

SIGNATURE

The Diners Club International Magazine

THE GREATEST WILDLIFE
SHOW ON EARTH

Tanzania's Wildebeest Migration

Top Visa-free Destinations
for South Africans

Why Zanzibar is the
New Mauritius

Corbelled Houses
of the Karoo



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from the MD



Welcome

Esh Naidoo
Managing Director

"Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer." – Anonymous

As we welcome autumn's cooler temperatures, I find myself reflecting on where we are on our personal journeys. For the first time in two years, there is a palpable sense of relief in the air, where we can once again make plans, specifically travel plans, without the fear of having those plans dashed at the last moment.

South Africa and the world may not be entirely out of the woods yet, but with restrictions lifting globally, and South Africa following suit, the year ahead looks set to herald a boom for the local travel and tourism sectors, and the opportunity for Diners Club

card holders to enjoy the many benefits this opportunity brings you.

Diners Club is proud to play its part to keep you doing the things you love. Whether you're travelling locally or abroad, upgrading your lifestyle, or broadening your entertainment horizons, you may rest assured that your Diners Club card offers unmatched convenience and outstanding service.

While the destinations featured in this edition of Signature will have you reaching for your passport, we are equally delighted to showcase the most up-to-the-minute leisure and lifestyle news, with advice and opinion added for good measure, all to make your Diners Club experience more rewarding.

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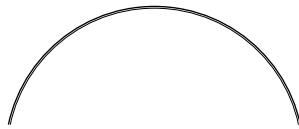


CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FUSION

Elegantly appointed and located in the quaint village of Franschhoek, *Le coin Français*, both in concept and name, pays homage to the essence of this breathtaking valley as expressed in its cuisine, heritage, art and some of the finest wines in the country. Featuring state-of-the-art culinary techniques embodied in elegant time-tested French cuisine, *Le coin Français* offers two fine-dining menu options for lunch and dinner, coupled with outstanding pairing options. An a la carte menu complements the two fine-dining menu options for lunch, served inside the restaurant or on the terrace, with the same caliber and sophistication of cuisine.







GO THERE

MCGRATH COLLECTION REFRESH

The Liz McGrath Collection has unveiled new-look interiors at two of its three hotels. The summer lounges at The Plettenberg and The Marine (Hermanus) have undergone a complete transformation, each boasting fresh and distinctly different interior designs to reflect their unique individual settings. Situated on a rocky headland in Plettenberg Bay, The Plettenberg is the ultimate seaside destination on the Garden Route and is widely known as the 'best address in Plett'. Its sister-hotel, The Marine, is an iconic landmark on the famous Hermanus cliff path, within walking distance to the many attractions of South Africa's whale-watching capital. Interior designer Sue Bond has created a new look for both hotels along a mutually shared theme to produce beautiful, inviting public spaces by using colour, textures, wallpaper, objet d'art, and original South African works of art. Working within the existing structures, she started with wallpaper to bring colour and interest, setting the scene for layers to come. www.collectionmcgrath.com



AIRCRAFT CLEAN SWEEP

Ethiopian Airlines Group and Aero HygenX executives, inventors of RAY - an autonomous aircraft sanitization robot - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining a plan for fleetwide deployment and regional marketing of Aero HygenX's autonomous UV-C light disinfecting robot. The signing of this MoU marks the first foray into the African market for Aero HygenX, a Canadian technology company taking aviation by storm with its safe, efficient, and chemical-free solution designed for aircraft cabins and rail cars. Ethiopian Airlines has become the first African carrier to roll out the new technology that takes aviation safety to the next level.

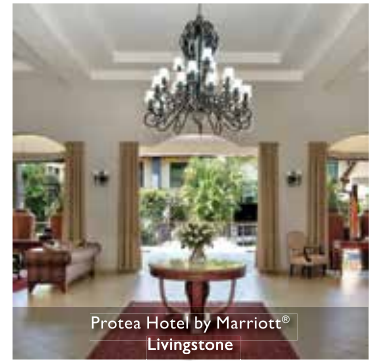
40 YEARS OF CREATIVITY

The East Coast Radio House + Garden Show celebrates its 40th birthday in carnival-style by toasting four successful decades of creative spaces that have led the way locally in inspiration, innovation, entertainment and craftsmanship. The East Coast Radio House + Garden Show will return to the Durban Exhibition Centre from 24 June to 3 July with plenty of giveaways, special offers, big competitions and more. A host of favourites will also return, including the Home Grown Design Fair, Outdoor, Garden and Lifestyle area, Foodie Fair, Hirsch's excellent show deals, plus curated design features. Find a signature piece for your home, get inspired for your next big renovation project, or bring your friends and family to experience a myriad of entertainment and tantalizing treats. Every COVID-19 precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of visitors and exhibitors. Learn more at www.housegardenshow.co.za or follow on Instagram and Facebook [@housegardenshow](https://www.instagram.com/housegardenshow).



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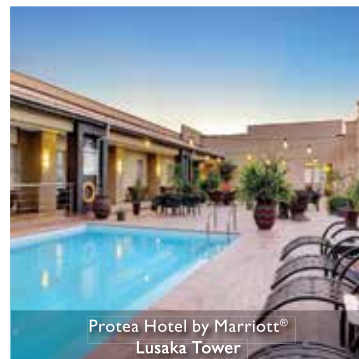
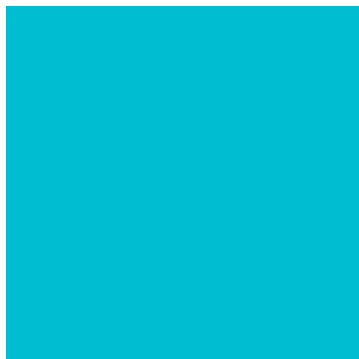
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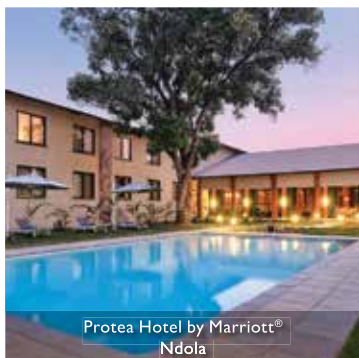
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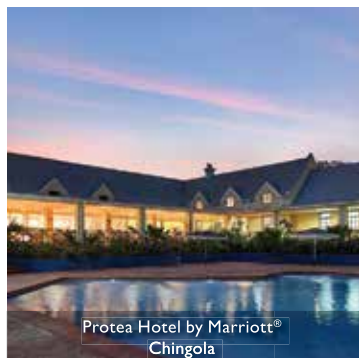
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SET YOUR PASSPORT FREE

Visa-free Destinations for South African Travellers

With the world opening for travel again in an unprecedented way, South African travellers have visa-free access to more than 103 countries around the globe.

If there's one thing travellers love, it is a visa-free destination. No queueing for a visa, no hassles, no additional costs means more money to spend on experiences and making memories.

South African travellers have yet to discover a world of destinations that either do not require a visa for travel, or will issue one on arrival. We've curated a list of our top five visa-free countries – or where one will be issued on arrival – for South African passport holders.

ARGENTINA

Situated on the southwestern coast of South America is the vibrant nation of Argentina. The country is home to over 44 million residents, and is famous for tango, fútbol (soccer) and scrumptious South American cuisine. Major attractions include Garganta del Diablo in Puerto Iguazu, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, and Pasarelas Perito Moreno in El Calafate.

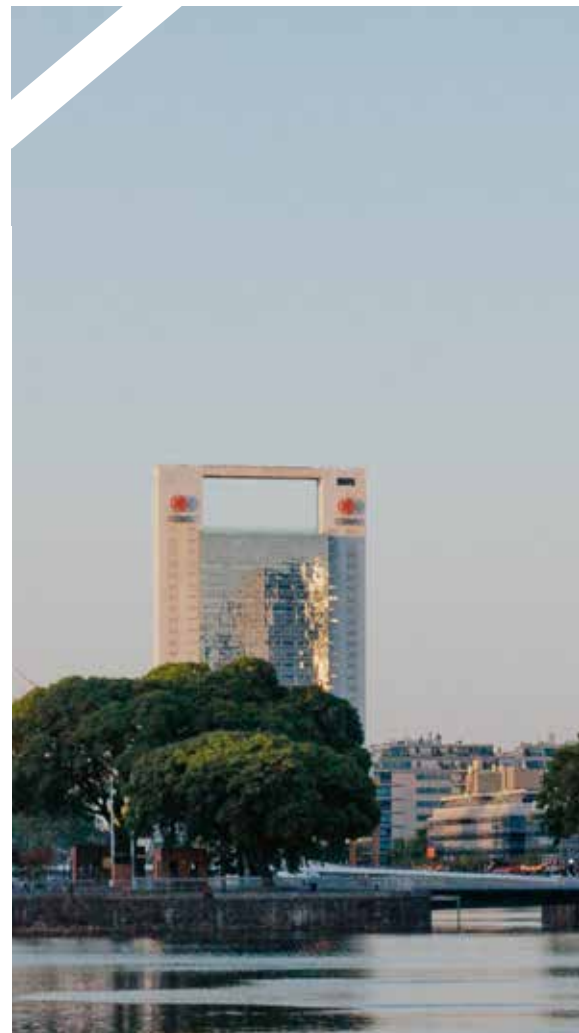
Start finalising your holiday plans, as flights to Argentina are available now. Buenos Aires is the home of Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE), a 30-minute drive or a scenic

three-hour train ride from the city centre. EZE serves Qatar Airways, Aerolineas Argentinas and LATAM. Popular connecting flights to Buenos Aires depart from Johannesburg and Cape Town. Flight duration from Johannesburg to Buenos Aires is approximately 15 hours 50 minutes.

