LUXURY XCLUSIVES

ISSUE AUG - SEPT 2021



Your Definitive Luxury Lifestyle Guide


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EDITOR'S NOTE

This is yet another unprecedented year, and our day-to-day lives in personal and in business continues to be disrupted in ways we haven't yet fully comprehended. Our homes continue to be turned into multi-functional spaces where we live, work, learn, entertain and even exercise, family dynamics have changed and things we did as tradition for family, for personal and perhaps for business have had to be changed to accommodate these changes.

And while we are temporarily grounded, you also realise that time wait for nobody. The only choice we have left is to remain adaptive and agile to meet these fast paced demands. And just like me you are probably bored and tired of hearing of pandemic levels and global lockdowns depending on where you are. Therefore the only choice we have is to make the best of everyday that we have.

What remains evident is that, in the midst of the pandemic, travel unmasks a profound reality. A new segment of luxury travel interest has emerged. We are delighted to see a renaissance of continental travel demonstrating the passion and resilience of our people to discovery, explore and support tourism. The appetite for travel is as strong as ever, we continue to discover that we have so much to look forward to in Africa. Bespoke and very exclusive travel is becoming a consideration giving a new meaning to luxury travel.

The month of September being Tourism month we take time to visit South Africa Winelands and get to explore some amazing wine Estates. We visit 10 wine estates over 10 days engaging in wine tasting and meeting wine masters who will share their wine making process and take us through their best wines. If you have time, enjoy a round of golf, take a sunset cruise or an helicopter ride, all part of Africa Connect 2021 week in Cape Town. A great way to network and do business. Join us as we celebrate Heritage day at the Boschendal wine Estate on the 24th September and celebrate Nigeria National Day on the 1st of October 2021 at the Iconic Mother City in Cape Town.

Kenya Airways our travel partner has given the Luxury Xclusives and the Inspire Africa Connect Team discounted package from any destination in the world. If you plan to travel to South Africa during the period of September be sure to take advantage of the travel packages by using the code #INSPIRE to benefit from these travel packages. Connect with some of the best hotels in Cape Town and enjoy a comfortable stay while networking and doing business.

We trust you will enjoy reading this edition and invite you to our look forward to our next edition which will close the year with exciting holiday packages and festive give-aways to end the year with a bang.

Thank you for your time.

Grace Mumo
Founder / CEO
Luxury Xclusives

Luxury Xclusives
exclusivity reigns supreme

YOUR OPULENT LIVING GUIDE



AFRICA'S LUXURY LIFESTYLE ONLINE MAGAZINE

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THE BLUE TRAIN

A WINDOW TO THE SOUL OF AFRICA





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19 guidelines governing travel, are in place pre-departure, on board, as well as for emergency situations.



"World-Class Refinement Deeply Rooted In Its Local Heritage"

Taj Cape Town is renowned for our extraordinary commitment towards providing luxury hospitality.

Located in the centre of the old city, Taj Cape Town boasts a strong sense of place and is within walking distance to some of South Africa's foremost landmarks and attractions and an eclectic array of shops, galleries and restaurants. Originally home to the South African Reserve Bank and Temple Chambers, both heritage buildings, and the Board of Executors, the iconic hotel effortlessly combines the legacy of the old with the luxury of the new.

Spread across two heritage buildings, all 176 individually decorated rooms reflect unrivalled opulence, Taj Cape Town has a wealth of accommodation options suited to leisure and business travellers. All rooms at our hotel in Cape Town boast panoramic vistas of the city and Table Mountain, with lavish furnishings and contemporary finishes immersing guests in world-class luxury.







Each of the nineteen one-bedroom suites in the Tower wing offer private walk-out balconies with floor-to- ceiling glass sliding doors for panoramic city or Table Mountain views. Contemporary and stylish, these rooms boast extra-length king beds and spacious separate living rooms with separate work areas. The bathrooms offer oversized bath tubs, walk-in marble showers and array of luxurious bathroom amenities. Ideal for families, the six Tower Wing two-bedroom family suites have separate spacious living rooms and separate work areas. Each suite comes with a private walk-out balcony offering stunning city views. There's an extra-length king bed in the main bedroom and twin beds in the second bedroom. The expansive bathroom has a walk-in marble shower, oversized bath tub and high-end bathroom amenities.

Light-filled and marble-floored, the Presidential Suite is Taj Cape Town's premier accommodation offering, spanning 200 Sq Mt.2 across the 16th and 17th floors of the hotel. A wrap-around terrace provides uninterrupted views of Table Mountain and the city. There's a fire-pit, plush seating and plenty of space for entertaining like intimate cocktail receptions and romantic dinners for two. The suite offers two bedrooms with separate entrances and interleading, lockable doors. The master bedroom boats luxurious linens and silks, with large mirrors and chandeliers. A generous lounge provides a restful haven, while a formal dining room creates an intimate gathering point. A study provides a peaceful place to work or read. Spa treatment, hammam steam, and a personal exercise room foster rejuvenation while the extensive bathroom offers a walk-in shower, long bath and floor-to ceiling views of Table Mountain.

"Cape Town's Taj Hotel is driven by passion, vision and authenticity."

Taj Cape Town sets an example of opulence born from flavourful local culture and world-class amenities. At Taj, guests from around the world find comfort in the stately, tastefully designed rooms, offering unhindered views of the destination, while providing convenient in-room facilities.

The Bombay Brasserie, our Indian fine dining and International cuisine restaurant provides a culinary experience unlike any other. We serve the essentially global cuisine; providing guests with a masterfully balanced taste. Executive Chef David Tilly adds "In our bid to deliver authentic, undiluted experiences, we've introduced a unique regional home style dining experience. Always prepared with a local touch, the home-style cooking ensures that you maintain good health throughout your stay. At the same time, it gives you the opportunity to dabble in the local delicacies."

Fulfilling the purpose of a guest's visit takes top priority at Taj Cape Town. Be it a significant meeting, a crucial conference, a much-awaited get-together, or an affair of a lifetime a wedding; at Taj Cape Town, occasions turn into memories. Plush banquets adapt seamlessly to the nature of the event, while functioning with incredible efficiency and poise, displaying Taj Cape Town's spirit of hospitality at its peak.

The award winning Jiva Spa draws on the fabled lifestyle and culture of Indian royalty through the centuries, along with 6000-year-old Eastern wellness philosophies devised to align body, soul and mind, Jiva Spa is a special space. At its essence, it encapsulates the 'science of longevity' with the wisdom of the ages behind its offerings. Here 'Atithi Devo Bhava' meaning 'the guest is god' is an adage to be adhered to, and holistic treatments are enlivened with meaningful ceremonies and rituals that encourage total relaxation. Taj Cape Town's Jiva Spa global principles apply: everything that touches the body is completely natural, with materials like organic cotton, sun-bleached fabric, oven-baked pottery and soy cotton.

Tajness – A Commitment Restrengthened is a mark of assurance of IHCL's authentic Indian hospitality, with an added comfort of safety, hygiene and physical distancing IHCL looks forward to welcoming its guests with a fond and familiar 'Namaste', 'Adaab' or 'Khamma Ghani' to their second homes, its Hotels.

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&
ADVENTURE


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THE TABLE BAY HOTEL WINS AT INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FILM FESTIVAL AFRICA 2021

Putting Cape Town on the map among international tourism leaders



A video on The Table Bay Hotel's Covid-19 protocols has picked up two awards at the International Tourism Film Festival Africa.

The international jury awarded the film, which was produced by Cape Town documentary studio Good Work Pictures, a Gold Award in the Accommodation category in the Tourism Promotion section, and a Silver Award in Accommodation in the Tourism Services Sector.

"With 865 entries from 97 countries, of which a quarter were African, competition was fierce. As Covid-19 caused numerous logistical challenges, it made sense to combine the Afro-centric version of our event with the International one this year," said Caroline Ungersbock, co-founder and director of the ITFFA.

"We have missed many of our regular guests at Cape Town's best address during the pandemic, and once lockdown eased and allowed us to re-open, we put many measures in place to welcome them back in safety," said The Table Bay General Manager Joanne Selby. "Our extensive health and safety protocols allow guests to relax in comfort, so that when we have to say good bye, we know our guests are going back to their families relaxed and healthy." The video explains the hotel's Covid-19 protocols which protect guests and provide them with peace of mind during their stay. These include staff wearing personal protective equipment, porters wiping luggage with a sterilising spray, tem perature checks and a no-touch sanitiser station as they are welcomed onto the property. Elevators have limited capacities and rooms are serviced with linen that has been disinfected and individually wrapped. Rooms are sanitised with an electro-static unit before new guests arrive. A special touch is a cleaning service for guests' personal face masks.

"Our renowned high tea is now an individually presented experience, in an appropriately distanced seating area overlooking the ocean and working harbour beyond our windows," Selby said. All cutlery at the hotel's restaurants and for in-room dining is sterilised, while no-touch menus can be accessed using QR codes on mobile phones. "We look forward to welcoming more guests back to The Table Bay as vaccination programmes roll out in South Africa and the rest of the world," Selby said.

The Table Bay receives British Airways Holidays accolade in recognition of customer excellence

Serving guests with excellence at Cape Town's best address despite Covid-19 challenges

In what has been one of the most challenging years for the hospitality industry, The Table Bay hotel has received a British Airways Holidays Customer Excellence Award.

Based on unbiased guest reviews, this accolade recognises superior services, facilities and customer experiences offered by hotels around the world. The Table Bay received an overall score of 9.3 out of 10.

The British Airways Customer Excellence Award is presented annually to top-rated hotels, based entirely on the feedback they receive from our customers. "This year we are giving out nearly 475 awards, which means The Table Bay has ranked within the top 4% of our highest-rated hotels for 2020," said Claire Bentley, Managing Director of British Airways Holidays.

British Airways Holidays gathered nearly 24,000 independent reviews last year.

"The Table Bay was recognised because they stood out to our customers in 2020. Thank you for helping people to reconnect and make special holiday memories in an unprecedented year. Congratulations, and thank you for playing your part in providing our customers with holidays that they'll never forget."

The Table Bay General Manager, Joanne Selby said: "This award proves that we are creating the type of memorable experiences that inspire our guests to share their review. We pride ourselves on our excellent service and attention to every detail which contributes towards creating an unmatched hotel stay."





CUSTOMER EXCELLENCE AWARD 2020

Table Bay

Congratulations, you have been awarded this certificate in recognition of your consistently high Reevoo score as rated by British Airways Holidays customers

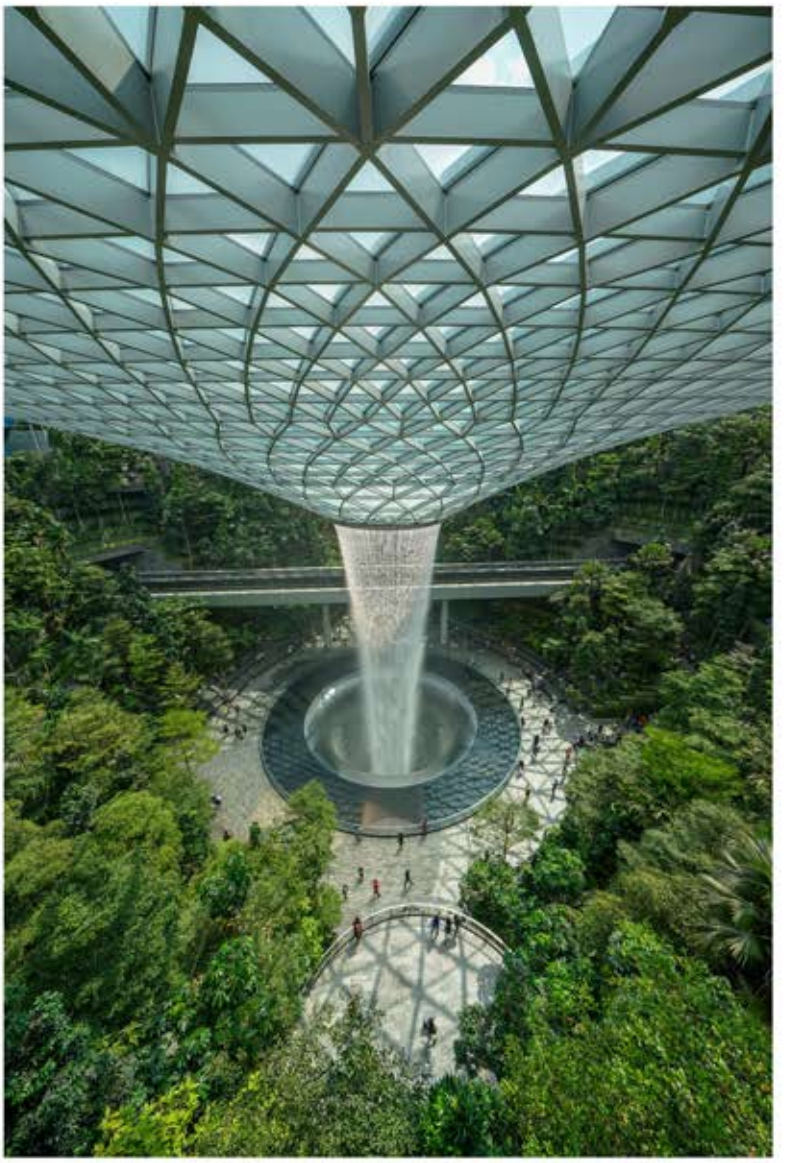
Reevoo Verified | 9.3 out of ten

18 customer reviews

Claire Bentley
Managing Director – British Airways Holidays

BRITISH AIRWAYS Holidays

Jewel Changi Airport: Multi-faceted Lifestyle and Entertainment Hub



Designed as an extension of Singapore’s reputation of being a City in a Garden, Jewel Changi Airport has become an iconic landmark on the Singapore Skyline.

Clinching the Luxury Lifestyle Awards in the category of The Best Luxury Shopping Malls in Singapore, Jewel Changi Airport has shown how bold and ambitious decisions can transform a cement-filled parking lot into an indoor paradise. With retail outlets and eateries integrated with elements of nature, visitors at Jewel can enjoy an unparalleled shopping and dining experience while relaxing in lush greenery.

Jewel Changi Airport is an impressive structure built at the heart of Singapore Changi Airport, which has cemented its status as one of the best airports in the world. The decision to build a mixed-use development was made in 2013 in conjunction with the expansion of Terminal 1 and the redevelopment of the open-air carpark. A year later, construction work began, and in April 2019, Jewel opened its doors to visitors.

