

SIGNATURE

The Diners Club International Magazine

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THE TORII GATES

Kyoto, Japan

Outdoor Entertaining
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from the MD



Welcome

Esh Naidoo
Managing Director

Greetings, valued Diners Club cardholders! As autumn settles over South Africa, I'm delighted to welcome you to the first 2025 edition of *Signature*. Leading Diners Club South Africa, my passion is connecting you to extraordinary experiences, and this issue is your invitation to explore a world of possibilities.

This season, we're enhancing your journey with ClubMiles rewards – perfect for that next adventure – and exclusive Beyond Card perks for travel and dining. Inside these pages, you'll find inspiration to make the most of 2025:

embark on a cultural escape with our travel feature on Kyoto, Japan, where timeless temples meet modern allure, or elevate your autumn gatherings with our guide to outdoor entertaining. Plus, get behind the wheel of the Mercedes-Benz EQE350 SUV – a stunning fusion of luxury and innovation.

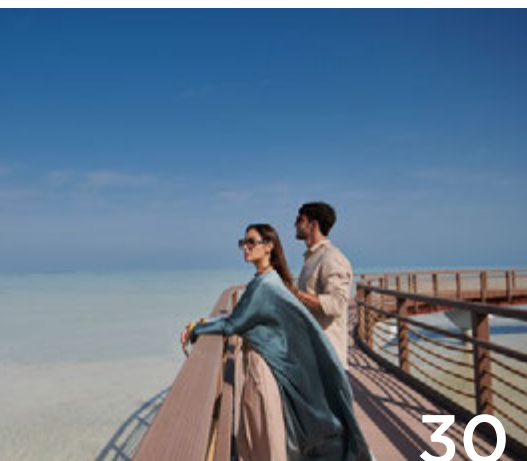
Signature is your companion to a life filled with discovery and belonging. Flip through, soak up the stories, and let's make this year one of unforgettable moments together. Here's to new horizons and the joys of the season!

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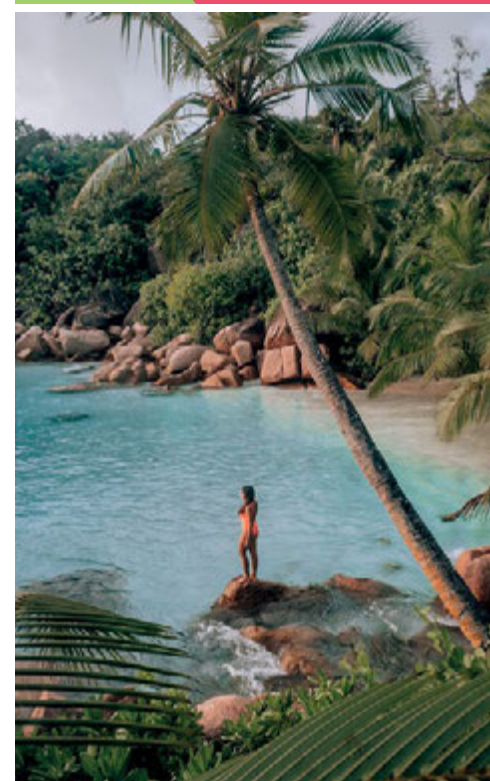
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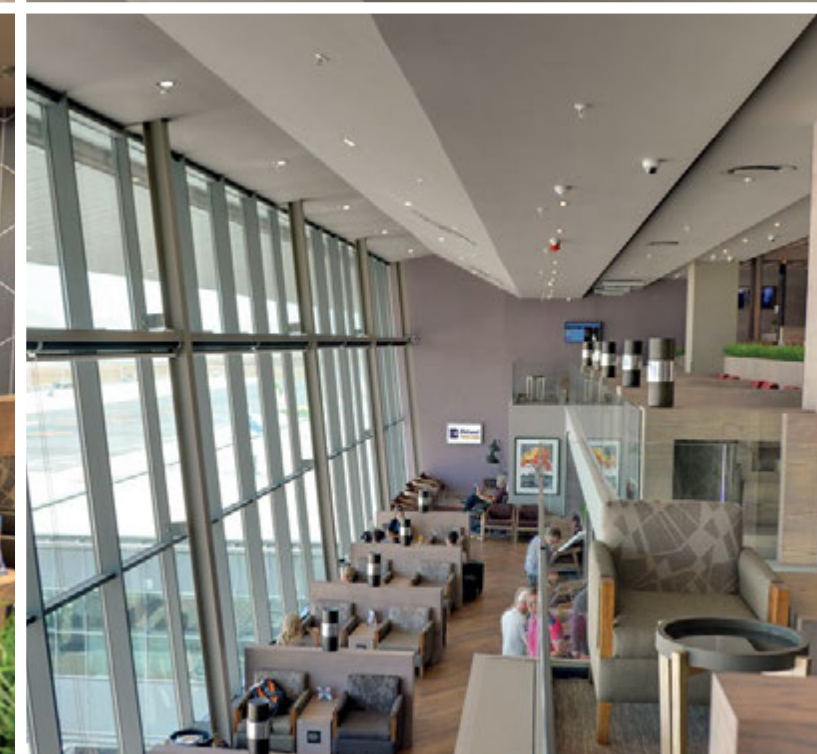
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Discover the beauty of South Africa's Garden Route with three exceptional retreats - Hunter's Country House, Tsala Treetop Lodge, and Gorah Elephant Camp. Hunter's Country House offers a tranquil escape surrounded by lush well-established gardens and the majestic Tsitsikamma Mountains, perfect for couples and families. Tsala Treetop Lodge, elevated among the trees, provides luxury and panoramic views, blending African heritage with modern

design for an unforgettable stay. For a true safari adventure, Gorah Elephant Camp offers intimate game drives, guided bush walks, and an habituated meerkat experience within the malaria-free Addo Elephant National Park, home to the Big Five and the densest elephant population in the world. Whether seeking serenity, adventure, or wildlife encounters, these properties provide a luxurious gateway to stunning landscapes and diverse experiences. www.hunterhotels.com



THE MINI MIGRATION

It's one of South Africa's best-kept secrets - a seasonal movement of mammals in the legendary Kruger National Park known as the "mini migration". It happens every year between May and mid-July when thousands of animals instinctively move southeast in search of grazing. This migration coincides with two luxury seasonal tented camps operated by Kruger Untamed, which open on 1 May and operate until 30 September each year. Located close to Kruger's Satara Rest Camp, Satara Plains Camp is in the thick of the action. With a natural spring that holds water year-round, this area acts as a magnet for the migrating herds, ensuring unforgettable game-viewing experiences. Tshokwane River Camp enjoys an enviable position on Ripape River and also enjoys unrivalled game viewing opportunities during this period.



RUN, BABY, RUN!

The Absa Run Your City Gqeberha 10K is turning three, and runners and walkers are invited to "actively" celebrate this exciting milestone on 13 April 2025. The race takes you on an unforgettable 10 km journey past the city's iconic landmarks, treating you to breathtaking views along the way. Whether you're chasing a personal best, or lacing up your trainers for your first race, this iconic event promises inspiration, excitement, and memories that will keep you coming back for more. Entry includes a T-shirt, Absa entrant gifts, a finisher's medal, refreshment stations en route, and post-event entertainment. Entries close on 2 April or when at capacity. The Absa Run Your City Series proudly supports the Cancer Association of South Africa. www.runyourcityseries.com

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BEACH, BRAAI & BREATHTAKING VIEWS

A Local's Guide to Cape Town Weekends

Cape Town is a city that practically begs you to spend time outdoors. Framed by rugged mountains and surrounded by stunning coastline, the Mother City knows how to show off.

For locals, the perfect weekend in Cape Town isn't complete without beach hopping, scenic drives, and of course, a traditional South African braai. Here's how to make the most of your weekend with the ultimate combination: beach, braai, and breathtaking views.

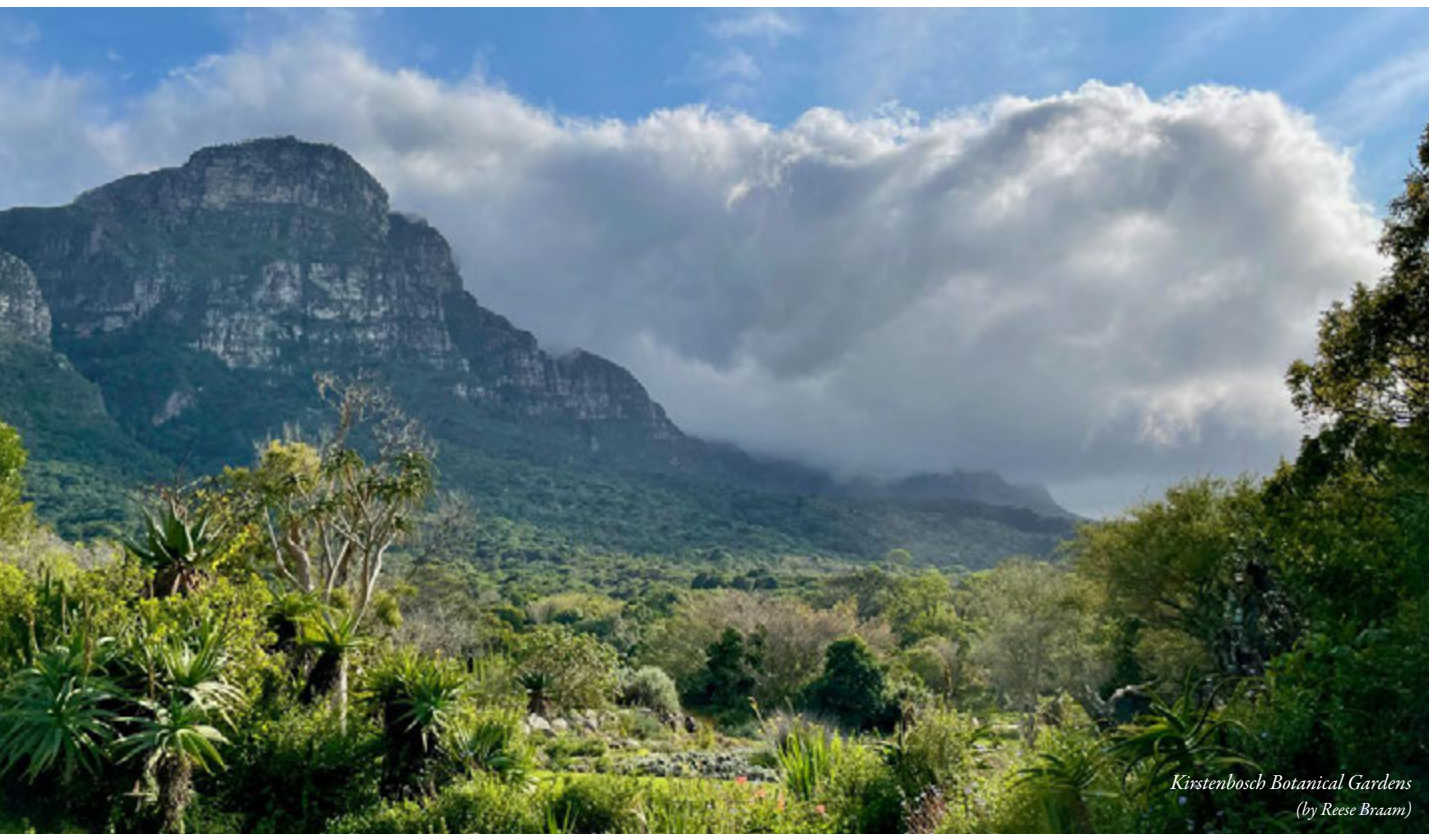
BEACH HOPPING FROM CLIFTON TO LLANDUDNO

Start your weekend at some of Cape Town's most iconic beaches. Clifton's four pristine coves offer something for everyone. The beaches are sheltered from the wind, ideal for sunbathing or dipping into the chilly Atlantic. First Beach is popular with surfers, while Fourth Beach attracts families and sunseekers. Pack essentials like sunscreen, a sunhat, and plenty of water for a comfortable morning by the sea.

