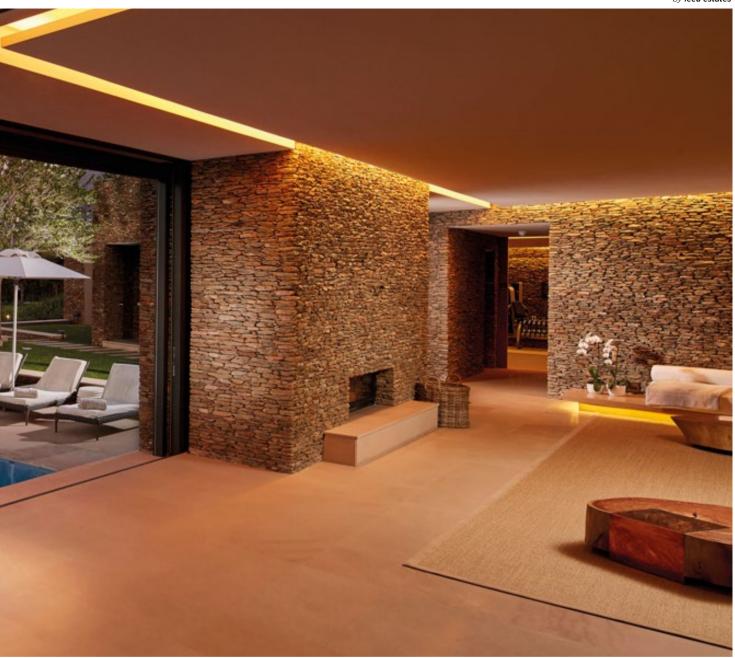
Being welcomed by an intimate courtyard as you enter the oasis, the above is evident.

Flowing from the reception area, the building is divided into two main sections: the first being adjacent to the entrance. Here you will find four treatment rooms, including a premium suite, two couple's treatment rooms and one single

treatment room, a hair and nail salon, his and hers changing and steam rooms, and a plunge pool overlooking a tranquil lily pond where guests can indulge their senses in signature treatments such as The Summer Tree of Life Journey.

THE POWER OF TOUCH

With the touch of soft, elegant massage strokes performed with the reviving aromatic power of citrus



essential oils captured in luxurious shea butter blocks, the TheraNaka $^{\text{M}}$ scrub gently polishes the skin to symbolise the renewed life associated with summer.

Native to Africa, baobab trees are commonly known as the "Tree of Life" with some of them living up to a thousand years or more and drawing inspiration from our majestic African heritage, this bespoke journey is a

revitalising boost that enhances both your physical and emotional wellbeing by awakening your senses and melting away the stresses of daily life.

Tailor-made treatments at Leeu Spa utilise only organic products from the Esse and TheraNaka™ ranges, and for manicures and pedicures, OPI nail polish and nail care products are used. A variety of treatments for children (aged six to 12) is also on offer.

A WELLNESS JOURNEY

The second main space in the wellness retreat is down a graceful staircase. This gentle descent is an enchanting journey between an extended courtyard filled with greenery and beautiful stone walls to the vine-surrounded crystalline pool. A luxuriously appointed sitting area serves as the spa's serene relaxation area, and a striking fireplace is all that





stands between the guests and the 15-metre infinity swimming pool with magnificent views of the valley.

Also on the lower floor is the Leeu Gym. Catering exclusively to resident Leeu Collection guests, this spacious wellness room, equipped with the latest generation of TechnoGym fitness machines, offers framed views of the majestic mountains and Four

Quarters Vineyards. For the more venturesome, walkers, joggers and cyclists can take to the extensive network of trails that crisscross the rolling estate, hilly mountain slopes and banks of the river. Personal training and yoga on the manicured lawn are also available per request 24 hours in advance. The gym is open daily between 07h00 and 19h00.

Leeu Spa is open daily from 10h00 to 19h00. A minimum spend of R2,000 per person on treatments (excluding retail, food and beverages) is required for the use of the pool area for a maximum of two hours. However, all spa guests are welcome to use the steam room and plunge pool. Visit www.leeucollection.com for more information.





A PARTNERSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Award-winning chef Darren Badenhorst, of Le coin Français, has added to his portfolio by piloting Le chêne in the Manor House, situated at the five-star Leeu Estates, part of Leeu Collection. Both titans of their respective industries, Leeu Estates and Chef Darren share a vision of creating something truly unique for their guests. Serving elegant French cuisine, guests are invited to enjoy the stunning scenery of Leeu Estates while delighting their palette with a vibrant and exciting dish created in the Le chêne kitchen.





Hermès Arceau Squelette

Hermès creates objects. Objects shaped by the hands of artisans to make them true companions for those who wear them. Practical, functional and stemming from uncompromising expertise, they radiate the lightness of the unexpected. They make everyday life their playground, and each instant a uniquely special moment.

he mysterious and enigmatic Arceau watch confines itself to essential: the mysteries of an elegance imbued with understated lightness. Its skeleton heart appears beneath a smoked crystal, punctuated by openwork numerals.

Designed by Henri d'Origny in 1978, the Arceau watch is the epitome of formal classicism tinged with singularity. Its sober and carefully studied design, its round case with asymmetrical stirrup-shaped lugs, along with its sloping font evoking a galloping horse, all contribute to establishing

its timeless yet contemporary nature. Hovering between shadow and light, this new interpretation of Hermès time subtly reveals the complexity of mechanical architecture.

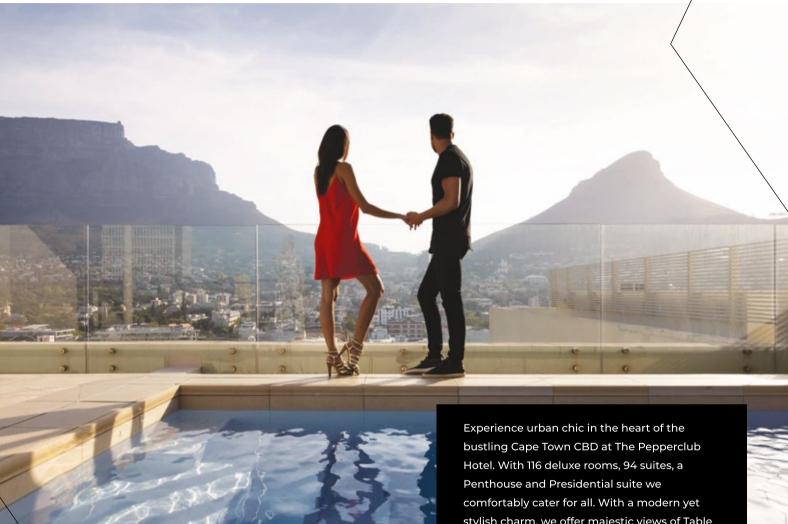
The Arceau Squelette watch features a round steel case framing a smoked sapphire crystal dial. From the deep black gradient on the chapter ring, enhanced by a beaded minute circle and silvered numerals, to the transparency of the centre revealing the skeleton movement, the magic weaves its spell. The bridges, the anthracite wheels and the openwork oscillating weight play

with the lightness of the slender hour and minute hands, while the cut-out numerals and the Hermès signature appear to be levitating. This aerial display, powered by a mechanical self-winding movement, is complemented by a black alligator strap crafted by the artisans of Hermès Horloger, as indeed are the case and dial.

For more information on the Hermès Arceau Squelette watch, visit www.picotandmoss.co.za. 19

text & photography by picot & moss

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stylish charm, we offer majestic views of Table Mountain, Signal Hill and the V&A Harbour.

Our diverse range of cuisine caters for the most sophisticated palate. Our in-house restaurant COPA boasts a delicious breakfast buffet and a contemporary dinner menu. Ruby's Bakery & Café is a New York style deli and offers guests a more casual treat.

Additional world-class experiences you can enjoy at our hotel, include Cayenne Spa, a fitness centre, conference and business facilities and a 29-seater retro private cinema.

WHISPERS

OF INSPIRATION

Viewing the World through the Art of Chrisél Attewell

Deeply inspired by her environment, artist Chrisél Attewell focuses on understanding the complex interactions between people, places, and the events that shape their common destiny.

owntown Joburg is a lively, intimidating, decadent place. Once a sleepy mining town, Jozi has outgrown itself many times over in the last 134 years. It has been built, broken down, and rebuilt, to become the economic powerhouse of South Africa, and one of the world's 50 largest urban areas.