Designed by the renowned architect Moshe Safdie, the complex has 10 floors with 5 floors underground and 5 above it. Offering more than 280 shopping and dining options, Jewel boasts a world-class tenant mix with shops and eateries which includes strong stable of new-to-market and well-established brands as well as Jewel-exclusive concepts and merchandise, ensuring there is something for shoppers and travelers from all walks of life.

The most impressive attraction is the HSBC Rain Vortex, located right in the centre of Jewel. The majestic 40-meter waterfall is a giant column of water falling from an oculus in a glass roof and is the world’s tallest indoor waterfall. In the evening, the waterfall turns into a spectacular light and sound show that enthralls visitors.

Closely echoing Singapore's reputation as a "city in a garden," Jewel Changi Airport invites you on a wow-inspiring stroll through the picturesque Shiseido Forest Valley, a four-story terraced garden surrounding the HSBC Rain Vortex.

Here you'll discover carefully selected amazing plants from around the world, including 2,000 trees and palms and over 100,000 shrubs that will make you forget you're in the heart of the metropolis.



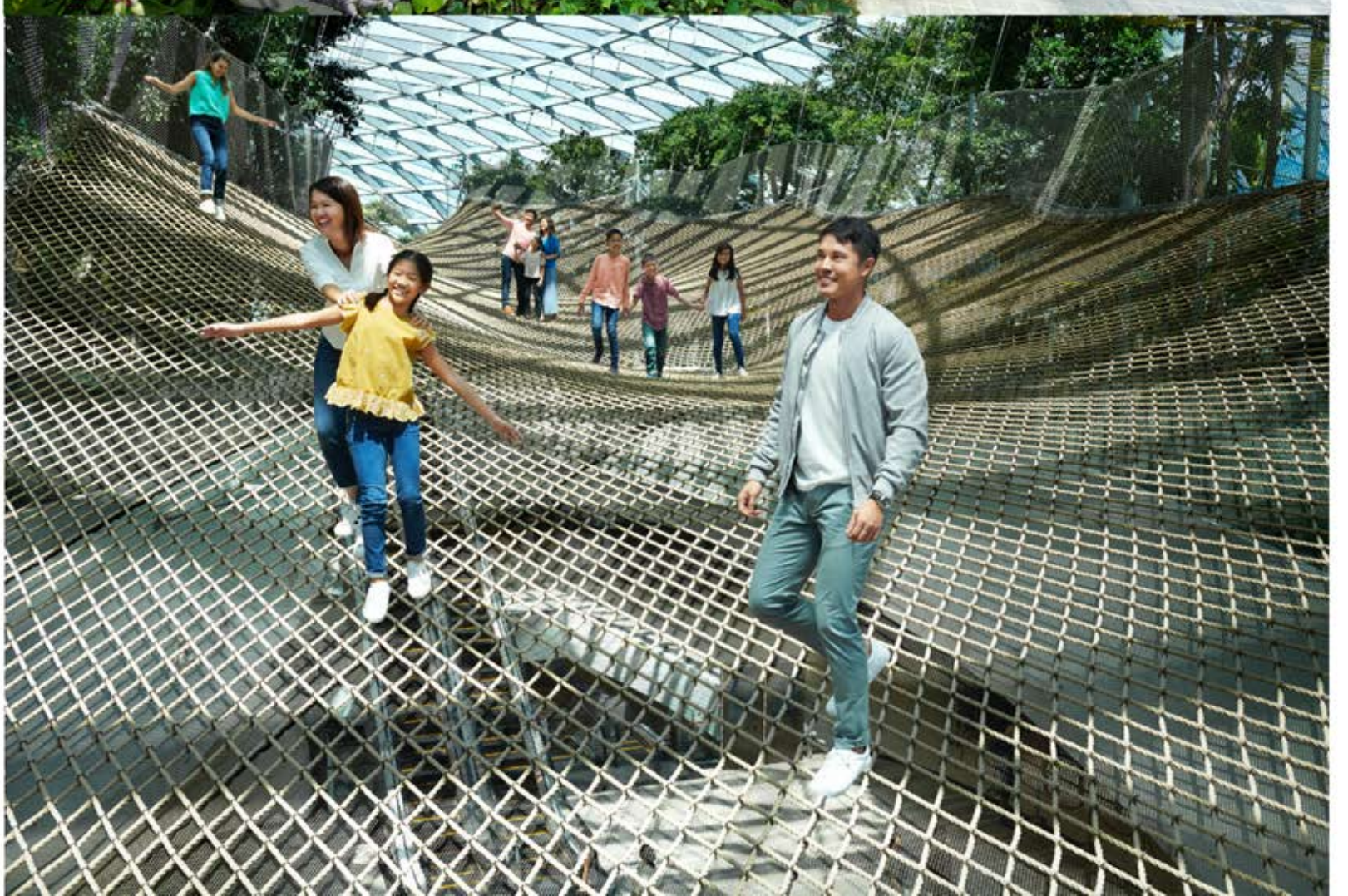


For an even more impressive experience, Luxury Lifestyle Awards experts recommend a visit to the Canopy Park, located on the upper level. Don't refuse yourself the fun of trying the pair of Manulife Sky Nets thatare stretched across high levels above ground or challenge your fear of heights by walking across the glass-bottomed Canopy Bridge.

For travelers to Singapore, you will find early check-in services and baggage storage facilities at Jewel for your convenience. You can also stay and recharge in one of the smartly designed cabins at YOTELAIR Singapore Changi Airport, the perfect place for business travelers and transit passengers to relax and rejuvenate.









Defining luxury travel at the heart of Manila



Creating experiences is a crucial element for any traveller. Whether that is learning about the local culture or signing business deals, curating the versatile hotel stay takes an understanding of the complicated psyche of the modern traveller, their needs and luxury desires.
The Savoy Hotel Manila has taken the challenge of creating a venue that accommodates the traveller of today and the future.

When it comes to location, the hotel is just a 10 to 15mins walk away from the Ninoy Aquino International airport, and its Runway Manila. Once guests have arrived at the hotel, they can check into one of the 684 rooms on offer. Each room has been designed explicitly with luxury at the fore and with practicality and versatility in mind. Rooms are decorated in calming neutral palettes with pops of colour in on-trend accessories and soft furnishings. The Essentials rooms come in a choice of twin or double bed configurations. The Runway is an executive suite with the business traveller in mind with a bird's eye view of the airport. For those looking for a generous space to work and relax, The Space suite comes with a dedicated living area where guests can unwind or catch up on work.The largest of the suites is The Deck, with fifty square metres of breath-taking views along with accessories such as mini-bar and coffee maker. Each includes a variety of space for guests to relax, along with practical elements such as charging points for electronics and designated workspace. Additional elements such as hot beverage station and in-room amenities come as standard.



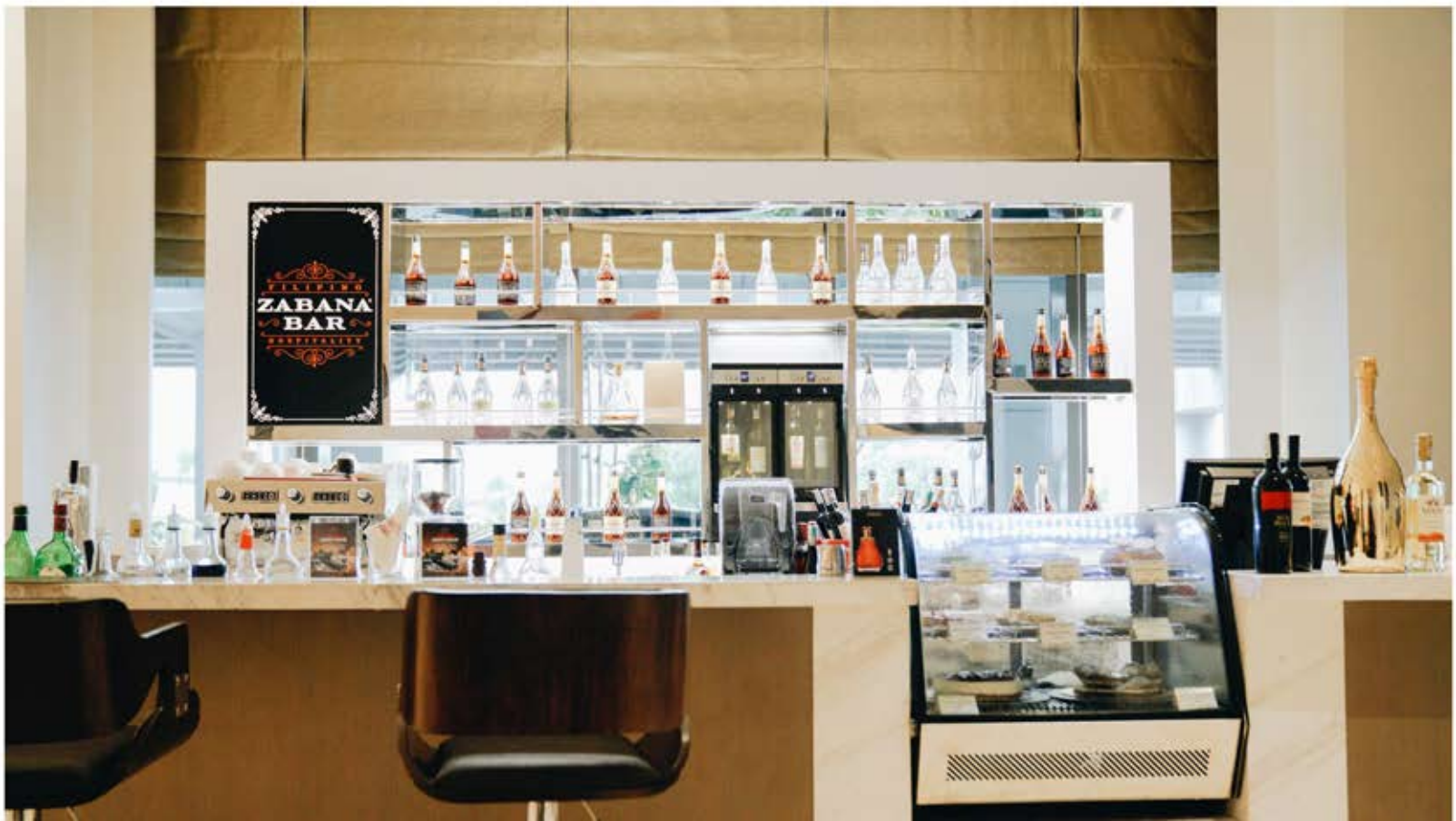


The culinary offering at the Savoy Hotel Manila mirrors the diversity of the guests. The Savoy Cafe offers Western-inspired dishes through to divine Asian cuisine; all served to the exacting standards of a luxury restaurant. For those looking to stir things up with a cocktail or two, the Zabana Bar's relaxing atmosphere and skilled mixologists can rustle up a signature drink while guests can take in the relaxed ambience. For guests looking to mix drinks with a spa experience, The Poolside bar is a must-visit destination.

The Savoy Hotel Manila understands that not all guests want to work in their rooms, so the incorporation of a designated space for meetings, catch-ups and brainstorming plays a key part in the design. Extra comfy chairs have been installed along with charging points and table areas to create versatile spaces perfect for or ganising group meetings or break out areas. Throughout the hotel high-speed Wi-Fi connection is available for guests, so there is no worry about missing that vital email or conference call. The Connect Lounge provides the ideal space for travellers to connect either for business or social functions. For those wanting larger scale event and meeting spaces, the Savoy Hotel Manila's sister hotel in Newport City offers fully equipped function halls and working lounges designed and fitted with the latest technology with the business traveller in mind.

Leisure travellers can take advantage of a wealth of entertainment and cultural experiences. For shopping fans looking for that latest must-have label or finding that exquisite gift, the Mall of Asia is one of the largest in Asia. The famous landmark of the Intramuros walled city gives visitors a glimpse at the varied tapestry of Manila history from when Spain ruled. Away from the bustle of the surrounding streets, Paco Park provides a welcome retreat. Created during Spanish rule, it is now a beautifully landscaped space.

Whether business or leisure, the panel at Luxury Lifestyle Awards considered the hotel a formula winning destination that cleverly combines the needs of all travellers while showcasing the best that Manila has on offer. Awarded recently in the category of Best Luxury Hotel in Philippines, the team thought Savoy Hotel Manila deserved this highly sought accreditation for their continued dedication at the highest end of the hospitality sector. As the world gets ready to travel again the Savoy Manila should be top of your luxury destination list when planning your next leisure or business trip.









Africa Connect 2021

Cape Town

Sep 23rd - Oct 4th

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Thought Leadership

Selected sponsorship packages provide speaking opportunities or the ability to host a dedicated breakout session for yourr Business to showcase its leadership in the African Luxury market.

Brand Promotion

Distinguish your brand as an industry leader in front of key stakeholders, partners and new HNW customers from across the continent and around the world.

Relationship Building

Give your Business a powerful platform for meeting new HNW customers, reaching out to your existing clientele, and building a more established and reliable brand.

Inspire Africa Connect

The spectacular world of Inspire Africa Connect is your comprehensive get-away to the richness of Africa.

Africa Connect 2021 brings leading African luxury brands across different lifestyle segments to an elite and discerning target audience. This plush 10 day affair is presented by Inspire Africa Connect.



COVID Protocols in place at all venues

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FASHION & JEWELRY





For Spring/Summer 2022, DIESEL Presents aShort Film Showcasing Glenn Martens' First Runway Collection for the Label



DIESEL and its creative director Glenn Martens proudly reveal their Spring/Summer 2022 collection. This season represents a milestone for the company: it is Martens' first full collection for the brand. The Spring/Summer 2022 collection was presented through a short film, live streaming from Milan.

The short film—made in collaboration with the artist and director Frank Lebon, and sound tracked by the British musician Leon Vynehall—lenses 4 sections of DIESEL's evolved, brave new world as seen through Martens' creative prism.

The film blurs the lines between reality and a dream. We follow the main character moving through a familiar yet slightly askew environment. It begins in a home setting, suggestive of a late-night scene.

From there, a shot of an urban street takes form, recalling daily—and sometimes frenetic—city living. Next, an elevator ride, which captures a kind of tailored take on both DIESEL's heritage and Martens' aesthetic. The film concludes in a trippy, alien room that's bathed in a deep red filter; we're not quite sure if it's meant to be dreamt or actual, or somewhere in between.