After soaking up the sun at Clifton, head to Camps Bay for coffee at one of its chic beachfront cafés. The Camps Bay strip is perfect for people-watching and enjoying a leisurely brunch with ocean views. From there, continue along Victoria Road, which hugs the coastline with spectacular views of the Twelve Apostles mountain range. Your next stop? Llandudno Beach - a secluded gem favoured by locals. The dramatic boulders and turquoise waters make it perfect for relaxing or catching waves if you're feeling brave.



Clifton Beach



*Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
(by Reese Braam)*



Top tip: If you're up for it, stay until late morning when the beach gets livelier, offering a great atmosphere to meet locals. Llandudno is also ideal for a quiet walk along the shore, especially during low tide when the rocks reveal tidal pools teeming with marine life.

Local tip: Early birds can extend their morning by visiting Hout Bay for fresh pastries and coffee at the Bay Harbour Market, open on weekends with live music and local crafts.

PICNIC AT KIRSTENBOSCH GARDENS

For lunch, swap the sand for the lush greenery of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. Nestled on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch is renowned as one of the most beautiful botanical gardens in the world. It's the perfect spot for a leisurely picnic.

Bring a blanket and local treats – freshly baked bread, cheeses, biltong, and seasonal fruits. Nearby delis offer plenty of picnic options if you didn't pack ahead. The lawns are ideal for lounging, while shaded pathways lead

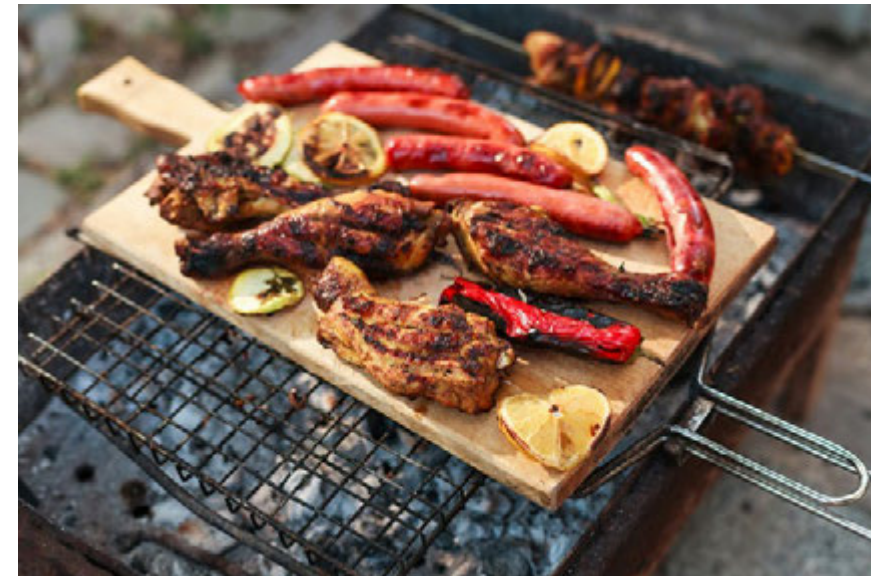
to hidden streams and quiet corners. The Boomslang Canopy Walkway offers panoramic views of the gardens and city below, making it a must-visit.

If you're feeling active, take a short hike from Kirstenbosch along the Contour Path. The Skeleton Gorge route, though more challenging, leads to a breathtaking view from the top of Table Mountain. Even a gentle stroll among the diverse fynbos and proteas can be rejuvenating.

Local tip: Check the Kirstenbosch summer sunset concert schedule. If your visit coincides, you're in for a treat – live music with a mountain backdrop. Alternatively, explore the conservatory to learn about South Africa's unique plant life.

SCENIC DRIVES ALONG THE COAST

Cape Town's coastal drives are experiences in themselves. Chapman's Peak Drive, in particular, offers winding roads with dramatic cliffside views. Consider taking this route after your



*Enjoy a braai at Oudekraal Beach
(by Diana Light)*



*Chapman's Peak Drive
(by Diego Delso)*

picnic at Kirstenbosch. The drive provides several viewpoints perfect for photos or simply soaking in the ocean air.

For those with extra time, stop at Noordhoek Beach, known for its long stretch of white sand and peaceful atmosphere. It's a great spot for a late afternoon walk or horseback riding along the shore. If you're travelling with kids, Imhoff Farm nearby offers camel rides, artisanal food, and quaint shops.

Travel tip: The drive charges a toll fee – carry a card or cash. Also, double-check road opening times as weather conditions may affect accessibility.

The golden hour along this drive is particularly breathtaking, with the sun casting a warm glow over the cliffs.

SUNSET BRAAI AT OUDEKRAAL

No Cape Town weekend is complete without a braai, and Oudekraal is the perfect setting. Part of Table Mountain National Park, Oudekraal features sheltered coves, turquoise waters, and scenic picnic spots with built-in braai facilities. What sets it apart? The breathtaking sunset view over the Atlantic Ocean.

As the sun dips, fire up the grill. A proper braai features boerewors, marinated chicken, and lamb chops, paired with traditional sides like potato salad, garlic bread, and chakalaka. Cooking over an open flame as the ocean glistens in the twilight is quintessentially South African.

Don't forget the drinks – local wines or craft beers pair perfectly with a relaxed braai. As the sky turns shades of pink and orange, gather around the fire with friends or family. This is the magic of Cape Town weekends: good food, great company, and unforgettable views.

Safety tip: Always check the weather forecast and confirm park hours to ensure a seamless braai experience.

Pro tip: If you have extra time, explore the boulders around Oudekraal

Lion's Head at Dawn
(by Matt Halls)

- some hidden coves are ideal for a quiet moment before heading home.

BONUS EXPERIENCE: SUNRISE HIKE TO LION'S HEAD

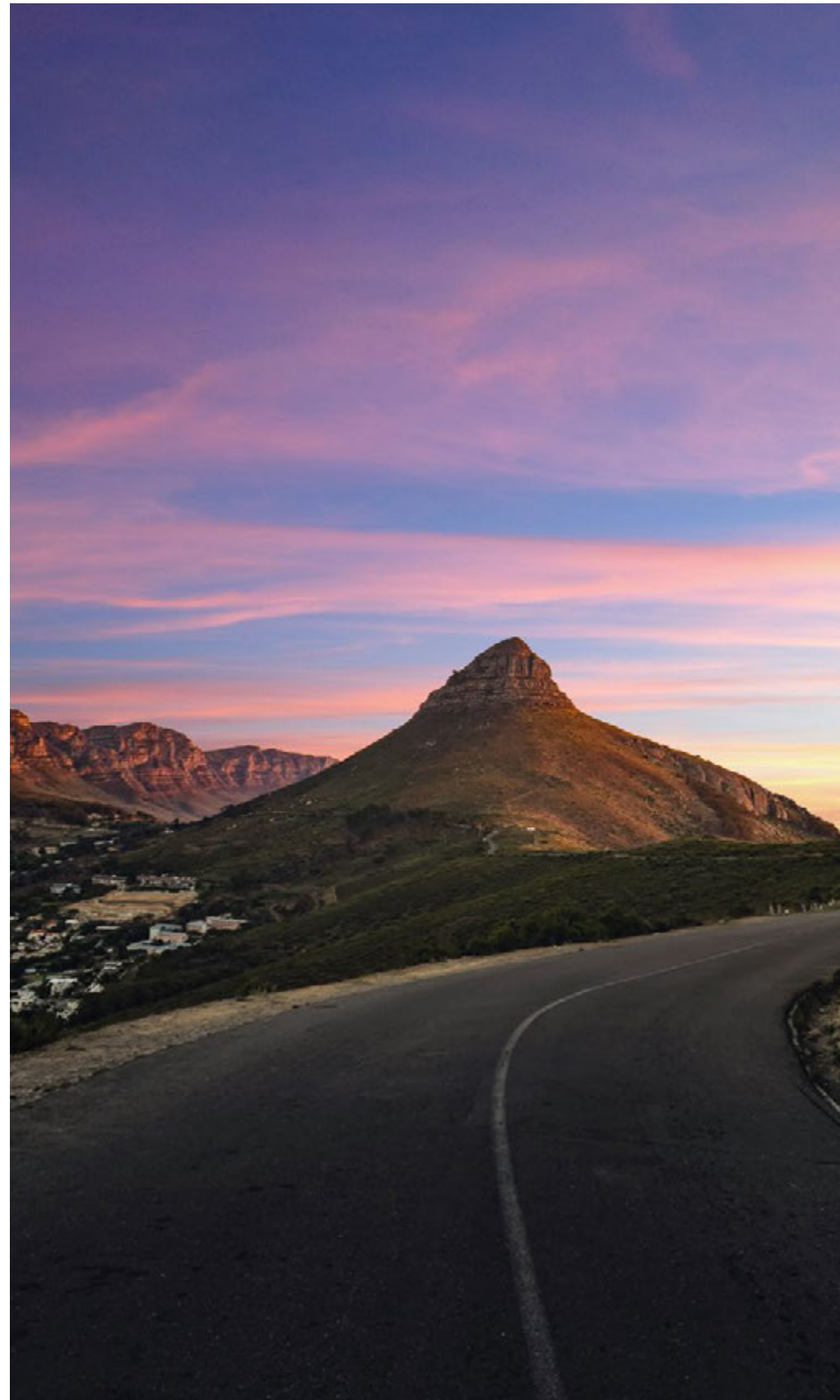
For early risers, a Sunday sunrise hike up Lion's Head is the perfect way to wrap up a Cape Town weekend. The relatively easy hike offers panoramic views of the city, Table Mountain, and the Atlantic coastline. Watching the sunrise from the summit is an unforgettable experience and a refreshing way to start the day.

Essential: Bring a headlamp if you're hiking before dawn and a jacket - mornings can be chilly.

