

EXPLORE  
**Life.**



IMAGE COURTESY OF DWYKA TENTED LODGE, SANBONA

## city

An amplification of superb world class hospitality set on Church Square, Labotessa is the ultimate "Cityscape"! A culmination of a love for art, history, luxury, design and uncomplicated sophistication. From conception to completion the Labotessa founders echoed a vision of functionality within luxury living.



## sea

Central to the ethos of Grootbos is that our guests discover the regions natural wonders and directly contribute to its conservation and upliftment of our local communities.

Reinvigorate your mind, body, and soul with a five-star luxury escape to Grootbos Private Nature Reserve



## safari

Gondwana Private Game Reserve provides Safari Lodge Accommodation and an authentic African Safari Experience close to Cape Town. A luxurious malaria-free Safari Holiday destination with free-roaming Big Five Safari Animals. Guests are treated to attentive service and an array of activities including Africology spa treatments, and the popular Junior Ranger program.





## “YOUR PERSONAL PROFESSIONAL” BE TREATED BY YOUR PRO

Experience a truly exceptional golfing breakaway tailored for individual golfers wanting the experience of a lifetime. Combine the luxury and pampering of our award-winning boutique hotel - The Manor House - with its three world-beating golf courses, including The Links, Fancourt's privately owned club that's ranked No 1 in South Africa. Make your golfing experience exclusively yours with the services of a personal professional golfer coaching you all the way throughout your four-night stay.

For booking enquiries contact Reservations on + 27 (0) 44 804 0010 or [reservations@fancourt.co.za](mailto:reservations@fancourt.co.za)



[TheManorHouse.SA](https://www.facebook.com/TheManorHouse.SA) [themanorhousesa](https://www.instagram.com/themanorhousesa) [manorhouse.fancourt.co.za](http://manorhouse.fancourt.co.za) Terms and conditions apply.

### WELCOME TO EXPLORE LIFE – TRAVEL SPECIAL EDITION

As you're picking up this publication, we are celebrating level 1 and our beloved tourism industry is beginning its recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

In heartened conversations between ourselves and industry champions, we knew we wanted this creative collaboration between editor Martine Bauer & Travel writer Jared Ruttenberg, to reignite the travel fires and get locals travelling to our world class destinations through A special edition of EXPLORE LIFE-Travel Magazine.

This issue showcases enticing travel options and local specials in South Africa, including bush, extreme sports, family, pet-friendly and luxury options.

We've gathered the voices and stories of writers across the country with the hope that they inspire you to pack the padkos ... and head out to EXPLORE.

We hope each and every page excites the traveller in you!

Happy Travelling  
Martine & Jared

## 1685 CONSTANTIA WINE ROUTE



### CELEBRATING THEN AND NOW



Honouring heritage and mounted in modernity,  
Constantia is a destination best experienced first-hand

[www.constantiawineroute.com](http://www.constantiawineroute.com)

## An Exceptional Place to Unwind

The Royal Portfolio showcases the very best luxury South African travel experiences. As part of the collection, you can have high expectations when visiting the famed Birkenhead House in Hermanus. This intimate property located in the seaside town of Hermanus does not disappoint! The contemporary décor marries comfort and opulence that breathe new life into guests the instant they enter.

Each of the 11 rooms at Birkenhead House are individually decorated by the stylish wand of owner Liz Biden and are located in three different houses which make up Birkenhead House.

With its unrivalled cliff-top position setting the standard, this superior, luxury hotel offers unmatched views to behold the Southern Right and Humpback Whales spy-hopping out of the waters in Walker Bay.

The all-inclusive rate means that guests never need to leave the comfort of Birkenhead House, where all meals and drinks are included.

The Royal Portfolio has four exclusive properties in South Africa including Royal Malewane in the Greater Kruger National Park, Birkenhead House in Hermanus, La Residence in Franschoek and The Silo Hotel in Cape Town. The Royal Portfolio is offering South African residents less 50% on all accommodation and itinerary rates for stays until 15 December 2020.

[www.theroyalportfolio.com](http://www.theroyalportfolio.com)



## A MARVEL IN THE MOTHER CITY

Labotessa shifts the boundaries of what a luxury boutique hotel should be.

Shaped by its historic past but created for today's discerning global traveller, this hospitality masterpiece will not only enhance your stay in the Mother City, it will define it...

## LABOTESSA

5 CHURCH SQUARE, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA | [STAY@LABOTESSA.COM](mailto:STAY@LABOTESSA.COM) | +27 21 010 6600 | [WWW.LABOTESSA.COM](http://WWW.LABOTESSA.COM)



TAKE ADVANTAGE  
OF OUR LIMITED

## SOUTH AFRICAN RESIDENT PROMOTION

From only R4 000  
per person sharing per night.

Lose yourself in the  
middle of nowhere,  
in a place where time  
stands still and nature  
takes centre stage.

T +27 (0) 21 010 0028 E [reservations@sanbona.com](mailto:reservations@sanbona.com)

[www.sanbona.com](http://www.sanbona.com)

UNTAMED • UNTOUCHED • UNFORGETTABLE

Contact our Reservations department  
now to learn more, T&C's apply



## It's Always a Good Time to go on Safari

With so much uncertainty around Covid safety, safari get-aways are arguably the ideal destination for that much needed escape. Vast landscapes make social distancing a breeze and endless hours of silence while watching the animal kingdom at play, make minimal communication, a welcome reprieve. The bush always manages to still a busy mind and after the Armageddon of lockdown, Bush breaks offer a perfect sanctuary to take advantage of all the fantastic special offers!



### SANBONA WILDLIFE RESERVE - LITTLE KAROO

At the foot of the towering Warmwaterberg Mountains in the Little Karoo, lies the unique safari destination of Sanbona Wildlife Reserve. Three Luxury Lodges and an adventurous Explorer Camp, nestle in 58000 hectares of sculpted Cape Fold Mountains and wide-open plains. Just a three-hour scenic drive from Cape Town to the heart of the Little Karoo, along the Route 62, to an unforgettable, malaria-free private game reserve.

Experience a huge diversity of indigenous flora and fauna and rare examples of San rock art, some dating back more than 3500 years, plus a unique boat safari and thrilling game drives.

More than a Big 5 wilderness reserve, it's the vastness of the landscape, the alluring stillness and isolation amid raw beauty and boundless plains that make Sanbona unique.

Special rates start at R4000 pp.  
[sanbona.com](http://sanbona.com)



### GONDWANA GAME RESERVE - MOSSEL BAY

Less than a four-hour drive away along South Africa's popular Garden Route, lies the award winning, 11000 hectare Gondwana Private Game Reserve – a luxurious malaria-free safari experience. Indigenous Fynbos vegetation cloaks the undulating valleys, adding vivid colour and interest to a Big Five wilderness experience with awe inspiring views of the Langeberg Mountains.

This exclusive reserve offers guests a variety of luxury accommodation with world class interiors, attentive service, superb cuisine, expert game rangers, exhilarating game drives and an array of other activities including mountain biking, the Junior Ranger program, conservation activities, guided fynbos walks, fishing, and spa treatments.

