

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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SOUTH AFRICA

October 2024

GENERAL UPDATES

Radisson Blu Hotel Waterfront has advised that as part of the renovations and rebranding to Radisson Collection, the room type names contracted for 2025 will be changing as follows:

- Standard Room will become Collection Superior Room
- Superior Room will become Collection Premium Room – Balcony – Marina View
- Premium Room Sea Facing will become Junior Suite – Balcony – Ocean View
- Two-Bedroom Suite will become Presidential Suite – 2 Bedrooms – Balcony – Ocean View

Sabi Sabi is thrilled to introduce the Sabi Sabi Collection, a new brand that will encompass Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve and future properties, marking an exciting phase of growth. As part of this expansion, they are transforming the 4,500-hectare Sandringham Private Game Reserve in Limpopo – previously an old hunting area – into a protected ecotourism zone through a partnership with a long-time guest and philanthropist. This will allow an open wildlife corridor to Kruger National Park for free movement of game, while also developing a lodge on the reserve.

Sabi Sand Guest Conservation Contribution (GCC) increase for 2025 is effective 01 November 2024, the new GCC model will replace the previously announced rates applicable from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. The GCC will be adjusted based on the newly implemented Tiered Rate Model. Increased contributions will directly support ongoing security, conservation, and community projects. To accommodate everyone and all commercial operations, they will implement a grandfathering period for bookings made before 31 October 2024.

Ellerman House is hosting the glamorous annual Art Angels Auction in November 2024. Dozens of works from notable and ascendant South African artists will go under the hammer in support of the Click Learning Foundation, which supports under-resourced schools across South Africa. The Art Haven Retreat is available from 08-11 November 2024, and includes 3 nights' accommodation, wellness experiences, culinary adventures and an array of exciting arts-focused tours at Ellerman House and around Cape Town.

Babylonstoren Soetmelksvlei is the latest addition to the many experiences on offer at Babylonstoren. Just a short shuttle ride from Babylonstoren lies an interactive farmyard set in the late 19th century. Here guests can immerse themselves in an era before rampant industrialisation – before electric lights and the Model T Ford became common sights – when the world moved at a slower pace and people used their hands to create what was needed. Soetmelksvlei honours the legacy of artisanry. Guests should allow at least three hours to experience this wonderful excursion. Visit babylonstoren.com/soetmelksvlei to find more information, especially if you have non-hotel guests looking for something unique to experience.

Drakenskloof is a new exclusive-use mountain sanctuary nestled in the Cape Floral Kingdom, just 1 hour and 30 minutes from Cape Town on the Bainskloof Pass. Visit their website at drakenskloof.com to explore this incredible location and its offerings. It's an ideal destination to rest, restore and recharge after a busy safari before heading

back home. For insights and impressions from our staff who recently stayed at Drakenskloof, please refer to the First-Hand Feedback section in this newsletter.

City lodge Waterfront is currently undergoing renovations to the restaurant, and public areas, expected to be completed by the end of November 2024. In the meantime, breakfast vouchers can be redeemed at a nearby café.

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve Melton Manor has undergone beautiful renovations, further elevating its status as one of the reserve's most cherished exclusive-use villas. Melton Manor accommodates 8 guests in 4 identical en-suite bedrooms, each with its own private veranda. The shared spaces throughout the villa have been enhanced to suit any guest configuration, including families, groups of friends, and more. The base rate has been adjusted, now applicable for stays of 1-5 guests, making it ideal for smaller groups or families with 3 children.

Kariega Game Reserve. The newly expanded reserve has taken game viewing to a spectacular new level which our guests are loving. To elevate their hospitality to this level of excellence, they have actioned lodge closures over the quieter months to focus on routine maintenance and a significant list of upgrades and refurbishments at Main Lodge, River Lodge and The Homestead in particular.

Steyn City Hotel by the Saxon is due to open in October 2024. The hotel comprises 50 serviced apartments specifically designed to meet the needs of guest's travels. Guests can choose from a diverse range of accommodations, including:

- One-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments
- A three-bedroom penthouse
- A four-bedroom presidential suite

Each option provides a comfortable and convenient stay, ideal for both business and leisure guests.

SPECIALS

Sabi Sabi Collection has an Early Bird Pay-Stay special for 2025 – Book 4 Nights and Pay for 3 – valid for travel from 01 March 2025 – 28 February 2026 (excluding Christmas peak period 20 December 2025 – 05 January 2026); book and confirm 6 months prior to travel date to qualify for this offer. Terms and conditions apply.