Throughout this storyline, Martens' focuses of denim, womenswear, menswear, and experimentalism are all portrayed. Together, they become something new, galvanizing, unusual and entirely individual. Martens' concept is a contemporary interpretation of DIESEL's bold and ironic history. Notable overarching points include an all-gender approach, a heritage component, and the newly introduced DIESEL LIBRARY.

Key collection highlights include an interwoven belt accent, which holds together t-shirts, tops, and dresses. Looping through cutouts in the garments, these belts function as a kind of backbone, anchoring each item in an inventive new drape and form. 5-pocket denim trousers with integrated boots are also a standout: these pants are either high-waisted or of a medium rise and feature various denim washes. They flow into sewn-in cowboy boots or pointed-toe booties. The heritage—and often upcycled—chapter holds reused deadstock DIESEL denim, including anartisanal lattice-detailed, smocked, and floor-grazing topcoat. Additional upcycled jersey pieces are cut-and-sewn—and dyed—to create new jumpers and bombers.

DIESEL's heritage has been reinterpreted on blazers, shirts and denim trousers that depict a laser-print forming a trompe l'oeil effect of layers and seaming. There are also second-skin jersey pieces that are all-over printed with heritage denim washes and archival DIESEL patches.

Lastly, a series of denim pieces with embossed DIESEL logos adds to the sculptural side of Martens' output. As the transition morphs into the more experimental and cerebral, printed, and smoked organza pieces—all with cracked paint motifs—become marquee looks.

Denim was, is, and always will be DIESEL's core engine - it comprises the majorities of the company's revenues. Spring/Summer 2022 sees the introduction of DIESEL LIBRARY, a sustainable made-to-stay collection component that holds genderless jeans, shirts, top, skirts, shorts, and more. DIESEL LIBRARY will act as a fundamental baseline for each seasonal collection, and it will remain permanent.

It reflects the company's new sustainability-forward mantra, providing clothing types and items that may be bought less often—and worn longer. All these items have a permanent shelf life. This launch marks a major step in Martens' evolution of DIESEL, continuing its position as a power player in defining the culture—and no fabric is more culturally relevant than denim.

Overall, the result reflects a bold and deeply considered hybridizing of DIESEL's trailblazing history and Martens' high-concept approach to fashion design. For the former, it's about diversifying and evolving its product array as we enter the early 2020's under a new world paradigm, and for the latter, it's about creating gar ments with a democratic, global pragmatism. The result firmly carves out the next chapter in DIESEL's evolution, balancing popular appeal, clever design and, most of all, an uncompromising vision.

The short film's credits include: Frank Lebon, Director; Christopher Simmonds, Art Director; Larissa Hoffman, Photographer; Jabez Bartlett, Set Designer; UrsinaGysi, Stylist; Cyndia Harvey, Hair; professional haircare by Wella; Inge Grognard, Makeup; Midland Agency, Casting; Leon Vynehall, Music Director, starring; Ella Snyder.

A selection of key looks will be available in avant-premiere starting from September 2021 in key selected stores and on diesel.com.



LOUIS VUITTON
BLOSSOM



B Blossom – the first Jewellery collection by Francesca Amfitheatrof, Louis Vuitton's Artistic Director for Watches and Jewellery – expands with creative variations, giving pride of place to a new interpretation of the Monogram flower.

In combining strength with gentleness, audacity with refinement, like a coat of arms, the House's distinctive Monogram flower is enveloped in a medley of coloured stones carefully selected for their cheerful tones. The contemporary signature Blossoms feature across unique versions of collectible bangles, while light pendants encourage layering. Earrings and earstuds light up every hour of the day like a bejewelled smile.

The Louis Vuitton Monogram spreads its sculptural curves and suggestive petals over sensual spheres of white agate, pink opal, onyx and malachite, flourishing on carefully-polished yellow and rose gold. Skillfully set diamonds add the finishing, radiant touch to the these voluminous jewels.













B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom pendant in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom open bangle in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds
B Blossom ring in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds



B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom ring in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, malachite and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, cornelian and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds



B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom ring in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, malachite and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds



B Blossom open bangle in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds
B Blossom open bangle in yellow gold, white gold, malachite and diamonds
B Blossom open bangle in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond



B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, malachite and diamonds
B Blossom earrings in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom ear studs in yellow gold, in white gold, white agate and diamonds
B Blossom earrings in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds



B Blossom pendant in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom pendant in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds
B Blossom pendant in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds
B Blossom pendant in yellow gold, white gold, malachite and diamonds
B Blossom pendant in yellow gold, white gold, cornelian and diamonds
B Blossom pendant in pink gold, white gold, opal and diamonds
B Blossom pendant in pink gold, white gold and diamonds
B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds



B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds
B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold, white agate and diamonds
B Blossom medallion in yellow gold, white gold and pavé diamond
B Blossom ring in yellow gold, white gold, onyx and diamonds


FINE
LIVING



AMAZING SPACES

LIFESTYLE INVESTMENTS



Amazing Spaces launcheslifestyle property investment division.

Freedom to work remotely from anywhere in the world has spiked local and global demand for larger investment properties especially in South Africa, and for good reason. The country is famed for its exquisite landscapes, desirable climate, and notable wine regions.

As a prime destination for opulent living, South Africa has some of the world's most sought-after real estate,but it appears post-pandemic buyers are now searching for something different. A new definition of luxury living has emerged after being forced to stay at home for so long. There appears to be more emphasison design and the artistic expression of a home, exceptional outdoor space with views to match, innovative and sophisticated home offices that evoke creativity, and the quint-essential features that reflect a buyer's distinctive tastes.







International film locations company, Amazing Spaces, has paired film crews from all over the globe with the most sublime settings offered by South African properties since 2000. These locations are highly sought-after by some of the world's top photographers who naturally demand only the best. Responding to demand from clients over the years to purchase location properties, Amazing Spaces has expanded their offering and launched, Amazing Spaces Lifestyle Investments.

Julia Finnis-Bedford, owner of Amazing Spaces and co-founder and director of Amazing Spaces Lifestyle Investments says: "It's been a long time coming. We've been waiting for the right time. Our exclusive portfolio ranges from rare designer penthouses and celebrity homes to large private estates with unrivalled access to nature and adorned with some of the finest interior finishes. In many ways our buyers are like the photographers we've worked with for so many years. They have an eye for the extraordinary and we have the homes to match."

As they say timing is everything and while the high-end property market has always intrigued foreign investors, the pandemic has made it even more desirable with low interest rates and excellent value for money.



Andrew Dewey, director and co-founder of Amazing Spaces Lifestyle Investments explains: "We've carved out a niche within the sector for which we are focusing our efforts on especially seeing we have a network of potential buyers and sellers already in place. And as the vaccine rollout gains momentum, we're likely to see an even bigger surge in demand for this type of property in the long-term."

"Buyers seem to also have become far savvier about home innovation and design and are looking for an ideal balance when it comes to matching it with comfort and personal style. We are therefore placing a lot more emphasis on how we train our sales staff, who will need to understand the structural and technical functionalities of each home. This after all constitutes a new normal for what was previously termed luxury."



The affluent real estate market in South Africa is vigorously competitive with over 60 estate agencies competing for sole mandates across the country. Buyers and sellers are going to be looking for value-add not only in the properties they purchase but, in the agency, they choose to work with post-pandemic. Amazing Spaces Lifestyle Investments won't be listing just any home, they will need to have a wow factor that sets them apart.





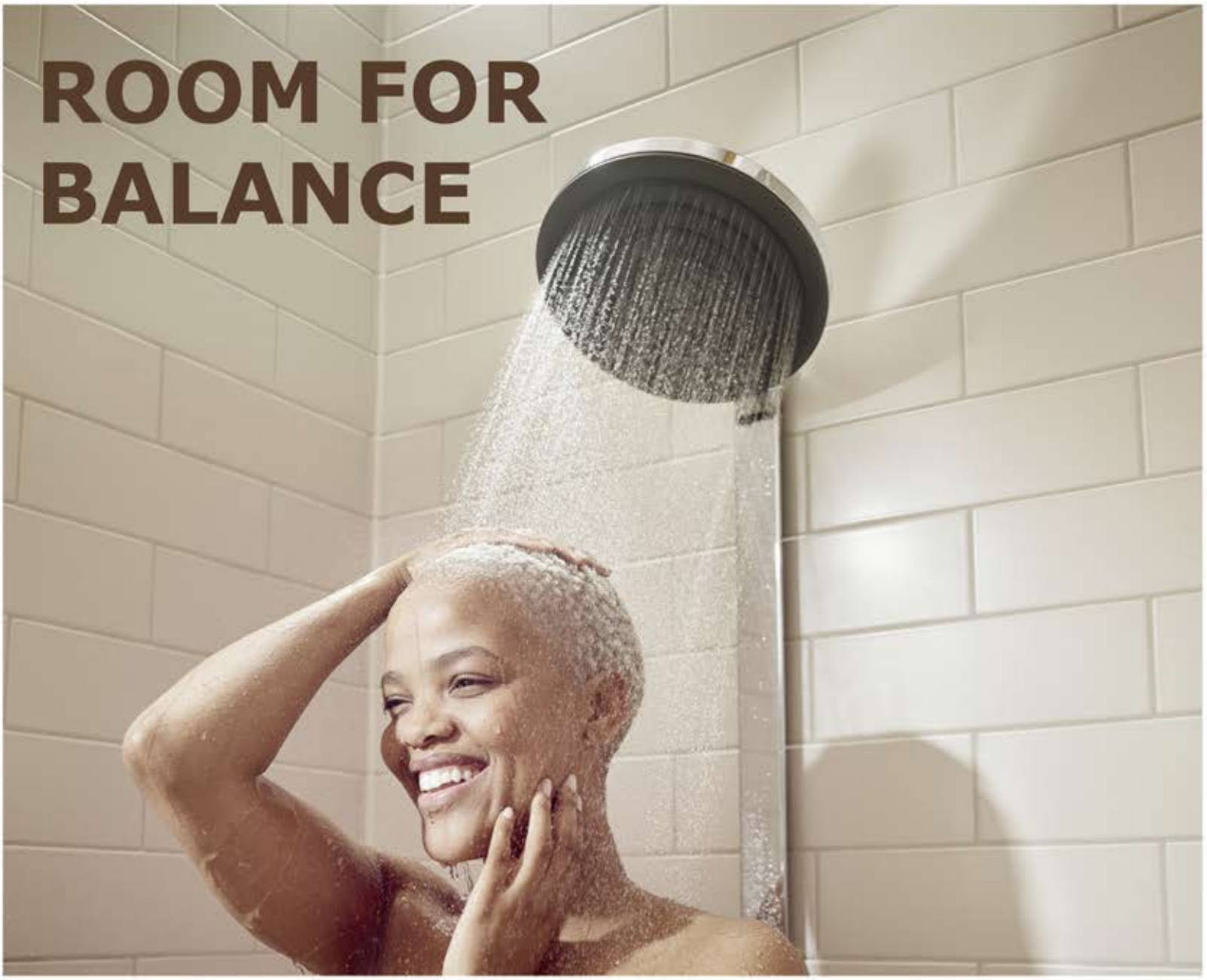
“We consider the properties we sell to be scarce resources and before listing a property we ensure they meet at least three of the following criteria. They must have some historical significance and tell a story. We look at whether the home was designed by a renowned architect. If it embodies any artistic architectural features worth noting. How technologically smart the home is, as well as the size of the building and the land, and of course its location. We are not in the business to sell homes; we sell lifestyles,” says Dewey.







ROOM FOR BALANCE



Achieving an Individual and Harmonious Bathroom Design with hansgrohe AddStoris

The everyday hustle, bustle and stresses in life are increasing noticeably, and awakening a deep need for deceleration.

The bathroom is a place of retreat, which is predestined for letting go and coming to one's senses. A harmonious overall impression of the space is vital for inner balance. If the bathroom architecture, setup, and furnishings are coherent down to the last detail, the atmosphere of well-being should also be ensured.

The new AddStoris accessories line from hansgrohe with a variety of products in a modern, minimalist design, allows you to let your creativity come into its own for a harmonious bathroom design. With their clear, flat, and discreet appearance, the accessories can be combined perfectly with a variety of styles. From individual hooks to the soap dish and towel holders, hansgrohe AddStoris offers a multitude of accessories, which add the final touches to your bathroom. Furthermore, they are indispensable helpers when it comes to storage and order in the bathroom.

In line with the FinishPlus surface range from hansgrohe, all AddStoris accessories are also available in six finishes: Chrome, Matt Black, Matt White, Polished Gold Optic, Brushed Bronze, and Brushed Black Chrome. They skillfully combine elegance and modernity and create appealing contrasts in combination with both dark and bright bathroom interiors.

Hansgrohe. Meet the beauty of water.

Hansgrohe stands for innovative solutions for kitchens and bathrooms that combine intelligent functionality, outstanding design, and enduring quality. Based in Germany's Black Forest region, the internationally active Hansgrohe Group sells premium products for showers, shower systems, bathroom and kitchen taps, and kitchen sinks under the hansgrohe brand.

hansgrohe stands for great moments with water since 1901. With its many award-winning products, this traditional brand shapes the flow of water in the kitchen and the bathroom. Because this is where people spend the time they treasure most and experience precious moments in the interaction with water.

hansgrohe stands for Smart Living applications that enrich people's everyday lives and offer them more functionality and safety in their homes.







Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria – Interior Design Specialists Bringing Beautiful Ideas to Life



Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria believes that you can 'make an impression, whatever the budget' and its firm commitment to interior design has led it to become one of the leading creative design firms in Nigeria.

Since launching in 2007, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria has worked hard to build its enviable reputation both in in Nigeria and the international market for its creative designs and innovative solutions. This multi-divisional firm has many skills which are at the disposal of its discerning clients, from project management to interior styling, space planning, furniture design and remodelling.

When it comes to interior styling, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria believes that commercial or residential spaces should never be bland or boring, but that they can be designed to portray style, comfort, elegance and quality as well as providing the functionality that their clients desire.

In this world full of material objects but often short on space, the team of experts at Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria is able to analyse every area so that it is optimised to bring out the best in its form and purpose, to maximise the storage possibilities and to create sophisticated and original designs.