From Romantic escapes to tented camps with family or friends with your own private field guide and camp cook to one of the privately situated luxury Bush Villas on a B&B and game drive package where you can enjoy a family braai on your deck with passing wildlife and jaw dropping sunsets. The team have developed some great value safari specials – Fully inclusive packages starting from only R2750 pp and B&B from R1595 pp.

[www.gondwanagr.co.za](http://www.gondwanagr.co.za)



### GROOTBOS - GANSBAAI, WESTERN CAPE

At Grootbos you will never miss a sunset ... this luxury eco-reserve close to the Southern tip of Africa, is tucked between mountains, forest and sea.

The lodges and suites have been designed to accentuate and frame the sweeping, panoramic views from just every point and angle, ensuring uninterrupted views of the setting sun over the ocean. Enjoy sunsets from the comfort of your luxury suite, on a private sunset picnic or while you have pre-dinner drinks.

The team at Grootbos, go beyond simply conserving this pristine wilderness, they are constantly researching, innovating and pioneering new ways of doing things – in order to transform the lives of community members as well as preserve 2500 hectares of botanical and wildlife treasures.

Experience the beauty of Grootbos in all its glory with the #SpringSplendour and get 55% Off the Normal Rate.

[www.grootbos.com](http://www.grootbos.com)



### MOTSWARI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE - LIMPOPO

Motswari Private Game Reserve, located within the Timbavati and Umbabat Private Nature Reserve, stretches out over 18000 hectares with incredible viewing opportunities to watch the Big Five as they bask in their natural habitat. A total of fifteen en-suite bungalows have been interspersed in nature and make up the Main Camp. This reserve remains exclusive as it never hosts more than thirty guests at any given point in time. Emphasis is placed on personal attention, ensuring that each guest instantly feels at home in this stunning setting. As family-owned Private Game Reserve, The Motswari philosophy is "Arrive as visitors and leave as friends". Motswari means "to conserve and protect" in Tswana and that is exactly what this reserve does! Experience it for yourself by taking advantage of the current promotion: R2950 pp sharing per night.

[newmarkhotels.com](http://newmarkhotels.com)





## Around SA in 23 Days

Seven provinces, 3800kms, six unique locations, and countless Mzansi experiences ... In an unashamed celebration of our beloved South Africa, I set out on a 23-day trip around the country. From budget to luxury hotels, and from countryside to ocean, interviewing people and places, proving South Africa is indeed travel-ready.

### NGALA TENTED CAMP, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

South Africa's is gifted with an astounding wildlife heritage, with an annual 16 million foreign visitors coming to experience its offerings. South Africans have a deep connection with their land and cherish bush holidays, so &BEYOND'S Ngala Tented Camp (in Kruger's private Timbavati concession) made an obvious first stop for our trip.

Lodge manager Dennis Shabangu was overjoyed to be receiving guests again – something his team have been waiting a long time to do. Sentiments repeated over again on my trip. Dennis did have to coax away one or two wild creatures who'd taken advantage of the quieter space and had made the luxury lodge their new home.

Tented Camp has nine beautifully appointed private tents to welcome guests between safari – the highlight being the chance to see the famous white lions of Timbavati.

On this visit I experienced one of the continent's most exclusive sleep out experiences. Arriving at the award-winning Ngala Treehouse my eyes and jaw both hit the floor. The four-storied steel and timber treehouse is fully solar-powered and reaches the 12m height of the tree canopy around. With complete seclusion in the heart of pristine wilderness, this is Africa at its most luxurious best. [andbeyond.com](http://andbeyond.com)

### THONGA BEACH LODGE, KWAZULU-NATAL NORTH COAST

Exchanging bush for beach, the next destination would be one of South Africa's most remote lodges. Isibindi Africa's Thonga Beach Lodge sits on KZN's northern-most stretch of coast – an area often associated with the country's best diving opportunities and unspoilt beaches.

Twelve free-standing thatched rooms are dotted around the forest, connecting to each other and common lodge areas through raised wooden footpaths. Stays include meals, so there's no worrying about cooking or cleaning. All that is required of you is to arrive hungry, for a feast of both food and adventure.

The lodge falls within the Isimangaliso Wetland Park – one of South Africa's 11 UNESCO World Heritage sites – with a startling constellation of wildlife (on both land and sea) earning the area its designation.

Bheki was my Thonga guide and, being native to the area, gave helpful insight into the local culture, fauna, and flora. We paddled on the nearby Lake Sibaya, walked the dune forest, and witnessed one of the most handsome sunsets I've seen. Activities also include scuba diving, snorkelling, turtle tours in season, and ocean adventures to experience all manner of ocean wildlife. A 4x4 is required for the final section of the drive to the camp, with transfers provided for those without one. [thongabeachlodge.co.za](http://thongabeachlodge.co.za)

### INVERNESS FARM, KWAZULU-NATAL MIDLANDS

Next, the unpretentious country charm and rambling hills of the Midlands beckoned. Inverness Farm perches atop one of these hills, giving gracious views over the valley below.

It's a working farm; expect to wake up to the sound of hungry sheep, and horses passing by in the parking lot. Owners Jayne and Pete Foulis are no strangers to hospitality and scattered around their beautiful home are several cottages. Each is uniquely styled with a myriad of personal touches that I couldn't help fall in love with. [midlandscottages.co.za](http://midlandscottages.co.za)

The Midlands Meander sports hundreds of stops across five distinct routes, so be sure to leave time to explore. Among my favourites on this visit was the renowned ceramics company Ardmore, Terbadore Coffee Roasters for the area's best cuppa, and the Platform Gallery to appreciate some local art.

As a budding oenophile, you can bet your bottom bottle one of my most anticipated stops was a revisit to Abingdon Estate – KwaZulu Natal's first wine estate! At an altitude of over 1000m, Ian and Jane Smorsthwaite have achieved something spectacularly significant. Together with their daughter, Laurie Cooper, this trio offers a bouquet of exceptional wines ready to match – if not surpass – some of the best! [abingdonestate.co.za](http://abingdonestate.co.za)



### THE OYSTER BOX HOTEL, UMHLANGA

The Oyster Box Hotel is both icon and institution. For decades this grand dame of a hotel has charmed guests with her luxurious seaside setting. My trip around the country simply had to include some Oyster Box pampering.

The orientation journey starts with a brief tour of the hotel's dining areas and common spaces; each a unique sensorial feast that transports you to an exotic world with every manner of exciting sights and decadent delights.

Adhering to the post-pandemic protocols has been a challenge from both an operational and dining perspective, but Executive Chef Kevin Joseph and his team have risen to the occasion ensuring culinary creativity that still positions the Oyster Box as an epicurean heaven. The High Tea is served with table-side stands – loaded with more than enough enticing bites and nibbles.

I couldn't help indulging in a middle eastern wellness experience – The Oyster Box has one of South Africa's only authentic Turkish hammams. A session in the steam-filled and ornately-mosaiced hammam is followed by an invigorating exfoliation and relaxing massage.

