

A VENTURESOME VILLA VAYCAY

Family Funtime at Antrim Villa, Cape Town

Children remember their childhood vacations more vividly than other life events. I suspect the magic of absorbing exhilarating shared experiences, appreciating newly discovered wonders, and feeding a growing curiosity about the world, makes these memories the most enduring.

Upon adopting my son, Levi Tau, in 2014, I committed to hand-pick our family holidays with the same level of thoughtfulness that I apply when making vital decisions about his education and healthcare. South Africa is full of beautiful places with picturesque sites, historic architecture, vibrant cultures, and many tourist attractions and landmarks, leaving us locals spoilt for choice when contemplating our next “sho’t left”.

As a mom, I recognise that deciding on a holiday destination works remarkably well towards shaping my family’s dynamics around play, relaxation and adventure. My fail-proof vacation “mom-hack” is to favour destinations that intuitively feel like home. Lovely locations that prompt you to question your desire to explore city surrounds on account of the carefully considered on-site amenities. Not only could you live there, but it feels like you already do.

FEELS LIKE HOME

The award-winning Antrim Villa guesthouse, situated in the holiday-makers hub of Green Point on Cape Town’s Atlantic Seaboard, ticks all the right boxes. This charming English Victorian house was originally built as a family residence in the late 1800s. The minute we arrived at the house, the high ceilings and well-kept stuccos, accentuated by the delicate curation of natural textures including linen and bamboo, drew a glaring juxtaposition between personalised, residential-style experiences, and sterile, stock-standard anonymous hotel lobbies. I place a great deal of importance on the initial reception, and can only describe our delightful hostess, Maureen’s, approach and demeanour as warm and sincere. Vital personality traits in the art of perfecting that all-important ‘home away from home’ feeling.

Second, on my holiday-must-have list, is an abundance of boredom-repelling resources that constitute age-appropriate



entertainment and drive quality time well-spent. Antrim Villa’s shared living room area is ingeniously designed to meet this objective. The solid oak communal dining table is a welcome invitation to create valuable family memories, each fuelled by a healthy dose of friendly competition through the insightful presentation of board games and puzzles. This is where we chose to spend our evenings’ playing, socialising and filling the passageways



with three generations of uncontrollable belly-laughs. This multifunctional space flows beautifully into an open plan kitchen, transforming our evening games room into a scrumptiously scented breakfast den at sunrise.

Leisurely, custom and made-to-order are not words synonymous with an early morning breakfast sitting. Yet, they certainly are the magical secret ingredients in Maureens' arsenal of expectation exceeding service etiquette. From buffet-style continental spreads, to personalised hot breakfast offerings that cater to refined pallets with premium coffees and full farmhouse breakfasts, to the less mature pallets with scrambled egg on toast and exaggerated dollops of tomato sauce. Every preference was adequately catered for, refuelling much-needed energy levels ahead of the days' planned activities.

ON-POINT LOCATION

Located a mere five-minute walk from Seapoint promenade, and a 25-minute walk from the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Antrim Villa is conveniently positioned to access supermarkets and public transport routes easily. The accommodations also offer ample secure remote accessed parking, providing us with peace of mind and complete freedom of movement on our escapades to the nearby Two Oceans Aquarium, and the farther afield town of Franschoek. The latter a one-





number 12 Antrim Road, Three Anchor Bay, Cape Town, is the perfect place to kick-start any holiday, and is geared to turn every moment into a lifelong memory. A stay here is a welcome respite from daily family routines, offering a luxurious environment to disconnect from work commitments and everyday stresses in a perfectly secluded setting that acts as a worthwhile reminder that playfulness and relaxation have the same benefits for children, as it does for adults. And that's a "pinky promise".

Visit www.antrimvilla.com for more information on Antrim Villa, or to make a reservation. 📍

hour journey infused with breathtaking landscapes and scenic views.

Late afternoons can be defined by the subtle beckoning of giant, colourful, floating pool props, from the private backyard oasis of the guesthouse. Here, six comfortable loungers and extra-large beach towels create the ideal sundowner occasion, nestled between high palm trees, evergreen bushes and authentic handcrafted Beachwood benches. While young ones are encouraged to take full advantage of the sun-drenched tropical gardens, and the crystal-clear waters of the large salt water swimming, I prefer to prioritise thirst-quenching, poolside snacking, and deep conversation.

Boasting aesthetically pleasing Afro-Scandinavian interiors, cosy organic colour palettes, and consistent world-class service,