Molori Safari has a Stay 4 Pay 3 special on the Presidential Suites for exclusive use only – valid for 2025 except 15 December 2024 – 15 January 2025.

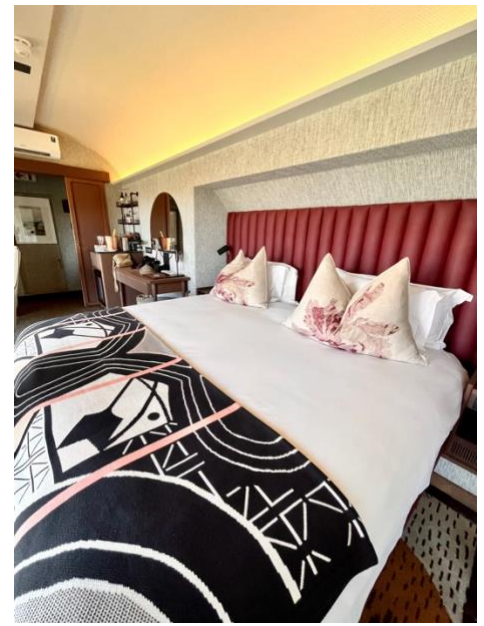
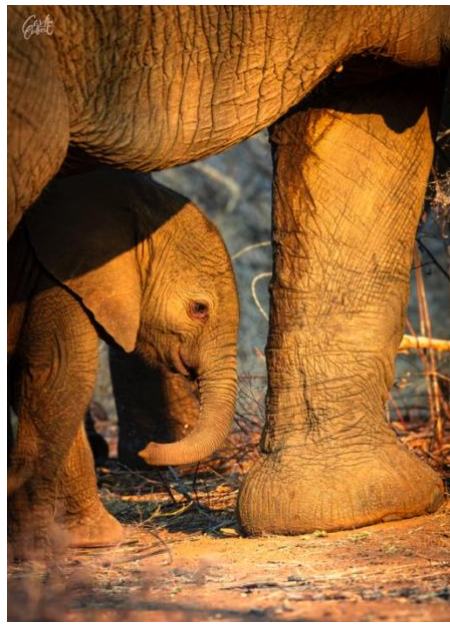
Mala Mala Game Reserve has a Stay 4 Pay 3 promotion – when you book 4 consecutive nights at any Mala Mala Game Reserve you receive one complimentary night. A minimum of four nights is required between any of these 3 camps and a complimentary night is applied to the lowest-rated night. Arrival and departure must fall within the valid dates (arrival 10 January 2025 – departure 31 March 2025, and arrival 01 November 2025 – departure 15 December 2025).

Cheetah Plains has a 4-guest special rate that is applicable and limited to Karula or Mvula villas only. Either of these villas can be booked at this rate per day. This rate is valid for off-peak season bookings i.e. 01 September – 09 December 2024, 11 January – 31 May 2025 and 01 September – 09 December 2025. In the high-demand period 01 June – 31 August 2025 our 4-guest rate will only be available if booked within 90 days.

Tswalu Kalahari has introduced The Summer Head-Start Offer, which is a 4-night escape that includes 1 night free. This exclusive offer is valid at all three luxury safari camps (Motse, Tarkuni and Loapi), separately or in combination, for travel up to and including 15 December 2024.

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Destination:	Kruger Shalati Train on the Bridge Hotel (Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga)
Participants:	Caroline Culbert
Suits which type of traveller:	This accommodation would be suitable for those looking for a safari combined with an unusual, elevated setting! Plus the obvious – anyone who loves old trains!
Recommended activities:	The guided game drive was lovely; we even got to see a little leopard cub!
Cuisine:	The menu and cuisine were excellent during our visit, plus the snacks and drinks in our compartment were also delicious.
Highlights during visit/stay:	After the game drive there was a wonderful surprise boma evening set up on the tracks – the atmosphere was fantastic, and we enjoyed the unique fun evening “on-the-tracks and under the stars”.
Caveats:	Great for guests who might be celebrating a special occasion. Also, social media influencers and photographers.