It must be recognised that the city's transformative process is inextricably linked to its people, whose aspirations, fears, dreams, and disappointments literally line the streets, and form the very foundations on which the metropolis stands today.

In August House, one of the city's most iconic creative spaces, artist Chrisél Attewell explores the tethers that link people to the physical world that surrounds them, that forms part of their identity, and that they, in turn, continuously shape.

Driven by this connection, Chrisél's work holds a mirror to the world, while

also reflecting her emotional and physical connections to the people and places to which she connects most intimately.

Although the city is one of those places, Chrisél is currently exploring the devastation wreaked by the Knysna fires of 2017, the impact of the event on the natural environment, the animals and people of the area, and the resilient regeneration of this extraordinary ecosystem.

Signature called on Chrisél in her Johannesburg studio, for some insight into her life, her past work, and her upcoming exhibition 'Earth, Wind and Fire' at Berman Contemporary in Johannesburg, which opens on 29 August 2020.

Could you perhaps share how your artistic journey began, and your transition from Academia to everyday life as a working artist?

"My artistic journey has always been profoundly informed by my socially orientated upbringing. Although my childhood experience was quite



Memories of The Leonardo III, 2019, Ed 1/1 (Drypoint etching on 340gsm Hahnemuhle paper, 50x100cm)



33

Inspired by the resilience of the ants, I knew that I had to better understand how we deal with trauma as a community and as individuals. How do you overcome it, and how do you relate to it?



conservative - my father was a minister in an Afrikaans church - my late mother, who was a social worker, made a point of exposing me to different cultures from an early age. The work I do as an artist is always very inspired by people as a result.

While I thoroughly enjoyed my studies at the University of Pretoria, I was so used to being in an academic environment where your work is judged through a very focused lens, that I struggled with being confident in my own work once I had left university. I would constantly analyse it in an academic way. Working among so many creative artists at August House, however, helped me

to build trust in my intuition and artistic passion. Here I became inspired by the energy of the city, and two years on, although I still find the environment amazing, I feel a constant, lingering need to broaden the scope of my work."

Your use of the city and its melancholy in your work is well known. Could you share more on that?

"I love the city, I truly do, and I've been greatly inspired by it. But I would rather describe my work as being influenced by the environment, not so much that I have one particular concept that I work with,



Memories of The Leonardo I, 2019, Ed 1/1 (Drypoint etching on 340gsm Hahnemuhle paper, 100×50cm)

such as only doing urban work. I could never do that; I'd become bored very quickly. I don't see myself as that kind of artist. I'm not a factory, and I don't make factory pieces. Art should develop and be inspired by what inspires the artist at that moment. Regardless of how conceptual the work, and how different the medium, there will be a continuation or golden thread that brings all my work together, because I am the one creating it."

In that light, tell us about the body of work you are currently producing.

"I am currently working on an exhibition - together with the German/French artist, Barbara Schroeder - to be called 'Earth, Wind and Fire' - which will be showing at the Berman Contemporary later this year. It is a body of work that has its origin in Knysna after the forest fires of 2017. I have always loved visiting Knysna, to me it is one of the most beautiful places on earth, and I couldn't help but to be moved by the devastation of the disaster there."

How dit the residency at Entabeni Farm in Knysna come about?

"I was introduced to Barbara Schroeder and was given the opportunity to do some peer mentoring with her. That period really helped to inspire me and develop my artistic instincts. Barbara is so free with the way she expresses herself, and that has helped me to move away from my academically correct musings. I was impressed by her ability to create directly from how she feels at any given moment, so when she called me to ask if I'd like to come with her to Knysna, to participate in a residency made possible by the South African Foundation For Contemporary Arts, I gave her a resounding 'yes'. The timing was perfect, and I truly loved being isolated and to focus on my work. It was a refreshing change from the distractions of the city."

How has the impact of the fires on the people of Knysna inspired your work?

Memories of The Leonardo IV, 2019, Ed 1/1 (Drypoint etching on 340gsm Hahnemuhle paper, 150x100cm)

"So, when I went to Entabeni Farm, I spoke to some of the workers there and asked them about their experiences during the fires. You could see the trauma in the eyes of everyone I interviewed. I think that had a significant effect on me. Also, how they described the events; like how many of them referred to the smoke, and how some people spoke about how the water turned black in lakes surrounding Knysna.

I would go on regular hikes in the forest in search of materials and inspiration for my work. Here I found logs with these intricate patterns carved into them. Upon further investigation, I found that these patterns were made by carpenter ants that are said only to inhabit the bark of dead trees. After the fires, millions of these ants migrated to Knysna to play their part in the natural decomposition and regeneration process. What fascinated me is that, although they could be perceived as mere insects, they always work together. It is never just one ant that you see doing something. It's all about the community and being connected to one another and to their environment.

This process, for me, spoke to the trauma of the event, and how one can overcome such devastation. I could relate to the work on a personal level then, as I was also dealing with the personal trauma of losing my mom in a car accident. It was a massive shock to me, as only two years prior, I had moved in with my mom after my parents' divorce, and we spent a lot



of time together, trying to come to terms with the change in our circumstances.

This loss was soon followed by the passing of my friend and mentor, Benon Lutaaya, as well as that of my loving and supportive grandfather soon after."

How did you manage to be creative while being faced with so many traumas in your own life?

When I came to Knysna, I was experiencing so much death in my own

life; I was grieving deeply. Interestingly enough, having been to Knysna before and having seen its beauty, I had always associated the place with innocence in a way. I remember telling Barbara before we left for Knysna, that I couldn't wait to show her the many beautiful places that I loved in the area. Driving around Knysna in search of a particularly beautiful spot I always enjoyed visiting, I realised that none of the places that I had loved existed anymore. I spent the



Chrisél installing copper printing plates at The Leonardo

rest of the day in a state of shock, but on Barbara's insistence, we returned the next day to find something else to work with. That was when I discovered the logs with the carpenter ant carvings.

The concept for my next body of work was formed in that forest. Inspired by the resilience of the ants, I knew that I had to understand better how we deal with trauma as a community and as individuals. How do you overcome it, and how do you relate to it? Why the ants were so interesting to me is because the patterns they created became like symbols to me, like a language that I could learn. Everything was about resilience, and the incredible role these tiny creatures play to speed up the decomposition process of the forest. Equally, when they die, their bodies act as a source of nutrients for the earth. The entire show comes from that, and I'm currently working on paintings where I retrace the patterns made by the ants on the bark. Ultimately this will form the basis of the lines that you see in my paintings."

Is it important for you that viewers understand the story behind your work?

"Yes, with all my work. You need the story behind it to understand the context of the work and to understand what I'm trying to convey with it. I recently completed a commission for The Leonardo in Johannesburg. In this body of work, I was extremely motivated to create a reminder for people viewing the work, of the human beings who performed the physical labour to build that building. I needed the work to be something that honours the often overlooked. undervalued, and invisible workers, and to remind future patrons that real people built the building that they are standing in. I always find that the story helps to give the work more meaning while improving the experience for the viewer.

Briefly getting back to your new work. What are you planning to do with the tree stumps you've collected?

"I'd like to do an installation with them. I would like for people to be able to touch them and use them as a guide for understanding the work. In the end, I don't want them to immediately read as a piece of wood; I like it when there is some mystery in a piece. The show is still some time away, so I at least have some time to figure it out before then.



Chrisél Attewell is a multidisciplinary artist born in 1994 in South Africa She received her BAFA (Fine Arts, Cum Laude) from the University of Pretoria in 2016. Her work has been represented locally and internationally in numerous exhibitions, residencies and art fairs. Attewell was selected as a Sasol New Signatures finalist (2016, 2017) and a Top 100 finalist for the ABSA L'Atelier (2018). She was chosen to participate in the RMB Talent Unlocked Peer Mentoring program and exhibition at the Turbine Art Fair (2017). Hereafter she continued to showcase her work in multiple group shows around South Africa where her work has become part of various national and international collections. She had three solo exhibitions: "Architectus Konstruksie" at the Klein Karoo Nationale Kunstefees (KKNK), "Under Construction" at Assemblage in Braamfontein, and "Substratum" at Lizamore & Associates in Rosebank. Attewell was selected as a 2018 recipient of the Young Female Residency Award with The Project Space, founded by Benon Lutaaya. She had been invited for SAFFCA residencies in Knysna (2019) and Saint-Emilion (2020). Her work was showcased at the 2019 Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair as part of a two-woman showcase with Berman Contemporary. Chrisél Attewell is represented by Berman Contemporary in Johannesburg.