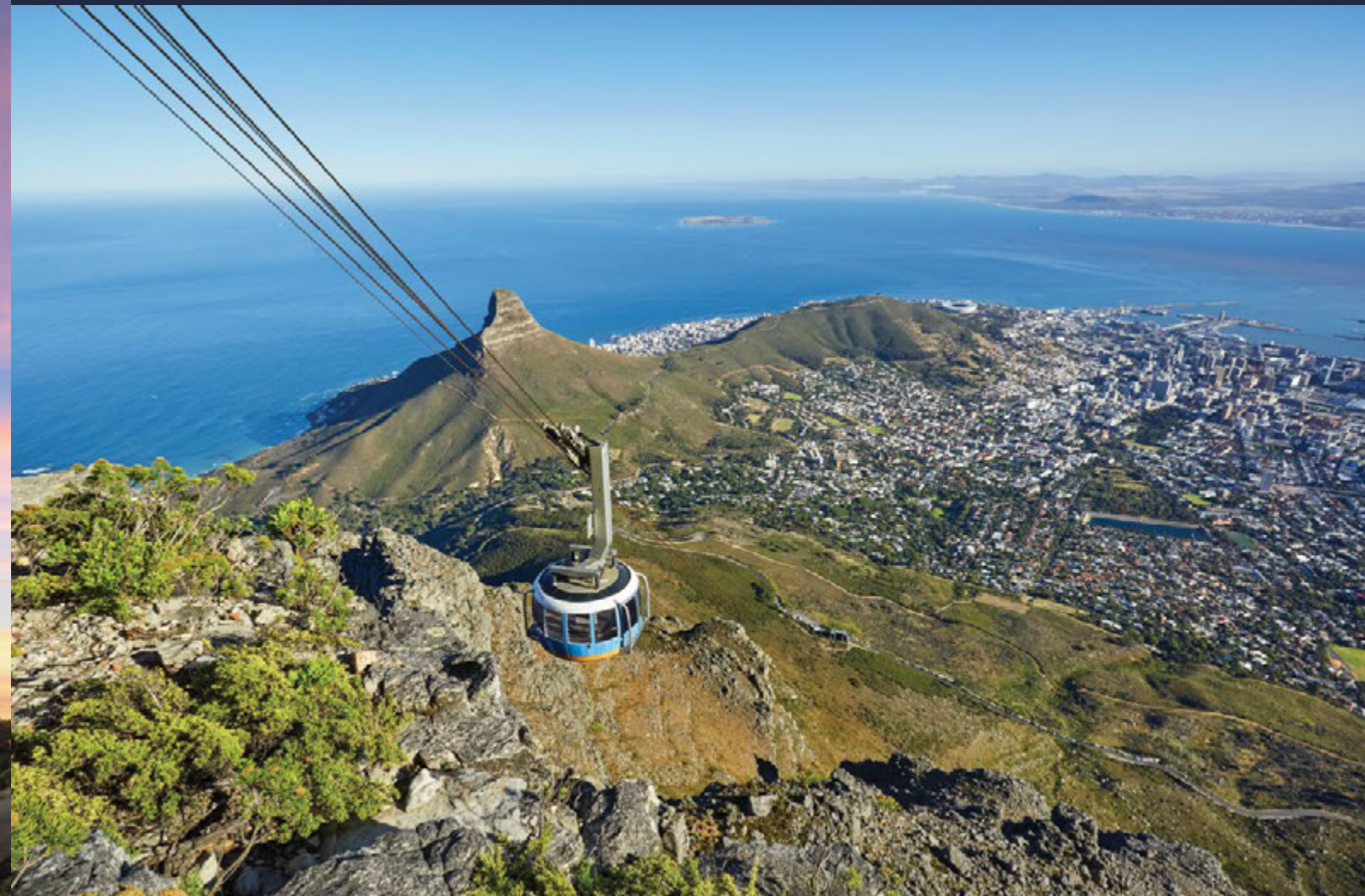
A Cape Town weekend isn't just about ticking off attractions - it's about embracing the lifestyle. With beach hopping between Clifton and Llandudno, a peaceful picnic at Kirstenbosch, scenic drives along Chapman's Peak, and a sunset braai at Oudekraal, you'll experience the best of what the city offers. Add in a sunrise hike to Lion's Head, and you have a weekend well spent: laid-back, scenic, and truly South African.

Pro tip: Start early to make the most of daylight hours, and always pack layers - Cape Town's weather loves to surprise. 🇿🇦

by **bernie hellberg jr**
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BEYOND THE TORII GATES

A Journey Through Japan's Timeless Heart

From golden pavilions to hidden alleys - exploring the must-see wonders of Kyoto.

Kyoto is a city where the past and present exist in seamless harmony. Once the imperial capital of Japan, it remains the cultural heart of the country, brimming with ancient temples, serene gardens, and traditions that have withstood the test of time. From the iconic golden glow of Kinkaku-ji to the mesmerising torii tunnels of Fushimi Inari, Kyoto's attractions are as diverse as they are breathtaking. But beyond the famed landmarks, the city also boasts hidden treasures - quiet temples, traditional tea houses, and vibrant districts where history lingers in every wooden facade. Whether you're a first-time visitor or

a seasoned traveller, Kyoto's ability to surprise and enchant is endless.

KYOTO'S MOST DAZZLING LANDMARK

No visit to Kyoto is complete without witnessing the sheer splendour of Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion. This Zen temple, its top two stories covered entirely in gold leaf, shimmers against the backdrop of a tranquil pond and meticulously landscaped gardens. Originally a retirement villa for shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, it became a temple after his death in 1408. Today, its reflection in the still waters of Kyokochi (Mirror Pond) remains one of the most photographed sights in Japan.





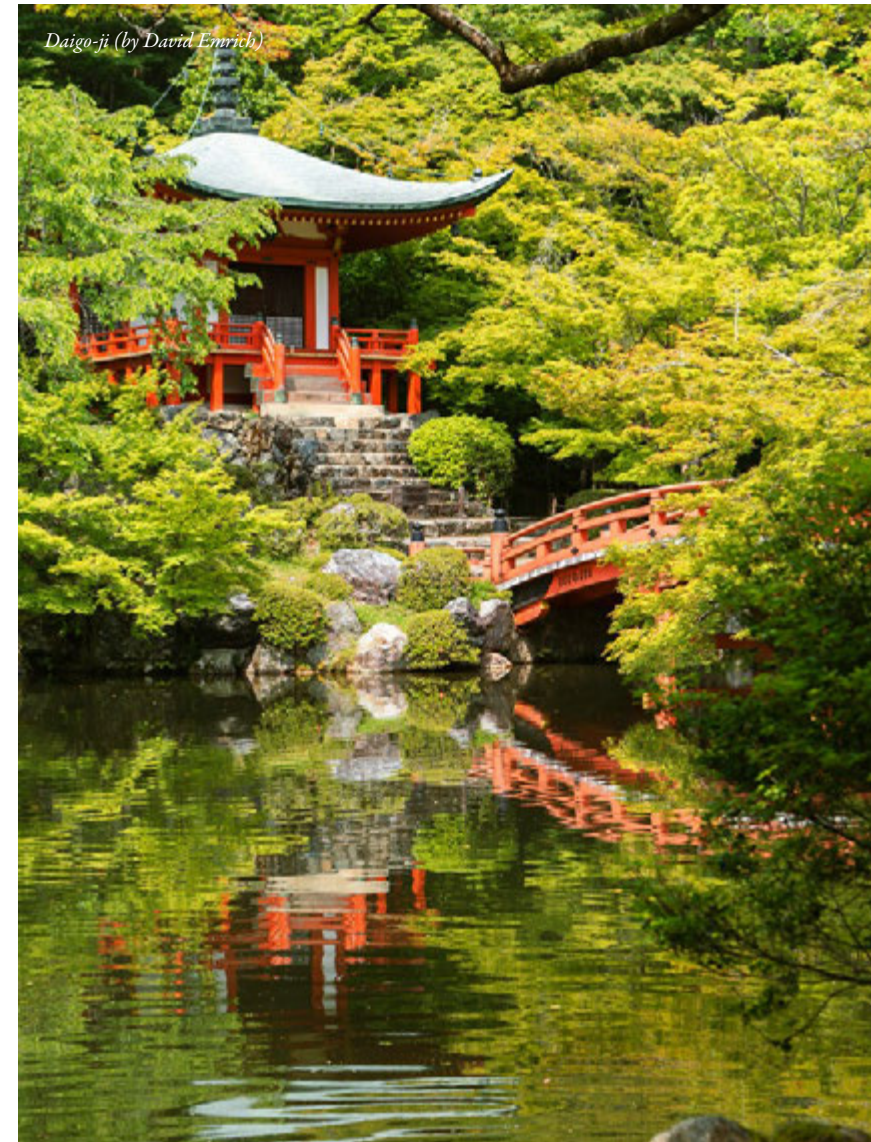
Despite the crowds, Kinkaku-ji's beauty is undeniable - a symbol of Kyoto's enduring elegance.

THE ENDLESS TORII GATES

Few sights are as hypnotic as the vermilion torii gates of Fushimi Inari Taisha, snaking their way up Mount Inari in a seemingly endless procession. Dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice and prosperity, this shrine complex is one of the most significant in Japan. The thousands of torii gates, each donated by individuals and businesses, create an ethereal pathway leading into the forested hills. While the lower sections teem with tourists, those who venture further up the mountain are rewarded with quiet moments of reflection and panoramic views of Kyoto.

KIYOMIZU-DERA: THE TEMPLE OF PURE WATER

Perched on the hillside of eastern Kyoto, Kiyomizu-dera is as famous for its sweeping views as it is for its historic significance. Founded in 778, its main hall extends over a massive wooden stage, built without the use of nails, offering breathtaking vistas of the city below. The temple's name, meaning "Pure Water Temple," originates from the Otowa Waterfall, whose sacred waters are said to grant wisdom, longevity, or success in love, depending on which stream one chooses to drink from. Visiting in autumn, when the surrounding maple trees explode into fiery reds and oranges, is a truly unforgettable experience.



THE BAMBOO FOREST OF ARASHIYAMA

Step into a dreamlike world as you wander through the bamboo groves of Arashiyama. Towering stalks of bamboo sway gently in the wind, creating an otherworldly atmosphere as dappled sunlight filters through. The area on the western outskirts of Kyoto is home to the Iwatayama Monkey Park, where wild Japanese macaques roam freely, and the historic Togetsukyo Bridge, offering a postcard-perfect view of the Katsura River. A rickshaw ride through the bamboo forest and a visit to the nearby Tenryu-ji Temple completes the quintessential Arashiyama experience.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S PATH

Lined with cherry trees, the Philosopher's Path is one of Kyoto's most picturesque strolls, tracing a quiet canal from Ginkaku-ji to Nanzen-ji. The name pays homage to Nishida Kitaro, a famed Japanese philosopher who found inspiration in these tranquil surroundings. During spring, the path is awash with pink cherry blossoms, while in autumn, golden leaves create a serene setting. Along the way, small shrines, artisan shops, and quaint cafés invite travellers to slow down and savour Kyoto's understated beauty.



GION: THE GEISHA DISTRICT

Kyoto's most famous entertainment district, Gion, remains the heartbeat of traditional Japanese culture. This is the city's geisha quarter, where lantern-lit alleys and historic teahouses (ochaya) transport visitors into a bygone era. In the evening, kimono-clad geiko (Kyoto's term for geisha) and their apprentice maiko can sometimes be seen gliding

between appointments, embodying a centuries-old art form. The district is also home to Yasaka Shrine, a key site for Kyoto's summer Gion Matsuri, one of Japan's most celebrated festivals. For a truly immersive experience, book a kaiseki dinner at an exclusive teahouse or enjoy a performance at Gion Corner, where traditional arts like tea ceremony and kabuki theatre come to life.

KYOTO'S CULINARY DELIGHTS

Beyond its temples and shrines, Kyoto

is a paradise for food lovers. The city is the birthplace of kaiseki, Japan's most refined multi-course cuisine, where every dish is a work of art, often served in atmospheric ryotei (traditional restaurants). For a more casual experience, the bustling Nishiki Market is a sensory delight, offering Kyoto specialities like yuba (tofu skin), yatsunami (cinnamon rice crackers), and skewered seafood grilled to perfection.

A visit to Uji, just outside Kyoto, is a must for matcha enthusiasts. This region produces Japan's finest green tea,

and sipping a freshly whisked bowl of matcha at a centuries-old teahouse is an experience like no other.

