



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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SOUTH AFRICA

April 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Inn Foreshore Cape Town in the City Bowl has been rebranded as a Radisson Hotel and is now known as Radisson Hotel Cape Town Foreshore.

Singita Ebony Lodge in Sabi Sands has reopened after being closed for a few months for renovation, and has seen changes to the architectural layout and an exciting update of the interiors. At the heart of the lodge is a new Conservation Room, giving guests the opportunity to learn more about the incredible living heritage of the area. The wine cellar has been moved and a new lounge has been added for guests to enjoy. A new Bar-Deli area offers guests fresh food and beverages of their choice at any time of the day and the new layout has created more seating options and greater access to the gardens and views of the Sand River and beyond. Interior design has moved away from animal prints to a mix of earthy tones and varied textures.

MalaMala Game Reserve airstrip will be undergoing maintenance starting from 09 April 2024 up to and including 12 May 2024. MalaMala has arranged with Londolozi that their airstrip will be used as the alternative airstrip for the duration of maintenance taking place. During this period, MalaMala will manage guest transfers between their lodge and the Londolozi airstrip, with driving time is estimated at 20-minutes, at no additional cost.

Saxon Hotel, Villas and Spa has always been known for its elegance and comfort. It is great to hear that their revamping is still ongoing. They are renovating key areas such as the lobby, reception area, Piano Lounge, Olive Bar, and Qunu Restaurant, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of sophistication and comfort. With their 25th birthday approaching, these updates will surely add to the celebration and enhance the overall guest experience.

Peermont D'oreale Grande has shared the exciting news that they are currently undergoing a refurbishment. They will no longer be able to accommodate families of 3 to 4 people in a single room at the Peermont D'oreale Grande once the refurbishment is complete. For families requiring accommodation for more than 2 persons, they recommend booking rooms which interlead, to ensure a comfortable stay for all guests. The interleading rooms offer the space and amenities necessary to accommodate larger families while maintaining the standards of comfort and quality. These enhancements will ultimately contribute to a more enjoyable and memorable experience for all guests once the refurbishment is complete.

Cape Town Helicopters has added some unique experiences to their offering. Amongst others, the following new tours can be booked in conjunction with Wilderness Cape Touring:

Napoleon's Secret – Klein Constantia: After a full Peninsula scenic flight, land at Klein Constantia and enjoy a historical tour of one of the Cape's first wine farms. Learn about its ties to Jane Austen, George Washington and Napoleon Bonaparte and his love for their flagship Vin de Constance, followed by lunch in the Bistro, before flying back to the V&A Waterfront.

Klein Jan, Tswalu – The epitome of fine dining in the heart of the Kalahari. Board their King Air B 200 for a 2-hour flight to the Kalahari in the Northern Cape, where guests relish a dining experience like no other, by famed Michelin-starred chef, Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen.

!Khwa tuu San Experience, Yzerfontein – Enjoy a 30-minute flight along the West Coast, before landing at !Khwa tuu in Yzerfontein. Taking a step back in time, guests are immersed in the life and history of the San Bushman, the first people to inhabit Southern Africa.

SPECIALS

MORE Family Collection decided to sprinkle a little extra Marataba Magic over the month of May by extending their Stay 3 Pay 2 promotion, also known as ExperienceMORE, for travel until 31 May 2024.

Please note this extension is only applicable to Marataba Safari and Mountain Lodge not the other properties on this promotion.

Babylonstoren in the Winelands is offering a Stay 4 Pay 3 Special, valid for stays 01 April to 31 August 2024.

Sabi Sabi Early Bird Pay Stay Special 2025 – Book 4 nights and pay for 3. Book and confirm by December 31, 2024. Valid for travel from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026 (excluding Christmas Peak period). Available for all Sabi Sabi Lodges or a combination of lodges. If lodges are combined, the complimentary night will be applied to the lowest-rated lodge.

Not applicable for group bookings and valid for incremental business only. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other package offers (e.g., Family Package or Fly-In Packages, etc.).

