

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

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October 2024

SOUTH AFRICA

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.

ZIMBABWE

The Palm River Hotel has announced the launch of a luxurious High Tea experience with stunning views of the Zambezi River. Begin your sensory journey with sparkling hibiscus prosecco or choose from our selection of artisanal brews, including velvety cappuccinos and aromatic teas. Delight in an array of treats, from picturesque panna cottas and gourmet sandwiches to delicate mini macaroons and buttery scones with whipped cream and strawberry preserves. Available daily from 15:30 to 17:00, this exquisite experience requires pre-booking. Guests at Ilala Lodge enjoy complimentary shuttle transfers, while outside guests must arrange their own transport. Join us for an afternoon of elegance and flavour!

MOZAMBIQUE

White Pearl Resorts is excited to announce significant progress on the renovation of its decking. This includes the walking deck linking the suites to the public areas and the decking at individual suites. The decking facelift is just one component of the exciting upgrades happening at White Pearl Resorts. The Resort remains dedicated to ensuring the destination remains a top choice for discerning travellers seeking a blend of relaxation and beach-chic luxury. The renovations are on track for completion by August 2025, and White Pearl looks forward to unveiling the new and improved structures to their valued guests.

Kisawa Sanctuary has reduced minimum length of stay: From 3 January to 12 January 2025, they are reducing their minimum stay requirement from 7 nights to just 3 nights.

UGANDA

Asilia Africa is expanding into Uganda with the upcoming launch of Erebero Hills Lodge in early 2026. Nestled on the northern fringes of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – home to over half of the world’s mountain gorilla population – Erebero translates to “a place where you can see far”, aptly reflecting the lodge’s stunning views. Set within 45 acres of reforested land, Erebero Hills Lodge will feature eight elegantly designed suites, each equipped with spacious balconies, indoor/outdoor showers, in-room Wi-Fi, and spa treatments. Guests can unwind by a roaring fire in the lounge or take in panoramic vistas from the hillside swimming pool.

Committed to sustainability, Asilia Africa will support the establishment of a new forest buffer zone that enhances wildlife habitats while providing the Batwa community access to cultural sites and new income opportunities. Conveniently located just a 90-minute drive from Kihhi Airstrip, Erebero Hills Lodge will offer easy access to various activities, including gorilla trekking, Batwa community visits, nature walks, and tea tastings.

Enquiries will open in December 2024, ahead of the lodge’s official opening in 2026.