For more info, visit chriselart.com or bermancontemporary.com Instagram: @chrisel art









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JAGUAR HERITAGE COLLECTION

Jaguar has channelled the timeless design of its legendary Mark 2 Sedan into a new range of clothes and accessories that celebrate the famous model's 60th anniversary. A choice of three heritage art prints captures the spirit of the original sports sedan, while a set of four espresso cups feature graphics inspired by the Mark 2's distinctive twin headlamps. The Mark 2's role in popular culture is celebrated on a T-shirt with the 'Ultimate Getaway Car' printed on the back, while a zip-up cotton jacket features the same stylised image on the inner lining, and a cap showcases a second design. The Jaguar Mark 2 was launched in 1959 at the Earls Court Motor Show, London, and became an overnight sensation, embodying all three attributes from William Lyons' famous advertising slogan: Grace, space and pace. It was available with a choice of powerful XK-derived six-cylinder engines, including the top-of-the-range 3.8-litre that delivered 164kW and a top speed of 201 km/h. **lifestyle.jaguar.co.za**



CAPTIVATED BY PEOPLE

Marisa de Jager, who paints under her childhood nickname MIES, brings portraits to life in a way that many artists struggle to do. Based in the small town of Groblersdal, MIES shines in the arena of acrylic portraits. Utilising a unique technique of applying paints onto a canvas with a plastic credit card, allows for intense textures and a brush-stroke that feels confident and intentional to the artist. The demand for her work has soared in recent years, culminating in her selling over 200 paintings to date. Having launched her first solo international in Germany in 2018, MIES has proved herself as a force to be reckoned with in the art world. www.artbymies.com



BLACK JEWEL

OKHA's BIJOU (French for Jewel) side table, captures and references both the raw and the refined aspects of a gemstone, and is available in a range of finishes and materials that express this diversity of moods and character, a shifting palette of attitudes. Like the haphazard, irregular form of a gemstone, the forces of nature that shaped it are evident in its asymmetry and surface texture, in the same way as an uncut stone in its raw state has a deep, resonant connection to the earth and the metamorphic process that created it. The plan view of the table shows a curvaceously organic form, like that of a pebble, shaped by water over time, a form influenced and coerced by nature rather than machine or computer. The upper shelf of the table only occupies the centre space of the organic outline, leaving vacant, negative space either side; much like a gemstone would be set in a ring or on a brooch. The lower shelf is a thin template of pure metal, while the floating tabletop above is available in a variety of marble and granite options as well as glass. www.okha.com / +27 21 461 7233



















A CAPE Culinary Classic

Fine wines and contemporary cuisine await you at Monneaux Restaurant in the heart of Franschhoek. Savour a summer lunch all 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. Choose from a wide selection of mouthwatering snacks and small plates perfect for sharing, or a more traditional chef's menu with or without wines to match.





y the late-1950s, Jaguar closed the book on its early racing heritage after successfully competing in a string of 24 Hours of Le Mans races with the company's D-Type racing chassis.

With the fruits of their development programme still in hand, the then-defunct Jaguar department was given the brief to use D-Type style construction to build a road-going sports car to replace the XK150.

The original prototype (E1A) was introduced in 1957 that featured a monocoque design, Jaguar's fully independent rear suspension and the well-proven "XK" engine. The car was used solely for factory testing and was eventually scrapped. Jaguar's second E-Type concept (E2A) – constructed from a steel chassis with an aluminium body – ultimately became the basic foundation for the Series I production car to be introduced between March and July of 1961.

The E-Type was an overnight success and has become one of the most iconic Jaguars ever created. With its long,

swooping bonnet it was also one of the most beautiful, prompting praise from Enzo Ferrari who declared it to be the most beautiful car ever made.

SECOND OF A NEW ERA

Following in the footsteps of its elegant progenitor, the 2013 Jaguar F-Type exploded onto the automotive scene with much of the same charisma of the E-Type. Given the constraints of modern safety regulations, however, the overall design could never be quite as progressive as the E-Type was in the 1960s.

Still, it donned beautifully, the signature Jaguar double haunch lines that have defined that brand's sports cars as far back as the Jaguar XK120 from the late 1940s.

During our international launch drive in Portugal, Jaguar's director of design, Julian Thompson, talked us through the styling changes now introduced to the updated F-Type.

By far the most noticeable feature of the new design is the slimmed-down horizontal full-LED headlights that have replaced the vertical units of the original F-Type. Of course, one might expect purists to take a dim view of the new light, but they are the stylistic highlight of the new car for me. Besides, says Jaguar, the technology required to make these lights was not available when the first-generation F-Type arrived.

Enhanced by a larger grille, new front bumper design, and a restyled clamshell bonnet, the car appears much more masculine front-on. At the same time, the bonnet also seems to be significantly longer when viewed from the side – a more deliberate echoing of the E-Type's



The mighty 5.0-litre 575 horsepower all-wheel-drive R version ... is the pick of the bunch for those who expect all-out madness when they stomp the loud pedal.



fantastically elongated nose.

Daytime running lights have retained the signature J shape that defines modern Jaguars, as the rear lights, now designed with an LED chicane signature that reminds of the I-Pace electric SUV, précis the enhancements at the back of the F-Type.

MINOR CHANGES INSIDE

A mix of subtle enhancements and new-generation technology define the changes to the refreshed F-Type cabin.

Front and centre to the driver experience, a new digital instrument panel replaces the analogue instruments of yesteryear, with a 12.3" high-definition, virtual instrument cluster with personalisation options galore. Multiple display themes allow the driver to set the mood from a classic analogue-style to a full navigation map, and to emphasise the car's sporting nature; a large central rev counter and speedometer as the default.

Compatible with either Apple CarPlay or Android Auto, the updated infotainment system retains the current touchscreen size, although the now higher-resolution screen is significantly crisper than before. This is especially handy when reverse parking, as the coupé still suffers from a case of limited rear visibility.

Of interest to music junkies, the new Jaguar infotainment system has Spotify embedded into the system, and has the ability to do software updates over-the-air.

With all its sumptuous Windsor leather goodness and satin-finish chrome, the F-Type retains its uber-classy cabin feel. Monogram stitching, Jaguar motifs in the headrests and doorsills, and discreet Jaguar crest markings offer further, subtle, reminders of the heritage of this car.

DYNAMIC REAWAKENING

Jaguar South Africa hasn't fiddled much with the F-Type range line-up, which is expected to arrive by the middle of

the year. As before, three engine options will be offered here, in either coupé (my preferred iteration) or convertible guise.

Enter the field at around the R1.2-million mark with the rear-wheel-driven P300 ('P' referring to the car's horsepower or "Pferdestärke" rating) that is powered by a 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbo unit that generates outputs of 221 kW and 400 Nm.

Dropped from several other markets – but still accessible to South African buyers – the 280 kW, 3.0-litre V6 supercharged P380 is next in line. With your choice of either rear-wheel-, or all-wheel-drive, although the 460 Nm bombshell was not available to sample during the launch event between Porto and Lisbon.

At the crescendo, the 5.0-litre supercharged V8 P575 is a machine to be reckoned with. Chuck 423 kW and 700 Nm of torque in the nose of almost any car and the result is bound to be spectacular. In the AWD F-Type R, it translates to a zero to 100-km/h sprint in a claimed 3.7 seconds, and a rated top speed of 300 km/h!

Curiously, my favourite of the two versions tested at launch was the least powerful of the F-Type triumvirate - the P300 First Edition Coupé. Under its hood, the feisty 2.0-litre Ingenium offers the best mix of performance, lightness, and value for money. Spec it right, and you can nearly bag two P300s for the R2,306,200 base price of the R.