When the food has settled, and the spa treatment has removed all tension, it's to the hotel's picturesque red-and-white-striped pool-side to languish away the rest of the day. Try the "Lighthouse Heaven" cocktail ... you'll thank me later. [oysterboxhotel.com](http://oysterboxhotel.com)

### BULUNGULA LODGE, THE WILD COAST

Meandering further down South Africa's coast and crossing into the Eastern Cape, it's time to exchange the city for a remote village. Hostel or backpacker stays was how I travelled through most of my twenties – both locally and internationally; primarily as a cost-saving measure, but also for the lively and eclectic experiences that often came along with them.

Bulungula provides all the hostel staples: clean rooms, warm water, proximity to the beach and the usual ensemble of curious travellers. The fireside conversations are usually lively affairs, as stories are cast over the embers and various musical instruments making appearances in the night.

The Lodge rests on the green headland that overlooks both river and ocean. The vistas are of the characteristic Wild Coast beaches – vast and, for the most part, deserted – with rolling green hills that seemingly tumble into the ocean.

Bulungula is 100% owned and managed by the Xhosa community from the adjacent Nqileni village. Immersion into the village community and the closely-linked Bulungula Incubator NGO is why people come from all over the world to visit.

Accommodation is provided in rustic huts or tents, starting at an affordable R160. Yoga, guided tours, and massages are some of the activities led by local community members. [bulungula.com](http://bulungula.com)

### MORUKURU BEACH LODGE, DE HOOP NATURE RESERVE

Saving some of the best for last, the final destination on this cross-country journey would be in the Western Cape's De Hoop Nature Reserve. The Morukuru Family offer stays in either the 5-bedroom Beach Lodge or exclusive use 4-bedroom Ocean House.

From their elevated position, expect uninterrupted views over the fynbos-covered dunes to the ocean below. The service is personable beyond belief and the spaces luxurious beyond imagination; it is easy to see why Morukuru has scooped up some of the most prestigious international travel awards.

At Beach Lodge my staggeringly spacious 90m<sup>2</sup> room was everything I could ever want. At De Hoop, somehow the ocean seems bluer, the sky larger, and the fynbos brighter.

The guides at the lodge plan the various activities depending on tides and weather. Some of the favourites are the guided fynbos walks, nature drives, sand boarding, mountain biking, and then marine walks. From June – November Hoop Nature Reserve also boasts the best land-based viewing of southern right whales in the world. At Morukuru Beach Lodge you can whale-spot from the bar, dining room and even from your bed.

Sitting in the presence of these graceful creatures, with tears of appreciation, I knew I couldn't have chosen a more majestic space to conclude this 23-day trip around our beloved country. [morukuru.com](http://morukuru.com)

– Jared Ruttenberg

## Emergence into a World of Luxury at Arabella Hotel Golf & Spa

Escape to a luxurious experience, whether it is the pleasure of a getaway with your loved one, a family retreat or holidaying with friends. Book your stay now at great rates from R1900 including breakfast, per room per night. Min two-nights stay. T's & C's apply.

The breathtaking Arabella Hotel Golf & Spa which joined Tsogo Sun Hotels' portfolio in February 2020, is ideally located in the heart of the Kogelberg Biosphere. The 145-bedroom hotel includes facilities such as a top 10 nationally ranked championship golf course, and an award-winning spa. This hotel is ideal for country escapes just 90-minutes from the heart of Cape Town surrounded by fynbos and mountains, discover Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa. Visit [www.tsogosun.com](http://www.tsogosun.com) for more info.

## WIN a 2-Night Getaway with Rickety Bridge Manor House

Overlooking the glorious Wemmershoek Mountain range and the estate vines, the Rickety Bridge Manor House, offers luxurious accommodation and a timeless experience enhanced by dramatic yellow wood-beamed ceilings and pine floors, heavy Dutch furniture, a fire-warmed lounge and country kitchen.

The stylishly-renovated guest house is just a stone throw away from the beautiful tasting room where guests can sample the superb Rickety Bridge Winery wines. Every detail has been considered at this Franschhoek luxury stay! One LUCKY couple stand a chance to WIN a two-night complimentary stay including breakfast at the five star-rated Rickety Bridge Manor House.

Subscribe to our newsletter [www.explorelife.co.za](http://www.explorelife.co.za) and follow us on social media to stand a chance to win!

📧 [explorelifemagazine](mailto:explorelifemagazine) | 📷 [instagram.com/explorelifemagazine](https://www.instagram.com/explorelifemagazine)

Visit [www.ricketybridge.com](http://www.ricketybridge.com) or book your stay on [accommodation@ricketybridge.com](mailto:accommodation@ricketybridge.com) or 021 876 2994

T's and C's apply



**FANCOURT**  
SOUTH AFRICA



## DISCOVER FAMILY MOMENTS

\* FROM R2715 PER LUXURY ROOM | KIDS UNDER 16 STAY FREE!

What makes the perfect family holiday? For visitors to Fancourt it's the freedom to play and explore in a safe, fun loving and family-friendly environment. It's the chance to discover the delights and wonders of the Garden Route. It's time to reconnect and relax in 5-star comfort and understated luxury.

Grab some bikes, head off on our nature trails or explore the estate on an eco-scooter. Enjoy complimentary use of the gym, tennis courts, Kidz Club and Teen Zone. Lie by the pool, tee off for a game of golf or head to The Spa. There is something for everyone.

Book and pay by 31 October 2020 for travel till 15 April 2021 and qualify for 2020 rates. based on a minimum two-night stay (kids U16 sharing with their parents), including breakfast daily.

For booking enquiries contact Reservations on + 27 (0) 44 804 0010 or [reservations@fancourt.co.za](mailto:reservations@fancourt.co.za)



[f](#) FancourtSA [t](#) fancourtsa [i](#) fancourtsa [www.fancourt.com](http://www.fancourt.com) Terms and conditions apply.

## Rouse Your Soul with Adventure Travel

Get out of your comfort zone on your next break and try one of these invigorating activities.

### MOSSSEL BAY ZIPLINE

Imagine dropping over the cliff edge on a 1100m long zipline, to find yourself suspended 90m over the sea. The distance from your dangling feet to the swirling depths below rapidly decreases as you speed towards the landing platform at The Point – possibly clocking 90km/h. Mossel Bay Zipline is unique in South Africa in that the whole ride takes place over the (sometimes tumultuous) ocean. There's a chance that you could get drenched by an unfortunately-timed wave crashing against the rocks. Your lungs filled with sea air, you'll get to enjoy a view that stretches from the craggy rocks to the horizon on the 'world's longest single over-ocean zipline.'