From ensuring that the space is used to its fullest potential on a macro level, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria is also expert in the micro level,making sure that furniture and furnishing are designed in the very best possible way for each project. The studio's skilled and creative professionals work with woods, fabrics and metals in creating elegant pieces for each space and they can also remodel, re-upholster and redesign pieces to suit every specification.

This is why Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria has been awarded a trio of prestigious awards by Luxury Lifestyle Awards 2021 in the categories of: The Best Luxury Residential Interior Designs in Nigeria 2021 for 'Odenigbo'; The Best Luxury Commercial Designs in Nigeria 2021 for 'Tropic Galleria'; and The Best Luxury Hotel Interior Design in Nigeria 2021 for 'Royal Palm Hotel'.



The awards show how multi-talented and versatile the team of experts are at Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria covering as they do so many different types of design projects: from the luxury Tropic Galleria shopping mall in Abuja which showcases high-end retailers and restaurants; the luxury Royal Palm Hotel and the Odenigbo luxury residential development.

Each project requires a unique and specific set of skills and the team at Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria proved they were more than up to the tasks.





As well as residential and commercial spaces, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria also works on providing the best in event spaces, from conferences, training sessions and seminars to trade shows, project launches, receptions and family events – there is no limit to their imagination and creativity.

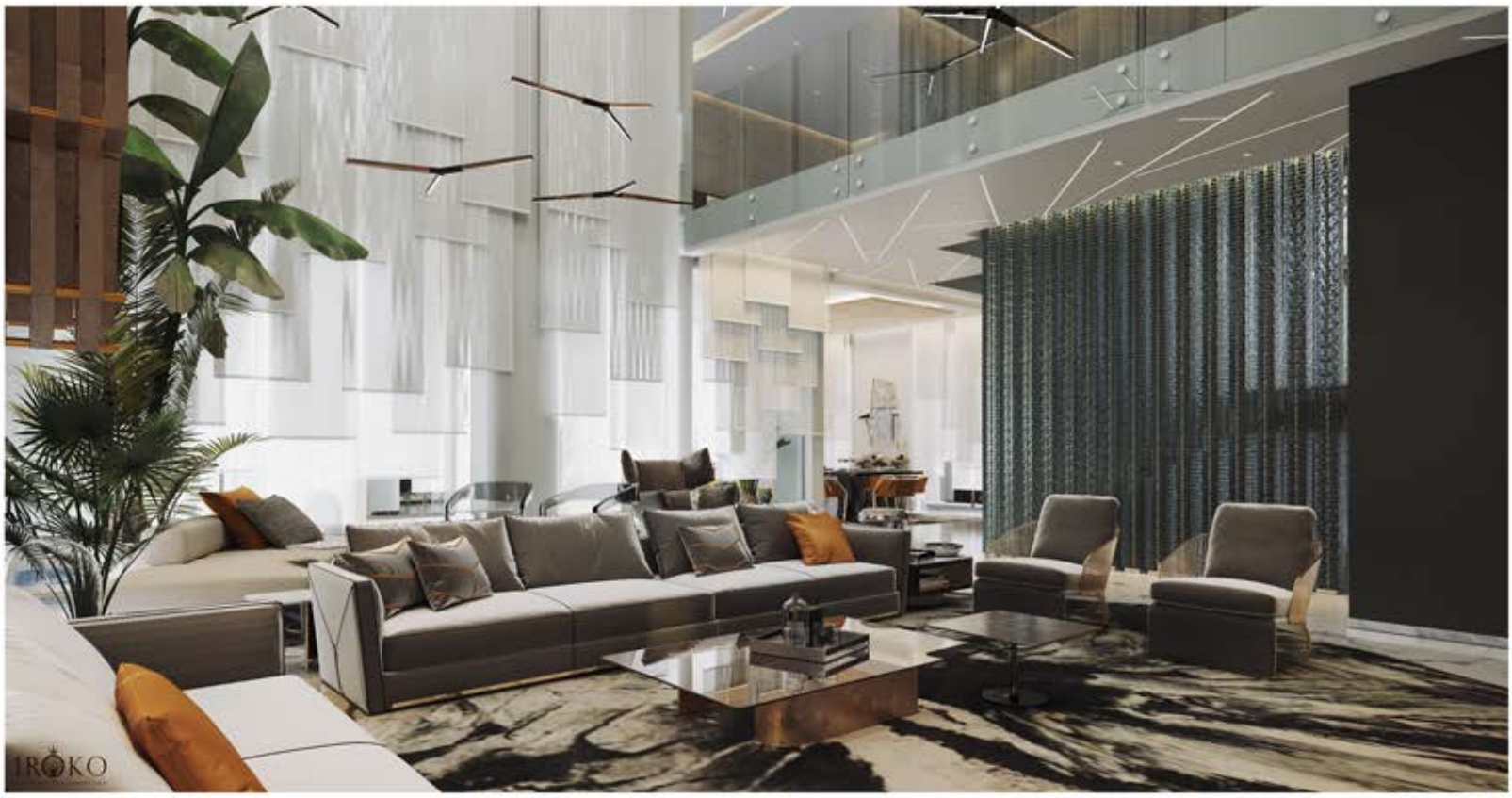
Crucially, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria is able to meticulously plan all its projects from the very start to the very end, meaning that they initiate, plan, execute and co-ordinate every aspect so that success is guaranteed. Working efficiently and effectively means that the team is able to achieve all its project goals within the given constraints of time, cost and labour, which means that the clients is completely satisfied at all stages.

Whatever the client needs, whether it is design, creation, moving assets, luxury rentals and interior styling, Beautiful Ideas in Nigeria is able to provide it, making it a truly one-stop-shop for all your design needs in Nigeria and beyond.









Iroko Interior Design Studio:Revealing Award-Winning Design Flair In Nigeria's Capital

Riling up the global interior design scene and coming out of North Africa's Nigeria, is Iroko Interior Design. Recently scooping the prestigious Best Luxury Interior Design Studio in Nigeria 2021, by the New York based Luxury Lifestyle Awards. Unprecedented rave reviews and striking design performance emanated from this rising establishment, underpinning this significant accolade.

Iroko Interior Design Studio provides award-winning interior and architectural services satisfying the needs of their clientele. Their quality workmanship is one of the stand-out features that Iroko Interior Designs are lauded for. They provide a full suite of interior design services, including color consulting, furniture selection, architectural and interior design. Not limited to home solutions, they offer residential, commercial and institutional clients quality interior design services at competitive prices.

Spearheaded by Ayanda Carter, who was born in South Africa, grew up in Mozambique, but certainly Nigerian in spirit. Ayanda has blazed a trail behind her through the last decade, somewhat of a designer genius. Her design philosophy rests on her firm belief that a designers role is to physically express their clients innermost vision - bringing thoughts, idea's and dreams to life. Naturally, being a woman in a male-dominated industry, she hopes to ignite the ambition and confidence of women across the world, encouraging them to believe in themselves and their capabilities. Ayanda remains a powerful source of inspiration to many.

Iroko Interior Design displays a magnificent portfolio of work across government, corporate and residential projects, geographically spanning America, The United Kingdom, South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia. Their core speciality is in bespoke designs and developing turnkey residential and commercial projects.




IROKO
IROKO


IROKO



Currently under construction, and gaining much attention, is the Tree House restaurant located in the Abuja Central Park development. Uniquely designed wooden flooring and wall paneling, strategically placed mirrors, back lighting, vertical indoor wall garden and buffalo leather seating cradling the paneled walls come together in creating a sensational space. It's an invigorating and inspiring fusion between the park attributes and the extraordinary dining experience.

The award-winning design house employ a 3-step approach to future projects:

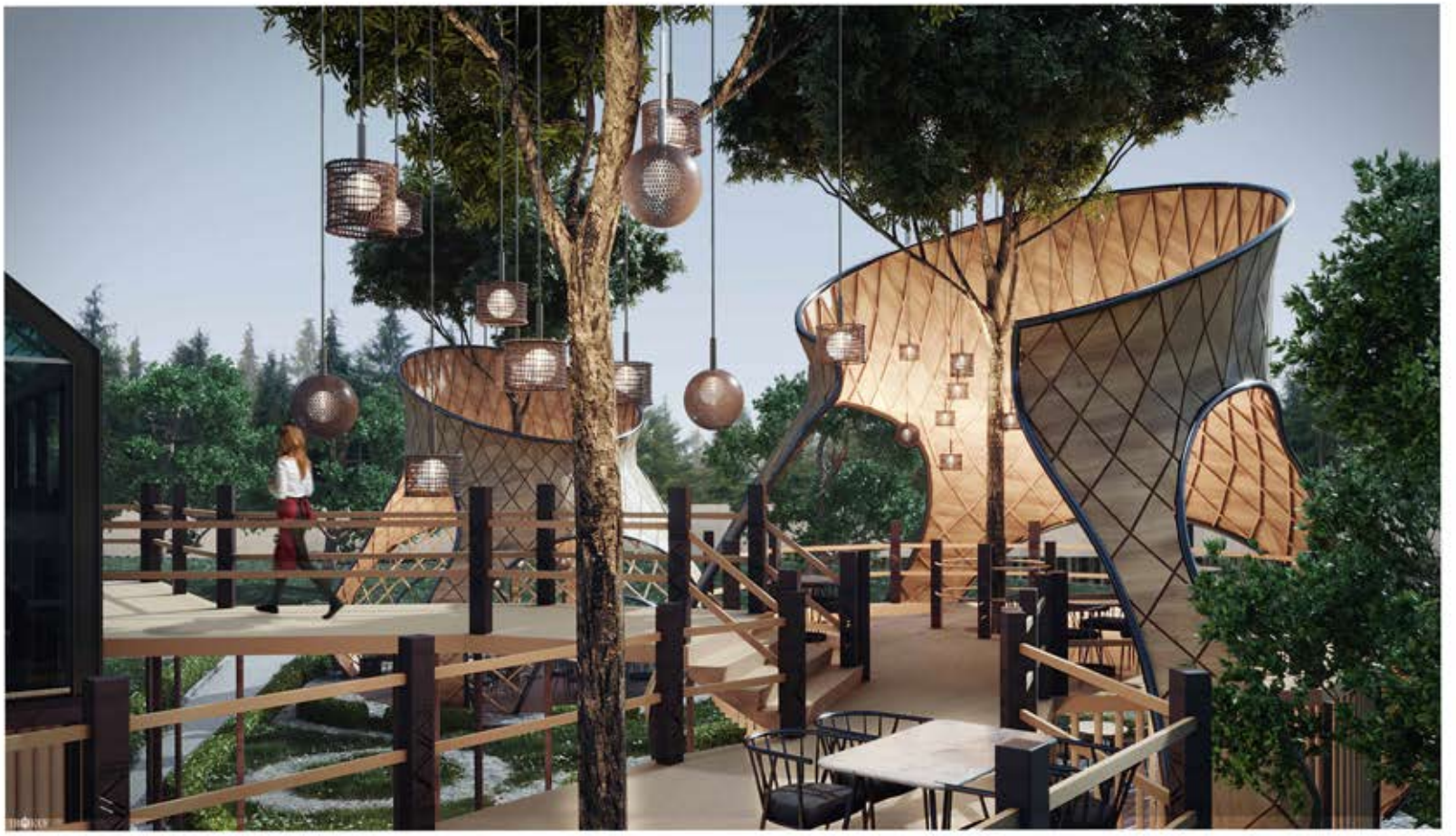
1. Conceptual Design
A core focus is to create the most desirable buildings and spaces on the globe. With this high aim in mind, vigorous conceptual creativity and solutions are vital to the overall outcome. This is where Iroko shines.

2. Technical Data
They offer complete services to complement the architectural concept for each project. Iroko takes care of all the details, ensuring that each project is totally harmonized to the highest levels of quality and detail.

3. 3D Visualisation
Iroko Interior Design Studio is one of the most sought-after and experienced firms in Lagos and throughout the country. They provide master plans that attract people, inspire investment, and increase activity alongside working with clients and communities to promote economic development and community growth.

The goal of Iroko is to provide customers with premium quality interior design and home remodeling services at affordable prices. They deliver on this promise by listening to their clients' needs, solving problems creatively and practically, ensuring each project goes off without a hitch.

If you're looking to develop something extraordinary, consider Iroko Interior Design to take you there.







John Jacob Interiors: Luxury of Experiencing Exciting Spaces

A sense of home and connection to it has always been one of the main luxuries available to man. More recently, it has taken on a special meaning: during pandemics and lockdowns, the place where people have to spend most of their time becomes a major source of energy, inspiration, and well-being. And this is a reason to once again ask the question: what is the perfect home? How to create a space that is in harmony with the inner world of the home's inhabitants?

For many years, John Jacob Interiors has been creating exciting environments in different parts of the world, providing customers with a precious sense of space. Numerous successful and stylish projects have already brought brand recognition on the international stage, and this year, its list of accolades was complemented by the status of the winner of Luxury Lifestyle Awards in the category of Best Luxury Interior Design Studio in South Africa.

John Jacob Interiors is the brainchild of South African interior and architectural designer John Jacob Zwiegelaar. From a young age, John was attracted to everything related to lifestyle and wanted to tie his life to the hotel and restaurant business. However, after gaining experience in the hospitality industry in Ireland, he realized that he was not so much interested in the operational side of hotels but rather in the design and development of spaces. After earning a degree at the University of Cape Town, John Jacob studied at Design Time in Cape Town.





And in 2005, he founded his own interior architecture and design studio, which quickly gained the status of one of the most prominent interior design studios in South Africa and also far beyond.

The John Jacob Interiors portfolio includes a long list of extremely stylish bespoke interiors, each one so different from the other that it's hard to believe they were created by one person. However, it could not be otherwise, as John develops each project as a meaningful narrative that communicates with the client and creates a specific experience based on the client's ideas, vision, and requirements. In the process, JJ Zwiegelaar collaborates with South African artists, sculptors, antique dealers, galleries, and fabric houses as needed to ensure client satisfaction. The boundless creativity and broad range of competencies of John and his team allow the studio to perform all aspects of design, including architectural design, custom furniture design, interior design, and garden care. Interiors designed by John Jacob Zwiegelaar always work closely with the context, harmoniously continuing and developing the architectural style of the building. In all of the designer's projects, perfect proportions, consistently high-quality materials, finishes, and bespoke details stand out, allowing for additional layers of meaning and giving the interior a sophisticated finishing touch.