BAHAMAS

An oasis in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the Bahamas is a playground like no other. With crystal-clear waters, sandy bays, and the most enticing freshly-grilled seafood, you're bound to fall in love with this destination. Attractions include Castaway Cay (Sandy Point), Pink Sands Beach (Harbour Island) and Marine Habitat at Atlantis on Paradise Island.

Bahamas' capital city, Nassau, is home to Lynden Pindling International Airport (NAS), located a 20-minute drive from the city centre. Lynden Pindling International Airport serves several airlines, including American Airlines, Delta Airlines, British Airways and BahamasAir. Popular connecting flights depart from Johannesburg and Cape Town. The flight duration is approximately 21 hours.



Puerto Madero, CABA, Argentina



The Atlantis, Bahamas



Old City, Jerusalem, Israel



ISRAEL

Deeply sacred and alive with spectacular natural wonders, ancient archaeological treasures, enchanting attractions and cosmopolitan energy, Israel is one of the most fascinating countries in the world. With over eight million residents, Israel is the second-most populous country in the world. Popular attractions include the Old City of Jerusalem, Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa, and the Dead Sea.

The hub airport is Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV), a 30-minute drive from the Tel Aviv city centre. The airport serves EL AL Airlines, Turkish Airways and Ethiopian Airlines. Non-stop flights to Tel Aviv depart from Johannesburg, and popular connecting flights depart from Cape Town. Flight duration from Johannesburg is approximately 9 hours 10 minutes.

KENYA

Kenya is the safari capital of the African continent. It is humbly nestled on the equator, with its terrain extending roughly from Lake Victoria to Lake Turkana, and south-east to the Indian Ocean. This beautiful and nourishing land is home to approximately 48 million people. Popular



View of Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park, Kenya

attractions include Fort Jesus in Mombasa and Karura Forest in Malindi.


Nairobi is the home of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO), a 30-minute drive from the city centre. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport serves many airlines – including South African Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airways. Non-stop international flights to Nairobi depart from Johannesburg. The flight duration from Johannesburg to Nairobi is approximately 4 hours.

MAURITIUS

Situated in East Africa is the charming Indian Ocean island nation – Mauritius. It is home to over 1.2 million residents, and is known for its picturesque beaches, reefs, and lagoons.

Mauritius offers breathtaking nature, international influences, and exceptional wildlife. Popular attractions include Seven Coloured Earths in Riviere Noire, Île aux Cerfs island and L'Aventure du Sucre Museum in Pamplemousses.

A visitor visa will be granted upon arrival at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport (MRU), a 45-minute drive from the centre of the capital, Port Louis. MRU serves several airlines, including South African Airways, British Airways and Air Mauritius. Direct flights to Port Louis are available from Johannesburg. The flight duration to Port Louis is approximately 3 hours 55 minutes.

Visit www.travelstart.co.za for a complete list of visa-free destinations for South African citizens. 



Chamarel Waterfall, Maurice, Mauritius

THE GREATEST WILDLIFE SHOW ON EARTH

*The Great Migration in East Africa
is the World's Quintessential Wildlife Experience*

Award-winning responsible travel company Ker & Downey
Africa share why the Great Migration in East Africa
is the perfect post-COVID escape for 2022 and beyond.

One of the most significant surges in travel trends is the desire to seek out remote destinations and rediscover the magnificent beauty of our planet. And having someone by your side as you travel into this new world is priceless.

Widely known as "The Greatest Wildlife Show on Earth", the Great Migration in East Africa is the world's quintessential wildlife experience that sees millions of wildebeest, zebra, and other antelope species make the treacherous journey across Tanzania





and Kenya each year.

Moving through some of the most magnificent ecosystems on the planet, the endless migratory circuit sees the animals cross the rolling plains of Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve in search of better grazing and water.

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Migration is a year-round spectacle. The

calving season (late January to mid-March) sees the animals giving birth to future generations to continue the circle of life and keep the migration alive. Each month of the year offers a unique experience of this bucket list event.

Join the team as they take you on a migration adventure like no other, following the pitfalls, triumphs and sheer determination of the herds as they

contend with hair-raising obstacles and carnivorous predators at every turn.

NEW LIFE EMERGES - JANUARY TO MARCH

In January, the bulk of the herd of Great Migration has just completed an epic southward trek to the lush plains of the southern Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Area in Tanzania.

*The notorious Mara River crossing
sees hordes of animals plunging
frantically into dangerous waters,
resulting in a bloody spectacle that is
not for the faint of heart.*



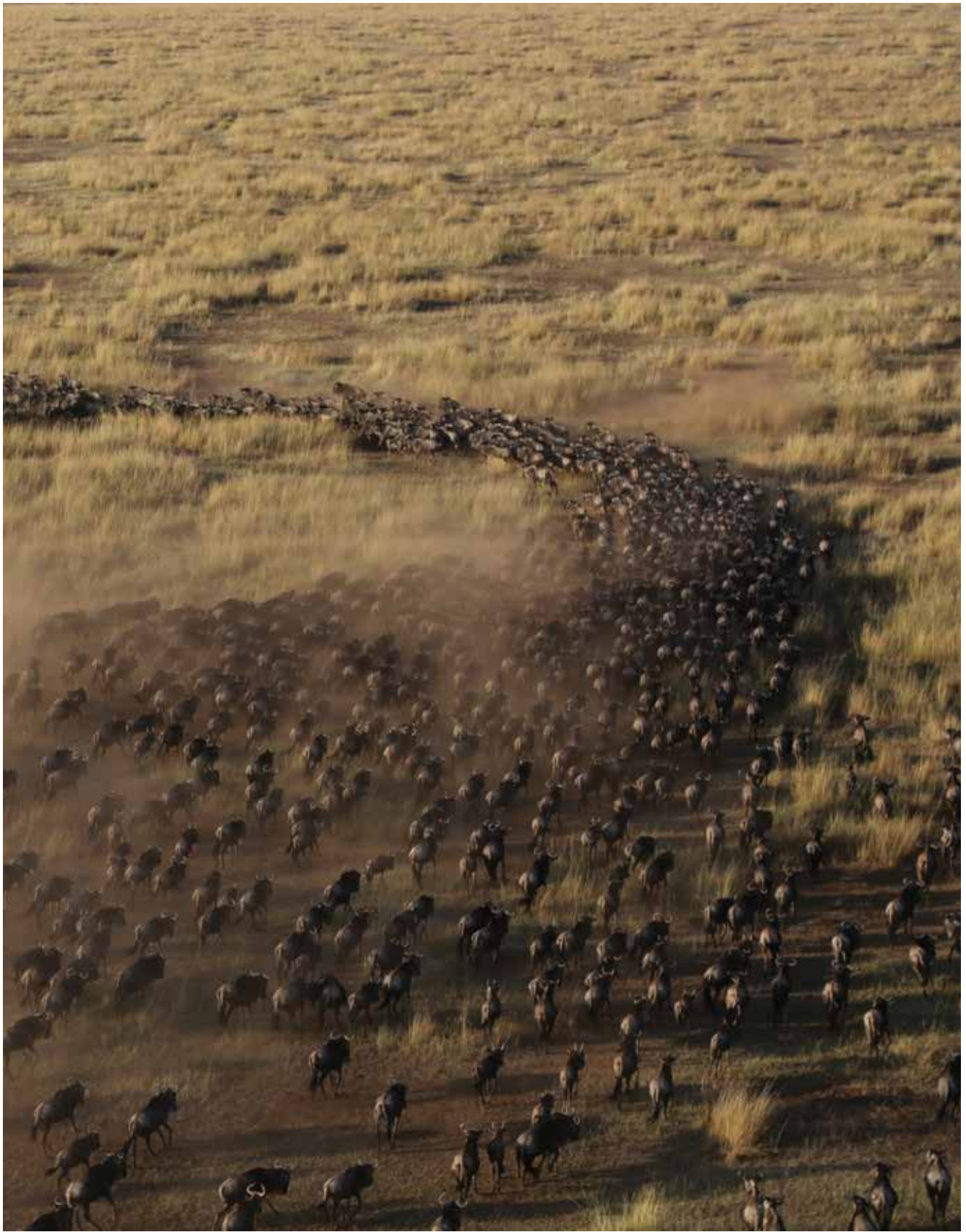


The seasonal rains have sufficiently watered the fresh green grass, providing bountiful nutrients for the new members. It is the birthing season, and between late January and early March, almost half a million new calves will be born. The sheer abundance of the new, vulnerable members of the herd provides a perfect opportunity for lurking predators to pounce. Spend your days on game drives through the extinct volcano of the Ngorongoro Crater, which becomes the perfect hunting grounds for big cats, making for some dramatic wildlife action.