KYOTO'S HIDDEN GEMS

While the city's major attractions deserve their fame, Kyoto's lesser-known spots offer equally rewarding experiences. The moss-covered beauty of Saiho-ji (Kokedera), accessible only by advance reservation, feels like stepping into a Zen fairytale. The quiet alleys of Kamishichiken, Kyoto's oldest geisha district, reveal a side



Bamboo Forest of Arashiyama (by Atsushi Tsubokura)




Torii Gates (by Jezael Melgoza)

of the city untouched by mass tourism. And in the backstreets of Higashiyama, tiny tea houses and traditional craft shops preserve Kyoto's living history in the most unassuming corners.

THE TIMELESS ALLURE OF KYOTO

Kyoto captivates the senses - a place where every turn reveals a new layer of history, beauty, and tradition. Whether you marvel at the golden brilliance of Kinkaku-ji, walk through the whispering bamboo of Arashiyama, or catch a

fleeting glimpse of a geisha in Gion, the city offers moments of wonder that linger long after departure. Kyoto is not just a destination; it is an experience, a journey through Japan's soul that leaves an indelible mark on those who seek it. 

by bernie hellberg jr
/photography by ryan abbott

A HAVEN OF WELLNESS IN THE HEART OF QATAR

Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som

Nestled on the serene northern tip of Qatar, Zual Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som is a transformative destination that redefines holistic health and wellness.

As the Middle East's first full-immersion wellness resort, Zual is a pioneering sanctuary blending Traditional Arabic and Islamic Medicine (TAIM) with the time-honoured principles of holistic health. This unique approach, combined with its stunning coastal location, makes Zual a world-class retreat that appeals to individuals seeking both relaxation and rejuvenation.

A DUAL EXPERIENCE FOR EVERY TRAVELLER

Zual Wellness Resort offers two distinct yet interconnected experiences, catering to

both individual and family needs.

Zual Serenity is an exclusive sanctuary for adult guests over 16, offering a serene and private environment for those seeking a deep reset and a journey of reflection. Here, guests can immerse themselves in nature, embrace lasting lifestyle changes, and focus on their well-being. The calming spaces throughout Zual Serenity are designed to facilitate relaxation and rejuvenation, making it the ideal retreat for anyone looking to reset both body and mind. Whether through tailored spa treatments, fitness sessions, or nutritional guidance, every aspect of Zual Serenity is designed with one goal: a total health transformation.



On the other hand, Zual Discovery provides an ideal space for families to embark on a shared wellness journey. This family-friendly aspect of the resort focuses on promoting meaningful connections and well-being for every family member, regardless of age. Zual Discovery offers specially designed programmes that foster engagement and joy from children to grandparents. Whether through health-based activities, wellness treatments, or shared family experiences, Zual Discovery encourages families to prioritize their personal wellness and deepen their relationships with each other. The resort's unique approach

to family wellness focuses on building positive relationships that contribute to the individual development of each family member while nurturing the family unit as a whole.

A FOCUS ON HOLISTIC WELLNESS

Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som stands out for its holistic approach to health and well-being. The resort's wellness pillars encompass comprehensive services, each crafted to address specific needs and goals. Guests can take advantage of expert-led therapies that combine the best of traditional practices with modern wellness techniques, ensuring a balanced, rejuvenating experience.

- **Spa:** Body treatments and

hydrotherapy to relieve physical stress, relax the mind, and soothe the soul.

- **Physiotherapy:** Physical therapies, rehabilitation, and targeted recovery programs to improve body function, balance, and mobility.
- **Holistic Health:** Diagnostic therapies to assess health conditions and energy-based treatments to support long-term healing.
- **Nutrition:** Wellness cuisine focuses on organic, whole foods in nutrient-rich, flavorful dishes designed to enhance vitality and longevity.
- **Fitness:** Personal training, state-of-the-art gym facilities, indoor and outdoor spaces, and fitness classes for targeted exercise.

- **Aesthetic Beauty:** Innovative, FDA-approved, non-invasive and minimally invasive aesthetic procedures to enhance physical appearance.

A FAMILY-FOCUSED WELLNESS APPROACH

Zulal Wellness Resort's family-centric approach to wellness is one of its defining features. The resort understands that fostering strong, supportive family relationships can be transformative for individual and collective well-being. Zulal's family programmes are built around the idea that wellness is best experienced together, with each member receiving personalized treatments and activities suited to their age and health goals. These experiences, designed to



promote health and happiness, are as much about personal growth as they are about strengthening family bonds.


Family consultations are a key component of the resort's wellness offerings. After a consultation, time is allocated for each family member to engage in tailored activities - whether it's a fitness class, wellness treatment, or relaxation session - ensuring that everyone benefits from their time at the resort while enjoying shared family moments. This approach allows for 'me-time' and family bonding, promoting holistic well-being for everyone involved.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Since its opening, Zulal Wellness Resort has received numerous accolades, solidifying its position as a leader in the global wellness scene. The resort has been recognized with several prestigious awards in just under three years of operation. These include the 'Middle East's Leading Retreat 2024' at the World Travel Awards, marking the third consecutive year it has earned this distinction. Zulal was also named a 2024 Luxury Travel Gold List Winner in the 'Wellness Retreat and Resort' category and awarded the 'Multigenerational Wellness Resort of the Year' at the inaugural Compare Retreats' Luxury Wellness Travel Awards.

Additionally, Zulal has been honoured with the 'Wellness Retreat of the Year' at the Destination Deluxe Awards 2024 and the 'Best Regional Spa Retreat - Middle East' at The Luxury Spa Edit Awards 2024. These recognitions highlight the resort's unparalleled spa facilities, innovative wellness approach, and commitment to delivering transformative experiences.

Zulal Wellness Resort by Chiva-Som is much more than a wellness retreat; it's a place where the body, mind, and spirit are nurtured through a holistic and personalized approach. Whether you seek a tranquil, immersive experience for yourself at Zulal Serenity or a fun, enriching journey with your family at Zulal Discovery, this pioneering resort in Qatar offers a transformative escape that will leave you feeling revitalized, rejuvenated, and connected.

To learn more about this exceptional destination and plan your wellness journey, visit www.zulal.com. 



WHERE ADVENTURE MEETS SERENITY

Discovering Samara Karoo Reserve

At Samara Karoo Reserve, the allure is undeniable, drawing guests back repeatedly. Every arrival at The Manor evokes a sense of wonder, like the exhilarating scent of rain after a dry spell. The reserve offers a serene escape from modern life's demands, inviting guests to reconnect with nature in the most profound way.

As guests pass through the grand entrance of The Manor, they step into a world of tranquillity and timeless elegance. The Manor's architectural charm, blending classic sophistication with modern appeal, sets the tone for an unforgettable stay. Thoughtfully designed interiors encourage relaxation, where every space promotes peace and connection with the surrounding wilderness.

One of the first things guests notice is the inviting swimming pool, which seamlessly integrates into the landscape. Whether guests are enjoying an early morning swim or lounging by the pool in the warm afternoon sun, the space offers a serene retreat, allowing one to bask in the beauty and quiet of the natural surroundings.

The Manor's spacious bedrooms are havens of comfort and style. Each room is a sanctuary designed for rest, with plush beds and expansive views of the Karoo landscape. These rooms

are more than just places to sleep; they serve as tranquil retreats where guests can unwind and embrace the region's beauty. The fusion of traditional elegance and modern comforts ensures a luxurious yet home-like experience.

Equally inviting are the beautifully designed lounge areas, which offer the perfect setting for both relaxation and socialising. Whether guests curl up with a book by the fireplace, enjoy tea with friends, or soak in the atmosphere, these spaces exude warmth and sophistication. Every detail, from the curated artwork to the thoughtful arrangement of furniture, creates an inviting environment for connection and reflection.

What truly sets Samara apart is the exceptional warmth of its staff. The service here goes beyond expected, with staff members dedicated to welcoming and caring for every guest. This genuine hospitality turns a visit into a memorable experience, leaving guests feeling like they are part of the



Samara family long after their stay.

Dining at Samara is an experience that engages all the senses. Whether guests dine by the pool, on the lush lawn, or under the vast African sky, each location offers its unique charm. The culinary offerings, crafted with fresh, local ingredients, reflect the essence of the Karoo, turning each meal into a celebration of the region's flavours and natural beauty.

One of the most memorable experiences

is the walking safari with the reserve's magnificent cheetah brothers. It is a rare privilege to get up close to these iconic creatures. The safari also includes a thrilling mountain trek, culminating in a picturesque lunch stop with stunning views. As the sun sets over the reserve, the changing colours of the sky provide the perfect end to a day full of adventure and discovery. Expert guides enrich the experience, offering insights that deepen guests' appreciation of the landscape and its wildlife.

A recent addition to the Samara experience is the newly revamped Karoo Lodge, a beautiful blend of history and modern luxury. Originally a restored farmhouse, the lodge underwent extensive renovations to elevate the guest experience while maintaining its Karoo character. The Karoo Lodge now features a refined dining room, a library, a farm-style kitchen, and a wine cellar, among other amenities. With accommodations for up to 24 guests, each suite offers breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, ensuring a serene and intimate stay.

Additionally, Samara has introduced the Cheetah Trail, a thrilling new walking safari experience. This three-night, four-day adventure allows guests to explore the reserve on foot, track cheetahs, and sleep under the stars. Led by expert

guides, the Cheetah Trail offers a deeper connection to the environment and provides a unique perspective of the landscape and its wildlife.

With a reputation for being one of the best places to see cheetahs in the wild, Samara continues to offer unforgettable experiences, whether staying at The Manor, the newly renovated Karoo Lodge, or embarking on the Cheetah Trail. Each experience is a blend of adventure, relaxation, and natural beauty, making Samara a destination that captures the heart of every visitor.

ABOUT SAMARA KAROO RESERVE

Samara Karoo Reserve, an award-winning destination in the Great Karoo, spans 67,000 acres of restored wilderness. Located 270 km from



Gqeberha and 53 km from Graaff-Reinet, the reserve is home to over 60 mammal species, including the Big Five and cheetah, as well as 225 bird species. Samara offers three intimate lodges that embrace the spirit of the land and provide guests with meaningful safari encounters. With a dedicated children's programme, Samara is a

perfect destination for families seeking a memorable adventure.

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

EXPERIENCE A JOURNEY

Through the Seychellois Traditions and Know-How

Immerse yourself in a traditional experience with the help of Seychellois grandparents who will share the islands' history with you through a live experience. This cultural activity is now possible on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Domaine Val de Pres in the eastern neighbourhood of Au Cap.

On this vast property which includes a classic Plantation House, an art and craft village, a Creole restaurant, and an art gallery, visitors are welcome to share a taste of the Seychellois island style of living.

A half-day tour costs \$50, while a full-day tour costs \$100 and includes a visit to Lakaz Rosa (Rosa's House), a replica of a servant's dwelling house built of timber on squat stone pillars. It is a modest structure in which a servant used to sleep. The wooden walls are entirely covered with newspapers and magazines, including the Royal House of Windsor photograph.

The experience is a unique opportunity to learn local dances and to attempt to build traditional recipients such as the kpatya - a craft made from coconut leaves - and even embroidery, as well as learn to cook traditional dishes.

Visitors will feel like they have stepped back when they walk into the

authentic Creole kitchen, where food is prepared with wood.

They will get an opportunity to assist in the kitchen by preparing spices for grilled fish, grating coconut for fish stew or desserts like la daube or nougat and preparing golden apples for chutney while also learning how to prepare traditional papaya jam and condiments like pickles known as "asar" locally.

After all the preparations, the guests can savour the different authentic dishes - the fruits of their labour.

Guests also get to visit the village jewel, the Grann Kaz, a majestic plantation house showcasing craftsmanship and carpentry with its wooden carved balustrades from the colonial era.