Projects designed with the holistic approach of John Jacob Interiors, where every detail and element is sensitively incorporated to engage the senses, have been realized in a variety of building types, from the average small apartment to a luxurious spacious oceanfront villa. John Jacob's bespoke interiors can be found not only in his native South Africa but also in projects across the globe. His projects grace the pages of the most famous and reputable media about design. And the reason is obvious: John Jacob Zwiegelaar's work is imbued with great talent and passion, giving life to spaces that are transformed into exciting experiences. And that is valuable not just during lockdowns. It is valuable all the time.







John Jacob Interiors –Luxurious Environments that Engage the Senses

Good interiors can be enjoyed through comfortable and intelligently placed furniture, high-quality materials, or elegant color combinations. But when the art of design is brought to perfection, all these elements come together in a single environment that creates certain meanings and evokes strong feelings of harmony and coziness. That is how the amazing spaces created by John Jacob Zwiegelaar can be described. And these are the qualities that have earned John Jacob Interiors the status of this year’s winner of Luxury Lifestyle Awards in the category of Best Luxury Interior Design Studio in South Africa.

John Jacob Interiors is an interior architecture and design practice based in Cape Town. The company was founded in 2005 by the interior designer John Jacob Zwiegelaar, who filled every residential or commercial project he worked on with his unique style and sublime aesthetic.

John Jacob Interiors' geographic reach extends beyond South Africa to Europe, including London, Berlin, Oslo and New York.

John Jacob Interior stakes a holistic approach that encompasses the entire design process, including architectural design, custom furniture creation, interior decorating, and the treatment of the garden.

The projects by John Jacob always stand out for their unique style, whether it's a luxury seaside villa for a celebrity, a flagship boutique for a fashion house, or a small residential space. Regardless of the type of project, it will have sublime chic, impeccable proportions, and unwavering attention to the quality of the smallest de tails and finishes. At the same time, John Jacob's distinct individual style gracefully works to reflect the client's character and personal preferences.





"I am honored to find John Jacob Interiors on the list of South Africa's best interior design studios by the Luxury Lifestyle Awards version. It is an extremely gratifying experience to be recognized for work that brings pleasure to both me and my clients," said John Jacob.

John Jacob Interiors is highly regarded by experts in the interior design industry, but the main connoisseurs of the studio's work are its customers. Thanks to the talent of John Jacob Zwiegelaar, their residences not only become meaningful bespoke environments that reflect their lifestyle but also are featured in the most authoritative media about design.





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MM PEMBA - 47 -

Strauss & Co's live broadcast auction and exhibition spotlights Pemba and Hodgins

Strauss & Co announced details for its live broadcast auction of modern, post-war and contemporary art, decorative arts and jewellery, as well as a standalone sale of sweet and fortified wines and whisky, held on 11 and 12 July 2021. This live auction was conducted in real time by Strauss & Co's experienced team of auctioneers and temporarily replaced the online-only format of the annual July sale so as to enable digital infrastructure maintenance. "This fantastic mid-winter auction showcased selections from each of Strauss & Co's departments," says Susie Goodman, an executive director at Strauss & Co. "The two-day sale featured four sessions exclusively devoted to art and one to decorative arts and books. It commenced with a special session compiled by our wine department that featured rare natural and fortified sweet wines from renowned South African and international producers." In addition, Susie was delighted to announce that Strauss & Co would be hosting a non-selling exhibition of works by artists Robert Hodgins and George Pemba at their Johannesburg offices.







Titled "Social Stances", the exhibition (1–30 July, in-person visits by appointment only) was the third in a series on on-going exhibitions exploring synergies between pairs of historical artists. The first exhibition, in 2019, paired Louis Maqhubela and Douglas Portway, and the second, in 2020, placed works by Gladys Mgud landlu and Maggie Laubser in conversation. The exhibition is accompanied by a downloadable e-catalogue and extensive online education programme (schedule available on Strauss & Co website).

"This exhibition reassesses the work of both Hodgins and Pemba as essentially complex acts of creation, as both intellectual and emotional in origin," says Wilhelm van Rensburg, Strauss & Co's head curator and organizer of the exhibition series. "The works are products of a disciplined knowledge of the skill of painting and the art of transforming life into art."

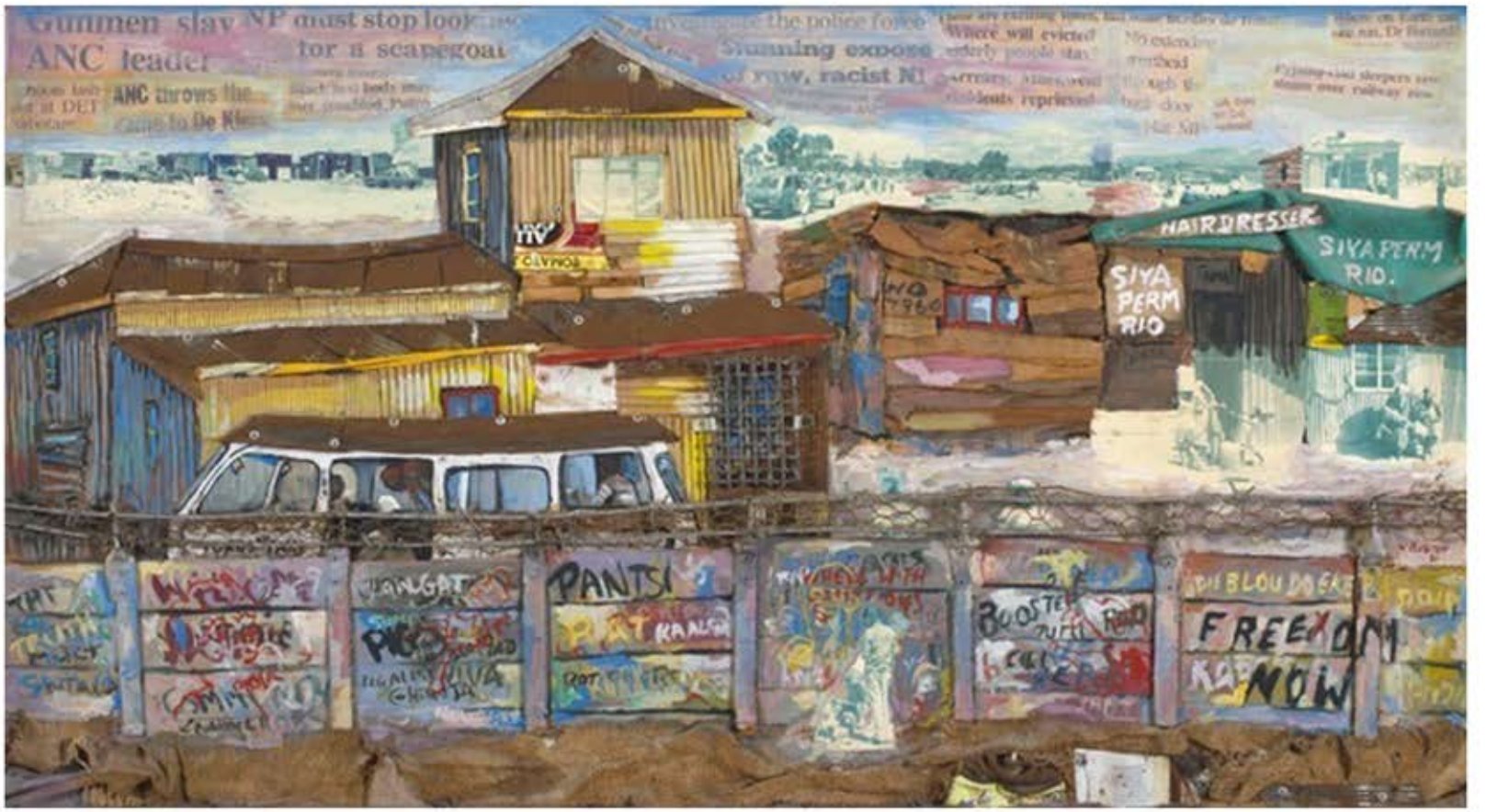
The July sale featured six graphics by Hodgins, a tireless experimenter with the medium, and an early watercolour by Pemba depicting a young girl in a pensive mood (estimate R100 000–120 000). Painted in 1947 when the artist was 35, Pemba's realist portrait leads a strong selection of works by contemporary figurative artists, among them Richard Mudariki, Nelson Makamo and Bambo Sibiya.

The six Makamo lots include Relocating (estimate R40 000–60 000), a study of family separation in bold acrylic colours, and This Real Cool (estimate R60 000–80 000), a watercolour showing the artist's early interest in depicting subjects wearing eyepieces. Both works were made in 2009, when the artist was 27.

"To optimise the experience of inspecting and buying works remotely, as well as enjoying our important historical exhibition of Hodgins and Pemba, Strauss & Co is using Matterport, a powerful 3D platform that enables the online visualisation of physical spaces," says Susie Goodman. "The results are immersive and give a sense of scale of the various works on the sale."

Strauss & Co's live broadcast auction commenced on Sunday, 11 July 2021, and was led by auctioneers based in Johannesburg. The opening session featured a strong selection of rare, natural and fortified sweet wines.

Strauss & Co was delighted to be offering 18 vintages of Vin de Constance, the most recent being a lot of four 500ml bottles of the 2009 (estimate R8 000–10 000), and the earliest a single 500ml bottle of the highly regarded 1987 (estimate R25 000–30 000).


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The July sale included two large single-owner collections. Banking group First Rand has consigned a large batch of wildlife artworks by established twentieth century artists, among them Paul Bosman, Kim Donaldson, Johan Hoekstra, Liz McMahon, Sydney Rogers and David Shepherd. All proceeds from the sale of these works will be re-invested in contemporary South African art. The Victor Holloway Collection reflects the friendships and tastes of this Cape newspaper critic and author of a 1974 monograph on painter Cecil Higgs. Highlights included an energetic abstract composition by Higgs, Bus Ticket (estimate R18 000–24 000), and Willie Bester' mixed-media painting Freedom Now (estimate R20 000–30 000), previously owned by Constitutional Court justice Albie Sachs. The graphics selection included contemporary printmakers like Mr Brainwash, William Kentridge and Diane Victor, as well as earlier innovators with the medium such as Hodgins, Walter Battiss, John Muafangejo and Jules van der Vijver. Ten of the 15 Battiss lots in this sale were graphics. Van der Vijver, who taught at Evangelical Lutheran Church Art and Craft Centre at Rorke's Drift in the 1970s, and later at the Michaelis School of Fine Art in Cape Town, is represented by six serigraphs showcasing his impeccable innovation and brilliant iconography. Strauss & Co's live broadcast auction commenced on Sunday, 11 July, and included three sessions. The sale continued on Monday, 12 July 2021, with a further three sessions. Details of each session and comprehensive lot information was made available online. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Strauss & Co offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town were open by appointment only.







Other local producers included in this showcase of South African sweet wine history are Boplaas, De Trafford, KWV, Monis, Mullineux, Nederberg and Overgaauw. The iconic international line-up includes Chateau d'Yquem, Suduiraut, Chapoutier, Kracher and Egon Muller.

They proudly introduced a small selection of fine spirits looking to expand this rewarding category said Roland Peens from the auction house's wine department. "The highlight was a 30-year-old Port Ellen single malt whisky as part of Douglas Laing's Old & Rare Platinum Selection."

The decorative arts department will presented its offering in a single session and was led by auctioneers based in Cape Town. Highlights from the jewellery selection included an Edwardian seed pearl and aquamarine gold pendant/brooch (estimate R5 000–7 000) and a ruby, emerald and diamond gold pen dant/brooch (estimate R12 000–15 000). There were also exquisite timepieces by makers such as Ebel, Georg Jensen and Mont Blanc.

The extensive selection of George III-period silverware and mahogany furnishings included a set of ten dining chairs (estimate R25 000–30 000) and figured mahogany bowfronted tallboy/chest-on-chest (estimate R15 000–20 000). The silverware offering also included an Edward VII silver teapot and hot water jug from 1901 (estimate R12 000–15 000) and a George V silver presentation tray from 1931 (estimate R20 000–25 000), both by Walker & Hall, Sheffield.

The sale concluded on Monday, 12 July. The opening lot of the evening sale was a glazed ceramic by Nico Masemola titled Hare with Blue Patches (estimate R15 000–20 000). A gorgeous depiction of two hares by Masemola, a former apprentice of Hylton Nel, received considerable attention in Strauss & Co's inaugural ceramics focus in November 2020 and sold for R62 590. The art selection for the July live broadcast auction included auction mainstays such as Hugo Naudé, J.H. Pierneef and Anton van Wouw, who was represented by a Massa foundry maquette of Miner (estimate R250 000–350 000).



The auction included two early Pierneef lots: a charcoal and pencil still life from 1906 (estimate R180 000–240 000) and a 1925 pastel in autumnal colours portraying willow trees, a favourite arboreal subject of the artist's (estimate R200 000–300 000).

Contemporary photographers Pieter Hugo and Mikhael Subotzky have a solid track record at auction. Hugo is represented with two early portraits: Sam, Klein Karoo (estimate R120 000–150 000), from a 2003 series portraying people with albinism, and Vian Mthembu, Durban (estimate R50 000–70 000), from a 2005 series on taxi washers. Subotzky's Fancy Dress Competition, Beaufort West Agricultural Show (estimate R8 000–12 000) was from an important 2006 essay on Beaufort West.

ADRIAAN BOSHOFF:

Adriaan Boshoff was one of the great Impressionists of our time. He was a reclusive man, an artist who was only really happy in his studio surrounded by paint and canvas.

Adriaan was highly sensitive to Oil paint and trying to improve his health he started to do the Acrylic wash & Charcoal Sketches from the mid 1910's as an attempt to improve his health. If any art can be termed an investment, Boshoff's work comes the closest.