THE TREK COMMENCES - APRIL TO JUNE

In April, the once grassy plains in the south have now become exhausted from grazing, and movement is in full, albeit slow, swing. The surviving young of the herd start to gather strength, and mammoth columns of wildebeest, zebra and antelope stream through the Moru Kopjes in the central Serengeti towards the Western Corridor. Mating (or rutting) season is also well underway during this period.

Towards the end of May, the bulk of





the herd can be found congregating on the banks of the Grumeti River. This crossing, which takes place throughout June, is the first significant migration obstacle.

ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVE - JULY, AUGUST

With the Grumeti River in their wake, the surviving herd make their way towards the northern Serengeti – the allure of Kenya's Masai Mara and fresh grasslands edging them along, despite the perilous dangers that lie ahead. They eventually find themselves at the great Mara River. This is where survival of the fittest is put to the ultimate test.

The notorious Mara River crossing sees hordes of animals plunging frantically into dangerous waters, resulting in a bloody spectacle that is not for the faint of heart. As ravenous Nile crocodiles snap mercilessly at the herds, vultures, marabou storks, hyenas, and other predators clog the riverbanks waiting to feast on corpses or injured survivors. This dramatic display of the cycle of life and death draws masses of crowds each year and is a once-in-a-lifetime bucket list experience for avid wildlife travellers across the globe.

BORDER CROSSING - SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

After the gruelling events of the Mara River, the majority of survivors enjoy some respite in Kenya's Masai Mara National Park. While some stragglers are still enduring the hazardous crossing, most can be found grazing on lush green grass, regaining their strength after the exhausting expedition. Both September and October enjoy mild weather and a slowing down of the migration, which means there is a good chance of seeing some big herds – and hungry predators hot on their heels.

THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER - NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

The search for green pastures continues, and as the smell of new rain from the southern Serengeti permeates the air again, the herds find themselves drawn back to where it all began. Moving at a quicker pace to reach the southern plains as the first grassroots start to shoot, columns of animals and thundering hooves permeate the landscape. By December, their efforts are rewarded by a blanket of fresh grass as they return to the plains of

their birth. Here, the cycle of life will begin once again.

The team at Ker & Downey Africa offer an exclusive set of Great Wildebeest Migration LuxVenture trips, tailored to ensure an unforgettable experience that places you at the very heart of the action of this truly wild event.

To find out more, please visit ker-downeyafrika.com, or follow @kerdowneyafrika on social media. Contact enquiries@ker-downeyafrika.com or call +27 21 201 2484. 📞

SECURING A TROPICAL FUTURE

Why Zanzibar Is the Next Mauritius

What is not to love about the idea of purchasing a property on a tropical island surrounded by azure blue seas – and at the same time receiving residency rights for yourself and your immediate family as well as a multitude of tax benefits and more?

South Africans have been flocking to Mauritius for many years to pursue the beautiful beaches, luxury hotels and resorts, and general idyllic lifestyle opportunities. Then in 2017, the Mauritian government made it possible for non-residents to purchase and own property on the island, and at the same time, receive residency rights. This has paved the way for many South Africans to buy here – increasingly drawn to the political stability, strong economy, significant tax incentives, low crime rate, and excellent quality of life.

Now there is a new kid on the block for South Africans looking to buy affordable luxury property on a tropical island, with a plethora of added benefits – Zanzibar.

ARTFUL ARCHIPELAGO

Zanzibar is an archipelago located

off the East coast of Africa. It is characterised by a unique cultural heritage, beautiful white sand beaches, tranquil forests, and world-famous Stone Town as its historical jewel.

Like Mauritius, Zanzibar is also stable – politically, socially, and economically. Though Zanzibar is a small island economy, it forms part of the Republic of Tanzania as an autonomous part of the country. It has enjoyed relatively high economic growth over the last decade, averaging 6-7% per annum (according to the World Bank). The economy is diverse, with agriculture, quarrying, mining, industry, electricity generation and services all playing a part – together with tourism. Tourists flock to Zanzibar. The number of tourists visiting the island has increased dramatically in the past few years. More than 620,000 foreign tourists were recorded visiting in the 2020/2021 financial year – almost 200,000 more than was anticipated.





STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROJECTS

Until recently, non-residents could not purchase and own property in Zanzibar. However, the government has recently changed this law and announced a new tax and residency program which allows non-Tanzanian residents to invest in property on the tropical island on 99-year leases with the option to extend ownership by 49 years.

As the Mauritian government did, the Tanzanian government is working hard to attract foreign investors to Zanzibar and

has implemented Strategic Investment Projects, which allows property owners to gain significant tax benefits – such as a 15% tax rate on local income earned, no tax on worldwide income, and no capital gains tax, stamp duty or inheritance tax on properties purchased. Additionally, property investors, together with their spouses and their children under the age of 20, are eligible for residence permits lasting the duration of their property ownership, and there is no minimum amount of time that must be spent in the country to qualify.

BUYING PROPERTY IN ZANZIBAR

A currently under development seafront resort called Blue Amber is one of these strategic investment real estate developments in Zanzibar – and the only one with an untouched natural beach, offering views of pristine Muyuni beach and Mnemba Island.

Blue Amber is the largest resort development of its kind in Africa, and will feature the first all-suite hotel on the island, luxury villas for purchase, as well as East Africa's first Signature



Championship golf course.

The first phase of the project has commenced with the construction of 54 luxury pool villas that are currently available to purchase – with prices starting from only USD 197,125 for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit with a roof-top terrace, or USD 319,000 for a double-storey three-bedroom, three-bathroom villa.

Another added benefit is a payment scheme for purchasers. USD 5,000 is payable upfront as a reservation payment, followed by four instalments, payable over the construction progress of the villa.

Construction of the villa residences and visitor's centre has commenced, and the first villas are due for completion within the next twelve to fourteen months. Once fully completed, the Shirazi Resort & Villas construction will also be nearing completion. This all-suite 5-star hotel will boast two barefoot luxury eateries, a world-class spa, yoga pavilion and gym, as well as a beach club and pool replete with a pool bar. There will also be an impressive shoreline aqua leisure centre where both residents

and guests of the hotel can enjoy a multifunctional play space that includes a comprehensive water sports facility, along with a beach eatery and a selection of thoughtfully curated retail stores.


"Blue Amber will strongly attract property investors from around the globe, and the pricing also makes it an attractive option for South Africans working in Rands," says Grant Anderson, CEO of Blue Amber. "Demand for property in Mauritius since 2017 has soared – driving the sales prices up to very high levels. The villas at Blue Amber offer massive value for money in comparison, and this is truly a great opportunity for foreign investors. Added to the attractive pricing are all the benefits that go along with purchasing property in a Strategic Investment Project such as Blue Amber – tax incentives, residency permits etc."

"Zanzibar is well poised to become the next Mauritius, and I foresee immense investment potential in Zanzibar, which is a year-round leisure destination that is safe and politically stable. It is a dream destination for investors wanting to enjoy a tropical

island escape, whilst also benefitting from the many tax breaks, the residency scheme, and the potential rental return on their property investment."

When not in residence, Anderson explains that villa owners at Blue Amber can also opt to place their property back into the rental pool – earning an attractive return on investment. NEWMARK Hotels and Reserves will manage the rental villas, which offers a fully integrated property management service.

"This prestigious new resort development will place Zanzibar on the map alongside Mauritius as a high-end lifestyle destination offering sound investment opportunities as a year-round permanent residential or rental destination."

For more information about Blue Amber and the Shirazi Resort & Villas, visit www.blueamberzanzibar.com. 

by *manley social* /
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Le Pommier ANGLE PEUR CABERNET FRANC

The name "Angle Peur" pays homage to the history of the Banhoek area and the influence of the French Huguenots who arrived in 1688. Banhoek or "the scary corner" was also known as "De Bange Hoek". The old pass that ran through this area was dangerously steep, with gangs, escaped slaves, lions, leopards, and other animals roaming wild. In 1800's the old pass was replaced by the new scenic road making it no more the treacherous and frightening route of those early days. Today you can still drive the oldest historical pass in South Africa, dating back to 1708. Limited Release.

A NATURAL REVIVAL

Tintswalo Manor House in the Manyeleti Reserve

The name ****Tintswalo**** is derived from a popular Shangaan expression, meaning “the intangible feeling of love, gratitude, and peace that you bestow upon someone who has given you a meaningful and worthy gift”. Tintswalo honours these beautiful words by offering its guests an unforgettable getaway amongst Africa’s finest wildlife, enjoyed in the comfort of a five-star lodge.

Tintswalo Safari Lodge is one of only three commercial lodges located in the pristine Manyeleti Game Reserve. Boasting 23,000 hectares of untouched African wilderness, this is a slice of private wilderness within the world-renowned Greater Kruger National Park.

Fully-accredited, qualified guides and local trackers take guests on authentic African safari experiences, with exceptional game viewing offered twice daily in open safari vehicles. The abundance of wildlife ensures uninterrupted, intimate encounters with a great variety of animals, including the Big Five, as well as a plethora of fascinating insects, reptiles, and 300 species of birds found in the region.

