

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

[South Africa](#)

September 2024

SOUTH AFRICA

Destination:	Erinvale Estate & Hotel (Somerset West, Cape Winelands)
Participants:	Alex Rautenbach, Ashleigh Stolk, Andrea van Huffel, Chantel Kolbe, Dominique Sassman, Edna Steyn, and Pulane Moleli
Suits which type of traveller:	Great for groups, couples and especially golfers as Erinvale Golf Estate is right next door. Also ideal for repeat travellers wanting to experience a new Winelands region.
Recommended activities:	Erinvale is surrounded by lovely estates: Morgenster (award winning olive oils), Vergelegen (vast beautiful gardens, famous camphor trees, various restaurants, pristine manor house), Lourensford (great family destination, restaurants, market, boutique shops, archery, axe-throwing, arts & crafts studio)
Cuisine:	Oak Terrace Restaurant – relaxed all day restaurant Stefan's – fine-dining dinner restaurant
Highlights during visit/stay:	Hotel has recently undergone extensive renovations and refurbishments (they are still finishing off the final touches this month). Everything is looking new, modern and fresh. Big parking area at the back for larger coaches. The location is lovely, surrounded by many beautiful estates and scenery.
Caveats:	At times corporate groups / conferencing / weddings might not be a good mix for our high-end travellers seeking a more exclusive stay.



Destination:	Jamala Madikwe, Last Word Madikwe, Mateya Safari Lodge (Madikwe Game Reserve, North-West Province)
Participants:	Nelly Bambi; Mandisa Dalamba; Mechelle De Jager and Thabiseng Mgeyane
Suits which type of traveller:	<p>Jamala Madikwe offers a blend of casual elegance and immersive safari experiences. Highly recommended for discerning travellers who value exceptional beauty and service. Consider combining it with Marataba Safari or Mountain Lodge for a complete bush experience.</p> <p>The Last Word Madikwe is perfect for those who cherish tailored service and sophisticated comfort. Ideal for couples and families, with expansive, child-friendly villas that provide a cosy, intimate safari.</p> <p>Mateya Safari Lodge seamlessly blends its historic grandeur with modern furnishings and stunning views; perfect for honeymooners and couples seeking a romantic safari getaway.</p>
Recommended activities:	<p>Jamala Madikwe Head Chef Jacques gave a kitchen tour, shared some of his homemade sauces as gifts, and presented us with a <i>Chef Nico</i> cookbook.</p> <p>The Last Word Madikwe's main attraction is wildlife watching, whether from a comfortable seating area just metres from a waterhole, at an underground photography and viewing blind, or on a game drive.</p> <p>Mateya Safari Lodge encourages guests to experience the environment on foot with a knowledgeable guide, and enjoy guided tours in a safari vehicle to observe the wildlife.</p>
Cuisine:	Food was amazing throughout. Mateya's private dinner was on the deck around the fire. The menu was hand-crafted, which was so impressive.
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>Enjoyed the outstanding, hands-on service provided by the managers at Jamala Madikwe, ensuring a personalised and attentive experience.</p> <p>Relished the stunning views of the waterhole in front of the lodge at Last Word, where you can spot wildlife while relaxing and sipping on a refreshing gin & tonic.</p> <p>Benefited from the incredible expertise and attention to detail of the guide at Mateya. He had a deep interest in conservation and focused on the fascinating small details of animal behaviour.</p>
Caveats:	Mateya: It is important to advise guests about the considerable number of steps they will need to navigate. Lodge is situated on the hillside of the Gabbro Hills.



Destination:	Makumu (Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Limpopo)
Participants:	Naseemah Isaacs
Suits which type of traveller:	Guests looking to interact with other travellers. Photographers and families (children 8 years and older welcome).
Recommended activities:	Included activities: Game drives, guided safari walks and bird watching. Activities on offer at an additional cost: Photographic Bunker, Bush Cinema Experience, Wine Tasting and Eco Children visit.
Cuisine:	It was like stepping into a family kitchen. The food was wholesome and flavourful. The staff were attentive to my specific dietary needs.
Highlights during visit/stay:	From the moment you arrive at Makumu, you're enveloped in a warm and inviting atmosphere. You understand why their tagline is Endless View, as they are positioned on a hill overlooking the Klaserie – absolutely breath-taking. They have a strong management team who are very attentive and join guests at meal times. Communal dining is the standard offering, but private dining can be arranged for guests who prefer a more intimate setting. By night, the lodge is softly lit with candles and lanterns, enhancing the authentic safari ambience they aim to create. The game viewing was excellent, thanks in large part to the guide and tracker, who are exceptionally knowledgeable. I visited the Photographic Bunker where you could easily spend hours viewing the animals coming for a drink at the waterhole. Not only do they have stools but a comfortable couch and drinks, and tea- and coffee-making facilities. They've recently built a space where guests can now book massages.
Caveats:	There are a number of activities at an additional cost. The King Suites and Impi Suites are linked by a shared entrance, making them ideal for families. However, it's worth noting this when booking for couples.



Destination:	Klaserie Drift Misava Safari Camp (Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Limpopo)
Participants:	Naseemah Isaacs
Suits which type of traveller:	A great choice for families (children over the age of 6 years welcome), couples and honeymooners seeking a modern safari experience.
Recommended activities:	Included activities: Game drives and walking safaris. There are board games available in the main area, a library, and a Kidz Club to keep the little ones entertained. Specialised Photographic Safaris and Birding Safaris can be arranged with the booking of a private vehicle.
Cuisine:	Contemporary light meals are served at breakfast and lunch with views of the Klaserie River (when flowing), in a private dining setting. I also had the opportunity to enjoy a boma dinner evening, where the relaxed atmosphere made it easy to socialise with other guests.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The lodge offers a sleek, modern vibe, with rooms designed for ultimate comfort. It features a stunning water-wise garden that attracts a variety of birds. The lodge provides reusable water bottles and eco-friendly amenities, reflecting its commitment to minimising environmental impact. They traverse the same land with 6 or 7 other vehicles, but you rarely, if ever, encounter them during your game drives. The game drives are only conducted by guide and not accompanied by a tracker but our guide made the experience interactive and was excellent with kids.
Caveats:	Guests with walking difficulties or those in wheelchairs may find it challenging to access the pool area and the dining area overlooking the Klaserie River.

