

## ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

# News and Updates

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## SOUTH AFRICA

August 2025

# GENERAL UPDATES

**andBeyond Phinda Zuka Lodge** will close for refurbishment from 10 September to 17 December, reopening on 18 December 2025.

**Explore the Cheetah Plains Experience** – One of the many highlights of Cheetah Plains is the silent safari experience, where guests glide through the bush in fully electric game drive vehicles. It is a truly transformative way to connect with nature, allowing guests to witness the beauty of the Sabi Sands in complete harmony with the environment.

### Art at Cheetah Plains

- In partnership with Goodman Gallery, Cheetah Plains unveils a private gallery and nearly 100 collectible works displayed throughout our three exclusive villas. Curated by one of Africa's top contemporary galleries, this is the most comprehensive display of contemporary African art in the bush – available for purchase with white-glove delivery.

### Diamond Safari

- Guests enjoy a private diamond consultation with gemmologist Kate Shearer, featuring GIA-certified, ethically sourced stones – including the Cheetah Plains Signature Collection. Custom-designed pieces are delivered internationally within 3 – 6 weeks. A portion of proceeds supports the Lezagwa Utah Community Crèche.

### Tastings & Pairings

- Each villa includes a temperature-controlled wine gallery with premium South African wines, whiskeys, and spirits. Private tastings, led by the Sommelier, can be arranged in the villa, garden, dining area, or out in the bushveld.

### Shari's Boutique

- Showcasing top-quality South African collectible design, Shari's Boutique offers a curated selection of fine gifts, jewellery, lodge wear, accessories, and art by local artists and makers. Custom pieces are available for international shipping, or hand delivery to Johannesburg or Cape Town before guests' departure.

**Dock House**, part of Newmark Hotels, located in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town will be closed for renovations from 11 August to 29 September 2025. Besides general maintenance, work will include the full refurbishment of all bathrooms, reupholstering of soft furnishings, and replacement of carpets and curtains.

**Spier** has launched its two new exclusive-use villas: Riverside and Garden Villa. These stand-alone villas each offer three bedrooms, private heated pools and dedicated service teams including private chefs. While villa

guests enjoy complete privacy, they're just moments away from the hotel's restaurants, bars, spa, and kids' Buzz Club, plus everything the farm offers, from walks to wine tastings.

**The Commodore Hotel** advised that their swimming pool will be undergoing refurbishment from 11 August to 15 October 2025 and will therefore be unavailable during this period. Guests are welcome to make use of the pool at the Portwood Hotel as an alternative.

**The Oyster Box Upcoming Maintenance Notice:**

The Oyster Box remains dedicated to providing guests with the highest standards of comfort, luxury, and presentation. As part of this ongoing commitment to excellence, the hotel will be undertaking essential tile care maintenance in selected public areas on the ground floor from 11 August 2025 to 11 December 2025. Guests may rest assured that all maintenance work will be carefully scheduled to minimise any disruption to their stay. Any noisy or intrusive activities will be limited to designated hours during the night. Clear signage will be in place to ensure seamless navigation and continued access to all areas of the hotel throughout the maintenance period.

**Ivory Lodge Reopening – 22 September 2025**

Ivory lodge is thrilled to share that the enhancements to the exclusive Fish Eagle Residence are now complete and both the Residence and Ivory Lodge will officially reopen on 22 September 2025. Thoughtfully reimaged to deepen the connection with the surrounding wilderness, these refined spaces promise your clients an unparalleled experience of luxury, privacy and immersion in the heart of the Sabi Sand. They can't wait to welcome you back.

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## SPECIALS

**Last Word Sensational Packages:**

Book 4 nights at Last Word Collection Kitara or Madikwe and 2 nights at Last Word Franschhoek (any room category), and get 3 nights free at Last Word Constantia in Cape Town – or get 2 nights free at Last Word Long Beach. (Nights do not have to be consecutive but need to be within the same booking). Valid for stays from now until end April 2027 (excludes 20 December 2025 to 04 January 2026). The perfect bush, beach & bubbles combo.

**One&Only Cape Town** has launched an amenity-added package combined with One&Only Le Saint Géran in Mauritius. Valid for stays between 10 January and 15 December 2025 and 2026. Stay minimum 4 nights in Cape Town and get one free (Stay 4 Pay 3), as well as complimentary airport transfers and welcome gift. Stay minimum of 3 nights in Mauritius and get a local rum tasting experience, 10% spa savings and complimentary airport transfers.

**Red Carnation** has released a Stay 4 Pay 3 Special for the Twelve Apostles Hotel, Bushmans Kloof Lodge and the Oyster Box; valid for stays between 06 January to 19 December 2026 (The Twelve Apostles / Bushmans Kloof) and 12 January to 18 December 2026 (Oyster Box). Note block-out dates apply. Applicable to all room types except at the Oyster Box, where the following are excluded: Classic Room, Garden Villa Loft and Presidential Suite.

**Simbavati** is excited to introduce an exclusive special offer where guests can enjoy **four nights across two participating lodges and receive the cheapest night free**. This incredible promotion is available for **new individual bookings only** (not applicable to groups) and is valid for stays between **01 November 2025 and 31**

**March 2026**, excluding the **festive season from 20 December 2025 to 04 January 2026**. Whether you're exploring the wild beauty of the bush or unwinding in luxury, this offer presents the perfect opportunity to extend your safari experience while enjoying added value. Terms and conditions apply.

**Simbavati** is also offering a **Stay 3, Pay 2** promotion valid for **new individual bookings only** (not applicable to groups of 10 or more) for stays between **01 November 2025 and 31 March 2026**, excluding the **festive season** (20 December 2025 to 04 January 2026). The offer is **subject to availability at the time of booking**, with a **limited number of bed nights** allocated per lodge, and is **not combinable with other promotions**.