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LIFESTYLE

RUBY REFINED ELEGANCE

Crafted with excellence, Don Julio Rosado is meticulously finished in Ruby Port wine casks sourced from Portugal's renowned Douro wine region. This careful finishing process imparts a delicate pink hue and a distinctive flavour profile with sweet notes of dried red fruit and caramel, delivering a smooth and sophisticated tequila experience that sets a new standard

in premium spirits. Perfect for daytime gatherings with friends, Don Julio Rosado is best enjoyed on the rocks or with a splash of club soda and a lemon garnish for a refreshing twist. Now available in select stores across South Africa, Don Julio Rosado is offered at a recommended retail price starting at R3,499.



INTRODUCING THE OPEN MINDED COLLECTION

Carrol Boyes Functional Art seamlessly blends art and function in unique homeware, inspired by the human form and nature. The Open Minded Collection is a striking décor range featuring two vases and candle holders, crafted from glossy porcelain with Carrol's signature sculptural facial features. The Broad Vase (R2,499) is perfect for bold floral arrangements, while the Large Vase (R2,599) makes an extraordinary statement. The Candle Holders (R2,499) add an artistic touch, accommodating various candle shapes. Each piece merges imaginative design with contemporary elegance, inviting you to embrace creativity in your home. Elevate your space with the Open Minded Collection, where bold design meets everyday function. Available online and in-store while stocks last.

www.carrolboyes.com



VIBRANT INTERPRETATION OF THE MAISON'S CLASSIC

Acqua di Parma ushers in a bold new era with Colonia Il Profumo – a modern, intensified take on the Maison's iconic 1916 fragrance. This refined scent blends Italian heritage with contemporary elegance, featuring a richer concentration and the depth of ylang-ylang for a lasting impression. Bright citrus top notes of bergamot, grapefruit, and blood orange evolve into an aromatic heart of rosemary and orange leaves, enriched by ylang-ylang. Vetiver and patchouli add a sophisticated base. Housed in a gold-gilded Art Deco bottle, Colonia Il Profumo embodies timeless luxury. www.skins.co.za

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AUTUMN ENTERTAINING

Outdoor Living Ideas for Stylish Seasonal Gatherings

As the crisp air of autumn settles in and the leaves turn golden, there's no better time to host an outdoor gathering.

Autumn brings a natural warmth and togetherness, making it the perfect season to create memorable moments with friends and family. With the right touches, your outdoor living space can become the ideal backdrop for stylish, seasonal get-togethers. Here are a few ideas to transform your patio, garden, or terrace into a cosy autumn retreat.

CREATE A RUSTIC DINING EXPERIENCE

The heart of any gathering is the dining table, and autumn calls for a rustic, nature-inspired setting. Think raw wooden tables, mismatched chairs, and an earthy colour palette. Adorn the table with simple yet striking décor – pinecones, small pumpkins, and dried flowers add a charming seasonal touch. Consider placing a linen table runner in

warm tones like burnt orange or mustard yellow to tie the look together.

Add textured elements such as woven placemats and ceramic dinnerware for the finishing touch. These details add visual interest and contribute to autumn gatherings' warm, inviting atmosphere. To get creative, handwrite place cards using fallen leaves or kraft paper for a personalised touch.

SERVE UP SEASONAL SIPS

No autumn gathering is complete without drinks that warm the body and soul. Welcome guests with steaming mugs of mulled wine infused with spices like cinnamon, cloves, and star anise. The rich aroma alone sets a festive tone. Alternatively, spiced apple cider offers a non-alcoholic option that's just as comforting.

Consider setting up a DIY drinks station near a fire pit. Provide garnishes





such as orange slices, cinnamon sticks, and nutmeg for guests to customise their beverages. This makes for an interactive experience and keeps everyone warm as the evening chill sets in. For something indulgent, prepare a hot chocolate bar with marshmallows, whipped cream, and caramel drizzle – a guaranteed crowd-pleaser.

COSY COMFORT WITH WARM TEXTILES

Autumn evenings can get chilly, but that shouldn't stop outdoor entertaining. Make your seating areas warm and inviting with plenty of rugs and throws. Layering rugs on your patio or deck defines the space and adds a soft, comfortable feel underfoot. Opt for deep, rich colours like burgundy, forest green, or navy blue to complement the autumn theme.

Place baskets filled with soft blankets and throws within easy reach. Encourage guests to wrap themselves up as they settle into outdoor sofas or chairs. If you have a pergola or gazebo, draping fabric across the top and sides can create a snug, tent-like atmosphere, perfect for intimate conversations.

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

The proper lighting transforms an ordinary outdoor space into an enchanting autumn haven. String lights are an effortless way to add a warm glow – drape them along fences, overhead beams, or tree branches to create a magical canopy of light. Whether placed on tables or hung from hooks, lanterns enhance the cosy ambience and provide soft illumination.

For added warmth, consider lighting a few pillar candles in hurricane jars. Their flickering glow adds to the relaxed, intimate vibe. If you're feeling adventurous, a fire pit becomes the focal point of the evening, offering both warmth and a place to gather. Toasting marshmallows or simply sharing stories around the fire enhances the autumn experience.



ADD PERSONAL TOUCHES

The best gatherings feel personal and thoughtful. Small details can make a significant impact – arrange seasonal flowers like proteas and chrysanthemums in rustic vases, or fill bowls with seasonal fruits like figs and pomegranates. These elements add bursts of colour and freshness to your space.

Music also plays a key role. Curate a playlist with mellow acoustic tracks or soft jazz to set a relaxed tone. Keep the volume low enough to encourage conversation but audible enough to fill the quiet moments.

Autumn entertaining is all about

embracing the season's cosy charm and creating an environment where guests feel relaxed and welcomed. With a rustic dining setup, seasonal drinks, warm textiles, and soft lighting, your outdoor space becomes the perfect venue for stylish seasonal gatherings.

Autumn invites us to slow down, savour good food, and enjoy meaningful connections. With these simple yet stylish ideas, your outdoor space will be the ultimate destination for unforgettable autumn memories. 🍂

SIMPLE, SOOTHING, SOUTH AFRICAN

Everyday Wellness Practices for South African Women

In the whirlwind of daily life, where deadlines loom, family commitments demand attention, and social calendars fill up quickly, it's easy to let self-care fall by the wayside.

Wellness doesn't have to mean you have to book an expensive retreat or overhauling your lifestyle overnight. For South African women, everyday wellness can be found in simple, locally inspired practices that soothe the mind, nourish the body, and uplift the spirit.

START WITH A ROOIBOS RITUAL

Few things are as quintessentially South African as rooibos tea. Beyond its deliciously smooth taste, rooibos is packed with antioxidants and naturally caffeine-free, making it the perfect brew for a calming ritual. Incorporating a rooibos tea break into your day can become a moment of mindfulness – a chance to pause, breathe, and reset.

Take this daily tea break to the next level by turning it into a small ceremony. Choose your favourite mug, brew a fragrant cup, and sit somewhere quiet. With each sip, focus on the warmth in your hands, the earthy aroma, and the taste. Let this ritual remind you

that wellness isn't always about grand gestures; sometimes, it's about small moments of calm amid the chaos.

EMBRACE THE OUTDOORS FOR MENTAL CLARITY

South Africa's landscapes are among the most beautiful in the world – why not let them contribute to your wellness journey? Time spent in nature has proven beneficial for mental health, reducing stress and improving mood. Even with the busiest schedules, a few hours outdoors can make a world of difference.

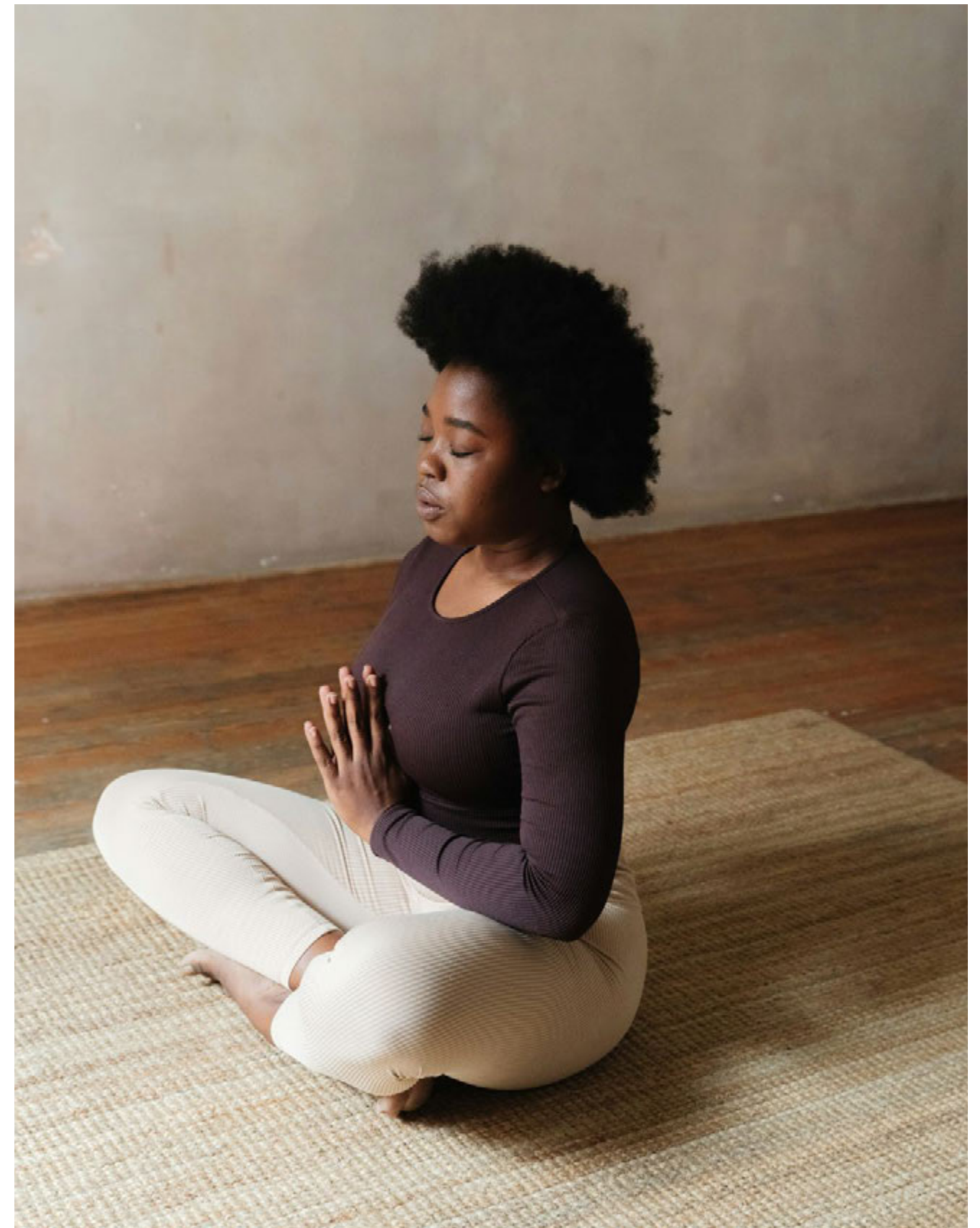
For a deeper reset, plan a weekend hike in the Drakensberg (or any mountain range, for that matter). The towering peaks and sweeping views are more than just stunning – they provide the perfect backdrop for reflection and clarity. Local parks and botanical gardens offer peaceful walking spots if time doesn't allow for travel. In coastal areas, a simple stroll along the beach can work wonders. Listening to the rhythmic crash of waves while breathing in the salty air has an almost meditative effect, washing away the mental clutter

accumulated during the week.