Destination:	Drakenskloof (Bainskloof Pass, Worcester region, Western Cape)
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Participants:	Craig Glatthaar, Tammy Goodwin, Gadeejah Fredericks, Sandor Theron, Alex Rautenbach
Suits which type of traveller:	Ideal for families, multi-generations and small groups of friends, as the two Villas (3-bed & 2-bed villas) are sold on exclusive-use basis.
Recommended activities:	Activities offered are nature walks, bird watching, hikes, cycling, and trail runs, as well as a bush drive in the Polaris. Take a dip in the river or heated pool, then relax in the wood-fired hot tub, with a sauna coming soon. Star gazing and a soap-making workshop offer unique experiences, while kids can enjoy board games, croquet, table tennis, boules, Mlkky, biscuit baking, and pizza making.
Cuisine:	Dining is family-style where meals and dishes are shared. Made of fresh local ingredients, the food is wholesome and delicious. Chef will check for preferences and dietary requirements. Drinks are included. There is also a great selection of premium handpicked wines on offer.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Beautiful scenery, with fynbos blooming. We were hosted at a lovely surprise drinks set-up by the river, with a real Out-of-Africa feel. The service and hosting style feels like an extension of the Wilderness camps offering. We enjoyed a fun soap-making session guided by Claire, the General Manager.
Caveats:	It is 1.5 hours from Cape Town, so this would be for guests who have the time to add on an extension to the Cape Town / Winelands leg of their itinerary. It would also be ideal for repeat guests who are looking for something different, off the beaten track.



Destination:	Pearl Valley Hotel by Mantis (Paarl, Winelands region, Western Cape)
Participants:	Tammy Goodwin, Gadeejah Fredericks, Sandor Theron, Alex Rautenbach

Suits which type of traveller:	Ideal for golfers as the coveted Pearl Valley Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course is on your doorstep. Good for families too as there are spacious 2-bedroomed suites with a kitchenette, and there are tennis courts, padel courts and a resort-style swimming pool. Can also accommodate larger groups as they have 71 suites in total.
Recommended activities:	The grounds include a Camelot Spa, gym, tennis courts and padel courts, two swimming pools, extensive pathways and mountain biking trails. Various wineries in the Paarl region, and only 20 minutes' drive to Franschhoek or Stellenbosch.
Cuisine:	The Valley Restaurant at the Club House offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, and can seat up to 140 guests. Back's Restaurant and Deli offers a more intimate dining experience (guests can also opt to have breakfast, lunch or dinner here).
Highlights during visit/stay:	Lovely views from the terrace of our suite on to the putting green. The ambience at Back's Restaurant where we had dinner was cosy, and the service was friendly and fast.
Caveats:	For elderly guests or those with mobility issues request suites on the ground floor as the suites on the first floor can only be accessed via a staircase. Recommend booking the golf course rooms as these have the nicest view.



Destination:	Fancourt (George, Western Cape)
Participants:	Alex Rautenbach
Suits which type of traveller:	Ideal for guests that like a resort-style property. Besides golfers, families with children would enjoy all the amenities, and the 115 rooms can accommodate larger groups.
Recommended activities:	Three Gary Player designer courses, each with its own unique character and allure. The Links, measuring up to the highest international standards, is Fancourt's flagship course. The gardens are beautiful, and I highly recommend a stroll along their botanical walk. The Leisure Centre offers a dedicated Kidz Club (for little kids) and for teens at the Teen Lounge. Some of the activities available for guests include an in-house cinema, fully equipped gym, pools, tennis courts and leisure trails. In peak season they run a kids' holiday program.
Cuisine:	La Cantina, an Italian inspired restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner. Monet's offers a French-style bistro experience for midday meals. The Club Lounge offers both indoor and outdoor seating, a well-stocked bar and sports TVs. All offer fine quality and professional service.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The grounds are massive, and it is such a delight to walk along their nature paths and beautiful gardens. It's great to have a large indoor heated swimming pool as it allows for swimming all year round. The rooms are very well maintained and equipped with all the mod cons. Wonderful to have heated bathroom floors in winter and cosy toasty rooms.
Caveats:	Something to bear in mind is that they have a well-equipped large conference centre, so at times large groups may be in-house.



Destination:	Head over Hills (Knysna)
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Participants:	Alex Rautenbach
Suits which type of traveller:	Ideal for couples, especially honeymooners.
Recommended activities:	The boutique hotel (8 rooms) has a rim-flow swimming pool and a treatment room. All other activities occur in and around Knysna.
Cuisine:	The restaurant has lovely views overlooking the ocean, and offers breakfast, lunch (on request) and dinners daily (to in-house guests). The dinner menu has a good variety. The food was delicious, well presented and paired with a great wine. The wine cellar has an extensive and fine selection, and the managers are well versed in wine pairing and tasting.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Amazing, dramatic views over the ocean at the Heads of the Knysna Lagoon. Location is very unique. Dinner was delicious. Every bedroom features handcrafted Hästens beds from Sweden, made of natural materials, that are the epitome of luxury.
Caveats:	Some suites have very open-plan bathrooms and are better suited to couples. Not all beds can be converted to twins.