SUPREME LUXURY

A landmark of luxury service and accommodation, Tintswalo Safari Lodge offers six Explorer Suites, as well as the expansive Baines Presidential Suite and the two-bedroom Grant Family Suite. These luxuriously-decorated suites reflect the opulence of colonial times, evoking the adventures of the 19th-century explorers they are named after. Each air-conditioned suite is furnished with a lavish en-suite bathroom, as well as a private deck with a plunge pool, allowing guests privacy and the chance to relax and soak up the African sun and wilderness from the comfort of their suite.

The five-bedroom Tintswalo Manor House presents the perfect private vacation option for families or friends travelling together and seeking a tailor-made stay. The Manor







House is child-friendly and offers personalised children's programmes and a fun, educational safari for children of all ages.

Dining is a culinary adventure at Tintswalo Safari Lodge. Mouth-watering cuisine is served throughout the day, often in surprise locations hidden in the wilderness. From a bush breakfast cooked over the coals to a starlit dinner around a blazing boma fire, whether guests opt to dine alone or decide to join their fellow travellers, they are guaranteed to experience the ultimate in five-star dining.

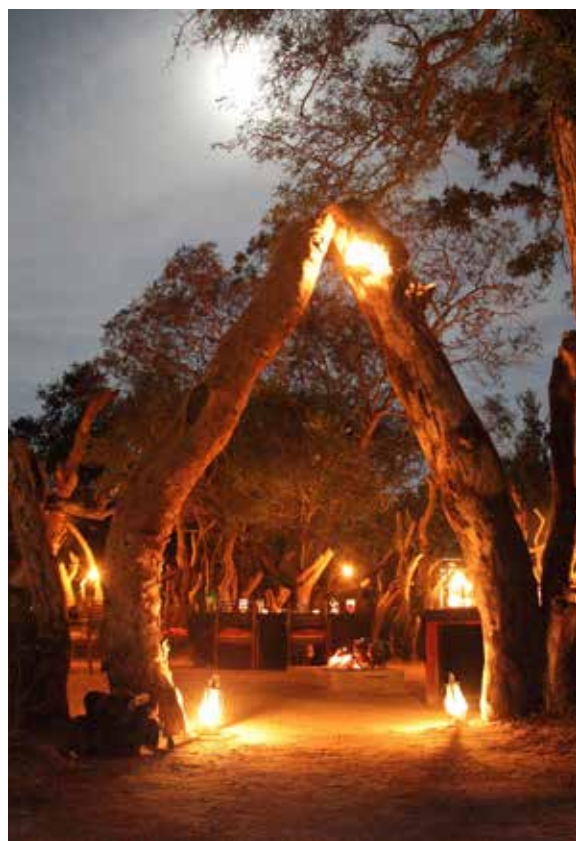
PAMPERED IN NATURE

Within the modern comforts of the lodge, the spoils continue with pampering spa treatments, High Tea, and romantic dinners in the wine cellar. With bush views from the sprawling wooden decks and all living areas, guests may enjoy game viewing from the lodge as elephants, buck, and troops of monkeys pass by.

Tintswalo Safari Lodge is easily accessible via a short drive from Hoedspruit airport, or guests can opt for a leisurely six-hour drive/shuttle service from Johannesburg, ideal for those who prefer a scenic road trip.

For more information, visit www.tintswalo.com.

*by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **tintswalo safari lodge***





SA SPECIAL RATES ON OFFER!

Sharing an unfenced boundary with the renowned Greater Kruger National Park, Tintswalo Safari Lodge is located in the pristine Manyeleti Nature Reserve, offering phenomenal Big 5 game viewing with low vehicle density on sightings. Boasting 24,000 hectares of untouched African wilderness Safari Lodge is easily accessible via a short drive from Hoedspruit airport, or a six-hour drive from Johannesburg.

Fully accredited, qualified guides and local trackers take guests on authentic African safari experiences with exceptional game viewing offered twice daily in open safari vehicles. The abundance of wildlife guarantees uninterrupted, intimate encounters with a great variety of animals

A landmark of luxury accommodation and the authentic Tintswalo service, guests are accommodated in luxuriously decorated suites that reflect the adventures of the 19th century Africa explorers.

Contact our reservations team for the specials on offer now.



TINTSWALO

SAFARI LODGE

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www.tintswalo.com



YOUR YEAR IN WINE

Top 10 Wine Trends to Watch in 2022

Forget this year's new fashion trends, and join *Signature* as we explore the one trend that never goes out of style – wine.

Wine, the nectar of the gods, the elixir of life... We call wine by many names and enjoy drinking it for different reasons, at different times of the year. Wine can be fun and fashionable, and new trends in wine emerge each year. The team at Platter's by Diners Club South African Wine Guide share their predictions of what is on-trend in wine in 2022.

1. ROSÉ À LA FRANÇAISE

Though semi- and full-sweet rosé wines still dominate, increased sophistication inspired by the fashionable Provence region of France is resulting in drier, lighter and paler wines (more "onion skin" in colour than "pink") – pretty to look at, and perfect for the likes of shellfish and charcuterie.

2. FACE THE STRANGE

More and more trials with different grape varieties are happening, and the coming years will require local wine lovers to learn some new names (in Greek and Italian, for example), as well as flavours and textures. Ice-cold Assyrtiko, anyone?

3. THE STALWARTS

Experiments with exotic varieties remain on a small scale, however. Overall, Chenin Blanc and Colombard are still the most-planted white-wine grapes, with Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz as the majority red-wine grapes.

4. GOLDEN OLDIES

The rediscovery of previously unfashionable varieties continues. Chenin Blanc, once an overlooked workhorse, is the greatest example. Cinsaut has featured similarly in the



last decade, and now Colombard is getting more limelight and revealing hitherto unexpected virtues.

5. HAND-ME-DOWN VINES

Many rediscovered grape varieties come from vineyards that are recognised as “old” – 35 years or more. Look for the Old Vine Project’s Certified Heritage Vineyard seal on the bottle – it indicates the year the vines were planted.

6. BARRELS OF ALTERNATIVES

When maturing their wines, more

cellars are replacing or supplementing traditional small wooden barrels with larger casks (or *foudres*), or non-wood vessels like concrete tanks, porcelain jars and terracotta amphoras.

7. LIGHT IS LEKKER

Previously the mantra of a select few young guns, “lightness and freshness”, is reaching ever more broadly and deeply into the local zeitgeist. Softer tannins and less wood influence make for more charming and appetising wines, delicious on release with ageing potential.



8. WINE IN A CAN

Legal in SA only since 2019, and from a market share of just a tenth of one per cent, wine in aluminium cans is racing ahead. Numerous new brands are piling onto retail shelves, and big-producer names are also taking advantage of the novelty, convenience and recyclability afforded by the lightweight packaging.

9. FINESSE - THE NEW SUPERPOWER

The swing from big, swashbuckling wines (especially reds) continues, and there are increasing numbers of serious, top-scoring bottlings with food-friendly alcohol levels between 11.5% and 12.5%.

10. NO-LO WINES ON A ROLL, WITH A CAVEAT

Though still at a modest level, demand for low-alcohol (by law under 10%) and de-alcoholised wines (under 0.5%) grows. However, the challenge for producers remains to truly reduce the taste gap between traditional and Lo-No wines. ¹¹

text *supplied* /
photography by *unsplash.com*





Shumbalala Game Lodge - An African Dream

In the vast wilderness of South Africa's hot northern plains, adjacent to the famous Kruger National Park, deep within an ancient tapestry of natural wonder, you will chance upon SHUMBALALA GAME LODGE.

From your early morning game drive or bush walk in the Big 5 Thornybush Game Reserve to lazy afternoons at the pool and a sunset safari, tales of the day are told in the wine cellar as you prepare for a sumptuous dinner fire-side al fresco or candle-lit indoors. Choose from four luxury suites or the Presidential Suite, all of which have private viewing decks and picture window bathrooms. Wake up knowing that each day will allow for the adventure and peace of Africa to enter your soul – in a place where the lion sleeps.

info@shumbalala.co.za | +27 (0)728122172

www.shumbalala.co.za

LIFESTYLE

WHISKY MADE TO MUSIC

The #BainsxTellaman Bain's Symphony combines whisky and music through the craftsmanship of Bain's founder distiller Andy Watts and music sensation Tellaman, maturing their first collaboration – a seven-year-old whisky – to pulsing soundwaves. The proudly South African single grain whisky started its life as Bain's Cape Mountain Whisky – double matured for five years in first-fill ex-bourbon casks. Instead of then being released, the whisky was left for a further two years in the original second

set of American oak barrels, and a further three months in a specially designed sonic cellar, where the soundwaves of Tellaman's music vibrated through the barrels. www.bainswhisky.com

WIN!