MalaMala Game Reserve – Valid from January 10, 2025, to March 31, 2025, and November 1, 2025, to December 15, 2025: book four consecutive nights at any MalaMala Game Reserve camp and receive one of the nights complimentary. A minimum of four nights is required between any of the three camps. **Complimentary Night:** The complimentary night is applied to the lowest-rated night.

Madikwe Safari Lodge offers valid until 31 January 2025 excluding peak season (20 Dec-9 Jan). Valid across all three luxury camps – Lelapa, Kopano and Dithaba. Promotions cannot be combined unless explicitly stated. Promotions can be applied to exclusive-use offerings

Stay 4 Pay 3 – Stay at any Madikwe camp or the new villa for 4 nights and only pay for 3.

Honeymoon offer for newlyweds on their honeymoon! Spend 3 nights at any of the luxury Madikwe camps and one of the happy couple gets 50% off their accommodation rate.

Return guests will be gifted 10% off their accommodation rate. Valid for repeat guests who have visited the lodge within the last 5 years. Excludes travelling companions who have not stayed at Madikwe Safari Lodge before. Can be combined with other promotions and specials.

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Alex Rautenbach, Product Destination Manager based at our Cape Town office, got to explore the Overberg region, and had the opportunity to overnight at Abalone Lodge in Hermanus and Mosaic Lagoon Lodge in the Stanford area.

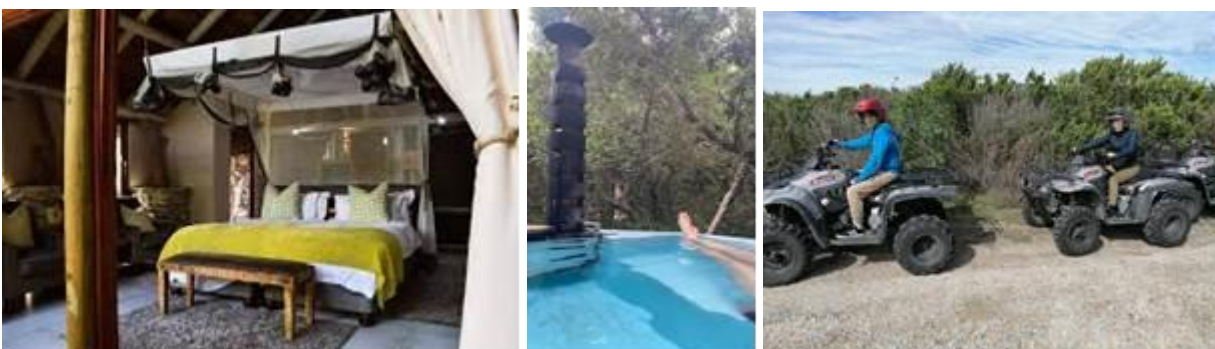
Abalone Lodge

Amazing sea views from the ocean-facing suites. The property is located right on the cliff path, with lovely fynbos vegetation in front and the vast ocean views beyond. During whale season you can watch the whales from your balcony. We were lucky to see a huge pod of dolphins frolicking, surfing and jumping right there in front of the lodge. Have never experienced such a good sighting along the coast before. The hotel also offers some standard garden-facing rooms (no sea views) but these are interleading, so ideal for families. But for couples / FITs, it's all about the view, so would recommend booking the ocean-facing suites. Dinner and breakfast were excellent, and they have partnered with Creation for their house wine. Creation has been voted the best vineyard in Africa, and #4 top vineyard in the world! My personal favourite: their Viognier. Outstanding. The general manager is a charming gentleman, and his staff complement very friendly and professional. Nice gem in Hermanus.