Cost R450 per person

Contact 068 022 9183 | [www.mosselbayzipline.co.za](http://www.mosselbayzipline.co.za)

Where to stay Protea Hotel Mossel Bay  
044 691 3738 | [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)

### SIDECAR TRIP WITH CAPE SIDECAR ADVENTURES

Take in the incredible views of Camps Bay and Clifton below as you glide down the forested Kloof Nek Drive in vintage style. A short two-hour trip in a chauffeured sidecar can include your choice of route past Signal Hill, along the Atlantic Seaboard to Chapman's Peak Drive or you could opt to visit Bloubergstrand on the West Coast.

On a full day trip, your driver can take you to the Cape Winelands for a selection of wine tastings and lunch among the vineyards or around the Cape Peninsula – with stops at Boulder's penguins colony and Cape Point Nature Reserve. During whale-watching season you may spot some southern rights on a drive along the coastal road past Gordan's Bay to Betty's Bay.

Cost Discounted rate until 31 December 2020: R2000 per sidecar with driver for a two-hour trip (with up to two passengers). R3750 per sidecar with driver for four-hour trip. R4000 per sidecar with driver for full-day (eight-hour) trip.

Contact 021 434 9855 | [www.sidecars.co.za](http://www.sidecars.co.za)

Where to stay The Marly, Camps Bay  
021 437 1287 | [www.themarly.co.za](http://www.themarly.co.za)

### HORSE RIDING ALONG THE WILD COAST

Wild Coast Horseback Adventures at Kei River Mouth offers a variety of ways to explore the Eastern Cape's dramatic coastline from the saddle. Whether it's your first time on the back of a horse and you're happy to rock to and fro at a gentle pace on the sandy shore, or you're a seasoned equestrian looking for some more exhilarating riding, there's a steed suited to the task. A one-and-a-half-hour beach ride is the ideal way to get started, while more experienced riders can do overnight trips to find hidden waterfalls, picnic on the grassy hills of the rugged Wild Coast and gallop along the beach. Choose anything from a short outride to a week-long treks.

Cost Beginner beach ride R400. Two-night, three-day weekend special including dinner, bed and breakfast R2900. Seven-night, eight-day Kei River Horse Trail including full board with four nights at Kei Mouth Guest Lodge, two nights at Wavcrest Hotel and the final night at Kei Mouth Guest Lodge, R21596 (SA resident special offer).

Contact 082 567 0972  
[www.wildcoasthorsebackadventures.com](http://www.wildcoasthorsebackadventures.com)

Where to stay If you are only doing a day ride I recommend the Morgan Bay Hotel, Morgan Bay. You'll wake up to the sound of crashing waves at this recently renovated hotel only 15 minutes drive from Kei River Mouth. 043 841 1062 | [www.morganbayhotel.co.za](http://www.morganbayhotel.co.za)

### KAYAK AND LILO ADVENTURE, STORMS RIVER GORGE

This family-friendly adventure, within the Tsitsikamma National Park, takes you up the Storms River by kayak where the gorge walls drip with indigenous forest flora. Knowledgeable guides will lead your group over deep river channels, past the bats' cave and to a sand bank where you'll switch your craft for an inflatable lilo. These specially designed floatables allow you to access the narrow parts of the gorge and to continue to explore more of the river, encircled by spectacular cliffs. On the way back there's a stop where you'll get the chance to leap off the overhanging rock walls into the pools below.

Cost R695.

Contact 073 1300 689 | [www.untouchedadventures.com](http://www.untouchedadventures.com)

Where to stay Misty Mountain Reserve  
041 582 1461 | [www.mistymountainreserve.co.za](http://www.mistymountainreserve.co.za)

– Elise Kirsten (@elisekirsten)



## Escape to Franschhoek Country Cottages

Franschhoek Country Cottages and Wildlife Reserve is the city escape you have been dreaming of!

The comfortable, self-catering cottages are situated in a wildlife reserve at the foot of the Franschhoek Mountain range, in the heart of the gourmet capital of the Cape Winelands.

The no-fuss cottages invite you to de-stress, decompress and re-acquaint yourself with nature.

Take in the breath-taking scenery with mountain slopes

covered in spectacular vineyards while viewing a zebra wildlife strolling past your private verandah. Franschhoek is the ideal base while you explore the Cape Winelands.

The team at Franschhoek Cottages adhere to strict Covid-Safe protocols so you can sleep peacefully to the sounds of nature!

[www.franschhoekcountrycottages.co.za](http://www.franschhoekcountrycottages.co.za)



# Follow the Vine

WINELANDS TRAVEL TO SATIATE MORE THAN JUST A TRAVELER'S THIRST



**GRANDE PROVENCE HERITAGE ESTATE, FRANSCHHOEK**  
Whether you are experiencing the fine wines on the estate in Franschhoek, or from another enviable location, the wine will make you long for romantic views of the vineyard.

On the estate, vineyard views are best enjoyed from the plush Owner's Cottage and La Provencale Villa. From the comfort of The Owners Cottage, I have snuggled in an armchair beside a roaring fire in winter. In summer, the privacy of the swimming pool provided respite from the heat. A glass of Grande Provence Rose can be enjoyed from this private enclave, or during a leisurely picnic in the Sculpture Garden. The artwork in The Gallery provides further inspiration. The Gallery is adjacent to The Restaurant, a gourmand's paradise. The industrial-chic tasting room is adjoined to The Restaurant.

In addition to its hospitality offerings, Grande Provence reaches out to the community by way of a Music School, available to children aged 12-18, with complimentary attendance.

Visiting Franschhoek from the vantage point of this extraordinary location will give you a grand introduction to a phenomenal wine valley. [grandeprovence.co.za](http://grandeprovence.co.za)



**JORDAN HERITAGE ESTATE, STELLENBOSCH**

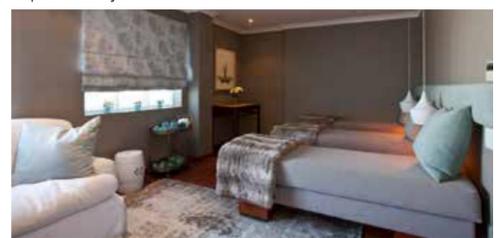
Chef George Jardin trained under Michelin starred chef, Jean Christophe Novelli in London. Both of the Stellenbosch-based restaurants helmed by Chef George Jardin, Jardin Restaurant and The Restaurant at Jordan, have received coveted spots on the list of the Mercedes Benz Eat Out Top 30 Restaurants in South Africa in 2019.

According to Chef George Jardin, "Jordan Wine Estate has an absolutely stunning setting, and is the perfect place for Louise and I to personally attend to our guests, to pamper their palates and de-stress their minds, letting them experience the highest levels of cuisine and service matched to some truly great wines."

Wine at Jordan can be tasted at an enviable location, overlooking the vineyards, the lake and neighbouring estates. Visitors to the estate will be drawn to visit their highly regarded neighbours, including De Morgenzon, Hartenberg, Clos Malverne, JC Le Roux and other renowned brands.

Be spoiled by an in-room massage overlooking the vineyards at Jordan Luxury Suites.