A lucky reader can win a bottle of Bain's Symphony whisky to the value of R375. To enter, SMS the word **BAINS** along with your **NAME** and **EMAIL** to 41277. SMSs charged at standard rates. Free & bundled SMS do not apply. Ts & Cs apply. Closes 31 May 2022. *Not for sale to persons under the age of 18.*



MAKE A MEAL OF IT

The multi-functional Mi Smart Air Fryer 3.5L includes eight pre-set modes and performs as a food dehydrator, a microwave, a defroster, and a yoghurt maker. There's even a setting for baking cakes. Its 360-degree hot air circulation allows cooking food with less oil and lower fat. It connects over Bluetooth 4.0 and Wi-Fi and is supported by the Mi Home App, with access to over 100 recipes. It also works with Google Assistant and Alexa. Available at www.mia.africa.com at a recommended retail price of R2,099.

ESSE #30DAY REWILD CHALLENGE

Humans have been upsetting the balance in nature for too long. The pollution of the environment has had devastating consequences for ecosystems worldwide. In much the same way, cheap synthetic chemicals in modern skincare regimes upset the balance of the skin's natural microbiome – a finely-tuned ecosystem of microbes and human cells that evolved over hundreds of thousands of years. Rather than healing the skin, the increased use of chemical-based products has polluted its ecosystem, leading to a rise in sensitivity and inflammatory skin conditions. Now, you can cut out these harmful chemicals in your skincare routine and get your best skin back in 30 days. Esse's #30dayrewild challenge, running to the end of April 2022, seeks to return skin to its roots, providing it with the natural support it needs to rehabilitate its own microbiome. The Esse limited-edition #30dayrewild Pack is available through all Esse stockists and relevant online stores. www.esseskincare.com





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THE PERFECT WINTER SPRUCE

Warm Up at the Always Welcome Store

The game-changing Always Welcome collective's Garreth van Niekerk lets us in on some style secrets and trends to bring your home to life this winter.

Papa Sim Sofa by Haldane Martin





The Always Welcome Store in Johannesburg began as an idea to bring the design community together with an innovative retail model that has, since launch, seen over 30 of Southern Africa's leading designer-makers join forces to create new opportunities for the local design scene. Almost two years since opening at Hyde Park Corner, the fledgling project now includes some of the biggest names in furniture design like Dokter and Misses, Houtlander and Haldane Martin, fast-growing design studios like The Urbanative, Joe Paine Studio and Mash T Studio, and up-and-comers like the exciting Douglas and Company, House of Harzah, Something Good Studio, and many others.

Always Welcome is also expanding with the March 2022 launch of our e-commerce platform and the launch of

the Always Welcome Viewing Rooms in the Johannesburg-North design district of Kramerville. The opening of the Viewing Rooms kicks off our partnership with luxury home automation group Planetworld, seeing us pair the world's leading audio-visual brands — such as Sonos, among others — with the latest designs from our designer stable.

The vast space will break the boundary between design, decor, and electronics. It features three home cinema rooms, two audio 'escape pods', several lounges, dining areas, bedrooms, boardrooms, outdoor areas, a bar, and other home experience zones, aiming to bring the dream of living with Southern African design into a tangible reality for any customer, regardless of their budget. The Viewing Rooms will also be the home of our new Always Welcome Materials Library, where South Africa's leading home hardware and material

suppliers will be available for viewing and sampling.

As our families evolve, including our Always Welcome family, it has never been more important to embrace change and bring fresh vitality into our personal spaces. For the design industry, observing the changing of the seasons, and responding to them with our work, becomes one of the ways to mark time and to move on.

Post-COVID, there has never been a better time to bring something new into your home, and mark a new period for yourself. Here are a few ways to update your space for a new season, and new you.

SOOTHING COLOURS

The mercury may be dropping, but being able to still spend time in the sun, albeit under a blanket, is one of the simple pleasures of a South African winter. Where better to kick back than

SensorWash shower-toilet seat from Duravit



in one of Haldane Martin's outdoor sofas? Designed using materials that will survive even the most extreme weather, Martin's furniture also comes in a range of bright and on-trend colours that will leave you feeling uplifted and inspired, no matter the weather.

SUBTLE PATTERNS

The Dokter and Misses studio may be renowned for their graphic use of colour, but their new Holiday range of

cabinets – all completely customisable – also incorporate subtle pattern details that have been engraved into the surface of each piece, and have been hugely popular with our design-obsessed customers.

WARMING TEXTURES

Nothing restores the often cold cut of contemporary architecture and interiors than the texture of timber, something that the team at the Johannesburg-based Houtlander studio have perfected in their sensitive carpentry work. They recently launched their Tambour collection at Always Welcome, and we can't get enough of the smooth lines and elegant detailing of each piece, particularly the mirrored Tambour Drinks Cabinet – something every stylish home needs.

UNCONVENTIONAL ART

Every good interior needs the grounding of carefully selected art and sculpture – but they needn't be from the usual suspects. Artist Trevor Stuurman joined the collective from the outset, and his prints from Senegal, transport any interior to far-off places, allowing you to dream and your eye to wander. Sculptural ceramics like those produced by artist Gina Waldman will also bring unique forms and shapes into your space.

COSY TEXTILES

No winter makeover would be complete without a new blanket, and the cosiest of sheets. The range of artist-

designed blankets by Something Good Studio gets better the more you use them, and add something special wherever they are draped. We're also loving the feel of the T-Shirt Bed Co's sheets, which will make you think twice about ever sleeping in Egyptian Cotton again.

IMMERSIVE SOUND

There's nothing we love more in winter than sitting in a favourite sunny spot, turning on a favourite album, and reading the paper. Yet, nothing can be as frustrating as trying to connect speakers, a television, and other devices when all you want to do is chill. That's why we love Sonos so much, with its innovative and super user-friendly tech to bring it all together in a completely seamless way.

Make sure to visit us at our stores in Johannesburg, but if you can't get to one of them, spend some time browsing the site, where you can shop rooms, make wish lists, and read stories about making a space your own with the best in Southern African design.

Visit www.alwayswelcome.store, or follow them on Instagram @ [always_welcome_store](https://www.instagram.com/always_welcome_store) and Facebook @ [alwayswelcomestore](https://www.facebook.com/alwayswelcomestore). 📍



Move Wireless Speaker by Sonos

by [garreth van niekerk](#) /
photography supplied by [always welcome](#)

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FEAT OF CLAY

Jan Ernst Exhibits in Paris and New York

South African ceramic designer Jan Ernst is a multidisciplinary creative specialising in functional art and spatial design using clay as his primary medium. The work is driven by his fascination with natural structures such as corals, fungi, and rock formations. His organic designs stem from his abstract understanding of form and space influenced by his background in architecture, his connection with the natural world, and his South African heritage.



Jan Ernst recently exhibited his collectable design pieces through the New York branch of international contemporary sculptural design and art gallery, Galerie Philia. After the first leg of the exhibition, entitled “Into the Wild”, select pieces moved on to Galerie Philia in Paris.

“Into the Wild” is an original concept organized by Galerie Philia that showcases hand-sculpted art design pieces in natural landscapes. According to the gallery, “this physical translation enables the public to admire the design artworks in a novel way by creating a fruitful discrepancy. The eyes look and apprehend the works creatively in this particular context. Silent resonances hatch and multiply between the artworks and the surrounding nature. The idea is to convey a distinct sight of what sculptural design work is...”

For “Into the Wild”, Ernst’s poetic clay works are pictured against the spectacular setting of the Cederberg region in South Africa. Driven by his fascination with natural structures, Ernst presents his sculptural artworks in an enigmatic natural environment where







marks of ancient human presence can be felt.

"It is incredible to be taking a bit of South Africa to the show, as my work is inspired by the natural landscapes that we have here," he says. "Most of the designers on the show come from Europe and the US, so it is refreshing to see designs from other parts of the world that attract interest. And it is fantastic to exhibit in New York and Paris, where the elite of the design world hangs out!" he adds.

There are roughly ten pieces on the show, and Ernst describes them as a "very eclectic collection". His candelabra, seed pod vessels, table lamps, eye lamp, worm lamp, and squiggle side table have been included.

"It is, of course, an incredible honour to be exhibiting with other emerging and established artists from around the world – there are some very big names on the show, such as Rick Owens, who is a well-known fashion designer. I am thrilled to be on an international platform with designers of that calibre."

LOCAL CONNECTION

In addition to showcasing internationally, Ernst recently exhibited his work in South Africa as part of the





landmark group show “Right Here, Right Now!” at Union House in Cape Town. This substantial exhibition of contemporary local design and art debuted new pieces by a range of designers and finalists of the Nando’s Hot Young Designer Talent Search (HYD). “Right Here, Right Now!” was curated by Creative Director Tracy Lynch of Clout/SA and marked the public launch of Clout/SA.

Clout/SA is a purpose-first enterprise, creative agency, and business-to-business (B2B) market-maker for South African design. The aim is to promote South Africa’s

creativity, craftsmanship and heritage. Additionally, creating opportunities for collaboration between corporates and designers is a primary driver.

Ernst was included in “Right Here, Right Now!” to highlight the Clout/SA’s capacity to support the placement of limited edition pieces alongside designs that can be reproduced in multiple units. Ernst’s relationship with Clout/SA originated through HYD; he was a Top 10 finalist in the competition’s previous round.

Ernst credits HYD and Clout/SA as motivating factors for launching his stand-alone brand Jan Ernst. He started his collectable design brand after

participating in the HYD competition.