Participating lodges include **Simbavati Hilltop Lodge, River Lodge, Mvubu Cottage, River Sands, Waterside, Camp George, Amani** and **Trails Camp**. Please note that **Simbavati Trails Camp** is a **seasonal property**, closed from **01 December to 01 March**.

**Chitwa Chitwa** is offering a **Stay 4 Pay 3** special. This offer is valid from 15 January 2026 to 15 December 2026. For family package bookings, children must share the suite. Please note that this special is not applicable to bookings at Chitwa House.

## FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

Written by Wilderness Staff

Destination:	Babylonstoren
Suits which type of traveller:	Perfect for couples and family travel, and for those interested in self-sustaining farm experiences.
Recommended activities:	<p>One of the unexpected delights of our visit was the <b>Essential Oils Tour</b>. The knowledgeable staff walked us through the entire extraction process, explaining each step with enthusiasm and clarity. What began at the <b>still pot</b> moved on to the <b>steam generator</b>, followed by the <b>condenser</b>, and finally ended at the <b>separator</b>, where the essential oils are collected. We also had a behind-the-scenes look at how their <b>olive oil is produced</b>, adding even more depth to the experience.</p> <p>The <b>Mountain Drive</b> offered a scenic and relaxing way to explore the vast <b>1,400-hectare</b> (3,500-acre) Babylonstoren Estate. Along the route we were lucky enough to spot <b>grey rhebok, springbok</b> and even <b>water buffalo</b> – a surprising and fascinating highlight.</p> <p>Our guide shared snippets of the farm's <b>history</b>, including the story behind the name <b>Babylonstoren</b>, which added a meaningful touch to the experience. The drive also took us past the <b>boathouse</b>, where canoes and fishing gear are stored.</p>
Cuisine & offering:	The food at the restaurants was absolutely outstanding – <b>fresh, seasonal and bursting with flavour</b> . Breakfast is served at <b>Babel Restaurant</b> , and featured a beautifully presented cold buffet, while hot dishes were cooked to order, offering the best of both worlds. They also have the <b>Greenhouse</b> , which is popular for its

	<p>relaxed setting and delicious <b>lunch offerings</b> served in a charming glasshouse surrounded by greenery.</p> <p>One of the most <b>heart-warming and unforgettable moments</b> of our visit was being invited to <b>pick naartjies straight from the trees</b>. Sharing that simple, wholesome joy with our daughter made the experience feel even more special.</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	<p>From the moment we arrived, we felt <b>peaceful, welcome, and cared for</b>. A definite highlight for us was exploring the <b>spa facilities</b> which were truly impressive. From the <b>sauna</b>, to the <b>salt and steam room</b> and the <b>hot tub</b>, everything was thoughtfully designed to promote relaxation and wellbeing.</p> <p>We were also amazed to learn that the estate features <b>four swimming pools and a wine museum</b>. Another lovely touch was that <b>each suite comes with its own set of bicycles</b>, giving guests the freedom to <b>cycle around the estate at any time of day</b>. We absolutely loved staying in one of the <b>Fynbos Cottages</b>. We had a <b>two-bedroomed unit</b>, which was incredibly <b>spacious and comfortable</b>.</p>
Caveats:	<p>Babylonstoren is located in the Cape Winelands, about a 25 minutes' drive from Stellenbosch/Franschhoek, and <b>45 minutes from the Cape Town airport</b>. <b>Therefore you will need a car if you want to explore the Winelands further.</b></p>
	

<b>Destination:</b>	Madikwe Safari Lodge
Suits which type of traveller:	<p>There are three distinct camps, each tailored to suit different types of travellers: <b>Lelapa Lodge</b> is the Family Friendly option suited to guests with kids of all ages <b>Kopano</b> is perfect for small groups of friends travelling together and Multigenerational Families <b>Dithabo</b> is for Adults only – which would be suited to Couples/Friends travelling together</p> <p>These camps are suited to ALL Markets however particular good for the UK markets as its great value for money</p>
Recommended activities:	Their main activity is game drives, where we saw lots of animals. We also enjoyed bush walks, star gazing, wildlife talks, and fun things for kids to do.
Cuisine & Offering:	The food was wholesome, well-prepared, and offered a great variety. They have a dedicated kids' menu with plenty of options, making the dining experience enjoyable for all ages
Highlights during visit/stay:	The lodge is beautifully perched on an escarpment, offering sweeping views of the surrounding reserve.

	<p>The attention to detail around meal times for the children was truly exceptional. The staff went above and beyond to cater to their individual preferences, ensuring that each child was happy and well taken care of. The Eco Club at Lelapa Lodge was another highlight — the activities were both engaging and interactive, keeping the kids entertained throughout. One standout moment was when the children got to bake their own biscuits, which they absolutely loved. Hot Chocolate was the drink of choice and was always readily available which made the kids very happy!</p> <p>The highlight of our visit was an unforgettable sighting of an adult male lion. We followed him as he gracefully crossed a river—an extraordinary moment of game viewing that I will never forget. Witnessing a lion swim across a river was truly spectacular.</p> <p>I would highly recommend Lelapa Lodge to families with young children. Their thoughtful approach to hosting kids, combined with the genuine care and effort from the team, makes it an ideal destination. Taking care of children is no easy task, but Lelapa Lodge delivers on this aspect with excellence.</p>
Caveats:	<p>Lelapa is the only lodge specifically designed for families.  Dithaba caters exclusively to adults.  Kopano welcomes guests aged 16 and older.  Elela Villa is an exclusive-use villa that accommodates children of all ages.  All camps are set atop a scenic hilltop, offering stunning views – but may not be suitable for guests with mobility challenges due to the terrain.</p>