The P300 feels light on its feet and truly well balanced - no doubt that this has much to do with the 120 kg weight difference compared to its bodybuilder brethren. The 60% power drop from the big bruiser V8's lofty heights will certainly not thrill the hard barking enthusiast. Still, for its nimbleness in the curves and ability to record a respectable 5.7-second sprint time from standstill to 100 km/h, the P300 is a seriously sporty option for the everyday driver. As a bonus, it has



Of interest to music junkies, the new Jaguar infotainment system has Spotify embedded into the system, and has the ability to do software updates over-the-air.



a surprisingly meaty (for a four-potter) exhaust note that, despite being enhanced through the speakers, causes enough of a stir to trick you into thinking you're piloting something with way more grunt.

The active exhaust system is available on all cars and includes - in the V8 - a 'Quiet Start' function.

The mighty 5.0-litre 575 horsepower all-wheel-drive R version - driven in a bold 'Sorento Yellow' coupé form, is the pick of the bunch for those who expect all-out madness when they stomp the loud pedal.

Although there is nothing tame about this bad boy, Jaguar has achieved what is likely their greatest upgrade feat with the F-Type's new active rear differential. Combined with next-generation all-wheel grip, fast-thinking stability control, and purpose-designed Pirelli P Zero tyres, this cat can almost not put a foot wrong. It never during our two-day test drive, despite the rain-soaked conditions.

When wielding 700 Nm on tight, wet, and winding back roads can get a little interesting if the car's dynamic components don't play well together. The current F-Type was often criticised for being too light in terms of steering feedback. Although I would personally not make that charge under everyday driving circumstances, there has been a complete recalibration



of the electronically-assisted power steering; giving a more taut, responsive driving experience. The R is made to be manhandled, and the new steering set-up does feel expertly weighted.

New springs and anti-roll bars front and rear, and an uprated chassis, gives a more roots-returning solid sports experience, while the eight-speed ZF transmission has also benefitted from Jaguar's fearsome XE SV Project 8 - the most powerful roadlegal Jaguar in history. You can feel its DNA here, coursing through the veins of the new



Given Jaguar's history of creating thrilling driving machines, there wasn't too much that could have gone wrong with the refreshed F-Type. Yes, it is a considerable evolution rather than a brand new car, but it is a relief that one of Britain's greatest sports cars is still a top tier choice for the driving enthusiast. There may be sharper options out there, but this F-Type is every bit as exciting, and then 19









 $\verb|ABOVE: Living room chic, Scandinavian style| \\$

SUBLIME MAKEOVER HOME

HOME EDITION

Autumn may be in the air, but now is as good a time as any to renovate, refresh, and renew your home. *Signature* has selected four key focus areas to give your abode a new lease on life.



hether you're going for an extreme reboot of your home, or planning to rejuvenate key areas, these *must-do* make-overs should be at the top of your list.



MAKE ROOM FOR LIVING

The kitchen may be the heart of your home, but the living room is its soul. As the busiest space in your home, and the area where guests will spend most of their time, you want your space to be functional yet fashionable.

Spruce it up with a fresh coat of paint, or add simple, light finishes such as new carpets, blinds or curtains to match. Your old sofa also doesn't need to be outdated anymore. By adding new cushions, or an elegant throw blanket in a neutral shade, you can give your living room a Scandinavian feel that is both contemporary and practical.

Keep things minimal by only having essential items or valued ornaments in this space. Unnecessary clutter not only adds stress to your environment, but only having things around that you truly

enjoy, gives more time for spending with the people that you love.



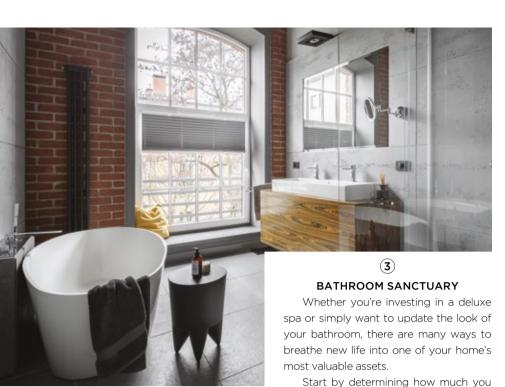
FALL IN LOVE WITH FOOD

Our best advice for creating a kitchen are where you can fall in love with food (and the space you have to prepare it in), is to avoid a kitchen identity crisis.

All homes, however humble, are built in a certain architectural style. Work with it, not against it. You'll be spending too much money and time on a complete overhaul, only to end up with a kitchen that looks like it belongs in someone else's home.

Also, if planning a major remodel, avoid moving plumbing if possible, and keep some cash in your pocket for newer, more eco-friendly appliances.

The most cost-effective way of giving your kitchen a fresh new look is by repainting old cabinetry. Have all the cabinets cleaned and lightly sanded, then have a painter come in to spray them. Avoid to DIY this one; a couple of cans of spray paint from the hardware store just won't do the trick. A professional spray job can make your old cabinets look factory-new.



can afford to spend and the extent of the changes you can make. Simple cosmetic enhancements, such as new fixtures, a new basin, or a fresh coat of paint, can make a significant difference. Adding or replacing tiles will have a larger impact on your budget. Instead, why not consider replacing the grout and sealant around your shower or basin, you might be surprised at how much of a difference this can make.

Having your bath and basins professionally renovated is another costeffective strategy to bring brightness back into the bathroom. If you have more to spend, focus on larger changes such as adding a bigger shower, or a window.

When updating your bathroom, don't forget to redesign with the environment in mind. Low-flow toilets, basins, and shower heads will not only help you conserve water, but will also save you money.

(4)

BEDROOM A LA DIFFÉRENCE

A great day begins with a great night's sleep. In fact, numerous studies have shown that inadequate sleep over time can shorten your lifespan, and trading sleep to cram more into the day increases your risk of developing serious medical conditions.

Crafted in South Africa, Sealy's différence blends la spectacular design, state-of-the-art features, and uncompromising attention to detail. The pocketed coil-in-coil spring technology intelligently responds to individual body weight, shape and sleep patterns, reducing partner disturbance and roll-together. Dual-Flex Hybrid foam seamlessly fuses the resilience of Latex foam with the pressure relieving properties of Memory Foam. A probiotic fabric regenerates and beautifies your skin.

If la différence's engineering and construction make it the perfect way to get your beauty sleep, and its elegant design makes it a beautiful centrepiece for any bedroom during the day.

For more information, please visit www.sealy.co.za.



ABOVE: Unsurpassed luxury with a la différence from Sealy



Baknbung In the Pilanesberg National Park Villas

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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The Rise of Entertainment Photography

Inspired by the explosion of high-profile concerts and festivals, a new breed of South African entertainment photographers is rising to local prominence, and global fame.

Meek Mill performing at the Castle Lite Unlocks Concert (Austin Malema)

s the South African entertainment I and scape continues to grow at a larger than life pace, luring globally acclaimed artists to our shores, our home-grown talent keeps raising the bar by creating productions of an increasingly international calibre.

This growth has stimulated the resurgence of the entertainment

photography genre, propelling a flash of high-profile entertainment photographers into the zeitgeist of the South African entertainment landscape.

Photographers such as Austin Malema, Mpumelelo Macu, Minenhle Nene, and Cedrick Nzaka have become household names, with their work capturing the energy of the high profile musical experience.















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@Austin_Malema

@mini__photography

@cedricknzaka

@Mpumelelomacu







BUSINESS-FRIENDLY BREAKAWAY

Phakalane Golf Estate and Resort has declared itself open for business with the addition of the world-class Phakalane Convention Centre to the Phakalane stable.

he brand new Phakalane Convention Centre is a bold development on the footprint of the erstwhile golf clubhouse. This exciting new development boasts an impressive conference facility with 24 skilfully designed venues varying in guest capacity from six to 700, with a total capacity over 1,200 guests.

RESTAURANTS AT THE CONVENTION CENTRE THE 19TH HOLE

All restaurants have been substantially upgraded. Although the original halfway house has been given a new name - The 19th Hole - it is wholly re-designed to boast a family-friendly casual dining ambience, while remaining a golfer's retreat with a proud golfing tradition.

COSMOPOLITAN

Cosmopolitan Restaurant replaces the previously loved Drotsky's, and offers an exciting twist to its cuisine. The restaurant has been refashioned in name, theme, and ambience, and has a flare described by Chef Thuti as having, "a global cosmopolitan flavour, crafted with authentic Afro-Fusion boldness to match the African spirit." He adds: "being given the freedom to work my art. I have sought flavours in a modern interpretation of cooking with western culinary delights as background, fashioned on the exotic offerings of Africa's diverse and deep culture. I've drawn inspiration from our 54 African countries, and woven these into an exciting and tasteful Afro-Fusion signature."