“I took part in HYD through my architectural studio, which I run with my business partner, and only subsequently started my own separate brand of collectable design focusing on ceramics. Being exposed to that way of critical thinking about furniture and design was a contributing factor in establishing my own brand. With the architectural studio, we were dipping into interior design but not necessarily product design, so the HYD was a pivotal point.”

After this prompt, Ernst started “playing with clay”, an exploration that evolved into his organic-inspired limited edition pieces that are all entirely hand-built, strikingly singular, and beginning to take the international design world by storm.

For more information on Jan Ernst, visit www.jan-ernst.com, or go to www.galerie-phia.com/jan-ernst for more information on Galerie Philia. For info on Clout/SA visit www.clout-sadesign.co.za. The exhibition will be in Paris until 29 April 2022, by appointment only - info@galerie-phia.com. 

*by **jaylene williams**
photography by **jan ernst***



FRANSCHHOEK

COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS



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



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TREADING BOLDLY

Hibacci Footwear Raise the Bar for Africa in International Fashion

Africa's e-fashion segment has flourished in recent years. A 2020 Statista report predicted that Africa's e-commerce fashion industry would reach 47bn USD by 2025 after exceeding 21bn USD in 2020. International Policy Digest sees fashion short on the heels of agriculture, Africa's largest income-generating sector.

of South Africa's high-profile sneaker brands, Hibacci. Dayimani, a respected sportsman currently competing in this year's Currie Cup, started to dabble in rugby boot design a few years ago. Dlamini observed Dayimani's knack for business and pitched his ideas to customise Dayimani's boots. After they met, they decided to go into business together and launch the sneaker outlet. The rest is history.

a collage of titles honouring the victims of domestic assault. The shoe was designed to initially appeal to Hibacci's male customers and initiate awareness against misconduct. Dlamini and Dayimani decided against marketing the sneaker for profit and used it as a platform to support the cause instead.

"Aside from using Hibacci as a platform to address societal issues, we are serious about implementing the

While African designers are often praised on European runways, African high-fashion in Africa is not where it could, or should be – attracting international buyers who are willing to pay international rates for bespoke African apparel.

After Johannesburg based Bheka Dlamini (26), and Cape Town resident, Hacjivah Dayimani (24), connected on Instagram, it wasn't long before the two aspiring entrepreneurs established one

A LOCAL SUCCESS

Since it was established in 2019, Hibacci has been doing the rounds in notable networks, circling among South African artists and entertainers, and backing activist initiatives, including speaking against violence against women and children. Following a series of domestic violence campaigns in 2020, including the #MeToo movement, Dlamini and Dayimani drafted a sneaker on which they embedded a series of neon printed names. The sneaker displays Hibacci's signature minimalist style, and once in neon lighting, its profile reveals





sustainable manufacturing of quality footwear for global stages,” says Dlamini. “It’s also about promoting ‘brand South Africa’ and letting the world know we can deliver on fashion lines that can rank high in international markets.”

Dlamini started customising sneakers while studying for a bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design, and catered

for local DJs and celebrities. Advertisers saw his potential, and Dlamini started his professional venture creating exciting national campaigns. His career took off unexpectedly, allowing him to advance his skills in the commercial arena. “I never imagined securing a sought-after position in brand development through customised footwear,” admits Dlamini. “If you truly believe in your talents and remain resilient, you will eventually get closer to your dream of success.”

“South Africa’s talent is rife, and it’s important to acknowledge and encourage the up-and-coming designers who stay true to African fashion when competing on international runways,” adds Dlamini.

Dayimani’s humble entrepreneurial beginnings were as a petrol assistant and paver, and he sold fruit and sweets at school to help his mother make ends meet. “Since I was young, I had a consistent drive to fend for myself and my family, be creative and remain passionate about the things I was good at, including my rugby career,” says Dayimani. The flanker said to run a sub-11 second 100 meters is known to pull hat tricks and devise strategic patterns on the field to support his fellow players. Last year, he signed a two-year contract with the Western Province Provincial Rugby.

Entering its third year, Hibacci plans to expand its online catalogue to clothing essentials and launch its first walk-in store in Johannesburg or Cape Town. In the interim, they are looking to stock footwear in select boutique fashion retailers in and outside South Africa.

Hibacci products are available exclusively at www.hibacci.com. 

Grow together



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Exploring sideways is all about getting off the beaten track and experiencing the South African winelands like never before. Unforgettable moments with Diners Club. Apply today





HANDCRAFTED WITH HEART

Banhoek Chilli Oil

Just like the fiery chillies that flavour this award-winning oil, from tiny seeds, come great things...

It may be a brand and bottle you've already seen in the shopping aisles, received as a gourmet gift or enjoyed drizzled over a sumptuous meal, with the humble origins of their kitchen starting in the founders' garage – this is the ultimate 'side hustle' turned success story.

After years of frustration at not being able to enjoy the “sauce piquant” chilli oil they had previously discovered while living in Europe, founders Ken Kinsey-Quick and Adi Meintjes set out to create their own premium oil – testing and trialling dozens of variations of chillies, oils and production methods until they got it just right. What began as a passion project has since grown into a thriving enterprise, now sold in hundreds of stores across southern Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This is more than a quick glimpse behind the brand, though. The more time spent with the team, and in their newly-launched space in Stellenbosch's magnificent Banhoek Valley, the more

fully one grasps the sense of community and generosity of spirit that propels it all forward.

GROWING THE COMMUNITY

Sibongile Mateyisi, who now heads up production, initially met Ken when he arrived at his home one day and as part of a garden maintenance company – another one of the countless casual labourers seeking work, and a wage, across South Africa each day. His energy, enthusiasm, and eagerness to learn was soon evident to the founders, who quickly acted on his potential – training him to produce Banhoek Chilli Oil products.

He soon flourished, and within two short years, Sibongile was in charge of the entire production process, transforming sacks of raw chillies into the delicious, infused oil you find in your pantry today. More than working on behalf of the brand, a few years back, Sibongile approached the owners with a plan. Wanting to be more involved, he offered to invest in the company with his own hard-earned salary.

He was welcomed as one of the shareholders, and, to date, his investment has been matched rand for rand, increasing his stake in the future success of Banhoek Chilli Oil.

The community involvement doesn't end there either. Catering to the community as a whole and serving the space they now call home, Banhoek Chilli Oil has structured its business to ensure sustainable and responsible business practices that help to uplift the surrounding area. They do this by employing neighbouring locals, wherever possible, to grow, tend to, sun dry, and ultimately harvest the chillies – earning them year-round work and transformative growth potential.

With a dream to eventually be able to purchase all of their chillies from the local community, worldwide growth into new markets on the horizon, and constantly-inspired new recipes made even tastier with the help of this chilli-infused canola oil – it is little wonder that Banhoek Chilli Oil is going from strength to strength.

Foodie friends, and all those looking to learn more about this growing enterprise, are invited to take a factory tour, enjoy a light meal at the on-site 'Taste Kitchen', and taste the handcrafted oils in various stages of production at their newly built space, named after the valley they call home.

Travellers braving the Helshoogte Pass between the historic towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek – be sure to keep a keen eye out for this new modern build, where they're always ready and waiting to deliver the perfect balance of fire and flavour.

For more information, visit www.banhoekchillioil.co.za. 📍



by *josie eveleigh* /
photography by *banhoek chilli oil*



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LUXURY **IS NEVER** OPTIONAL

The New Range Rover

Land Rover South Africa's biggest reveal of the year is imminent, but before we get to drive the luxurious behemoth, Land Rover granted us an exclusive preview of their only homologation model.



Although officially launched in 1970, the Range Rover luxury wagon's origins stretch farther back to the middle of the 20th century.

In 1951, Land Rover began experimenting with a larger model than the Land Rover Series, with the aim of creating a vehicle that could carry more passengers in greater style than the utilitarian Land Rover allowed. Developed on the Rover P4, the "Road Rover" was eventually shelved in 1958 and lay dormant until late 1966 when it was resurrected with a new vision:

to create an uncompromising luxury off-roader for the elite. And a car that could not only go anywhere but could go there in unqualified style.

The first prototype Range Rover was finalised in 1967, and a further 26 Velar-badged development vehicles were constructed between 1969 and 1970. Interestingly, the Velar name was derived from the Italian "velare", meaning to veil or cover. Range Rover development engineer, Geof Miller, used the name as a decoy for registering pre-production Range Rovers.

The Range Rover was finally officially launched in 1970 and garnered significant praise from motoring enthusiasts and design aficionados alike. It even cracked a nod as an "exemplary work of industrial design" from the Louvre Museum in the early 1970s.

FAST FORWARD

Five generations in, the New Range Rover stands proud as Land Rover's most advanced, luxurious, and, many would argue, most beautiful creation



ever. Land Rover South Africa plans to launch the car officially in the middle of the year and has brought a homologation unit to South Africa to prepare for the big car's big day.

Revealed to the international media back in October 2021 (see our launch review in the December 2021 edition), it was clear that the New Range Rover had evolved far beyond where the current model is, both aesthetically and in terms of technical proficiency. Yet, as is often the case, the full impact of the car's imposing presence can only truly be experienced in the metal, so to speak.