Mosaic Lagoon Lodge

This lodge is located on the Klein River Lagoon, approx. 40 mins drive from Hermanus via Stanford. The last few kilometres are on a gravel road, so you really feel removed and in nature. It has a true lodge feel, with the main area being cosy and inviting. It consists of an open-plan lounge, dining and bar area, with a large fireplace and beautiful views over the lagoon. With only 5 units, it's an intimate and private lodge. Four chalets have lagoon views, and one is tucked into the milkwood forest but has a hot tub, which is a real winner. There are talks of expansion and adding on an additional 2-bedroomed family unit.



Nice activities include nature walks, drives, beach excursions, a sunset cruise on their barge, canoeing on the lagoon, fishing and quad-biking. Great for families with older kids/teenagers who will love quad biking and canoeing. Rooms have all the creature comforts, lovely amenities, indoor and outside shower – great lodge feel.

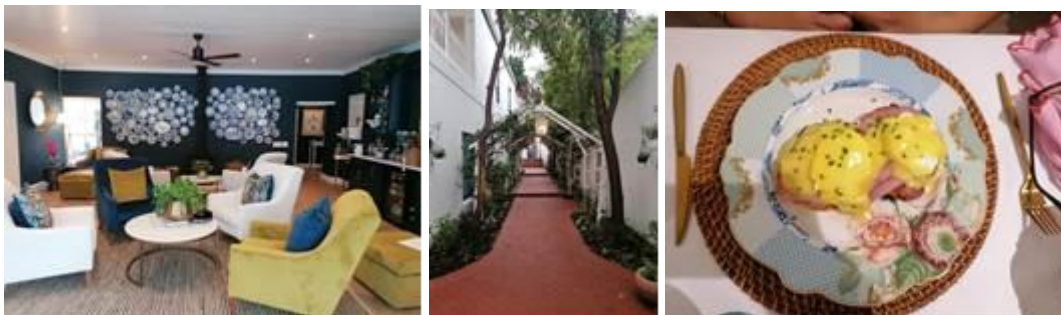
Some of our Cape Town-based staff went on a whirlwind Winelands mini-educational and visited properties around the quaint towns of Stellenbosch and Franschhoek. Participants: Rochelle, Deidre, Tumi, Liezel, Soraya, Brendan and Alex. Herewith some brief impressions:



The Last Word Franschhoek

The hotel was closed for several months for re-construction and renovations after being badly affected by the 2023 winter flood. It was great to overnight and experience the “new” hotel all fresh with lovely décor and accent colours. It has a very homely feel to it. Guests can easily mingle in the open-plan lounge/bar area, which opens up to the swimming pool deck. The rooms are very spacious and offer all the mod-cons. Some rooms have private patios with a seating area, and two rooms also have their own private plunge pools. Note that bathrooms in some of the bedrooms are quite open-plan.

The breakfast was plentiful with both the continental and English breakfasts served plated. The location is very good, in the middle of town on the main road, surrounded by all the great restaurants.



Delaire Graff Estate

This hotel has also recently undergone extensive refurbishments and the addition of extra rooms. The rooms have dark wooden, contemporary furniture with stunning art and accent pieces giving them an edgy and modern look and feel. The complimentary wet bar in each room includes lovely artisan gins and gourmet treats. The marble bathrooms are beautiful, and there is a pillow menu. Hoseki is their new Japanese restaurant, which serves breakfasts and dinners. Hoseki means jewel.

We were hosted to a lovely wine tasting accompanied by elegant charcuterie platters. Delaire is an ideal fit for your sophisticated traveler.



La Residence

The driveway has been rebuilt after it was swept away by the 2023 winter flood that hit Franschhoek. The grounds are incredibly maintained and manicured. The interiors feel otherworldly, and there is a sense of escapism through the collection of richly textured fabrics, colourful artworks, enormous Persian carpets, gilt-edged mirrors, ornate vases, lamps, and sculptures. There are 11 rooms in the main property, as well as 5 Vineyard Suite Villas (these are great for families). Each is unique and oozes the same sense of opulence. With peacocks roaming around the gardens, a lovely pond and so much beauty around you, it is a very romantic space. Perfect for honeymooners.