MINDFULNESS, ONE BREATH AT A TIME

Mindfulness often feels like a luxury when your day is packed, but incorporating simple techniques into daily routines can have a profound impact. One of the most straightforward practices to adopt is mindful breathing. The 4-7-8 breathing technique – inhale for four seconds, hold for seven, and exhale for eight – can be done anywhere, whether stuck in traffic or preparing for a big meeting. It slows the heart rate and calms the mind, providing a moment of stillness in a busy day.

Journaling also offers a simple yet powerful mindfulness practice. Spend five minutes each morning jotting down your thoughts, intentions for the day, or things you're grateful for. This creates a sense of purpose and positivity, setting the tone for the hours ahead. For those who prefer structure, prompts like "Today, I am focusing on..." or "Something that brought me joy this week was..." can guide the process.





Restore Your Balance AT BROOKDALE

Discover Brookdale Health Hydro, a serene wellness retreat nestled just outside the quaint village of Nottingham Road in the KZN Midlands. Escape the everyday stresses and rejuvenate your mind, body, and soul in this tranquil haven surrounded by nature.

Choose from 2-, 3-, or 6-night packages that include accommodation, wholesome meals, indulgent treatments, informative health talks and a variety of wellness activities such as Yoga, Pilates, relaxation classes and guided nature walks. Soak in our inviting heated indoor pool, unwind in the jacuzzi and sauna, take a stroll around our labyrinth or relax by the outdoor pool.

Rates for our popular 3-night package start at R 7050 per person sharing.

Need a quick getaway? Visit the Brookdale Day Spa for a day of pampering.

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MOVE YOUR BODY TO FEED YOUR SOUL

Exercise doesn't always have to mean intense workouts at the gym. Movement is an integral part of wellness and should be something you enjoy. South African women can take advantage of the country's diverse environments. Try early-morning yoga on the patio, feeling the sun's warmth as you stretch. Join a local dance class that gets your heart rate up and your body moving in rhythm. Not only does movement improve physical health, it also releases endorphins, the feel-good hormones that boost mood and reduce stress.

Short movement breaks - stretching between tasks or a brisk walk around the block - can make a big difference even on the busiest days. These small acts keep energy levels up and prevent the sluggishness often associated with sedentary lifestyles.

REST AND REFLECT

Rest is often underestimated but is crucial for overall well-being. Carving out time for uninterrupted rest doesn't mean being unproductive; it means allowing your body and mind to recover. This could be as simple as a power nap, an early bedtime with a good book, or quiet reflection while watching the sunset.

Reflection brings balance. Spend a few minutes reviewing what went well at the end of the day. Celebrate small achievements. South African women often juggle multiple roles - professional, caregiver, friend, and more. Acknowledging daily wins, however small, builds confidence and resilience.

EVERYDAY WELLNESS IS WITHIN REACH

Incorporating wellness into everyday life doesn't require significant investments or drastic changes. It's in the slow sip of rooibos tea, the rhythm

of waves during a beach walk, the steady breath that calms a racing heart, and the quiet reflection after a long day. For South African women, wellness is not a distant goal - it's woven into the fabric of daily life, accessible in simple, mindful practices that bring calm, clarity, and joy.

Wellness begins with the decision to prioritise yourself. One cup of tea, one deep breath, one step at a time - everyday wellness is within reach and yours to embrace. 🌿

by *pnina fenster*
photography by *unsplash.com*



TIMELESS VS TRENDY

How to Balance Classic Style with 2025's Fashion Must-Haves

Fashion is an ever-evolving expression of personal style, but there's an art to blending the latest trends with wardrobe classics.

While runway looks and viral social media moments dictate what's hot each season, true style lies in striking the perfect balance between timeless elegance and of-the-moment trends. With 2025's fashion landscape embracing bold silhouettes, nostalgic revivals, and eco-conscious choices, the challenge is curating a fresh yet enduring wardrobe. Here's how to master the balance between classic and contemporary fashion.

1. INVEST IN THE FOUNDATIONS: TIMELESS PIECES THAT NEVER DATE

Every stylish wardrobe is built on classic staples - items that remain relevant year after year. These foundational pieces are the backbone of your style and provide a neutral base to incorporate trends.

A Tailored Blazer: Whether oversized or fitted, a well-cut blazer elevates any look, from denim to dresses.

The Perfect White Shirt: Crisp, versatile, and eternally chic, this shirt is suitable for casual and formal settings.

Classic Denim: A pair of well-fitting jeans in a timeless cut (straight-leg or slim) withstands fleeting trends.

Little Black Dress (LBD): This is the ultimate investment piece. It is perfect for any occasion and can be easily dressed up or down with a quick change of accessories.

Leather Loafers or Ankle Boots: Quality footwear in neutral tones offers versatility and longevity.

These essentials create a solid style framework, making it easier to experiment with seasonal trends without feeling like you're chasing fast fashion.

2. THE TRENDS OF 2025: WHAT'S IN & HOW TO WEAR IT

Fashion in 2025 is defined by a mix of nostalgic throwbacks and innovative designs. Key trends include:

- **Statement Silhouettes:** Exaggerated

shoulders, cinched waists, and voluminous skirts bring drama to everyday dressing.

- **Metallic & High-Shine Fabrics:** Futuristic textures in silver, gold, and liquid-like finishes make a bold impact.
- **Y2K Revival:** Cargo pants, micro-mini skirts, and cropped tops continue to dominate, updated with a refined aesthetic.
- **Quiet Luxury:** A contrast to bold trends, understated luxury—think neutral tones, fine tailoring, and minimal branding—remains strong.
- **Sustainable Fabrics:** Ethical fashion is no longer niche, with more designers embracing organic cotton, recycled materials, and biodegradable textiles.

The key to incorporating these trends is selective adoption. Rather than overhauling your wardrobe, introduce one or two statement pieces that align with your personal aesthetic.





3. HOW TO STYLE TRENDS WITHOUT LOSING YOUR SIGNATURE LOOK

The trick to embracing trends while maintaining a sense of timelessness is to style them with restraint. Here's how:

- **Mix Trendy & Classic Elements:** For a balanced look, pair a structured blazer (classic) with cargo trousers (trendy).
- **Use Accessories for Experimentation:** A metallic handbag or bold statement earrings add a trend-driven touch without committing to a complete outfit.
- **Stick to a Cohesive Colour Palette:** If your wardrobe leans towards neutrals, introduce trends in those tones (e.g., a beige oversized coat rather than neon pink).
- **Focus on Fit & Fabric:** Investing in well-made versions of trendy items ensures they don't feel disposable.
- **Layer Thoughtfully:** A sleek turtleneck under a trendy sheer top instantly makes the outfit more refined.

Fashion isn't just about trends – it's about feeling confident in what you wear. The best-dressed individuals know how to tailor trends to their style rather than mindlessly follow the latest hype.

4. THE POWER OF ACCESSORIES: SMALL UPDATES, BIG IMPACT

If you're hesitant about changing seasonal trends, accessories are your best friend. They allow you to subtly nod to trends without overshadowing your signature style.

- **Chunky Chains & Oversized Earrings:** Bold jewellery is a simple way to elevate a neutral outfit.
- **Knee-High Boots:** A fashion-forward yet wearable update to classic footwear.
- **Bags with Personality:** Whether it's a structured top-handle bag or a vibrant clutch, the right bag can modernise any look.
- **Sleek Sunglasses:** A good pair of statement sunnies instantly polishes an outfit.

Accessories also allow consumers to explore trends at a lower cost, making them the perfect way to test the waters before committing to more significant purchases.



5. THE SMART SHOPPER'S APPROACH: AVOIDING FASHION FATIGUE

Trends come and go, but fashion fatigue is real – the constant pressure to keep up can feel overwhelming. To avoid overconsumption and buyer's remorse:

- **Curate a Capsule Wardrobe:** Keep your closet filled with pieces you love and wear regularly.
- **Shop Mindfully:** Ask yourself if a trendy item complements your existing wardrobe before purchasing.
- **Embrace Pre-Loved Fashion:** Vintage and second-hand finds offer unique style without contributing to waste.
- **Prioritise Quality Over Quantity:** A few well-made, versatile pieces will serve you better than a wardrobe full of fleeting trends.

Fashion should be fun, not stressful. By making mindful choices, you can enjoy evolving trends without feeling pressured to update your look constantly.

THE ART OF BALANCED STYLE

Balancing timeless fashion with contemporary trends is about knowing what works for you. The key is building a wardrobe rooted in classic pieces, selectively integrating trends, and remaining true to your style. Doing so creates a signature look that feels current yet never out of place, allowing you to step into 2025 with confidence and effortless style. 📸

by *bernie hellberg jr*
/photography by *unsplash.com*

AN SUV STATEMENT ON STYLE

Mercedes-Benz EQE350 4Matic SUV

The Mercedes-Benz EQE350 SUV has been a standout in the electric vehicle (EV) market since its arrival in 2023. While South Africa's EV segment remains niche, the EQE SUV's refined approach offers a compelling proposition for those ready to embrace the electric revolution. Combining the brand's hallmark luxury with the progressive edge of electrification, the EQE SUV competes with heavyweights like the BMW iX and Audi e-Tron, yet brings its unique flair to the road.

One of the Mercedes-Benz EQE350's most striking characteristics is its commanding presence. Measuring 4,863 mm in length and tipping the scales at over 2,500 kg, the large SUV is all Merc, with the added distinction of its obvious all-electric nature. Despite its considerable weight, the EQE doesn't feel cumbersome. It is also surprisingly agile thanks to its dual-motor, all-wheel-drive setup producing 215 kW and 765 Nm. Immediate torque delivery and a low centre of gravity, courtesy of its

underfloor battery, ensure a planted and responsive drive.

Over the past month, the EQE SUV has seamlessly transitioned between different roles in our daily lives - from the morning school run to business meetings and weekend shopping trips. Its versatility and the near-silent cabin environment make it an exceptional companion for city and suburban living.

EQE SUV VS EQE SEDAN

Although this article focuses on the EQE SUV, it's worth noting that, like its ICE cousin (the GLE), the EQE SUV also has a sedan version built on the same platform.



While the SUV shares its underpinnings with the sedan, the two differ significantly in character.

Similar to how Mercedes-Benz differentiates the E-Class from its GLE relation, the EQE SUV offers more space, a higher driving position, and a greater sense of versatility. The EQE sedan, in contrast, focuses on a lower, more aerodynamic profile, offering a sportier, more road-hugging experience. With its increased height and larger footprint, the SUV variant naturally leans towards greater comfort and practicality, making it more suitable for families.

CHANGING HABITS

Driving an electric car in South Africa requires a mindshift, primarily around charging habits. We found charging the EQE overnight at home both convenient and necessary, especially given its real-world consumption figures, which averaged between 19 and 22 kWh per 100 km. For longer trips, public chargers were easy to use, though a certain amount of planning remains essential given the country's charging infrastructure.

The vehicle's official range of between 460 and 550 km per charge proved realistic in our experience, supported by adjustable regenerative braking modes, including one-pedal driving for optimal efficiency. On faster chargers, a 30-to-45-minute session can replenish the battery by about 90%, offering flexibility for extended journeys.



LUXURY, TECHNOLOGY, AND QUIRKS

Step inside, and the EQE SUV impresses with its minimalist yet luxurious cabin. The MBUX infotainment system takes centre stage, paired with a fully digital instrument cluster and ambient lighting that enhances the futuristic feel. Leather upholstery and satin-metal finishes elevate the experience, though the entry/exit system's mechanism – which pushes you forward rather than back – feels counterintuitive.