Whether you are drawn to Jordan for its wine, The Bakery at Jordan, The Restaurant or even more of its magnificent offerings, a stay at Jordan Luxury Suites elevates any experience. [jordanwines.com](http://jordanwines.com)



**GALENIA ESTATE, MONTAGU**

Montagu, a Little Karoo town, located roughly 180km from Cape Town is a treasure trove.

The idyllic town is located along the Route 62 to Robertson. Montagu's proximity to the Robertson Wine Valley puts it in driving proximity to wine and travel experiences in towns which include Ashton, Bonnievale, Robertson and McGregor. The globally treasured Cap Classique at Graham Beck, Silverthorn MCC, Weltevrede Wine Estate and Paul Rene MCC in Robertson will provide delight to those who appreciate life's finest bubbles. Likewise, tasting experiences at Springfield Estate, De Wetshof Wine Estate, Tanagra Winery & Distillery, Mont Blois Wine Estate, Jan Harmgat, Lord's Wines, Mimosa, Rietvallei Wine Estate and many others provide memorable wine moments for visitors to the Robertson Wine Valley.

Montagu Dried Fruit highlight the depth of the valley's offerings and Marbrin Olive Farm – a renowned olive and truffle oil brand, reveals Robertson's olive splendor.

The boundless exploration of The Robertson Wine Valley is decadently enjoyed from the olive groves at Galenia Estate with over 2500 trees. The decadent accommodation at Galenia includes 10 guest suites boasting views of the olive groves, an open log fire and romantic free-standing bath.

The multi-award-winning olive-oil produced at Galenia Estate is best appreciated with a meal at the estate paired with some of Robertson's famous wine. [galenia.co.za](http://galenia.co.za)

**STEENBERG FARM, CONSTANTIA**

The Constantia Wine Route is located roughly thirty minutes from Cape Town.

Steenberg Farm is one of the best places to appreciate this dynamic valley. With an award-winning hotel and spa, Steenberg provides an escape from the rush of city life.

After a pedicure at Steenberg Spa, take a walk to your choice of restaurants – Tryn Restaurant and Bistro 1682, where Chef Kerry Kilpin is at the helm. You can also view the resplendent Eduardo Villa Sculpture as you make your way towards the sparkling enclave that is the tasting room where cellar master Elunda Basson's wines are treasured. [steenbergfarm.com](http://steenbergfarm.com)

– Tshelang Molisana (@tshelangmolisana)

**HANDCRAFTED • CURATED • PERFECTED**

**BOUCHARD FINLAYSON**  
A BOUTIQUE VINEYARD

+27 28 312 3515 [info@bouchardfinlayson.co.za](mailto:info@bouchardfinlayson.co.za) [www.bouchardfinlayson.co.za](http://www.bouchardfinlayson.co.za) [BouchardFinlayson](#) [@bouchfinlayson](#) [@bouchardfinlayson](#) [Shop online SA](#)

HEMEL-EN-AARDE VALLEY, HERMANUS, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

# Fabulous Family Escapes

Now that we're free to explore South Africa with our families, it's time to seek out the kid-friendly spots where children can run wild and parents relax (somewhat!). Luckily for us, the country we call home happens to be bursting with an abundance of natural beauty, diversity of landscapes and activities. Whether you're in search of a coastal break, a safari adventure or small-town stay; there is something spectacular for every family to enjoy.

Here's a few top Fabulous Family Escapes:

## SWELLENDAM

This historical little town under 3 hours drive from Cape Town has quite a few surprise outdoor adventures up its sleeve and caters to all levels of action-seekers from renting bikes in the town, to mountain biking trails and hikes in Marloth Nature Reserve to micro lighting at Umshanti. Take the kids kayaking at the Buffeljags dam, picnic at Bontebok National Park or go horseback riding with Two Feathers Horse trails.

## STAY AT MOUNTAIN VIEW COTTAGE SWELLENDAM

Whether toasty or chilly, book the private cottage here to watch the stars from the wood-fired hot tub at night or swim in the pool by day. Play board games around the indoor fireplace and enjoy the sunset at a table in their indigenous garden. [mountainviewswellendam.co.za](http://mountainviewswellendam.co.za)

## STELLENBOSCH

With family-friendly wine estates like Middlelei with its farm animals and giant board games on the grass or Vergenoegd with weekend morning markets and daily duck parades; Stellenbosch and surrounds beckons to families with children of all ages. Older children will love the Segway tours at Spier while the younger ones can play on the jungle gym and run on the grass lawns while parents enjoy wine tasting or a meal at one of their cafes and restaurants.

## STAY AT SPANISH FARM GUEST HOUSE LODGE, SOMERSET WEST

Just 20 minutes drive from Stellenbosch lies two-bedroom villas on 4-hectare estate of Spanish Farm with panoramic views over the ocean, surrounding farms and the mountainside forest. With a fynbos boardwalk, springback grazing on the lawn and indigenous gardens just out the door, kids of all ages will be in their absolute element. Parents alike will love the outdoor shower, pool and large space to enjoy as a family on cold and warm days. My two year old fell in love with the springback grazing in the garden while we did puzzles on the stoep. [capesummervillas.co.za](http://capesummervillas.co.za)

## WATERBERG, LIMPOPO

When it comes to the Waterberg, its magic lies in its rich cultural heritage of its people and the abundance of wildlife. Set off on the Ribola Art Route, an immersive art tour taking you to a few galleries and studios of local artists where you and your family can learn to sculpt, the art of traditional textiles as well as wood carvings and metalwork. Or go on child-friendly safari at a game reserve without predators.

## STAY AT ANT'S NEST, WATERBERG

Families are at the heart of Ant's Nest and it's one reserve where young kids can join you on game drives (my son was utterly enthralled seeing wild animals for the first time), try horse-riding lessons and/or join reptile and snake talks. Enlist the kids on a bug and spoor walk or pop your under 4's on a led pony ride. Childminders are available while parents explore this private game reserve on horseback or go rhino tracking. [waterberg.net/ants-nest](http://waterberg.net/ants-nest)

## KAROO

When you've got time on your hands and a car loaded with snacks for a road trip with kids, hit Route 62 and wind your way along the valley of the Klein Karoo (and greater Karoo if you're on a longer holiday). Hemmed in by the Swartberg, Langeberg and Outeniqua Mountains in the South, you'll have plenty of towns to stop at between Montagu and Ladismith. The Karoo itself is vast and can take you to the semi-arid desert of the Tankwa Karoo or down towards the artist's haven of towns like Nieu Bethesda and Graff-Reinet.

## STAY AT THE GONDWANA FAMILY LODGE, SANBONA WILDLIFE RESERVE.

While we embarked on game drives through the malaria-free 58000 hectare reserve, my son embarked on a 'Kids on Safari' programme with a wonderful childminder. Together we explored the skeleton garden with him, identifying the skulls of wildlife and collected dung to stick in his book. To this day he still wears his Sanbona cap and talks about our stay. [sanbona.com](http://sanbona.com)

– Lauren Manuel McShane (@thetravelmanuel)



Special rates up to 50% off available to South African residents  
Available for a limited period only, T's & C's apply

For reservations book online at [www.fch.co.za](http://www.fch.co.za)  
or contact us on +27 (0)21 876 3386



## THE WINES OF JORDAN STELLENBOSCH

Wine tasting & tours,  
World class restaurants,  
Luxury accommodation  
and so much more!