SIMS CAFÉ

The beautifully restyled entrance and foyer of the hotel leads to the historic and adored SIMS Café, famous for its quality cakes, pastries, and coffees. These delights are enhanced by the inspiring new ambiance of the hotel foyer that leads to the outdoor terrace overlooking the pool and views across the indigenous tree-lined golf course.

PHAKALANE GOLF ESTATE HOTEL

Combining elegant modern accommodation with all required amenities, this intimate and inviting hotel is both a luxury vacation getaway and an exceptional business meeting destination. Each one of the hotel's 80 spacious guest rooms boasts elegant décor, while most also offer spectacular views across the 18-hole Phakalane Golf Course.

All room configurations – from Executive to Grand Executive suites – offer the comfort and convenience that any traveller would expect from a top-rated four-star hotel.

Activities at the hotel include a fully equipped gym, with all the essential aerobic and weight training equipment needed for a revitalising workout.

The Internationally recognised 18-hole championship golf course promises a walk in nature, with a fantastic range of indigenous trees and birdlife.

Those who prefer to spend time in the natural environment can enjoy a run or walk on the 12 kilometre-long track around the course.

LUXURIOUS SELF CATERING FULLY SERVICED APARTMENTS

Guests can enjoy privacy in our spacious,

private, fully-furnished and equipped, threebedroomed self-catering apartments, each with a central pool.

Each unit boasts two bathrooms with one en-suite, a guest toilet, spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen, study, a patio, and two dedicated parking bays.

The apartments are ideally suited for families, long-stay guests, golfing groups, conference participants, or tourist groups, and guests will find all amenities and facilities on the estate within a short walking distance. A short drive from the apartments, a small yet modern shopping centre offers most amenities that a long-stay guest or family may need, complete with supermarket, pharmacy, restaurants and bars.

WEDDING VENUES

Our stunning wedding ceremony and reception venues are where romance, joy, and love can join in perfect harmony. Choose from a range of locations designed to showcase beautiful décor and beautiful couple. Venues such as the Ngwedi Court Yard, the Jacana Nest, and the VIP Lentswe, are memorable reception areas to share with family and friends, following treasured romantic wedding vows in one of the many stunning settings – such as the hotel gardens, the terrace overlooking the pool, or the magnificent golf course.

Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel & Convention Centre is located in the Phakalane Golf Estate – a short distance off the major A1 arterial, and a 20-minute drive to the capital, Gaborone. Sir Seretse Khama International Airport is a short 12-km drive away, and the Tlokweng Border Post only 20 minutes by car. For more information, visit www.phakalanehotel.com.



BREATH OF FRESH AIR, SECLUDED, OUT OF THE CITY!

Phakalane Golf Estate Convention Centre is launched after a complete transformation of the forerunner Phakalane Club House. The changes made with the latest quality additions is a conversion to a world class venue, a purpose built convention centre and is a bold development offering a 5 star experience. This exciting new development boasts of large conference spaces with 24 skilfully designed venues varying in quest capacity from 6 to 700 with a total capacity in excess of 1800 guests. The exciting choice of these 24 different venues, or combinations of venues, can easily set the scene for every conceivable exceptional event. We offer the most remarkable flexibility, suitable for a wide range of functions from private intimate gatherings to State Occasions.

A world class venue for all to enjoy! Informal to formal, but never pretentious or intimidating

Cosmopolitan Pinous







hroughout history, architecture has always been closely intertwined with the identity of a cultural group or nationality; from the naïve vernacular, to its iconic super structures. Mention the Great Pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, the Colosseum, the Empire State building, or the Kakslauttanen glass igloos in Finland, and the names invoke images and emotions, nostalgia, and in most cases, an invigorating yearning to explore specific countries.

Iconic architecture is exceptionally enticing as it identifies a place, as Ashworth says, by its "physical obtrusiveness demonstrating unambiguously to visitors and residents that something serious is happening to a city". The commodity that draws visitors to a place is attributed by the authenticity of it, is the place memorable and is it a celebration of the culture, food, people, history, diversity and architecture.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR

As a child, I had family living in Namibia and my grandmother received a desert rose as

a gift from them. I was totally mesmerised by the structural formation of these crystallised rosette clusters. The National Museum of Qatar – designed by renowned French Architect, Jean Nouvel, – is inspired by this flower-like synthesis of mineral crystals eventuate only in arid coastal regions, through sea spray, wind and sand acting over millennia, nature itself creates this surprisingly complex and poetic architectural structure. This building in my opinion represents everything good architecture should represent, to create a space that inspires capture the imagination reminding us of the concentrated qualities

that we crave and are deficient in our life, creating an escape from our everyday fear, the mundane and the ordinary. This building encapsulates the words of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe beautifully, when he said that "Music is liquid architecture: Architecture is frozen music." Nouvel explains the execution from the Design Rational as follows: "The museum occupies a vast area. From the moment you step inside you're struck by the relationship between the form and the scale, between the theme and the different eras dealt with... between the small desert rose that comes down to us from out of the mists of time and this outsize creation. As for the desert, it's always there, even if it has morphed into something else completely.

As you walk through the different volumes, you never know what's coming next in terms of the architecture. The idea was to create contrasts, spring surprises. You might, for instance, go from one room closed-off pretty high up by a slanting disk to another room with a much lower intersection. This produces something dynamic, tension.

As in a lot of other museums, the circuit forms a loop. The complete tour takes about two hours and ends in discovery of the old Royal Palace, which has been restored. From certain points, you can access the *Howsh*. Following the time-honoured template, this is a central courtyard surrounded by buildings where travellers would come and unload their merchandise."-sic.

Qatar has an economic background that could be divided in three categories, firstly their pearl and fishing trade dating back to the Roman times. Secondly just after the second World War the discovery of oil followed by the discovery of gas about twenty years after that, today 70% of the total government revenue depends on the exploitation of petroleum and natural gas. This brought enormous change to the country in development commerce and tourism. With a population of just 2.8 million, Qatar is the richest country in the world today, according to GDP per capita. Today Qatar is the world leader in fields as variegated as energy, technology, education and communications. Qatar has invested in phenomenal architecture, attracting visitors from far and wide.



MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART

The Museum of Islamic Art was designed by Chinese-born architect, most famous for his design of the glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris. To emphasize the importance of this building, I.M. Pei was commissioned out of retirement at the age of 91 to design this architectural treasure. Nestled on one end of a seven-kilometre-long Corniche in Doha, the Museum occupies an area of 45 000 square meters on an artificial peninsula on the south-end of Doha-Bay. The Museum consists of parks, workshops for schools and general public and a library in both Arabic and English, providing information about Islamic Art.

BURJ DOHA

Burj Doha is a 238-meter, 46-story tall building, also designed by Jean Nouvel and the sixth tallest building in Doha. This building was designed to create office space for companies that wish to operate in the diverse business district. What makes this building unique is that it is the first skyscraper with internal diagrid columns, this forms an 'X' shape that creates an eye-catching cylindrical façade. The design is a celebration between the ancient Mashrabiya Islamic and modern design. Screens also in an Islamic design, create a shaded outer skin that helps to regulate temperature and reduces sand residue on the glass façade of the building.











HAMAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Hamad International Airport passenger terminal designed by HOK, is an architectural structure which has drawn world-wide attention. The contemporary design mimics the rhythm of the ocean waves and the curve silhouettes of the sand dunes creating a resonating image that is Qatar Airways home and the countries gateway to the world. This airport has a capacity to handle around 50 million passengers on a yearly basis, with 41 unrestricted contact gates.

QATAR NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

(QNCC) consists of a 4,000-seat theatre, a 2,300-seat theatre, three auditoria and 52 flexible meeting rooms. Renowned Architect Arata Isozaki's design concept was inspired by Sidra tree. In

the desert, a tree represents a sheltered beacon of comfort, where poets and scholars can gather and share knowledge, this is why the façade portrays the figure of two intertwined trees branching out to support the exterior canopy.

Qatar is also the host for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and this event also boasts some of the most inspiring designs.

