

ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

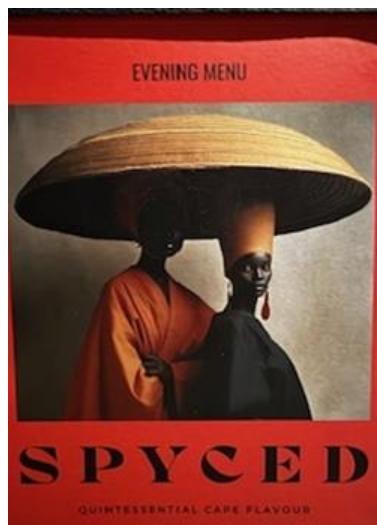
# FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

[South Africa](#) | [Zimbabwe](#)

January 2025

## SOUTH AFRICA

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>SPYCED (new Restaurant at Cape Town’s Waterfront Silo District)</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Michelle Reyneke, Jaques Momberg, Ashley Brown, Astrid Botha, Gadeejah Fredericks</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	FITs, small groups of friends or families, from all nationalities that are interested in quintessential Cape flavours. Also larger groups.
Cuisine & offering:	Sister restaurant to GOLD, they also offer optional Djembe drumming from 18:30, followed by the Cape Malay Food Celebration set menu from 19:15, accompanied by live jazz. It also opens for lunch and offers a curated Cape Malay-inspired small plate à la carte menu, designed to offer a culinary adventure. Furthermore, they offer a cooking experience and lunch with the renowned Fayruza Abrahams, delving into the rich traditions of Malay cuisine.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Head Chef Fayruza is endlessly passionate and proud of the culinary experience she has created, intertwined with the history and story behind each dish, and really elevates the product offering. <i>Cape Malay cuisine at Michelin star level!</i>
Caveats:	The restaurant can accommodate up to 200 people, so something to bear in mind would be larger groups. The Lunch Cooking Experience can take up to 43 people but small private FIT bookings can also be accommodated.





<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Shamwari, Eastern Cape</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Alison May</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	All of our guests!
Recommended activities:	Shamwari was a very pleasant surprise for me. The lodges are well spread out and one doesn't often see other game drive vehicles. There are also a number of different habitats, which lends itself to a good minimum 4-night stay! Once the additional land is finalised for the boating, this will be another really good activity.
Highlights during visit/stay:	Wonderful array of wildlife including white rhino, black rhino, caracal, eland. The accommodations are very different and would tick all the boxes for different types of travellers. Riverdene is an indoors- and outdoors learning centre.

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, Eastern Cape</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Alison May</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Suited to almost any of our guests. Adventurers, honeymooners, family, multi-gen, slow safaris, birders, conservation enthusiasts
Recommended activities:	<p>I would strongly recommend our agents' client's book at least one of the extra conservation activities offered. <b>The Rhino Monitoring Drive</b> teaches one about the importance of monitoring Kwandwe's white and black rhino populations. It's a prelude to the other experiences. It's also a rather special activity to get an authentic experience of how to keep track of these endangered species.</p> <p><b>The rhino conservation participation</b> activity is next level! It's an up-close and personal activity with meaningful interactions between Kwandwe Management, their Ecologist and the Vet. One gets to do data collection – from just touching the roughness of this prehistoric mammal's feet, or marvelling at the softness of the skin between her legs, to horn measurements, giving injections and collaring, and much more hands-on activities like removing ticks from 'unsightly' places, getting a faeces sample and pulling hair follicles. It's up to you!</p> <p><b>The Backstage Kwandwe</b> activity is truly a behind-the-scenes, unscripted 4-day experience. The cost goes directly towards the conservation and protection of white and black rhino, as well as habitat restoration. One can't have one without the other. Included is all of the above, as well as technological and drone demonstrations, an anti-poaching APU K9 demonstration and sundowners with the head of the tactical unit. There is also spekboom planting, habitat restoration and long-term carbon sequestration. In my book it's a must!</p>
Highlights during visit/stay:	It was quite an emotional and nostalgic time for me personally. Our guests will be blown away by these experiences – the privacy offered due to the size of the reserve, as well as the incredibly diverse wildlife. It's not your typical savannah grassland, although this is there, but think ancient dwarf forests as well as <i>Acacia karoo</i> and Karoo scrub. So one can see cheetah, bat-eared fox, gemsbok, impala and springbok, eland, bushbuck and of course both black and white rhino! We saw a crash of 11 white rhino, which matched my previous record from many years ago.