S5255
Adriaan boshoff
Landscape
Oil on board
Size of painting 24cm x 12cm
Size including frame 45cm x 34cm
Valued at R22,000
Asking R18,000



S5259
Adriaan Boshoff
Three Lambs A
Oil on board
Size of painting 26cm x 18cm
Size including frame 41cm x 50cm
Valued at R53,000
Asking R37,000



S5256
Adriaan Boshoff
Landscape
Oil on board
Size of painting 24cm x 12cm
Size including frame 45cm x 34cm
Valued at R22,000
Asking R18,000



S5257
Adriaan Boshoff
Family by the sea A
Oil on board
Size of painting 120cm x 84cm
Size including frame 154cm x 116cm
Valued at R530,000
Asking R370,000



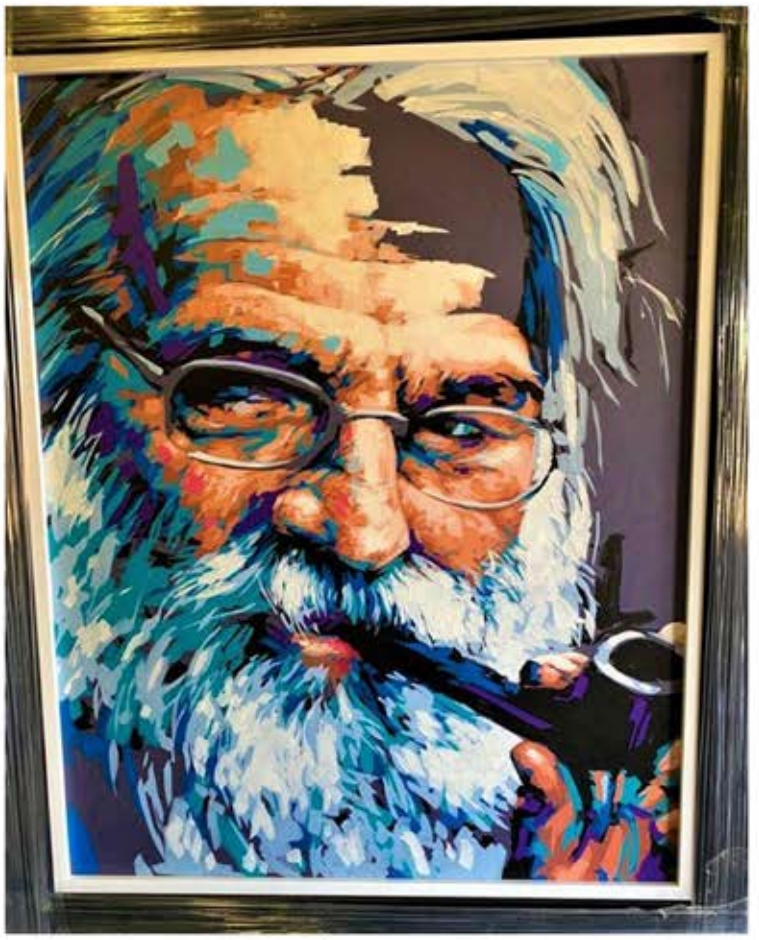
S5260
Adriaan Boshoff
Three Lambs B
Oil on board
Size of painting 26cm x 18cm
Size including frame 41cm x 50cm
Valued at R53,000
Asking R37,000

WAKABA MUTHEKI

Wakaba was a well know artist, both national and international. He was born in Kenya in 1973. He had his big break while living in a shelter in South Africa when a tv show promoted his art. Wakaba was sought to be the Van Gogh of Kenya. He specialized in detailed face studies and was widely known for his realistic realism style. Unfortunately, Wakaba Mutheki passed away 3 months ago in Sudan. These are some of his last works. (All of the Wakaba pieces are the same mediums, dimensions and prices)

Wakaba Mutheki Face Studies Oil on canvas
Size 90cm x 120cm R22,500 each









G.v.N:

G.v.N was born in Stellenbosch, South Africa in 1980. He developed a keen interest in the beauty, vulnerability, temporality, strength and movement in its uniqueness of the human body. That is the underlying themes of most of his sculptures.

S5271
G.v.N
Philosopher
Marble & GFRC composite
Edition 3 of 8
Size 82cm x 25cm x 18cm
R38,500



S5274
G.v.N
Tatiana
Marble & GFRC composite
Edition 4 of 9
Size 55cm x 18cm x 18cm
R27,500



S5272
G.v.N
Stepping out
Marble & GFRC composite
Edition 3 of 8
Size 61cm x 28cm x 33cm
R42,500



JASMINE JAGGER: Q&A

What is your background in art and your childhood?

As a child, I was first introduced and influenced by my late Grandmother who was an exceptional sketch artist. Later in my school career I did art, and it was then that I met with one of my greatest influences, my teacher Inge. She didn't just teach art, she was and is - art. She is still a massive part of my current life.

Did your upbringing prompt any specific reference point within your work?

There are a few references to my upbringing within my works, some, not all.

And how does this impact how you see the world and create art?

I think as a child, you witness things that you are unable to understand at the time, and as you grow older you become more cognisant in your understanding and decoding of certain sit uations.

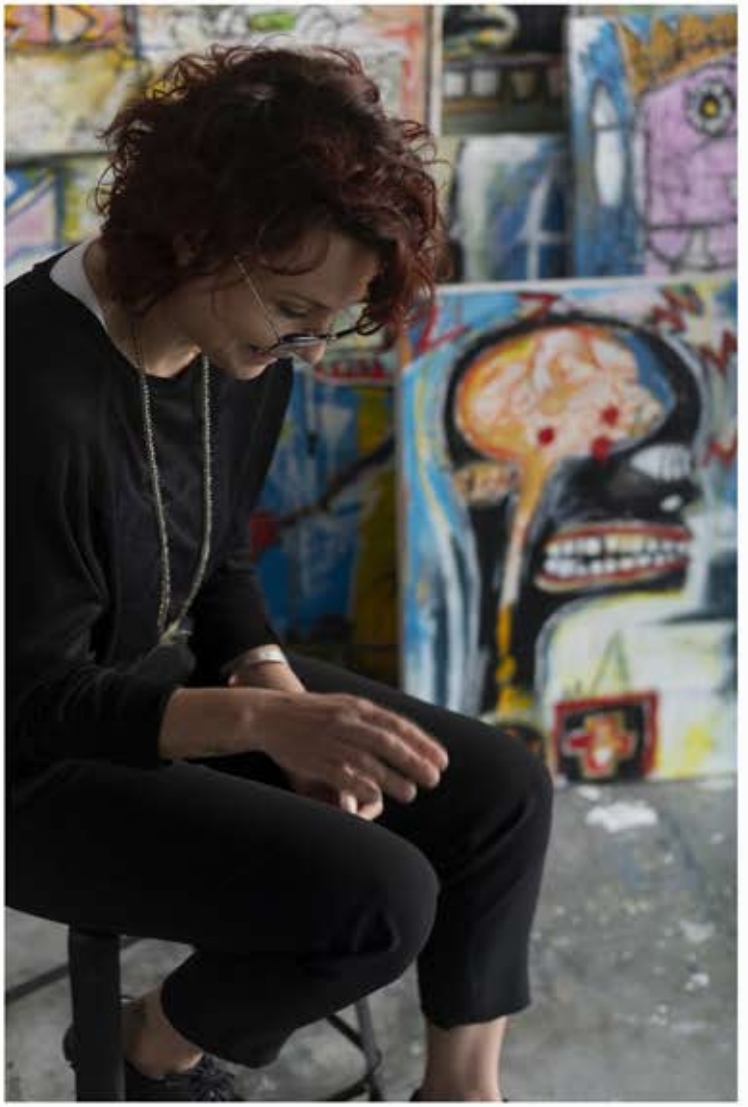
I have learned to defuse painful memories with the use of playful colours and textures, as I still very much prefer to see the world from a child-like mind.

What does your work aim to say?

I prefer not to dictate what'd prefer not to explain what my work is about, not because I don't want to tell you, but because I would never want to take away the imagination of someone else. Art, for me, is not wanting to know what the artist experienced while creating it. I want my audiance to be active participants and not simply passive observers in the meaning of my works.

Does your work comment on current social or political issues?

No, not specifically, my works are based on my own personal history and my current journey through life. It is a lense into the intricusies of my day to day, often influenced by those around me.



How have you developed your career?

I started painting again at the end of 2019, and really only started taking it seriously in 2020, when we were all restricted and isolated from the world. It was in that stillness that I was able to connect with something I've been disconnected from for many years. I've been so lucky in that I've come a long way in a short time, but I've still got a lifetime to go and so much to learn.

How do you seek out opportunities?

I've never been one to have the grass grow under my feet, If I want something I go for it. Magical things happen when you let go of your ego. As for opportunities, when I see something that excites me, something that I want to be a part of, I just ask, and I usually don't take no for an answer. it's worked out for me this far in my life. I am nothing short of persistent in all of my pursuits.

How do you navigate the art world? and how has Covid affected and/or inspired you?

To be honest, I don't really know what I'm doing or supposed to be doing. But whatever it is, it seems to be working out. As for the effects of Covid, I'm lucky in that I'm in a position where I'm able to create art on a daily basis and in doing that I have the freedom to find inspiration and work from that.

Which current art world trends are you following?

I've just recently learned of NFT'S in the art space, I was apprehensive about creating art digitally because it's a medium I know nothing about, I've created a few works since then, and have found that although I don't get to physically touch a paintbrush I'm able to create works that resemble my physical works or close to. The most free ing thing about creating art digitally for me, is that there is no pressure to perform. There is no waste of supplies or materials, it's just a quick "erase" and you've got yourself a clean slate. It's great!

What makes gin and art complement each other?

I think Gin in itself is a form of Art. What I love about it, is that it gives way to playful combinations of flavours and colours, Allowing you to create some really exciting taste and visual profiles. Art is not limited to or bound only to canvas, and you certainly don't need to be Monet or Picasso to create an unforgettable experience.

In Art, the trick is to experiment with new techniques, and ideas, it's a constant organic flow of creativity, how boring life would be if we didn't experience the world as if we were seeing it for the very first time.

Jasmine, born 1985 is a contemporary, expressionistic artist Living in Cape town, South Africa. In learning how to let go of barriers, Jasmine is able to tap into a wealth of personal imagery motivated by thoughts and experiences, finding influence in the intricacies of her daily life. Her distinctive and personal style is reflective in her use of contrasting colours and bold compositions. Imagery that pays homage to the conscious and subconscious thought of the human mind.



As a child, she received prizes and awards for her innate talent. With no formal art education, Jasmine is a self taught Painter and has for a large part of her life collected and compounded experience and inspiration from the likes of Pablo Picasso, Jean-Michel Basquiat, George Baselitz, A.R Penk, Yayoi Kusama and George Condo.

She began her journey into the art world when she was scouted and commissioned for her ceramic work in 2015 By Artist and Former owner of Zulu Lulu art gallery, Trayci Tompkins. Jasmine began her painting career in late 2019 and by August 2020 was commissioned by Yael Geffen CEO of Lew Geffen Sotheby's International Real estate for their Women's month campaign.

Jasmine is compelled to create art using striking colours and loud imagery for the sake of losing herself in an intense desire for comfort and solace in what she can only describe as an "organic, cathartic experience"




FINE
DINING



Grimaldi’s Cucina & Sushi Bar opens at the Durban Country Club



Combine the very best Italian cuisine with extraordinary sushi at one of Durban’s most memorable venues, the elegant Durban Country Club, and you get the stunning new Grimaldi’s Cucina & Sushi Bar. The team behind this new venture - Steve Christodoulou, Claire Potgieter ,Jason Roberts and Tim Lander – is the same that brought you Jack Salmon and Grimaldi’s Umhlanga, combining their passion for creating memorable dining experiences and great food, now in one of the city’s most iconic settings.

These days, diners are looking for something extra special to lure them from the comfort of their own home, and the newest member of this family of respected restaurants has all of that – a unique setting, a good menu and top notch service. Set within in the picturesque and historic Durban Country Club, overlooking the Indian Ocean , Grimaldi’s Cucina & Sushi Bar offers both al fresco and indoor dining. Whether you settle on the open veranda under the trellises and enjoy the sea view, or relax indoors, the Amalfi Coast inspired design and décor will make you feel like you’re sitting in Italy.

At Grimaldi's, every ingredient is selected for seasonality, freshness and flavour. The menu explores contemporary ways of paying homage to Italy’s timeless flavour profiles, combining a unique personal touch of innovative dishes and classic service.

A large range of antipasti that includes mezze platters, zuppa di granchio (crab soup),grati-need baby marrow and salmon carpaccio and more is the perfect way to start. Salads as well as the likes of roasted butternut and halloumi, smoked salmon and avocado are also perfect light entrées.



Secondi, or next up, are the delicious mains with a choice of pollo (chicken), carne (meat) and pesce (fish) – as well as platters, combos and an extensive range of signature pasta dishes. Mains come with a choice of side dishes and sauces to jazz up an already tasty line up.

Pizzas are all prepared in the restaurant's pizza oven using homemade Napolitana sauces and mozzarella.

The Jack Salmon inspired sushi selection is freshly made and features California rolls, bamboo rolls, hand rolls, maki rolls, roses, sashimi, nigiri, sushi salads, and fashion sandwiches. Jack's Famous Su'Nut and their hot crunch rolls are also on this menu.

A half price Sushi and Gin Cocktail special runs from 12 - 6.30pm - Mon to Sat.

Those with a sweet tooth can look forward to favourite Italian desserts such as crème brule, panna cotta, affogato (ice cream) and tiramisu.

An extensive wine list, that pairs great wines with well prepared meals, makes this a perfect lunch or dinner venue, with ample secure parking on the other side of the Durban Country Club boom gate.

Grimaldi's is happy to welcome both members and non-members, giving everyone a taste of delectable food combined with the vintage ambience of one of the city's architectural greats. Durban Country Club is situated at 101 Isaiah Ntshangase Rd (opposite the Moses Mabhida Stadium).

Booking is essential, so call now on (031) 0155 895/6.





TINTSWALO TEAMS UP WITH CHEFS WAREHOUSE TO HOST THREE CULINARY WEEKENDS THIS WINTER

Fancy a fun weekend away with fellow food-lovers at beautiful Tintswalo Boulders, complete with interactive cooking and dining with the chefs of the award-winning Chefs Warehouse family, and paired with superb wines by Idiom?

Three culinary weekends will be presented during which gourmands will have a masterclass and personal interaction with the talented head chefs of Liam Tomlin's Chefs Warehouse. Guests will enjoy delicious dinners with wine pairings and Tintswalo's legendary breakfasts, dished up at Tintswalo at Boulders in Simon's Town. These weekends will be all about food and wine, including hands-on activities such as learning the intricacies of sushi-making while enjoying sundowner canapés on Friday evening.