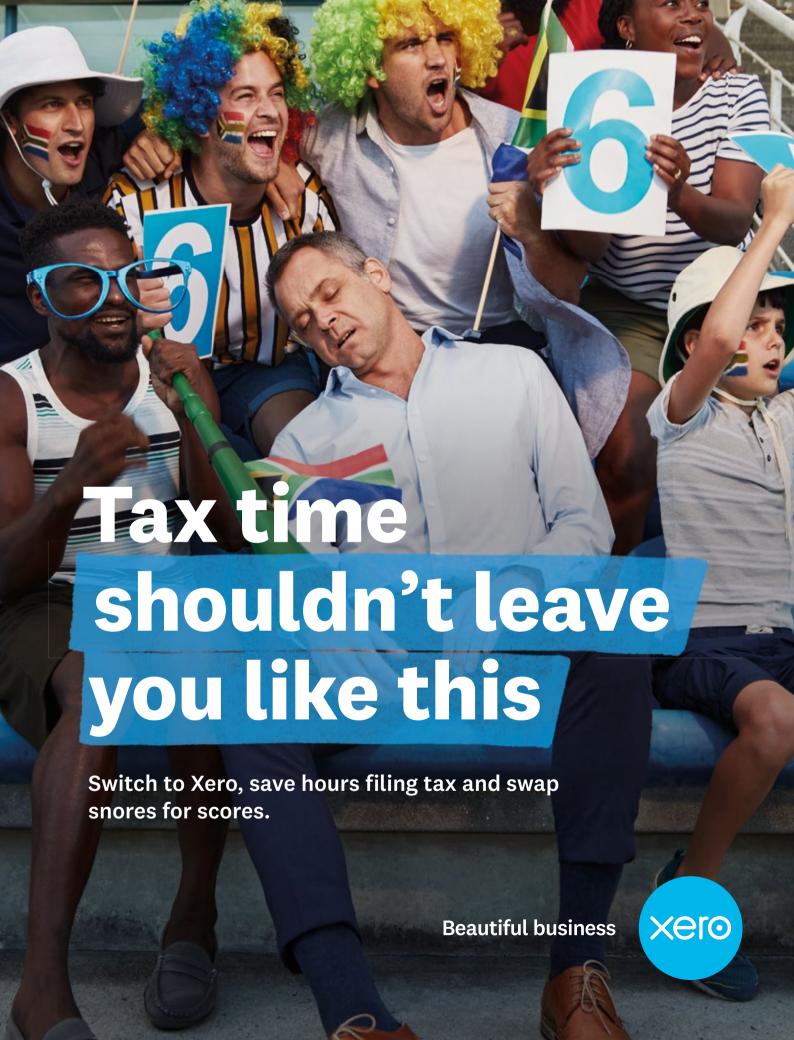
AL JANOUB STADIUM

Al Janoub Stadium, inspired by the dhow - the Arabian pearl fishing boat that is of great cultural significance and representation of the heritage of Qatar and the Al Wakrah region. The design was done by Zaha Hadid Architects in association with AECOM. To interoperate and reflect the heritage the use of colours, patterns and the use of timber and other materials were cleverly used to help reduce and embodied the carbon footprint of

the structure. Following the tournament, the stadium's capacity will be reduced to 20 000 seats removed, donated and reconstructed in coordination with FIFA in countries that require assistance in developing sporting infrastructure.

LUSAIL STADIUM

The Lusail Stadium designed by Foster + Partners will be the centrepiece of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qatar games. Located nine miles north of central Doha. Aside from hosting both the opening and the closing games of the 2022 FIFA World Cup tournament, the stadium will also be a catalyst for the development of Lusail City. Following the tournament, the majority of the seats will be removed, and the stadium will be transformed into a community centre. A health clinic, school, café and housing will be built under the roof of the stadium, along with a community football pitch.





How the Trend for Handcraft Supports Artisanal Design

Interior design trends are an excellent barometer for what's happening in the world on a larger scale – a litmus test of sorts that tells us what the mood of the moment is, what's driving homeowners and how that translates into what they choose to surround themselves with in their personal spaces.

nnually, Decorex
Africa consolidates
new and current
designs from around
the country for its various shows - in
Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town in order to present design-lovers with a
snapshot of what's desirable and available
on the interior's scene.

It's no secret that trends ebb and flow each year, and what might be hot property one season can easily be relegated to the passé pile the next. However, some trends show surprising staying power - testament to how powerfully they resonate with their audience.

HANDCRAFTED DESIGN RULES

One such trend is the resurgence of handcrafted design - a theme we've seen consistently over the past few seasons. Creative Director of Decorex Africa, Anita Bloom shares her take on why this trend is so persistent and how we can see it in action this year: 'With the rapid acceleration of technology, we are all re-discovering

the value of handmade - from traditional woodworking methods, to weaving and ceramics - in reaction to this,' says Bloom.

'Handmade matters - it embraces our humanness and gives that a voice.' Accordingly, design that represents the considered and crafted, rather than the mass-produced, appeals to us precisely for its sense of nostalgia and its ability to ground us. From organically shaped ceramics to traditionally woven rugs and original artworks, pieces that are unique and handmade are more sought after than ever.







It's also about owning something that's one of a kind - rather than one of millions - that makes handcrafted design so appealing. Its luxury lies in its rarity and uniqueness. 'Handcrafted products are often of a higher quality and have more attention to detail. They also serve as conversation pieces by virtue of having a story of how they came to be,' adds Bloom.

AFRICA'S HANDCRAFTED FUTURE

So what should we be looking out for now? Bloom sees four areas as hot trends in handcrafted design. The first is green living - tying into the move towards sustainability, we will see an increase in the use of recycled or reused materials, and high-quality natural textures to create quality pieces that last. 'As people increasingly live more mindfully, they recognize and celebrate things that are created in a more conscious fashion,' she says.

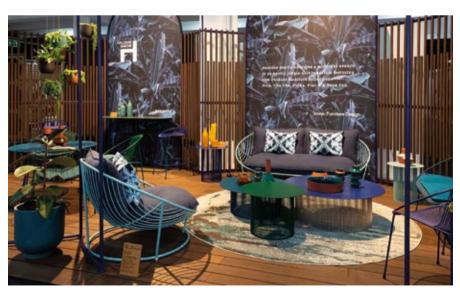
Bloom also believes textiles will be huge in 2020. 'Large-scale wall art including weavings and tapestries as well as oversized panels and canvases will be on trend. This is a spin-off of the microtrend for softness and cosiness and the

desire to have an interior that feels warm and welcoming,' she explains.

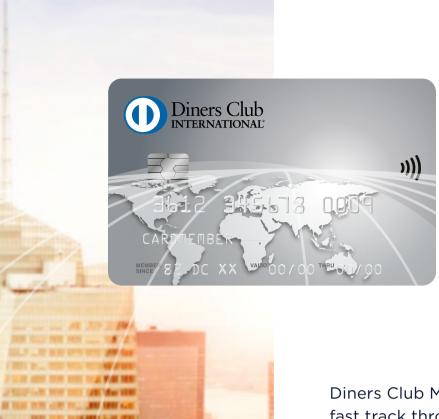
Additionally, she's pinpointed minimalism as an area to watch. 'Minimalism never goes out of fashion due to its ability to bring light and breathability to spaces. But for 2020 we'll see it manifesting in handcraft via humanized minimalism – which is characterised as being less "cold",' says Bloom. Expect to see this translated via products that combine the simplicity of both Nordic and Japanese philosophies.

Lastly, she's flagged warm colours as an area that will gain momentum. From neutrals like off-whites, champagne and beige, to calm natural tones like sage green and indigo; and desaturated tones such as mustard and burnt orange; the trend will be for a palette that feels nurturing.