Caveats:	Long drive from Gqeberha (helicopter is a great alternative). Don't expect massive herds of plains game, but there is a plethora of species!
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<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Mantis No. 5 Boutique Art Hotel, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth)</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Alison May</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Clients interested in art (main hotel) or soccer (villa)
Recommended activities:	This is a nice overnight boutique hotel in the beachfront suburb of Summerstrand. Very turquoise! Very arty and quirky! Sadly, there is no one to explain the artwork, i.e. no tour, (there used to be) but there is a comprehensive book in each room. The 'movie night' is quite cool! Private experience in their small cinema with burgers and sparkling wine. The transfer company (Safari Transfer Company – Gunter) can organise a half-day tour of the city (historical).
Cuisine:	The evening menu was quite limited and local foods (stews, pork, pap, etc.) but they were very accommodating and organised a burger from the lunch menu for me. Breakfast was surprisingly very good, with lots of choice. There are one or two good restaurants in town apparently (highly recommended to have a transfer).
Highlights during visit/stay:	The staff were very accommodating and friendly. The spa is very nicely laid out with lots of options. The hotel has a zero-plastic policy, which is awesome! There is a huge wire praying mantis in the grounds where all the plastic is collected.

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Federal Air (Flight from Cape Town Airport to Winelands Airstrip)</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Alex Rautenbach</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Guests wanting that added touch of comfort, convenience and privacy that a private aircraft affords.
Offering:	FedAir invited some members of the trade to showcase their brand-new PC12 NGs and VIP Caravans; a lovely joy ride between Cape Town airport and the Winelands Airstrip, along a scenic coastal flight.
Highlights:	For one leg we flew in the PC12 and the leg back in the Caravan. The offering is as luxurious in both of them, with the PC12 affording slightly more luxurious seats (seats can recline fully and swivel around, and have taller seat backs) and greater cabin volume. It also offers considerably faster speed and more range. Both aircraft flew low along the coastline around Cape Point, and the views were simply breath-taking. The Cape Town lounge has a cosy and inviting feel to it, where guests can relax and have refreshments before boarding their flight.
Caveats:	Private charter flights come at a cost. But if budget allows, it is highly recommend!



**ZIMBABWE**

<b>Destination:</b>	<b>Tsowa Island, Zimbabwe</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	<b>Khanyi Mayisele</b>
Suits which type of traveller:	Couples with older kids and small groups
Recommended activities:	Each of these activities offers a unique way to experience the beauty of the Zambezi area. Game drives are perfect for spotting wildlife, while the bush walks gave us a more personal connection with nature. The sundowner cruise is a great way to relax and take in the sunset, and lastly, the guided canoeing provided us with a peaceful yet exciting way to explore the river. Just remember to pre-book the bush walks and canoeing.
Cuisine & offering:	They have a variety of dishes, with options that cater to different dietary preferences. Our meals were often served with stunning views of the river that really enhanced our overall dining experience. If you have specific dietary needs or preferences, it's a good idea to let them know in advance.
Highlights during visit/stay:	The Island Walk – a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, explore stunning landscapes and get up close with the elephants. Paddling along the Zambezi was an unforgettable experience. Accommodation was a secluded stay with magnificent views of the river.
Caveats:	Island Walk is a rewarding experience but be prepared for a long trek – over an hour or so. Tsowa Island is really perfect for relaxing after a busy safari. While in the reserve isn't focused on the 'Big 5', it emphasises enjoying the stunning scenery and diverse wildlife.