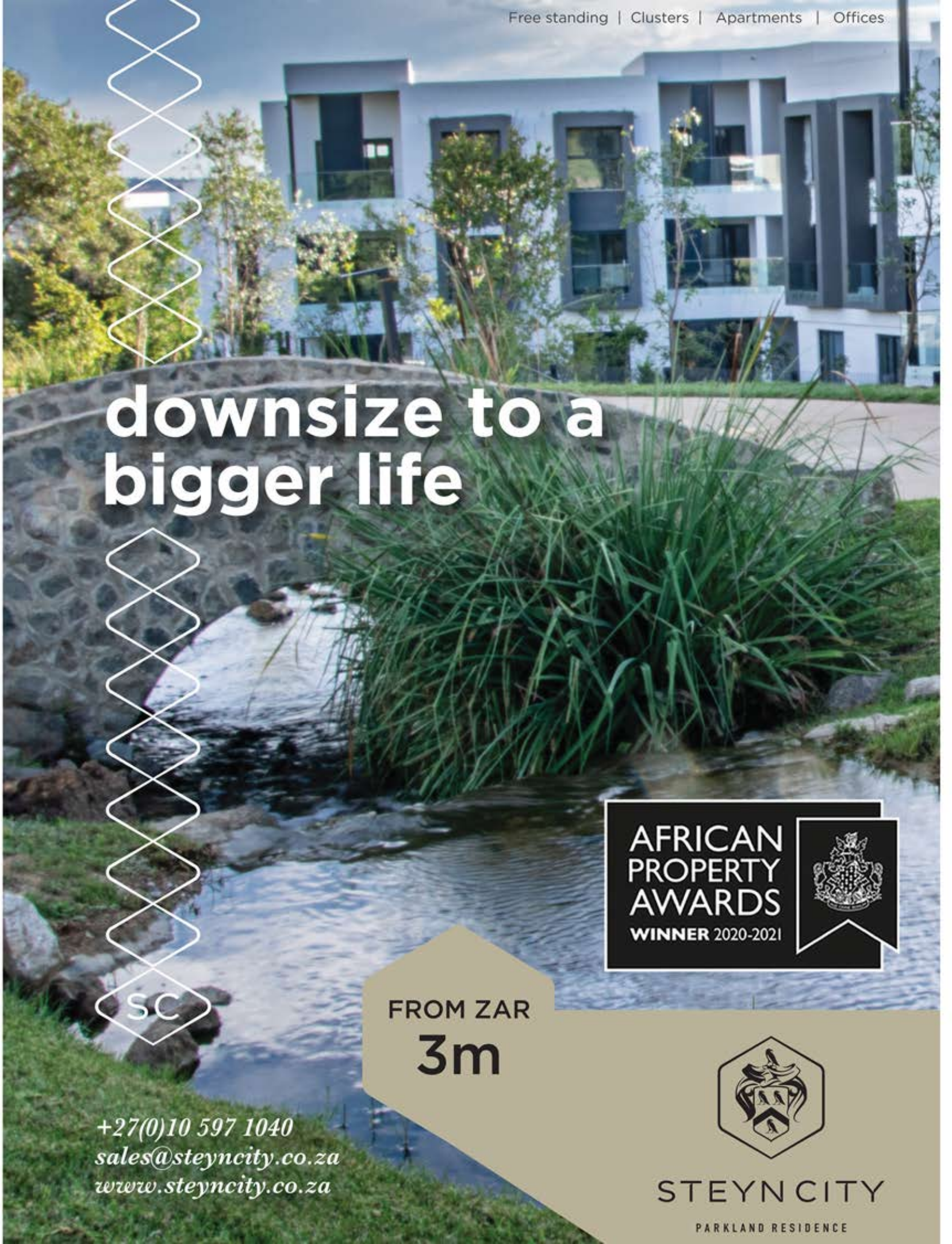




Thali famous. On 23 & 24 July Chef Gordon Logan of Chefs Warehouse Winebar & Pinchos will unveil the essence of preparing Spanish pinchos. Chef Braam Beyers of Chefs Warehouse at Tintswalo, recently voted one of the best new restaurants in the world by Condé Nast Traveller, ends the series on 13 & 14 August with the creation of big flavours on small plates.

Saturday will bring an interesting fish preparation demo by Abalobi followed by a light lunch; onto wine tasting at Tintswalo's brand new Deep South Supply Company in nearby Glencairn, hosted by talented Sommelier Jabu Ngwenya. On Saturday afternoon the focus will turn to the Chefs Warehouse team with a masterclass led by the guest chef preparing for the dinner service. Kicking off on a spicy note the weekend of 25 & 26 June, Chef Nate Coe of Thali will share the secrets of the Indian fare that have made

Weekend packages are available from R5500 per person sharing, and include 2 nights' luxury accommodation with all meals, wine pairing with dinners, food demos and a wine-tasting. Optional extras include relaxing massages or marine activities with Shark Warrior Adventures, such as snorkelling through the kelp forests and kayaking. Superlative sea and mountain views and the antics of penguins right on the doorstep are however, complimentary. Bookings are limited to 18 guests.


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CLASSIC BEVERAGES



Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot

BOLD CONVERSATIONS BY VEUVE CLICQUOTAIMS TO EMBOLDEN SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS OF AUDACIOUS FEMALE LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

54% OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN SURVEYED CONSIDER THEMSELVES ENTREPRENEURS - THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST ALL 17 COUNTRIES MEASURED

90% OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED, THEY NEED THE SUPPORT OF A NETWORK OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN REMAIN RESOLUTE AND BOLD IN BUSINESS: SOUTH AFRICA'S ASPIRING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ARE FACING THE COVID CRISIS WITH INCREASED DETERMINATION AND AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE. 59% OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS REPORT GROWING MORE CONFIDENT IN THEIR BUSINESS DEALINGS, AND 63% SAY THEY'RE MORE PROFESSIONALLY BOLD THAN BEFORE THE CRISIS



Madame Clicquot's story is one of boldness, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit. In 1805, at just 27, she took the reins of Veuve Clicquot after the death of her husband, at a time when women could neither work nor hold a bank account. Revered as one of the first business women of modern times, Madame Clicquot's focus on new opportunities and willingness to take risks as she expanded her business to all four corners of the globe set the stage for the brand's support of women entrepreneurship to this day.

With the Bold by Veuve Clicquot platform, Veuve Clicquot remains passionately committed to emboldening successive generations of audacious female leaders. The House relentlessly seeks to understand how the world is evolving and wants to be a driving force, making a real contribution – especially when it comes to female entrepreneurship. The Maison unveiled its first International Women's Entrepreneurship Barometer study in June 2019, with the aim of delivering clear insights around the state of female entrepreneurship, identifying common prejudices, mental and structural barriers to be overcomeand most importantly, driving public debate. The Veuve Clicquot 2020 Barometer (second edition), conducted as the COVID crisis exerted pressure on global cultures and economies, updated the status of women entrepreneurs across the world and has provided the community with a rare tool: a true understanding of the state of female entrepreneurship. Led by dynamic chairperson Rapelang Rabana, the Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot experience – which took place in the presence of 50 live and over 600 digital guests – saw passionate conversation as two panels of business leaders including Amanda Dambuza, Nthabi Taukobong and Mzamo Masito unpacked and debated the findings of this latest study.

The findings of the barometer shed a fascinating light on the state of entrepreneurship in South Africa – the country with the highest level of women entrepreneurship amongst all 17 countries measured. Indeed, entrepreneurship is more the rule than the exception with more than half of South African women (54%) considering themselves entrepreneurs.





The majority of women (82%) and men (87%) who aren't currently entrepreneurs, are interested in becoming one … a trend that is rising. Interestingly, women entrepreneurship has increased since the 2018 study (+11%), yet mostly in lower revenue sectors. Additionally, more women (+12%) and men (+9%) aspire to entrepreneurship in a country with very high levels of entrepreneurship already.

Amanda Dambuza, Nomdeni Mdakhi, Nthabi Taukobongand Erik Kruger started the day's proceedings with an enlivened discussion around two important and time-appropriate themes. The first theme- overcoming barriers to entry to women entrepreneurship - saw Rape long frame the discussion with three interesting statistics:

• Women increasingly choose entrepreneurship for financial reasons: 31% of women and 28% of men rate money as the top benefit of being an entrepreneur and it's on the rise

• 60% of women feel that it is much harder for a woman than a man to balance work and family life as an entrepreneur (55% of men agree), as they face an age-old problem; balancing work with their other full-time job: caring for their family; yet women entrepreneurs and wantrepreneurs are determined to achieve this balance

• More than half of women (and only 32% of men) believe that it's riskier for women to build a business and believe that the risks of entrepreneurship outweigh the benefits, but start a business regardless

These findings resonated with Amanda Dambuza. "I realised at the start of my entrepreneurial journey that I needed money to be able to change my ecosystem, to create more jobs, to empower other women and to be independent and that actually, it had been in my hands all that time to create something new. "Nomdeni Madakhi added "the meaning of work life balance is very different for men and women.

When you ask women about this they think of family and cooking and men don't necessarily think of these aspects. One of the things we've done at Agenda Women is to do away with the word balance and use the word harmony and a strong focus on self-care. And in this way, I have fallen in love with my journey."



And Dr Theo and Matsi Mo diseagreed, saying that today was an opportunity to do exactly that, connect entrepreneurs with wantrepreneurs to support the growth of this very network. While most women consider mentors to be an elite business person with whom they should share a formal relationship, the reality is that there are people with whom we are in contact daily – whether neighbours, family members, or fellow school moms – who may be able to shed light on the specific challenges one is experiencing. "Help can also come from authors or global entrepreneurs who have shared their struggles; after all, with the wealth of informa tion available online, it is more than likely that you will find information from someone who has gone through a similar battle," said Dr Theo Mothoa-Frendo.

Mzamo Masito added "I learned that every entrepreneur needs three people on their business journeys, an influential person of power who speaks about you and your business, a mentor who speaks to you about your business and finally someone who speaks with you, within your business".

To close the debate on the topic of the importance of resilience and the ability to adapt, Rapelang drew upon three final statistics:

• Internationally, women are as professionally confident and resilient as men. Women's professional confidence is equal to that of men's, with only 18% believing they don't deserve their professional situation.

• Although 55% of women entrepreneurs have overcome professional failures, few allow failure to dampen their enthusiasm for taking professional risks (only 29% of women entrepreneurs are deterred). All of this indicates that women accept failure as a part of the entrepreneurial journey, but women are resilient and remain focused on their path
• Women increasingly say they're the ones in control of their professional destiny (+3% to 96% in this study), fewer report feeling undeserving of the professional situation (-6%), attribute their professional success to "luck" (-9%) or feel unappreciated for their leadership skills (-5%)

Notably, what made the difference, opined panelists taking part in the discussion, are the realisations brought about by the pandemic, including the fact that you cannot rely on anyone else to make your dreams and ambitions come true and remain resilient. “After all, who besides yourself can be in charge of your destiny,” Matsi Modise pointed out. Adriana Marias, meanwhile, observed that Africans have a natural resilience, accustomed as we are to finding solutions while operating in resource-constrained environments. This has helped to hone our spirit of innovation.

The 2021 Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot provided an important opportunity for South African women entrepreneurs to network as a proud community and toast to bold future plans with a glass of Veuve Clicquot in hand. Madame Clicquot would certainly have approved.
For the full Veuve Clicquot International Women Entrepreneurship Barometer please visit:www.veuveclicquot.com




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Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot

Bold as a way of being: Uyandiswa CEO Amanda Dambuza shares the highlights and challenges that have shaped her career



As a panelist of the 2021 Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot experience in Johannesburg, Uyandiswa CEO Amanda Dambuza says she absolutely encourages all women to engage in bold conversations.The experience was attended by 50 of SA's leading women entrepreneurs and a further 670 women virtually via live stream.We spoke to this formidable businesswoman about the findings of the Veuve Clicquot International Women Barometer, her participation in the Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot experience in Johannesburg and how the findings debated relate to her own inspiring entrepreneurial journey.

Q: Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot aims to embolden successive generations of audacious female leaders in South Africa, can you elaborate further around the purpose of the platform?

A: Bold Conversations is a platform which provides women entrepreneurs around the world with the opportunity to openly debate issues that affect them, wherever they may be. The aim is to break down preconceptions, remove structural and societal barriers and provide support and training to enable women to move for ward in their entrepreneurial journeys. The Veuve Clicquot International Women Barometer study, which was conducted across 17 countries in 2020, has provided important data around women in the entrepreneurship space– critical to unpack and debate if we wish to advance-women entrepreneurs around the globe.

Q: Madame Clicquot's story is one of boldness, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit and she is known as one of the world's first businesswomen. Please tell us a bit more about Madame Clicquot and how her legacy sets the stage for the brand's support of women entrepreneurship, to this day?

A: Madame Clicquot is what we would today call #GOALS!! She was bold, audacious, determined and tenacious. She was ambitious and never let the obstacles along the way deter her from achieving her dreams. In 1805, at just 27 years of age, she took over the House of Veuve Clicquot business from her husband upon his death at a time when women were not allowed to work nor hold a bank account. She persisted in spite of the monumental challenges she faced. She pioneered so many innovations that have become the hallmark of champagne houses the world over. She was behind the first blended rosé champagne as well as the riddling table which led to crystal clear champagne. I am so fortunate to have experienced this technique when I visited Veuve Clicquot in Reims (France) in 2018.

She was also behind the first recoded vintage champagne. She pushed to break every boundary and that kind of audacity inspires women entrepreneurs immensely. We don't even have half of the obstacles she had yet she was able to revolutionise an industry. It is with this backdrop that Veuve Clicquot continues to support, mentor, train and enable women entrepreneurs. It's authentically embedded into the House's DNA.

Q: The Veuve Clicquot 2020 Barometer, conducted as the COVID crisis exerted pressure on global cultures and economies, updated the status of women entrepreneurs across the world. It has provided the community with a rare tool: a true understanding of the state of woman entrepreneurship. Which are some of the statistics that really stand out for you?