A conscious drive for the celebration and support of local industry goes hand in hand with the return to popularity of handcrafted design. Bloom agrees: 'Supporting local and small businesses is something we're increasingly striving for, and we have placed a large emphasis on this by creating the Artisanal Design sector at Decorex Africa giving local artisans a platform to showcase their work,' she adds. ¹⁹







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A SOUND CONTRAST

Contrast Collection by Bang & Olufsen is a limited eight-piece audio collection created in collaboration with Danish design studio, Norm Architects. Taking pleasure in difference, the Contrast Collection is an exploration of material combinations and tactile surfaces – between minimal and expressive, rough and smooth, light and dark, silence and loudness, harmony and noise – celebrating the shared curiosity and craftsmanship between the two brands using

material tensions that intrigue and excite. Through a rigorous development process, the aluminium experts at Bang & Olufsen have created a distinctive brushed aluminium surface texture that gives Contrast its distinctive appearance. At the same time, a new sound transparent wool and viscose fabric provides excellent durability, brilliant depth of colour, and unmatched acoustic performance while maintaining its rich texture.

www.bang-olufsen.com



NEVER SHAKEN

James Bond has left active service and is enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica, yet his peace is short-lived when his old friend, Felix Leiter, turns up asking for help. Although the mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist is treacherous, Bond's timing is impeccable with the new OMEGA Seamaster Diver 300M 007 Edition guiding his every move. First launched in 1993, the Diver 300M has built its legacy with real-life divers and style aficionados, as well as becoming the quintessential wrist-wear of James Bond. Now,

OMEGA has worked closely on the development of the Bond watch with Daniel Craig and the filmmakers, whose knowledge of James Bond has brought invaluable insight to OMEGA's watch developers and designers. Daniel Craig's own experience as 007 has also influenced this exciting final design that will debut on the arm of the intrepid international spy in the 25th official James Bond film, No Time to Die, which officially launches in South Africa in April 2020. www.omegawatches.com

OOH LOU LOU'S

For a quaint, yet elegant eatery in Cape Town's trendy Greenpoint area, head to Lou Lou's, where patrons are invited to enjoy a diverse offering of fusion cuisine including Asian and Italian, presented in tabletop tapas for all to share and enjoy. At Lou Lou's the food is all about simplicity, freshness and the use of seasonal ingredients. There is an unmistakable feeling of the French way of life here, the atmosphere enhanced by an upbeat playlist, and decor that provides spaces for different occasions, whether you sit outside on the wooden deck, or inside on the leather-upholstered seating that creates a distinguished look and feel. Lou Lou's is home to a fine selection of whiskeys, single malts, fine wines, champagnes and imported spirits.

www.loulous.co.za









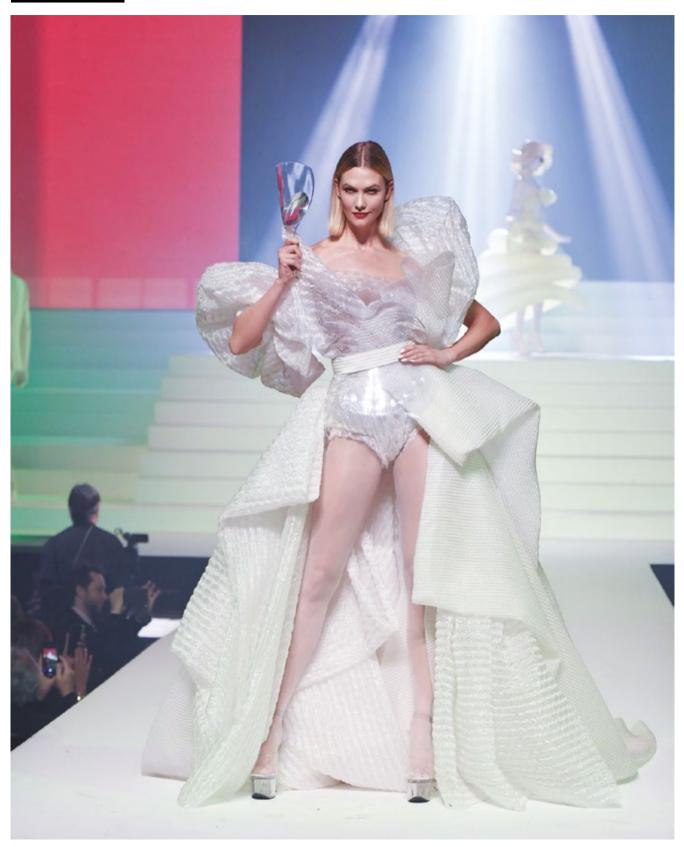




CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FUSION

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 at least 2 weeks in advance, and can be made online at www.lecoinfrancais.co.za





FAREWELL MONSIEUR FASHION

Jean-Paul Gaultier says Adieu to the Runway

On 22 January 2020, fashion icon, Jean-Paul Gaultier, said goodbye to haute couture with a final runway show at Paris Fashion Week.

ith an array of major supermodels wearing his designs, including Karlie Kloss, Gigi, and Bella Hadid, fashion's original bad boy wrapped up his 50-year career with a spectacular show that celebrated the androgyny and sailor couture for which he had become famous.

The 67-year-old designer staged his swansong at the Théâtre du Châtelet, bidding adieu to the industry as loudly as he could by bringing the biggest names in fashion to Paris for what was clearly an entertaining evening. Boy George performed at the open and close of the show, setting the mood for the evening with Amy Winehouse's Back to Black and Church of the Poison Mind.

The designs of the collection were stunning and true to Gaultier's style, featuring fitted pieces, luxurious gowns, exaggerated shoulders, and much more. Supermodels were joined by celebrities, dancers, contortionists and drag queens on stage, for an unforgettable show that had the hundreds of audience members cheering non-stop for almost two hours.

For many, the show was an emotional goodbye, not only because Gaultier is beloved for his iconic designs, but also because he is one of the few living designers to be considered a national treasure, instantly recognisable to the public for his peroxide hair, Breton stripes and Cheshire cat grin.

THE INFLUENCER PIONEER

Although he may have always been famously described as the enfant terrible of fashion, today Gaultier is one of the industry's éminence grise. In many ways, it took the fashion world decades to catch up with him. As early as 1976, Gaultier was a pioneer of diversity, streetwear, gender-fluidity and recycling - all of which are now marketing buzzwords for fashion houses. He was often a champion of models who defied easy categorisation - whether that was in age, body, gender or race - regularly scouting them on the street too. His clothes were shown on both men and women, which led people to describe his work as "androgynous" long before "gender-neutral" was in vogue.





When he showed men in skirts in 1984, it caused as much controversy as when Madonna walked on stage in his famous "cone bra" during her Blonde Ambition Tour of 1990...

When he showed men in skirts in 1984, it caused as much controversy as when Madonna walked on stage in his famous "cone bra" during her *Blonde Ambition Tour* of 1990, or when she appeared topless in the 1993 fashion show that Gaultier staged as an AIDS fundraiser.

Despite his iconoclasm, Gaultier is rarely spoken of with the same reverence as his contemporaries - such as the late Karl Lagerfeld or Azzedine Alaïa. That might be because

he appeared as a co-presenter on the satirical television show, *Eurotrash*, which was sneered at by the fashion world but managed to endear him to a mainstream audience and convey his naughty sense of humour. He later said that was the reason he missed out on the artistic directorship of Dior in 1996, which went to John Galliano instead.

Over the years, the Gaultier business dwindled, despite a steady income from his bestselling fragrances.







In 2015, he shuttered his ready-to-wear label and continued to produce only two haute couture collections a year.

Yet, his influence can still be felt across generations. The theatricality of his shows inspired designers such as Galliano and Alexander McQueen. Many fashion household names began their careers as his employees, including Martin Margiela and Nicolas Ghesquière, both of whom were present at his final show. They were also joined by heavyweights Isabel Marant, Dries van Noten, the shoe guru Christian Louboutin, Clare Waight Keller, Christian Lacroix, and the fashion couple, Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren. All of them cheered, some of them cried, and even Anna Wintour could not contain her excitement as the show became more theatrical and camp as it went on.





es, art definitely can heal. It is one of the most therapeutic processes because it involves creativity and the right brain. Also, there is an amazing therapeutic process called art therapy. It involves art and can be used to conjure up images from the past and be used as an avenue that opens one up to healing. Art heals. On a personal note, it healed my mom - an artist with over 150 sculptures from her horrible childhood," says Charissa Bloomberg, celebrity psychologist and integrity leadership specialist in an exclusive interview with Signature.

HEALING ART

According to Bloomberg, art can play a role in facilitating healing. She saw firsthand how her mom, a renowned lefthanded sculpturer, used art as an avenue to heal. Art therapy can be described as the use of artistic expression to promote personal transformation, emotional purging, spiritual rejuvenation and healing.