Comfort remains a strong point – it is a Mercedes, after all – with adaptive air suspension ironing out road imperfections. However, like many vehicles in this segment, some controls rely heavily on touch inputs, which may divide opinion. The spacious boot (580 litres) and ample passenger room ensure that the SUV delivers practicality alongside luxury.





**PREMIUM (AND PRICE) LEADER
THE EQE350 SUV ENTERS THE**

SOUTH African market with a base price of R2,185,050, rising to R2,307,180 for the AMG Line variant. This positions it competitively against the BMW iX (starting from R1.65 million) and the Audi e-Tron 55 quattro (which will be replaced by the upcoming Q6 e-Tron in 2025). While it isn't the most affordable option, the EQE SUV justifies its price with its premium build quality, extensive features, and the prestige associated with the Mercedes badge.

That said, the competition offers its own advantages: the BMW iX xDrive40 emphasises cutting-edge tech and a more dynamic drive, while the Audi e-Tron 55 quattro leans into understated luxury. However, for buyers drawn to the EQE SUV's design and comfort-first ethos, the premium will be well worth it.

IN SUMMARY

As we continue our journey with the Mercedes-Benz EQE350 4Matic SUV over the coming months, we'll focus on different aspects of our journey each month. Clearly, this vehicle is more than just a mode of transport - it's a lifestyle statement. Its balance of luxury, practicality, and electric efficiency positions it as a strong contender in South Africa's growing EV market. While the price may limit its appeal to a select audience, the EQE SUV is an excellent showcase of what modern electric mobility can deliver. 🚗

by *bernie hellberg jr*

BACKING THE NEXT BIG THING

Investing in South Africa's Innovation Economy

If you understand that the future is digital, and have a desire to invest in that future, here are some of the best investment opportunities in the technology and fintech space to consider in South Africa.

South Africa's tech sector is on a steep growth trajectory, driven by a wave of fintech disruptors, e-commerce innovators, and AI-powered solutions. The country has become a hub for startup activity in Africa, attracting local and international investors who see the potential in its rapidly expanding digital economy. For individual investors, the opportunity to back the next big thing in tech is more accessible than ever, whether through venture capital funds, direct startup investments, or tech-focused stocks. Here's how to get started.

THE TECH AND FINTECH BOOM IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African tech sector has evolved significantly in recent years, with startups addressing critical gaps in finance, logistics, healthcare, and

retail. Fintech, in particular, has been a standout, with companies like Yoco, Luno, and JUMO revolutionising digital payments, cryptocurrency adoption, and alternative lending. The success of these firms highlights the sector's ability to scale and create value, making it an attractive space for investors seeking high-growth opportunities.

Government support, increased venture capital funding, and a growing consumer base embracing digital solutions have all contributed to the sector's rise. With South Africa being home to the highest number of unicorns (startups valued at over \$1 billion) in Africa, the momentum is undeniable.

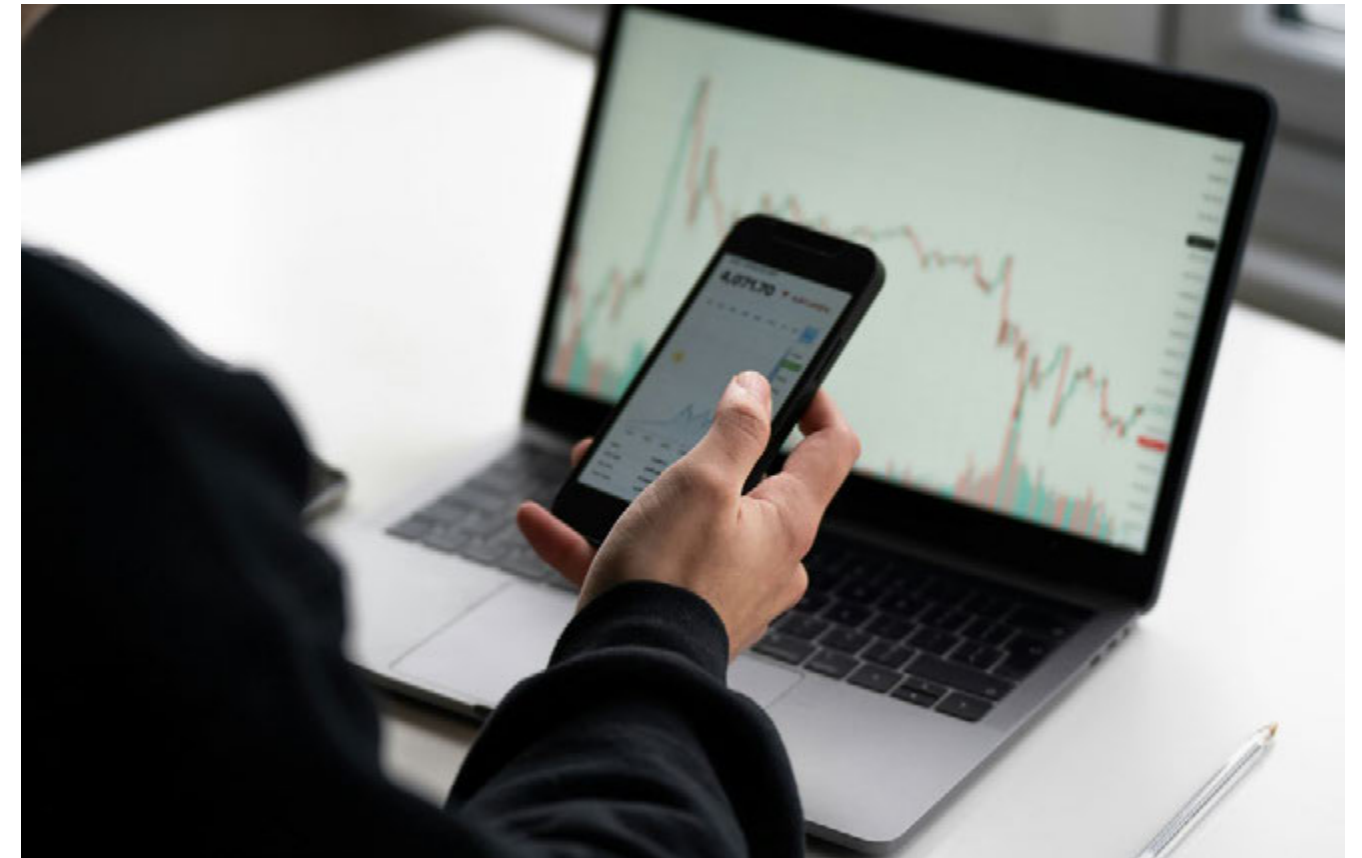
INVESTMENT AVENUES

For those looking for a structured approach, investing in venture capital or private equity funds focused on tech startups is a smart choice. These funds pool investor money to back a range of

high-potential startups, mitigating risk through diversification. Local players like Knife Capital, 4Di Capital, and Naspers Foundry have proven track records of identifying and nurturing successful tech ventures.

If you prefer a more hands-on approach, platforms like Uprise.Africa allow individuals to invest directly in early-stage startups. Angel investing, where individuals provide seed funding to promising entrepreneurs in exchange for equity, is also growing in popularity. Joining networks like the South African Business Angel Network (SABAN) can provide access to curated investment opportunities and mentorship programs.

For those who want exposure to the tech sector without the volatility of startup investments, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) offers several tech-related stocks. Investing in companies like Naspers, which owns a stake in global tech giant Tencent, or




exchange-traded funds (ETFs) focused on technology can provide a safer entry point while still benefiting from the industry's growth.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE INVESTING

Investing in tech startups is exciting, but it is not without risks. A great idea isn't enough - a startup needs a solid business model, a clear path to revenue, and a strong target market. The strength of the founding team is critical, and it is essential to look for founders with industry experience, a track record of execution, and the ability to adapt. Fintech startups, in particular, need to navigate complex financial regulations, so ensuring the company is compliant and has a strategy to manage potential legal hurdles is crucial. It is also important to consider the exit strategy - will the startup seek acquisition, list publicly, or reinvest profits for long-term growth?

WHY NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST

South Africa's startup ecosystem is maturing, with increasing support from accelerators, incubators, and corporate investors. As digital adoption continues to rise, the demand for innovative tech solutions will only grow, creating more opportunities for investors. With careful research and the right strategy, backing South African tech startups could be a rewarding long-term play, positioning investors at the forefront of Africa's digital revolution.

For those willing to embrace the risks and rewards of investing in innovation, the future looks promising. Whether through venture funds, angel investments, or publicly traded tech giants, the time to act is now. 

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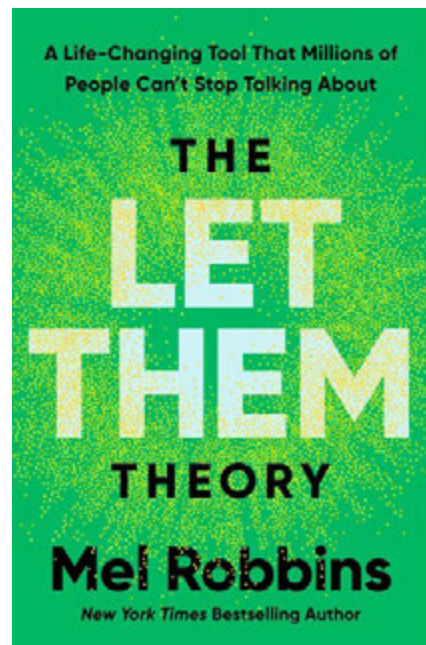
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TO ENTERTAIN

THE ALTO KNIGHTS

Cast: Robert De Niro, Cosmo Jarvis & Debra Messing

The Alto Knights follows two of New York's most notorious organised crime bosses, Frank Costello and Vito Genovese (both played by De Niro), as they vie for control of the city's streets. Once the best of friends, petty jealousies and a series of betrayals place them on a deadly collision course that will reshape the Mafia (and America) forever.



THE LET THEM THEORY

By Mel Robbins

If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words - "Let them" - will set you free from the opinions, drama, and judgments of others, as well as from the exhausting cycle of trying to manage everything and everyone around you. Mel Robbins - one of the world's most

respected experts on motivation, confidence, and mindset - teaches you how to stop wasting energy on what you can't control and start focusing on you. Written as an easy-to-understand guide, Robbins shares relatable stories from her own life, highlights key takeaways and relevant research, and introduces you to world-renowned experts in psychology, neuroscience, relationships, happiness, and ancient wisdom who champion the "Let Them Theory" every step of the way.

visual presence that complements any modern space. Recently honoured with a Wallpaper 2025 Design Award*, this Marantz range is cementing its place as a groundbreaking fusion of innovation, beauty, and craftsmanship in the world of audio technology. In South Africa, where the love for great music and high-end craftsmanship runs deep, the Marantz Horizon resonates perfectly with local consumers who appreciate luxury that doesn't compromise performance, bringing world-class audio to life with a distinctive design that catches the eye and delivers a level of sophistication that elevates any environment.