A: It was incredible to see that South Africa has the highest level of women entrepreneurship amongst all 17 countries measured. South Africa is a country where entrepreneurship is more the rule than the exception …we've seen that more than half of South African women (54%) consider themselves entrepreneurs. 92% of South African entrepreneurs started a business versus taking over an existing business. For me, this is testament to the undying spirit and risk tolerance of South African women who refuse to be boxed in and take ownership of their destiny as a key imperative in their lives.
We're interested to hear your detailed views on the topics debated during the Bold Conversations by Veuve Clicquot experience held in Johannesburg:

TOPIC 1: Overcoming barriers to entry to women entrepreneurship and inspiring a new generation of women entrepreneurs
Barometer finding: 60% of women feel that it is much harder for a woman than a man to balance work and family life, as an entrepreneur (55% of men agree) as they face an age-old problem … balancing work with their other full-time job: caring for their family

Q: Do you agree that it's harder for a woman than a man to balance work and family life? How do we overcome such an age-old barrier to entry?



A: Yes, I think it is largely harder for women to pursue their ambition whilst meeting the demanding needs of their families. This boils down to the traditional notion of roles in the family setting. If we openly challenge the preconceptions that caring for a family is a woman's job then we are well on our way to making prog ress. We as women also have to challenge our own mental models of what women can and cannot do. In our own homes we should drive towards a reality where caring for the family is not only a woman's job. We should also be seeking more integration and a mutually beneficial relationship between our work and family.

TOPIC 2: Leveraging opportunity in times of crisis and the impact on leadership in times of challenge



Barometer finding: 59% of women entrepreneurs report growing more confident in their business dealings, and 63% say they're more professionally bold than before the crisis (male entrepreneurs agree about equally)

Q: Do you feel more professionally bold now than before the crisis? How did navigating the challenges build you as a leader?

A: I guess when you have had a "near-death" experience, you are more inclined to pursue your dreams with conviction. Your perspective of life changes. I resonate with this result of the barometer study because even I had to boldly adapt to changing circumstances. I had to start thinking about the long term longevity of the business which meant tough calls but calls that were what my business needed to survive and continue creating jobs. I had to trim down costs where necessary. I also felt bold enough to explore and invest in industries that I had not considered before. Industries that I believe will withstand shocks and play a critical role in the ecosystem.

TOPIC 3: The role of networking and mentorship in an increasingly digital business environment
Barometer finding: 90% of women and 90% of men agree: mentorship is key for anyone who aspires to entrepreneurship. Wantrepreneurs (92%) and entrepreneurs (92%) confirm this belief

Q: Did you have (or do you still have) a mentor? What impact did they have on your business journey? Please elaborate on the concept of mentorship and how it applies to you and your business.

A: I have never had a formal mentor. I did however have someone who was my husband's best friend who would advise me on some of the business transactions I would embark on. He helped me understand how to structure my businesses and I truly appreciated his time and advice. He is no longer with us and may his soul rest in peace. He is missed every day. I take his lessons with me into every transaction I embark on.

I am a mentor to many women entrepreneurs as I believe I have amassed many valuable lessons over a long period of time. It is time consuming though and due to capacity constraints I no longer take on additional one on one mentees any more. In order to remain accessible and helpful, I created Vastly Sage on You Tube where I provide mentorship …people can access the channel on demand from anywhere in the world. I couple this with a talk show (on the same channel) where I invite amazing guests to tackle a worthy and often hard topics, which we then unpack. The idea is to provide practical solutions which viewers can integrate into their everyday to improve and transform their lives. Access is free and I encourage people to subscribe and get notified when new content is uploaded.

Once a year I also host an event, an uplifting brunch that supports all of these efforts and gives us an environment where we can have open debate and get inspired by people who have walked different paths. It is a ticketed event in its second year and it has proven to be a huge success with people travelling from all over the country who want to be part of an inspiring, educational and entertaining platform. There is huge interest from other countries as well however due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, plans have been impacted. The future remains possible.

So I could say I live to mentor. I am blessed to also learn from many people around me and I never believe you need a mentor to push on with your goals but it helps to have someone who can be empathetic to your journey and help you with clarity of vision. You still have to hold yourself accountable.

PREMIUM

MUSGRAVE

CRAFTED SPIRITS



MUSGRAVE INTRODUCES SPECIAL EDITION "ELEVEN" IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL ARTIST JASMINE

At times over the last year South Africa has existed in a modern era of prohibition – our freedoms curtailed for the greater good. But in the face of adversity our nation's spirit of endeavour prevailed. We hustled, we adapted, we survived and we collaborated. Creativity and innovation thrived.

Through the trials of lockdown, Cape Town artist Jasmine Jagger challenged herself to let go of barriers – she found inspiration in the intricacies of daily life and in the meanderings of her mind. While spending a significant amount of time at home, Jasmine yearned for adventure.

Inspired by a bottle of Musgrave Original Gin, Jasmine found herself daydreaming of the pith helmeted derring-do of Maurice Boon Musgrave, grandfather of the founder of Musgrave Gin, Simone Musgrave. Maurice left Plymouth in 1949 bound for Africa to start a new life exploring, trading and discovering the people and the land.

In the throes of lockdown, in Jasmine's studio in Cape Town, she painted a tribute to Maurice Boon Musgrave which features the Gin Pirate - a symbol of adventure and great courage in the face of adversity. Jasmine explains that, "When I painted this piece, South Africa was in a hard lockdown – alcohol was banned and I was fantasising of bootlegging and of swashbuckling rebellion."

Art exists in many forms. From the stroke of a brush to the shaping of a bottle. And from the bold use of colour to the balancing of rare botanicals. Simone and Jasmine decided to put their formidable creative talents together to produce a limited edition bottle of Musgrave Original showcasing Jasmine's vibrant art and celebrating six years since the first bottle of Musgrave was sold in South Africa.

"When Jasmine showed me the work she had created I was struck by the incredible synergy between our bespoke spirits and contemporary African art. There was a clear opportunity to collaborate on a unique product design that so vividly captured the essence of our journeys over the last 12 months," explains Simone Musgrave.

Musgrave Original Gin is made up of a selection of 11 botanicals, including African Ginger and Grains of Paradise – each reflecting some aspect of the ancient African Spice Route. Cardamom tones and other spices complement a flavour profile that spans a continent.



The Spirited Rise of Female Bourbon Drinkers



Bourbon is enjoying an upswing in the premium spirits market with the dispersing notion that the drink is favoured by men only. The question on everyone's tongues is, are females fuelling the bourbon renaissance?

Global statistics from the Bourbon Women's Association indicate that around 30% of bourbon drinkers are women, and the total number of women who drink bourbon increased about 50% between 2011 and 2014, compared to the early nineties when only about 15% of whiskey drinkers were female. Further reports from The Spirits Business Magazine said that worldwide sales of the American craft liquid have grown faster than any other distilled spirit in the past year, at a rate of about 7 percent.

Three prominent industry women; namely an international distiller, a renowned South African drinks writer, and a local mixologist give their opinions on the spirited rise of female bourbon drinkers.

Elizabeth McCall is a second-generation bourbon maker and one of the youngest female distillers in the United States at the world's oldest bourbon distillery, Woodford Reserve, who says that she believes that the taste is the main reason that women want in on it.





"The mellow allure of America's craft liquid is seeing a growing number of discerning female drinkers becoming increasingly more appreciative of authentic American whiskey,'' says McCall. "Bourbon has a rich and fascinating history, which adds to its allure, it's honest, it's natural and it's delicious."

"Women are the future of bourbon but were also a big part of the past too," McCall explains. "This long history of women in bourbon stems back to the eighteenth century where women were the first distillers before industrial distillers became popular."

McCall adds that the notion of bourbon being an old man's drink is due to it historically being marketed towards men, who over the years turned into 'old men'. "It wasn't socially acceptable for women to drink bourbon or alcohol in general, and if they did it was to be 'dressed-up' in a cocktail. Eventually, as bourbon fell out of fashion and lighter spirits began to trend, bourbon became thought of as the old man's drink. We are changing that perception.

"There is an increased interest in the bourbon category and consumers are hungry for bourbon and are constantly looking for the newest bourbon innovations," she adds. "This has impacted the versatility of bourbon and consumers are understanding all the ways bourbon can be enjoyed from cocktails to culinary experiences."



Female buying power and interest in drinking a spirit that has flavour are fuelling bourbon's popularity, she explains. "Coupled with this, women see women working in the industry and drinking bourbon and they become interested to try it, once you taste a delicious bourbon it's hard to go back to drinking anything else."

McCall explains that bourbon has something to offer every whiskey palate; from bold grain and wood to sweet aromatics, spicy, fruit and floral notes. "Bourbons, and particularly Woodford Reserve, has a wonderful complexity of flavour and character with over 200 flavour notes which delights and wows the senses."





"These female lead positions, from distillers to master blenders, ambassadors and bartenders come with a vital duty to educate consumers about the category and more specifically, how to sip good quality bourbon," she explains. "With bourbon, a particular stand-out for me is that it is distinctly different from any other whiskey - it's a bit feisty, yet playful and easy to drink and mix."

"The category itself is expanding with more people exploring different types of whiskies, such as American whiskies," Eichhoff says. "Thanks to platforms such as the US Distilled Spirits Council, bartenders are being given the opportunity to provide a gateway through mixology to showcase the beauty of Bourbon."

"Mixology has been a gateway for more people to try Bourbon, especially if they thought drinking it neat might be too strong," says Eichhoff. "It's quite diverse when it comes to the different styles of drinks that you can mix with it, from long refreshing highballs to shorter mixed drinks as well as the re-emergence of classic cocktails such as the Old Fashioned, and Boulevardier."

Leah van Deventer who is a multifaceted spirits professional, leading cocktail-and-spirits writer and a regular competition judge for both cocktails and spirits, believes that more and more women are drinking bourbon because in general people are getting more comfortable discarding gender stereotypes.

"For example, in the past, a man may have felt awkward ordering a sweet, fizzy drink - believing somehow it emasculated him but now they're more comfortable drinking whatever they want," she says. "The same goes for women and bourbon - we're no longer held back by societal expectations."

Van Deventer explains that South African drinkers are acquiring a taste for bourbon as the profile of the whiskey drinker has evolved over time and says that what used to be the preference of older men, has found new enthusiasm amongst women acquiring a taste for whiskey.

“Recent reports from a number of industry analysts indicate that more women are enjoying whiskey,” McCall adds. “These reports reveal that the growth in the bourbon category is booming thanks to an enthusiastic demand from consumers in every income bracket aged 40 and under, in some global trend reports it's been shown that two-fifths of bourbon drinkers are women.”

The experts explain how you can taste Bourbon:
“I recommend trying as many bourbons as you can,” McCall says. “As a distiller, I would usually insist you drink it ‘any way you like it but I prefer it neat or on the rocks, but there are some recommended ways to best appreciate the art of distilling bourbon:”

Taste bourbon neat, in a tulip-shaped tasting glass that concentrates the aroma at the rim.
With your lips slightly parted, smell the bourbon and rate the aroma, identifying specific notes.
Take a sip, but don’t gulp it. Take a mouthful and move the liquid around your mouth before swallowing. Consider the flavours and the ‘mouth feel’ (is it creamy and smooth or does it have a bite?) - by way of example, there are more than 200 detectable flavours in Woodford Reserve.
Wait to appreciate the lingering ‘finish’. Bourbon will leave a short, medium or long finish, which could be described as smooth or mellow, through to crisp, dry, spicy or with a burn. It may even give you a warm sensation after you’ve swallowed it. This is fondly known as the ‘Kentucky Hug’.

Van Deventer says that she loves bourbon because of its balance, the sweet vanilla profile contrasted with the kick of a good spirit. “I like to drink it neat but also love it in an Old-Fashioned, Bourbon Sours and a Boulevardier.”

“I always try to encourage people to drink spirits however they want, but if you catch me at a bar, I'll always be down for Whiskey Sours,” adds Eichhoff. “And if you are feeling extra adventurous, try out a Pickle Back!”

“Essentially bourbon is in a class of its own within the whiskey empire and it is encouraging to see it gaining greater recognition amongst female drinkers,” McCall says. “Bourbon is all about flavour and complexity and if you like something fruity, floral and bold you will really enjoy the Woodford Reserve Distiller's Select with two-hundred flavour notes it has a taste allure, which comprises vanilla, caramel, cinnamon, nutmeg, cherries and dates which add to a taste allure that is truly unique.”



ICONIC STOLI PREMIUM VODKA RE-LAUNCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE Stoli® Premium Vodka brand is back… THE most original Vodka, for THE most original people.

Stoli Group, a leading global Ultra-Premium Spirit and Wine business, has relaunched its presence in South Africa. Proudly imported and distributed by Firebrand Africa, Stoli® Premium Vodka, is back on South African shelves after 2 years.





Since 1938, Stoli® has held the bar high for quality vodka, combining modern distilling with century old traditions. Also known as Stolichnaya, it's one of the top-selling spirits brands in the world and boasts a rich heritage that matches the boldness of its character.

Stoli® is one of few brands who truly control the entire manufacturing process, from the farming of the wheat and rye, to distribution of the finished product. Regarded as the most versatile and genuine of spirits, Stoli® Premium Vodka is in a class of its own - literally. The cutting edge distillery in Tambov produces unbeatable consistency and quality in every bottle, resulting in a spirit so smooth, Russian Authorities created a separate class to honor it… 'The Alpha Spirit'. John K'Otieno, Managing Director, Sub Saharan African at Stoli Group said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to be back on shelves. We're looking forward to working with the Firebrand team to re-launch Stoli in South Africa, which is such an important market for us across the region. More than that, we are excited to combine Stoli's unmatched quality with the most popular of South African serves and premium occasions."

With more expressions to launch later this year, the brand is eager to inspire South Africans to new, on-trend and sustainable lifestyle experiences. Stoli® Premium Vodka will be available at leading group and independent retailers, with a recommended retail price between R199-R249. "Whatever your passion, whatever drives YOU, make it loud and clear!" #WeAreStoli #MakeItLoudandClear #WhateverDrivesYou #StoliSoda

PREMIUM

AROMA: Marshmallow, mineral and mild fruit.

PALATE: A soft, supple entry leads to peel a smooth, medium-bodied palate with pastry frosting, talc and citrus rind flavours. Finishes with a clean, lightly sweet, sugar dust, wet straw and balanced pepper fade.



SIGNATURE SERVES

Stoli® and Soda

- 2 parts Stoli® Premium Vodka
- 4 parts Soda water
- Garnish of choice

Stoli® Moscow Mule

- 2 parts Stoli® Premium Vodka
- 4 parts chilled Ginger Beer
- ½ part fresh lime juice

Build over ice in a copper mug & garnish with a lime wedge.

Stoli®

ESTD 1938



Whatever Drives You

MAKE IT LOUD AND CLEAR™

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