Land Rover revealed the new Range Rover at the Land Rover Experience Centre in Johannesburg, where we had the opportunity to poke and prod the new car, uncovering many of the design and techno tricks it has up its sleeve.

PERSONALISATION IS KEY

The New Range Rover is the marque's most powerful yet, and along with that, it is also the most technologically progressive.

Looking first at the seats, Land Rover has gone all-out to craft exquisite seats for all passengers, using materials that provide a soft yet firm set of seats. Even the headrests are designed to adjust in multiple ways, allowing a perfect fit for each occupant. Land Rover and its partners have also gone the extra mile to ensure that the sustainability factor of the materials used is the highest of any Range Rover ever. The interior upholstery, for example, uses a high number of recycled materials, including a near-aniline leather that uses fewer dyes and chemicals yet retains a high-end luxurious feel.

Wood veneer surfaces abound in the cabin, but instead of simply laying swathes of wood on strategic places, wood veneer surfaces comprise many individually-cut pieces that have been painstakingly applied by hand. Customers have the luxury of choosing from as many as 1.6 million possible configurations and enhancements for

their Range Rover, including multiple bespoke paint finishes, metal trims, sustainable fabrics, a variety of alloy wheel designs, and ceramic surfaces.

In the tradition of the most bespoke of British luxury automobiles, the New Range Rover takes personalisation to a new level.

TECHNOLOGY FOR A NEW AGE

Naturally, once driven at launch, a more in-depth analysis of the features aboard the New Range Rover will follow, but for now, we'll glance over the trickery that has been confirmed for availability in South Africa.

The centre point to the New Range Rover's digital interior offering is the new Pivi Pro infotainment system with its 13.1" touchscreen curved display. With a built-in navigation system with voice recognition, along with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, seamless connectivity is guaranteed, while a Meridian sound system with Range Rover's trademark immersive surround sound experience is a superb foundational addition to the tech line-up.

As we have experienced with previous Range Rover and Land Rover models, digital touchscreens abound in the cabin, and ahead of the driver, a 13.7" display shows vehicle status, trip information, navigation info, entertainment system updates and more, all controlled remotely via the steering wheel.

Rear passengers are as ensconced in luxury as the front passengers are, with an equally impressive array of tech to play with. Depending on the chosen customisation and seating options, this may include individually electrically-adjustable seats and individual entertainment screens for each seat. Individual rear climate control is par for the course as well.

NOTABLE LINE-UP

Land Rover South Africa has made the full array of models available to local buyers. A choice of HSE and









autobiography models can be had, with a First Edition special – finished in Sunset Gold satin paint – available in the first year of Range Rover production.

For the first time, Range Rover will be available in a seven-seat configuration, although the standard five-seat car will likely retain its popularity in our estimation. For owners seeking a more exclusive cabin experience, a Range Rover SV with the Signature Suite cabin will provide a maximum of four seats, with more than 90 cm of legroom available in the rear.

For most models, a short-wheelbase and long-wheelbase version will be available, the latter providing the additional room required for a third row of seats.

The New Range Rover will debut with three engine options, including a new BMW-sourced P530 4.4-litre V8 engine featuring two parallel twin-scroll

turbos. Producing 390 kW and 750 Nm of torque, the behemoth promises to deliver a zero to 100 km/h sprint time of 4.6 seconds (with Dynamic Launch engaged), with a quoted top speed of 250 km/h. A 3.0-litre straight-six turbodiesel motor is offered in the D350 model series, boasting 257 kW and 700 Nm of torque and a 100 km/h sprint time of 6.1 seconds.

A third drivetrain option in the form of the P510e plug-in hybrid combines Land Rover's 375 kW straight six-petrol engine with a 38.2 kWh lithium-ion battery and a 105 kW electric motor. Reported to have a range of 113 km, the hybrid Range Rover should shift to 100 km/h from standstill in 5.6 seconds.

Finally, an all-electric version is scheduled to take a bow in 2024.

Power across the Range Rover range is delivered via an eight-speed ZF-sourced automatic transmission.

IN SUMMARY

In these changing times, crafting a desirable, luxurious vehicle such as the New Range Rover can be challenging. Customers demand ever-increasing levels of luxury and technology, requiring ever more complicated systems. It remains to be seen how the New Range Rover stacks up against its revered forebears. Undoubtedly, the new car will, unlike many of its predecessors, probably not see too many jaunts of the off-road variety, as history has proven Range Rover's ability to tackle even the most challenging terrain with grace and ease. Then again, at a projected entry price of around R2.86 million, who would want to risk the dings and scratches that inevitably come with driving off the beaten track? 

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TO ENTERTAIN



CRUISING INTO 2023

The world's leading culinary- and destination-focused cruise line, Oceania Cruises, opened its recently unveiled 2023 Europe and North America Collection of voyages for bookings. The new collection is the line's most expansive and diverse offering to date, featuring seven ships sailing 179 itineraries, calling on more than 260 ports. Charting the alluring coastlines of the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Baltic and Scandinavia, Alaska, Canada, and the Colonial Americas, each voyage is a masterpiece of exploration that reveals iconic cities, off-the-beaten-path villages, and dramatic, unspoiled natural wonders. "These new voyages are ideal for discerning travellers seeking to re-discover the world," stated Bob Binder, President & CEO of Oceania Cruises. www.oceaniacruises.com

POP-UP PICNICS

A series of SA Cheese Festival Pop-up Picnics will take place over four weekends in April 2022. The SA Cheese Festival Pop-up Picnics are presented with select partners at four of the Cape's most popular picnic destinations – from the Winelands to Walker Bay to the West Coast and back to the Winelands. The first Pop-up Picnic will take place on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 April 2022 at Warwick Wine Estate outside Stellenbosch, the second on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April 2022 at Benguela Cove Wine Estate outside Hermanus, the third on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April 2022 at Groote Post Wine Estate outside Darling, and the fourth and final on Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May 2022 at Sandringham outside Stellenbosch.



ANEW LOYALTY PROGRAMME

ANEW has launched its first loyalty programme, ANEW Rewards, which will be based on a simple reward system to benefit all guests, where they can earn "Wena Bucks". Joining ANEW Rewards is straightforward, with everything done in just a few minutes online. There are no forms that need to be filled out or cards that need to be processed. What's more, joining the rewards programme comes at no cost to the ANEW customer. For every R1 spent at any ANEW hotel, loyalty members will receive 1 Wena Buck, which can be used towards various hotel and partner benefits. Members can also look forward to hotel room upgrades (subject to availability), discounts on the best available rates, welcome platters on arrival, early check-in/late check-out (subject to availability), and exclusive promotions and competitions. www.anewhotels.com/anew-rewards





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CORBELLED HOUSES **OF THE KAROO**

A Visual Celebration of South Africa's Ancient Corbelled Houses



Stuurmansfontein, Carnarvon — the most well-preserved corbelled house in South Africa

Purchasing diamonds or a ring for your beloved involves both an emotional and financial investment. In the 21st century, it also comes with countless choices, custom styles and available designs. We decided the best starting point would be to consult someone in the know. Enter Cape Diamonds.