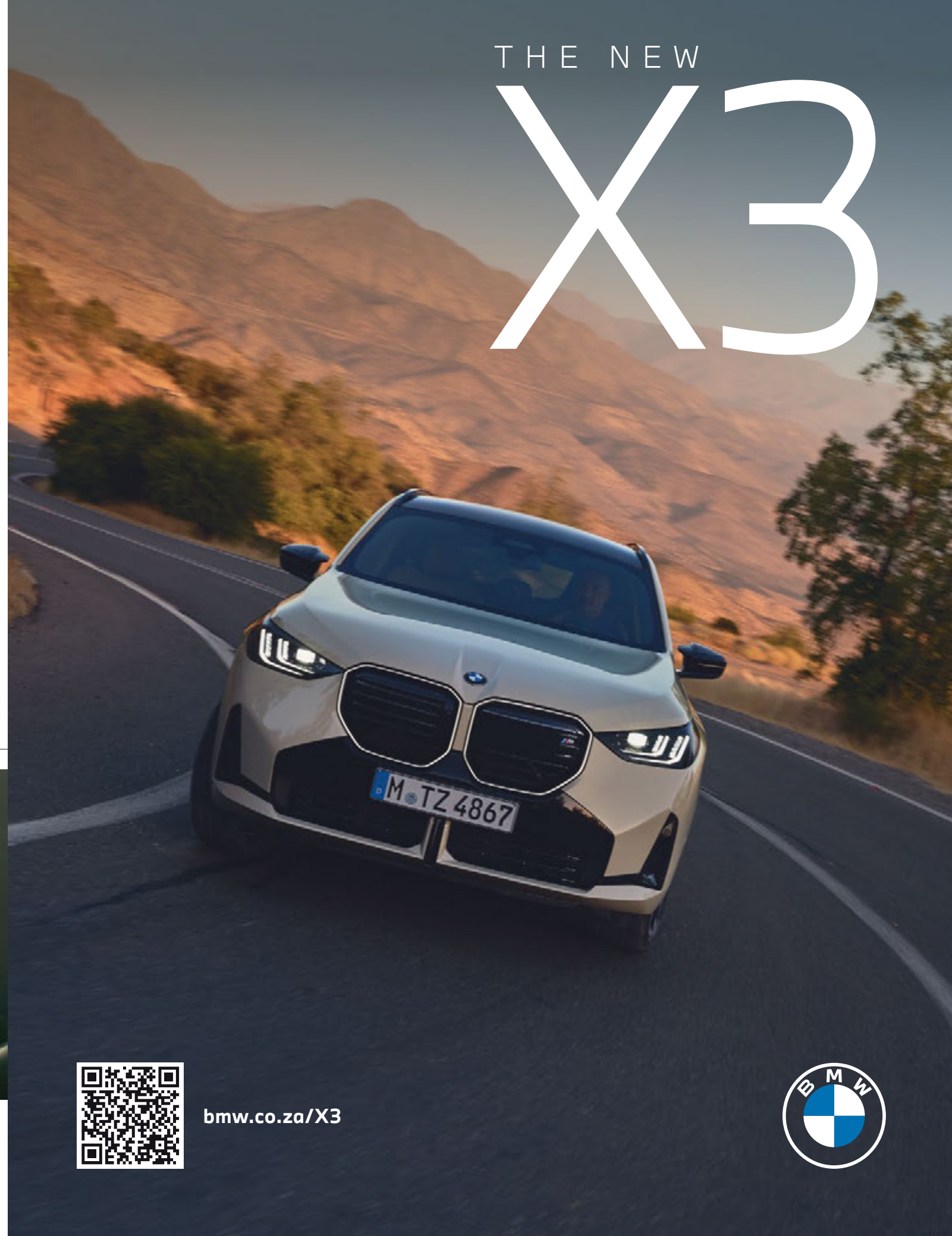
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THE SPEED OF AMBITION

SpaceX's Race to Rewrite the Stars

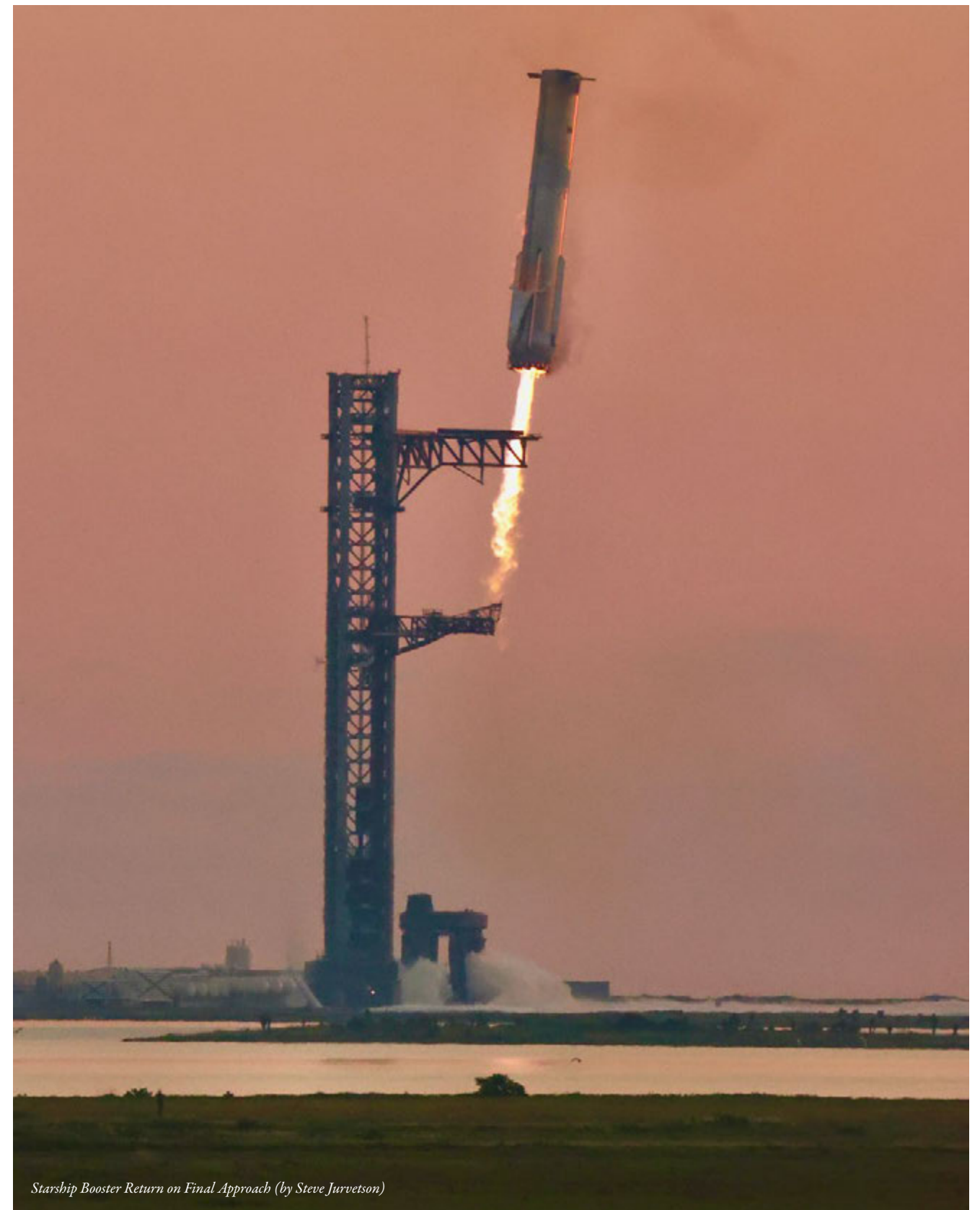
SpaceX doesn't just launch rockets - they launch revolutions. In less than two decades, Elon Musk's brainchild has blasted from a scrappy startup to a cosmic powerhouse, outpacing giants with a relentless drive that's as thrilling as the rides they send skyward. This photo essay captures that velocity - the sheer, audacious speed of ambition that's redefined space travel.

From the first Falcon 1's shaky start in 2006 to a 2023 calendar packed with more launches than most can count, SpaceX has turned the slow grind of aerospace into a high-octane sprint. It's not just about getting to orbit; it's about doing it faster, cheaper, and bolder than anyone dreamt possible - like reusable rockets landing upright while competitors were still sketching blueprints.

Today, they're churning out Starships and slinging Starlink satellites into the void, all while eyeing Mars as the next pit stop. These images - fiery launches

piercing the dusk, engineers hustling under tight deadlines, spacecraft gleaming against the infinite black - tell a story of pace meeting purpose. Musk's mantra of "fail fast, learn faster" fuels a team that iterates at warp speed, turning yesterday's sci-fi into tomorrow's headlines. Buckle up, because SpaceX isn't slowing down - and neither should you as you flip through this galactic rush.

What you're about to see isn't just a company at work; it's ambition hitting the accelerator, leaving Earth in the dust. 🚀



Starship Booster Return on Final Approach (by Steve Jurvetson)

*Intelsat IS-40e Mission
- April 2023*



*Falcon Heavy Demo
Mission Carrying a
Tesla Roadster*



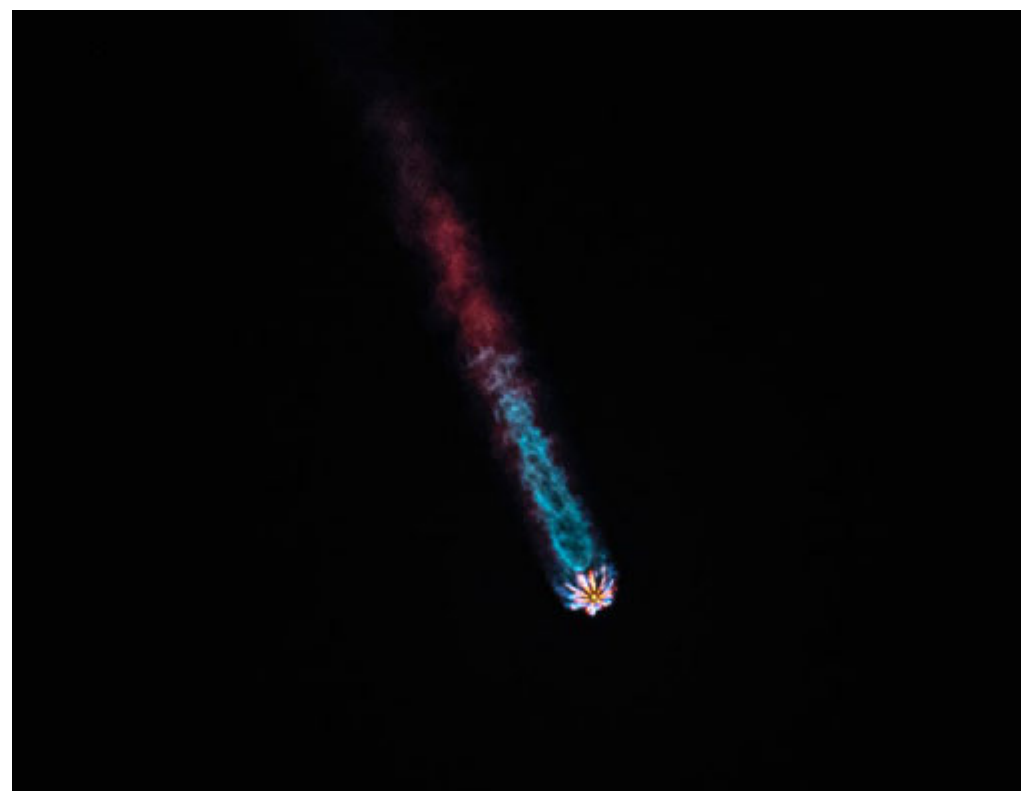
*NASA Crew-5 Mission
- October 2022*



TURKSAT 5A Mission



SpaceX's Falcon 9 Rocket - 14 July 2014



Amazonas Nexus Mission
- February 2023

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