Visit our website  
[Jordanwines.com](http://Jordanwines.com)

- Jordan\_wines
- Jordan\_wines
- Jordan Wine Estate Stellenbosch



## Angala

– A BAREFOOT 5-STAR LUXURY SANCTUARY  
IN THE HEART OF THE CAPE WINELANDS

Imagine a place where your spirit feels at ease; a place where the natural healing energy encapsulates you like a balm for your soul the moment you arrive; a place where laidback-luxe accommodation and warm hospitality are only surpassed by the sheer beauty of the surrounding nature. Such a place exists. Welcome to Angala.

In an age where time is the most precious commodity, spending every moment of your getaway intuitively is of great importance. At Angala there is no prescribed itinerary or lengthy list of must-do's and must-sees – instead it is a place to disconnect, switch off and recharge.

For more information contact 021 874 1366 or email, [reservations@angala.co.za](mailto:reservations@angala.co.za)  
Rates at Angala are from R3550 per room, subject to availability and available to SA residents only.



## Island Style: to the Beach & Beyond

As regional travel resumes, Africa's Indian Ocean islands present enticing reopening travel opportunities. Whether beachy and barefoot or off-the-beaten-track these atolls lie a short hop, skip and direct flight away from South Africa.

### REUNION

For travellers after a totally different island approach, kick beach resorts to the curb with a visit to Réunion. A little fragment of France (in essence, a distant 'province'), soaring topographical turrets and rocky coasts shape this exquisite region which lies east of Madagascar.

Almost half of Réunion Island is listed and protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In practical terms, this equates to a whole lot of natural splendour and diverse ways to soak it all up. Welcome to destination adventure!

The active volcano, Piton de la Fournaise (Peak of the Furnace), is unquestionably the chief tourist attraction and, having erupted almost 200 times over the last 350 years, it offers plenty of volcanic action in itself. Suit up and walk below it via lava tunnels, soar above it on a scenic helicopter flight or trudge upon its charcoal rocks on walks to the various viewpoints.

The emerald-cloaked mountains that flank the volcano are no less enchanting. Canyoning opportunities, rock pool dips, multi-day hikes and epic views convene within their folds.

Réunion enjoys the same status as the mainland in Europe, so despite its geographically African status, this island is undeniably French. The food (buttery, flaky croissant anyone?) and wine, bear the Euro price tag, while transport is well-developed. For ease of travel, Réunion scores top points.

CHECK IN: Réunion is more geared to boutique hotels and B&Bs, than typical resorts. For a mountainous base, Tsilaosa Hotel is impossibly quaint. Painted yellow and adorned in the Creole lambrequins (Réunion's own style of broekie lace) the hotel overlooks sweeping valleys. tsilaosa.com



### MAURITIUS

Many South Africans are familiar with the flawless beaches of Mauritius and ease of its fly-and-flop holiday packages. A mere four-hour flight and travellers can stroll the sapphire-edged shores or retreat to a lounge at one of the countless coastal resorts. Renowned as a sanctuary, this island sure does project a state of peace. Sipping on a sweet mix of pineapple and coconut beneath palm tree fronds, you might wonder if her serene temper is because Mauritius is one of only ten countries in the world that's never experienced war.

One departure from the beach proves that Mauritius has many faces. Historically, the island experienced a string of ongoing population movements as indentured labourers arrived from nearby Madagascar, Comoros, Mozambique and further afield from South East Asia and even Yemen to work on Mauritius' growing sugar plantations.

The result is a vibrant concoction of culture, the intricacies of which are best encountered through taste.

The Attitude resorts, one of few Mauritian-owned hotel chains, have done a respectful job of incorporating this Creole history by serving traditional cuisine and providing a simple way for guests to explore beyond resort walls – an app. The Otentik Discovery geo-location smartphone app has 11 curated itineraries, including a street food tour. The beauty of travel indeed lies in our differences, and this is a fabulous way to examine these.

However, even with the choice to go out, there's something to be said for total relaxation, and Mauritius is exceptionally good at that. No one will judge if you opt for that lounge.

CHECK IN: Attitude Hotels consists of eight different resorts across the island and has also launched a new 'Positive Impact' movement to improve its commitment to sustainability, support the island's economy, protect the environment and care for the local community. hotels-attitude.com

Named on Time's illustrious list of World's Greatest Places in 2019, the boutique SALT of Palmar is also an excellent choice for responsible travellers. saltresorts.com



### MAFIA ISLAND

Mafia Island offers an old-world escape with world-class underwater activities. Overall, this archipelago south of Zanzibar is more rustic than both Mauritius and Réunion and is best suited to those seeking a super-relaxed, get-away-from-it-all vacation.

Home to a magnificent Marine National Park, Mafia Island boasts outstanding coral reefs thriving with life. Divers go nuts for the pristine paradise that lies below, but the star attraction has to be the marine mammals that swim the shallower sandy bays to the west.

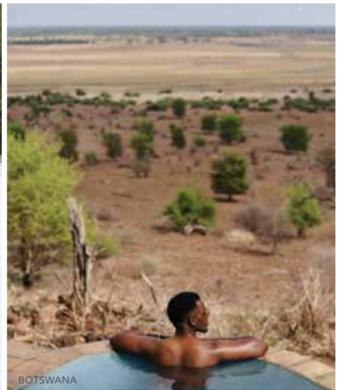
Best seen with a simple snorkel and an abundance of energy, guests can swim with whale sharks. It's easiest to see this species between October and February. Still, Mafia's population of Rhinocodon typus is unique, according to the scientists at the Marine Megafauna Foundation, because they like to linger around the island throughout the year.

CHECK IN: Butiama Beach lodge delivers on every level: three-course meals, kayaking, whale shark safaris, sandbank fish braais and an on-site spa. butiamabeach.com

– Melanie van Zyl (@melaniejanevz)

## Boundless Africa

There are many places adventure-seekers looking for some major luxe will want to visit when borders open ... here are two of them.



### NAMIBIA

Too remote, too vast, and too unpredictable, Namibia challenges travellers to navigate through its ancient desert wilderness, making each journey incomparably one's own. The reward: gorgeous landscapes filled with emptiness, otherworldly craters, swirling sand dunes, rolling savannahs, a distinct lack of people and the only place in the world where the desert meets the sea.

The stark contrast of towering dunes, haunting outcrops and sweeping plains sets the country apart from more traditional safari destinations. Desert adaptive wildlife roam the harsh conditions alluring you to track them through a guided tour.

### WHERE TO STAY

#### Gondwana Collection's Desert Whisper

If you're looking for intimacy, exclusivity and luxury, Gondwana Collection's Desert Whisper promises extraordinary views from the most remarkable location. Overlooking the exceptional boundless beauty of Namibia's landscape atop an outcrop, the one-of-a-kind pod-shaped escape for two delivers an unexpected yet sophisticated hideaway.