One of the lesser known facts of the Karoo, is that scattered over its

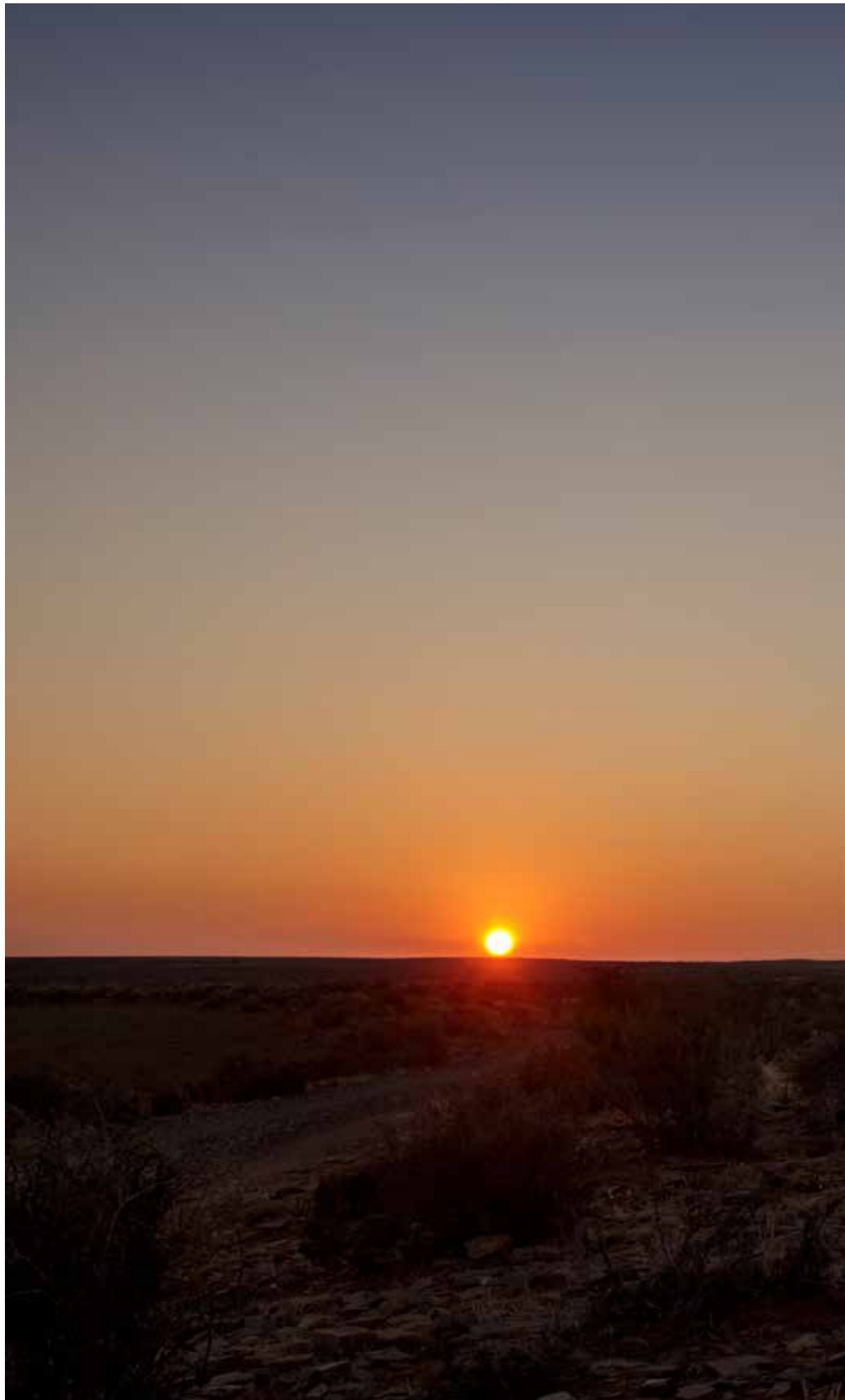
vast landscape you will find about 40 beautifully preserved or renovated corbelled houses, often exquisitely restored as guest accommodation.

These marvels, with their strange architecture, were built in the late 1700s and early 1800s by *Trekboere*. As the landscapes offered little in the way of building materials such as timber, they made use of an ancient method of construction known as corbelling to build their shelters.

This technique was implemented by placing successive layers of flat stone, each one extending a little further inward than the layer beneath, until the walls almost met at the apex. The remaining hole over the roof could then be closed with a single slab. These thick stone walls were excellent insulators against the extreme heat of summer or the winter cold.

The style is not unique to South Africa. Megalithic builders in Mediterranean countries used this building technique from as long ago as 4000 years. This style of architecture found in Spain, Portugal, Turkey, and Italy. Within South Africa, many of the corbelled houses of the Karoo and Northern Cape enjoy heritage status. 🏠

Sunset over Klein Korbeel







LEFT

Droogeputs Korbeel

PREVIOUS PAGE BELOW

Klein Korbeel

Dubbel Korbeel





TURN HAPPY HOUR INTO QUALITEA TIME

Pinterest Predicts More Tea, Less Booze

The two-year pandemic has led to significant shifts in grocery buying patterns as the world became accustomed to spending more time at home. The changing dynamics have worked in favour of the tea industry, with food and beverage experts citing 2022 as the year when consumers will start to prioritise products that deliver functional benefits to improve personal health and well-being.

The pandemic has led to significant shifts in grocery buying patterns as the world became accustomed to spending more time at home. The changing dynamics have worked in favour of the tea industry, with food and beverage experts citing 2022 as the year when consumers will start to prioritise products that deliver functional benefits to improve personal health and well-being.

Among the biggest food and drinks predictions recently announced by social media network Pinterest, “afternoon tea” is to become the new happy hour. Their predictions were based on the interests of their 444 million users worldwide, with many choosing tea with a friend over drinks after work.

Nicie Vorster, a director of the SA Rooibos Council, says online searches for healthy teas, tea pairings, parties and the like have been spiking across age groups, which is good news for the local tea industry.

“It will be interesting to see how European consumers respond to Rooibos now that it has protected designation of origin (PDO) status.”

He notes that consumers are increasingly concerned with the origin and quality of products they consume, and it’s no different for tea.

Rooibos is the first African food

product to receive PDO status from the EU, which identifies and links a product to a specific region, associating its quality and reputation to that area, making it a more sought-after product.

Going forward, all Rooibos products sold in the EU will bear the PDO seal, distinguishing it from other teas.

He says the overall demand for functional (healthy) food and drinks, like Rooibos, is gaining momentum locally and abroad, thus the sector is expected to grow exponentially.

In SA, the hot tea category is forecast to register the fastest value growth at a CAGR of 7.5% over the next three years and is the largest in volume terms, registering sales of 33.1 million kg in 2020.

“In top-end retail, over the last twelve months (ending September 2021), the tea market grew 0.4% in volume to 14 kilotons and 3.8% in value to R2.6 billion.

“The black tea segment is the largest within the tea category contributing 47.8% value (R1.2 billion), followed by Rooibos with 30.8% (R788 million) and speciality teas with 21.4% (R547.6 million).”

DOMINANT TEA TRENDS

Adaptogenic Teas (wellness tea)

An adaptogen is a plant extract that is believed to increase the body’s ability to fight the damaging effects of stress and inflammation, and promotes normal physiological functioning. “Many

consumers are adding complex herbal blends to their tea, like chamomile, ginger, turmeric and ginseng to enhance further the health benefits of the teas they drink. To make it easier for time-constrained consumers, many of these adaptogens have now been added to Rooibos products,” remarks Vorster.

Customisation

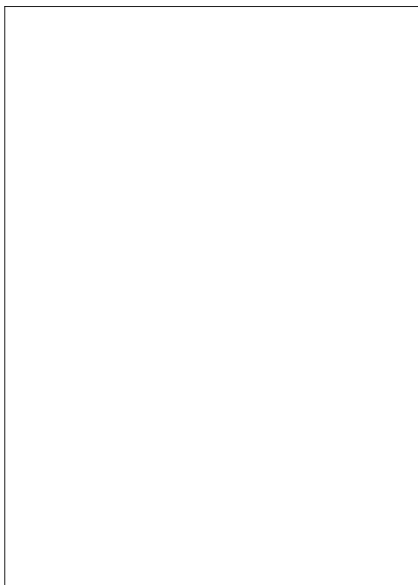
Personalisation is huge, especially with customer tastes becoming more discerning. Designing your own tea by mixing different flavours for a unique taste and further personalising it by giving it a name, enables individuals to express themselves while satisfying their taste buds.

Ready to Drink Teas

RTD teas are gaining popularity and are seen as healthier alternatives to canned or bottled fizzy drinks. Watch this space as marketers launch a greater variety of cold teas to choose from in the short- to medium term.

Tea Experiences

Tea lovers will seek out restaurants and cafés with an extensive tea menu. Many enjoy brewing loose leaf tea and will search for the same immersive experience at an eatery where they can indulge in unique blends and flavours. The emergence of tea pairing menus will also become more prominent and attract new customers looking for a sensory experience.



Subscriptions

A few years ago, the tea subscription business model mainly was niche, but the pandemic jolted consumers out of routine purchase behaviours, propelling online sales and home delivery. “The model involves ordering tea in a variety of forms directly to your door. Tea subscriptions



are becoming more prevalent, and it's also a great way to retain and cultivate customer loyalty, which will become more critical than ever in a very competitive space,” adds Vorster.

Tea Cocktails & Mocktails

With the sober curious trend taking off and fewer people drinking alcohol during a night out, tea-based drinks are becoming a staple in trendy bars and pubs worldwide. “Tea makes for an ideal base ingredient and offers a much greater variety of options when it comes to mixing alcoholic and even non-alcoholic drinks. It also adds a different dimension to many favourite cocktail formats.”

Gifting

Specialty and novelty teas are also becoming a popular gifting option in 2022. High quality, premium tea has become a thing of sophisticated consumption. Much like aficionados will go to the ends of the earth to search for gourmet quality coffee, tea will follow the same path. Significantly, younger consumers are eager to try new tea varieties and different brewing techniques. The trend is likely to boost sales of teaware and accessories, such as infusers and strainers, along with gourmet teas and customised blends in fancy packaging.

Certification & Traceability

Certified sustainable tea is a must for a growing number of consumers for whom ethical tea sourcing, traceability and environmental sustainability are

important. It's also becoming a priority for the industry at large. Certified tea sales grew by 49% over the last few years and included tea with Rainforest Alliance and UTZ certification, as well as organic and Fairtrade accreditation.

Without a doubt, the pandemic boosted speciality tea sales worldwide, which gives the sector a distinct advantage. As new consumers turned to tea and existing tea drinkers drank more tea to boost their immunity and general health, COVID-19 solidified the market for immune-boosting products.

Since consumers are likely to make tea a part of their everyday wellness routine for some time to come, we can expect to see more tea products positioned as superfoods with added functional ingredients like probiotics, adaptogens and vitamins.

“The tea industry is fast changing to adapt to the dynamics trends of the day, and we look forward to watching these take shape in grocery aisles and other sectors of the market this year,” says Vorster. 

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