La Petite Ferme

We were invited to dine at their renowned restaurant, which has the most magnificent views of the Franschhoek Valley, and it met our high expectations. The hotel is situated at the end of Franschhoek that heads up the Franschhoek Pass road, so guests do need a car or transfer to get to the centre of town. The beautiful rooms are decorated in neutral colours with beautiful splashes of greens, blues and rusty reds. All rooms have fantastic views of the valley. The rooms emanate a sense of peace and tranquility, with understated elegance. This property will appeal to the discerning traveller.

They can accommodate children of all ages, but the property is best geared for couples and honeymooners. A real gem of a property.



Avondrood Guest House

Part of the Oyster Collection, this is a charming Cape Victorian-style guest house located in the historical part of Franschhoek, and an easy walk to the main road with all its restaurants, galleries and shops. Even though we just did a quick site inspection we picked up that staff seem very professional, confident and friendly. From the moment you step into the cosy lounge with its inviting fireplace you feel at ease and at home. Very deceptive from the outside, it's set on large grounds with the rooms surrounded by beautiful gardens. The large swimming pool is tucked away in a tropical private corner.



The rooms are spacious, individually decorated with an old-world charm, a lot of character and fine touches. They also offer a 2-bedroomed unit, which is ideal for families. Guests can make use of the red bicycles to explore town. This too is a great little gem in its own league.

La Fontaine Boutique Hotel

Also part of the Oyster Collection, one gets the same sense of professionalism of a well-run establishment. The style here is more quirky, modern and contemporary. The lounge and bar area offer an avant-garde and stylish area for cocktails before heading out to one of the many restaurants for dinner. The hotel boasts 17 rooms over 2 beautifully refurbished heritage buildings. The rooms have spotless plush carpets, some have private little gardens, and upstairs rooms have views of the mountains. The spacious dining room serves breakfasts and lunches. We saw the breakfast buffet laid out, and it looked very extensive and delicious. Nice pool in a private part of the garden. Guests can make use of the blue bicycles to explore town.



We also visited the hotels within the Leeu Collection, all of which offer beautiful, unique art pieces chosen according to the specific style of the hotels. For guests interested in art, both Leeu properties, as well as Delaire Graff offer collectors' pieces.

Le Quartier Francais

This is a charming and quirky hotel with a phenomenal location in the middle Franschhoek, but with the added serenity of gardens and a large pool tucked in the middle of the property. It's the type of property that appeals to young and old, families, honeymooners and small groups. And they have the facilities to cater for all these scenarios and various markets. Comfortably appointed rooms, some with gardens, and top floor rooms with mountain views. Two great restaurants: Protégé is a casual fine-dining style eatery, and Epice is an intimate fine-dining restaurant that takes you on a spice journey.



Leeu House

This is a sophisticated small boutique hotel. They don't take guests younger than 18 years, so this is ideal for guests who want a quiet stay without any noisy kids around them. They have a lovely garden with a very large swimming pool. Ideal to lounge around all day with amazing mountain views. The rooms are neutral in colour with a relaxed but refined style. The Conservancy serves breakfasts and lunches. Guests from both Le Quartier and Leeu House can make use of the extensive spa at Leeu Estates.



Leeu Estates

This is their flagship property in Franschhoek, and in a league of its own. The rooms and bathrooms are massive, and beautiful. The grounds are perfectly maintained with exquisite gardens and art sculptures. The dining room is only open to resident guests. La Petite Colombe, which is also on the grounds of the estate, but well removed from the main hotel, is open to the public. The spa is a wellness sanctuary, and the gym is high tech with lovely views of the garden. Additional to the hotel rooms, they have a number of villas (from 2 – 4 bedrooms) which are ideal for families. The Wine Studio offers immersive Mullineux and Leeu Family Wines tastings. There are three tasting options to choose from: Signature, Single Terroir and Leeu Passant. One complimentary signature tasting is included for guests staying at the hotel.