The contemporary desert home features an open-plan lounge and dining area and fully-equipped kitchen with a well-stocked bar. You can soak up the spectacular desert vistas from the bedroom and en-suite bathroom or the terrace. Down below along the wooden walkway lies a plunge pool to help you cool down from the desert heat. Much like its name suggests, the desert whispers sweet nothings all day long.

### WHAT TO DO

#### Stargazing in the Desert

Home to an International Dark Sky Reserve, Namibia's desert landscape is ideal for stargazing making it one of the best places in the world to do so. As the sun sets, the magic of Namibia's night skies puts on a starry show



bound to inspire astro-tourism. Expect unobstructed views of the sky, unpopulated emptiness, an eerie calmness and enveloping darkness.

### SCENIC ROAD TRIP

The best way to experience Namibia's contrasting landscapes of bush, coast, and desert is by road. We hired an off-road vehicle from family-owned Travel Namibia 4x4 Car Rental for the relatively short, fun drive that takes the best part of four hours. Filled with evolving landscapes from high-rise buildings and lush greenery along the tarred road to gravel that meanders villages and outcrops that lead to the desert, the drive from Windhoek to the Namib Desert provides a much welcome backdrop setting the scene for an epic road trip.

### BOTSWANA

Botswana holds a special place in every traveller's heart who has experienced her safaris. Everyone will tell you how vividly they remember their first safari experience in the landlocked nation that's home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely the sacred Tsodilo Hills and the last Eden of Africa in the form of the Okavango Delta.

Botswana's vast yet flat horizons afford travellers plenty of room to explore and get lost in its sensory delights. From the perfume of wild sage offsetting pungent elephant dung to cultural cuisine that makes you feel right at home, majestic encounters that beg you to be present to lullabies of over 595 birds waking you up and the calls of wild dogs and felines filling the night air as your go to sleep.

### WHERE TO STAY

#### Ngoma Safari Lodge

Located 55km outside of Kasane, getting to Ngoma Safari Lodge means you enjoy a game drive that cuts in the middle

of the country's first national park for most of the drive. The journey offers views of wildlife crossing the road. At one point we stop to watch a herd of no less than thirty young and old elephants led by a wrinkled matriarch.

Arriving at the picturesque Ngoma Safari Lodge feels like a well-deserved reward. Perched on a ridge in the Chobe Forest Reserve, affording a signature vista of the Chobe River and floodplain, the lodge consists of eight air-conditioned thatched suites featuring a private pool. Ngoma Safari Lodge is more than just a property. With a sense of community, the lodge was developed together with the Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, setting the bar for sustainable initiatives that ensure the wildlife, communities and guests benefit equally.

### THINGS TO DO

#### Game Drive

Covering approximately 11700km<sup>2</sup>, "the Chobe area is home to the largest population of elephants," whispers our guide, Tebogo Simasiku, as we watch a herd drink water along the Chobe River at first light. He adds that "there are over 120000 elephants in the region." The Chobe National Park is the ideal place to get familiar with flora and fauna. Whether guided or self-driven, you're bound to have incredible encounters.

### BOAT CRUISE

Africa's four corners meet in the town of Kasane where Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe converge. A boat cruise allows you to enter the Chobe National Park from a different vantage. With all day cruises available, the best times to experience various wildlife drinking along the river while golden sun shimmers in the ripples of the blue waters and illuminates the ecosystem around is early morning and late afternoon.

– Uyapo Ketogetswe



**N.E.W.S. travel**  
north east west south

Tel 021 876 2920 | goneroaming@mweb.co.za  
Unit 2, Village Artisan, 69 Cabriere St, Franschhoek

# Surprised by Solo Travel

In exploring South Africa I'm often reminded that my favourite parts of the country are those that require more effort to reach. The grueling day hike to the top of Tugela Falls comes to mind. Had I known that I would need to climb unsteady chain ladders towards the end of the hike, I might not have been eager for this trip. Nevertheless, there I was with a tent and over-packed bag on my back, fear in my eyes, and tired muscles desperate to reach the campsite.

Not having friends or family who were keen to do the trip, I had signed up for this group hike alone, and would be joining some other solo travellers. Looking back, this was an experience I may have sadly missed out on had I not gone by myself. On this and many other occasions, solo travel is the answer when friends and family are not as open as you are to try something different.

I had imagined a campsite with electricity and hot-shower facilities. That was the image that motivated me to complete the hike when it got tough. To my shock, what I had envisioned was not at all what I found. Instead, there was simply nothing. We were to pitch our tents on our preference of soil or grass.

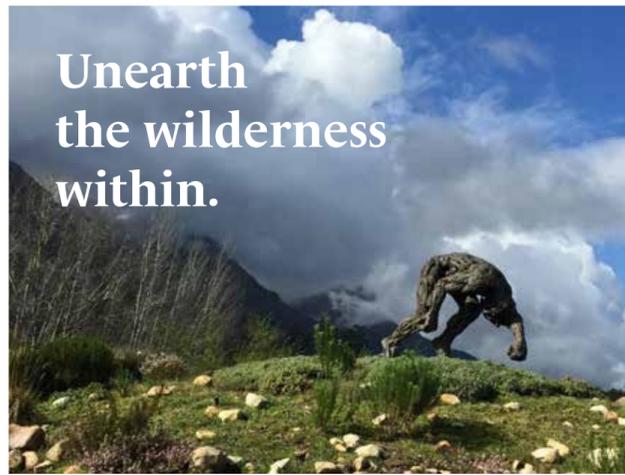
This city girl needed a moment. I had overcome chain ladders to arrive at nothing? As the night got dark, the stars lit up the sky more brightly than I had ever seen them before. South African landscapes have a way of rewarding you for taking the road less travelled. The dreamy night sky and the following golden sunrise over Africa's highest waterfall were a worthwhile reward.

While you hike amongst the Drakensberg mountains their scale has a way of humbling you. It must also be mentioned that in a time during which social distancing is imperative, it is ideal to have South Africa's vast landscapes as travel options. Why not take the plunge by going alone and enjoying space to yourself!

And don't be mistaken, travelling alone does not mean isolating yourself from interaction. After all, who knows who you may meet on the journey. Awkward initial conversations with strangers could lead to emotional goodbyes at the end of a trip – you might even have some new like-minded travellers to invite to a future adventure.

I encourage you to pick from the wide range of destinations and treat yourself with solitude in scenic locations.

– Farirai Sanyika, @Gophari (Travel blogger)



Unearth  
the wilderness  
within.