Make no mistake; the concept of healing art is not a new one. According to Art That Heals: The Image as Medicine in Ethiopia by Jacques Mercier, this connection was present even in the Mediterranean world. It transcended geographical, racial and denominational demarcations to dwell in the consciousness of Christians, Muslims, Jewish and Greeks, to mention a few.

Shaun McNiff, one of the leading authors in this discipline, wrote *Art Heals: How Creativity Cures the Soul* and *Art as Medicine: Creating a Therapy of the Imagination.* In as much as texts and research affirm this connection, various tourists have taken the concept of healing art beyond book covers and online platforms in a quest to pinpoint pockets of art that allegedly truly heals.

SOUTH AFRICA: DRUMMING UP HEALING RAIN

There was not a single cloud in the sky. The seasonal downpour had not yet started. Back then, working at a tertiary academic institution, science was the order of the day. Yet, one could not shake off the rumours that enshrouded this event that was graced by representatives from of the well-known Modjadji, Rain Queen dynasty. Word on the ground was that once all protocol was observed and we heard the sacred drum thud – albeit on the screen – the heavens had no choice but to release the rain.

Speaker after speaker praised the sacred drum. It was said to be more than an artistic portrayal but a vessel that could journey to the "Other" world, conjure up spirit, clear space, instigate consecrated dance, honour the departed, facilitate trances, and heal. We listened, clapped and watched the sun begin to set on a cloudless day in Pretoria. Finally, just before we closed, the long-awaited recorded clip with the sounds of the notorious drums was played.

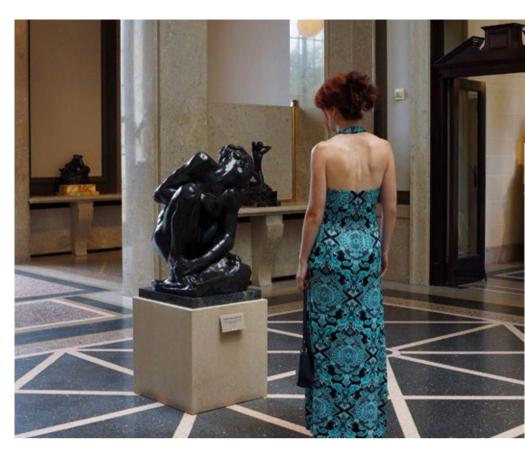
Let's just say between leaving the venue to walking to our vehicles in the nearby parking area, it began to rain like never before. This was contrary to the forecasts of the weatherman. Some say it was a coincidence, luck or maybe just maybe, the sacred drum.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: HEALING ART MUSEUMS AND ALTERNATIVE SPACES

Sometimes, healing is not confined to one particular artwork, but fostered in healing art galleries and alternative spaces. For the most part, such areas transcend the display of relics, by fusing art with psychotherapy. This concept has gained enormous traction among local and international tourists who flock to

Whatever the medium, art can be used by the living to press on towards wholeness, clarity, and healing.





these spaces in an attempt to latch onto that healing.

One such place is the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery at the Smith Center for Healing and the Arts in Washington, DC. Although somewhat experimental at its core, art is used as a catalyst for expression, self-awareness, understanding feelings, processing thoughts, communication and healing.

The Smithsonian National Museum of African Art has also raised its voice to contribute to the healing arts dialogue. Healing art paintings and sculptures form part of their permanent collection. There is art depicting medicine, art that connects the secular and sacred, as well as art that calls upon divine power for personal and societal healing.

UNITED KINGDOM: PAINTING HEALING

Painting helps many mental health patients in UK hospitals come to terms with their own torment. This is primarily because of the extensive groundwork laid by Edward Adamson, also known as "the father of art

therapy in Britain", who worked tirelessly to give patients some form of expression. Art is not only a hobby or something one can take for granted, but it can be a healing remedy. Painting can be used to promote a state of rest for the physically fatigued.

Adamson encouraged healing with paint to patients from the hospital where he worked. His main interests involved dealing with people who suffered from mental health issues. He discovered that through art, especially painting, he could help to ease their symptoms.

Gary Molloy, one of the patients who suffered from severe bipolar disorder, was inspired by the paintings in the ward, which were created at Core Arts, a centre for people with mental health issues. He found painting as a distraction that allowed him to be free of his pain. Painting eased his symptoms and transformed into effective therapy. Painting helped him manage his condition and build his self-esteem. Molloy is just one of many who benefitted from paintings.

All in all, whether it is in the artistic depictions of Alexander "Skunder"

Boghossian's Ethiopian healing scrolls or Kagiso Pat Mautloa's abstract art on wood that depicts South African township life and the impact of HIV/Aids; artists from all over the world press on towards the hope that the creation of art can continue to foster healing. You see it in the abstract and ordinary, such as how Kwere artists of Tanzania depict the medicine containers carried by Kwere women healers as containing an element of the divine.

At times, the healing properties of art are not seen, but experienced. This is in instances such as how museums in Athens now often house yoga classes and art therapy classes, to teach children from a young age how to open up to such experiences. Whatever the medium, art can be used by the living to press on towards wholeness, clarity, and healing.

by reneilwe komane & phindiwe nkosi / photography by istockphoto.com

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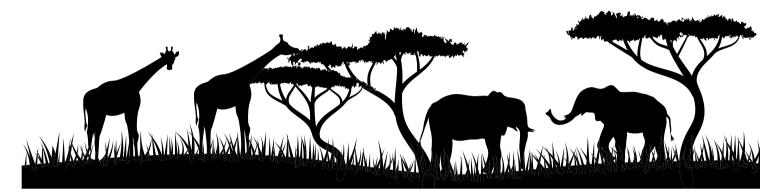




A DESPERATELY

SEEKING GERMAN

When South Africa steals your Heart



he strangest thing I saw in Walt Disney World was not the giant, six-foot-tall talking mouse that greeted us at the entrance. Instead, it was the man who walked into a restaurant wearing a Springbok rugby jersey, whom I greeted with the words, "Long way from home" and who responded in German with a broad smile

"You think I am South African," he said. "I am not. But I wish I was."

Now, there are two things South Africans are generally not used to. First, uninterrupted electricity supply. Second, foreigners wishing they were South Africans

We invited our new friend, Stefan, and his partner to join our table, and the ensuing conversation opened our world and our eyes to a man so passionate about South Africa that he packs in a Springbok jersey and wears it proudly on holiday to Disney World.

The very fact that we met him at Disney World was already a rare occurrence because he has spent almost every single holiday he has ever taken as an adult coming to South Africa.

"You know, we landed in America, and after getting our rental car, I said to my girlfriend, 'Damnit. We should've gone to South Africa instead, "Stefan told us.

So what is the big attraction for him?

"Your people. They are so friendly. Genuinely friendly. It's not that kind of fake friendliness you get in America. South Africans are genuinely warm and friendly people. I love them," he said.

As we sat there, I was struggling to comprehend how somebody from a first-world country could fall so hopelessly in love with South Africa. A conundrum made worse as I witnessed first-hand over lunch how the Magic Kingdom was very adept at making my meagre Rands disappear.

It feels like almost everybody you speak to in South Africa is leaving the country. Yet here was a man wishing he could go the other way.

"I tell you, if I could get work in South Africa, I would leave the keys to my house in Germany in the door, drive to the airport, leave my car keys in my car and catch the next flight there. I would live and work in South Africa tomorrow, if only your government would let me," Stefan told us.

But lest you think I'm overstating all

of this, Stefan was only halfway there to show us his love for South Africa.

He lifted his Springbok jersey and proudly showed us a tattoo on his shoulder of Table Mountain. Then his girlfriend showed us her tattoo - of a Baobab tree.

We were dumbfounded.

And finally, he took out his wallet and showed us a R20 note that he kept there. Then he delivered the line that has carried our family ever since, through the darkest of load shedding nights to the infuriating comments of our politicians: "When things get really bad at work, or I'm just having a bad day, I take out this R20 note and just look at it, and I remind myself that there is a place in the world like South Africa."

Allawêreld mense!

The other day I received a Facebook update from Stefan. They were on holiday in Singapore. He had posted snaps of their magnificent hotel and amazing sights they had seen.

"Wow Stefan," I typed. "Looks like a great holiday. Enjoy."

"It's ok," he wrote back. "But we should've come to South Africa instead."

by michael vlismas / photography by istockphoto.com











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