DYLAN  
LEWIS  
SCULPTURE  
GARDEN

VISITS BY APPOINTMENT  
STELLENBOSCH  
@ DYLAN LEWIS SCULPTURE GARDEN

INFO@DYLANART.CO.ZA  
+27 (0)21 880 0054  
WWW.DYLANLEWIS.COM

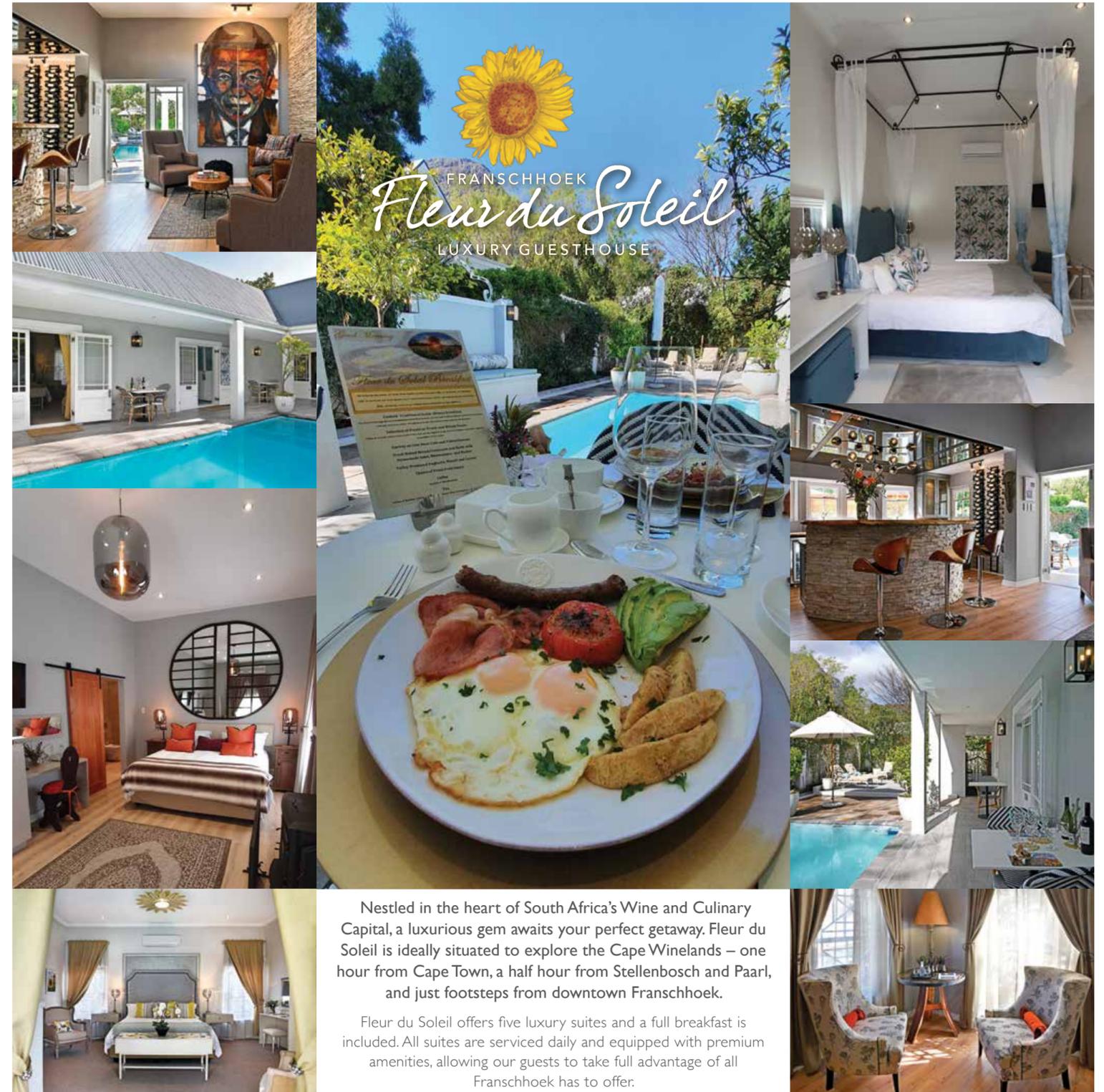
La Providence  
GUEST HOUSE & WINE FARM



La Providence is a small, luxurious Guest House and Boutique Wine Farm located at the foot of the Franschhoek Mountains with a breath taking view of the Franschhoek Valley and its vineyards, with only five minutes' walk to the famous Huguenot Monument and to the Centre of the village with its lovely restaurants, shops and galleries.

A passionate team is dedicated to making sure, guests have an unforgettable experience at La Providence. Whether if it starts with the outstanding breakfast in the morning, picked freshly from the food garden or enjoying the magnificent view from the 12m infinity pool with a glass of wine. A jewel in the valley!

LA PROVIDENCE SPECIAL UNTIL END OF NOVEMBER 2020:  
Pay two nights and stay the third night for free  
All necessary protocols for COVID 19 in place! Generator on site!  
www.laprovidence.co.za



FRANSCHHOEK  
Fleur du Soleil  
LUXURY GUESTHOUSE

Nestled in the heart of South Africa's Wine and Culinary Capital, a luxurious gem awaits your perfect getaway. Fleur du Soleil is ideally situated to explore the Cape Winelands – one hour from Cape Town, a half hour from Stellenbosch and Paarl, and just footsteps from downtown Franschhoek.

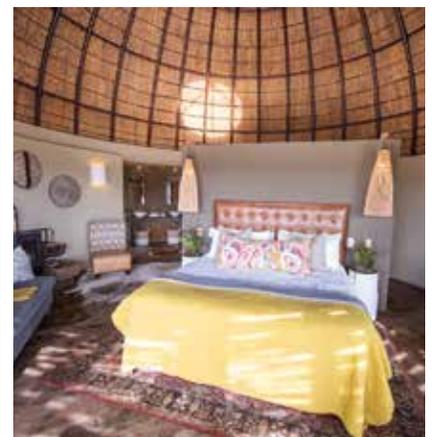
Fleur du Soleil offers five luxury suites and a full breakfast is included. All suites are serviced daily and equipped with premium amenities, allowing our guests to take full advantage of all Franschhoek has to offer.

+27 60 808 8905 · bookings@fleur-du-soleil.com · 7A Van Riebeeck Street, Franschhoek, Western Cape  
www.fleur-du-soleil.com



  
GONDWANA  
GAME RESERVE  
GARDEN ROUTE · SOUTH AFRICA

*The Perfect Safari Break*



Ideally located on South Africa's popular Garden Route, the 11 000 hectare, private game reserve offers a distinctive, malaria-free safari experience. Luxurious accommodation is provided in romantic, stand-alone safari suites or bush villas ideal for families and groups, all with awe inspiring views of the mountainous landscape and passing wildlife. Enjoy exhilarating game drives encountering free roaming Big 5 game species as well as giraffe, buffalo, hippo, and herds of antelope. Additional activities on offer include the fun Junior Ranger program for kids, mountain biking, Africology spa treatments, guided Fynbos walks and conservation activities.

*\* Enquire about SA Resident specials!*



Tel: +27 (0)21 555 0807 . Email: [reservations@gondwanagr.co.za](mailto:reservations@gondwanagr.co.za) . Website: [www.gondwanagr.co.za](http://www.gondwanagr.co.za)