

# TRAVEL ESSENCE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 8 • MARCH - APRIL 2021



ULTIMATE  
ADVENTURE AWAITS  
AT FISHERMAN'S  
COVE SEYCHELLES

INSIDE SOFITEL  
DUBAI THE  
OBELISK: A  
taste of Franco-  
Egyptian charm

**FARAI  
MACHINGURA** ON  
REVOLUTIONIZING  
THE DUBAI SOCIAL  
CIRCLES

*Latitude 0°  
Kampala:*  
AN URBAN CHIC  
OASIS IN UGANDA'S  
CAPITAL

## KATJA QUASDORF

FOSTERING A STRONG LEADERSHIP  
MANTRA IN DRIVING CONSERVATION  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



TRAVEL MAGAZINE  
Essence

A NARRATIVES PR PUBLICATION



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# TravelEssence

MAGAZINE

Culture • Lifestyle • Taste-Making





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KATJA QUASDORF

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When you leave Africa, as the plane lifts, you feel that more than leaving a continent, you're leaving a state of mind. Whatever awaits you at the other end of your journey will be of a different order of existence.

— FRANCESCA MARCIANO

inspirational stories of men and women who took a huge leap of faith to pursue professional exploits and be counted among the 200+ nationalities that call the UAE home. Some have since returned to Mother Africa and are making waves founded on their experiences as expats in this region, and others still, have gone on to start businesses or simply opted to stay, inspired by the opportunities this desert oasis has to offer to the brave.

I'm excited to share this Issue, as it is in some way our very own pivoting moment. Like most of the world, we began this year expecting some semblance of normalcy in the travel and everyday life space. We've since January witnessed more nationwide lockdowns and border closures, but that will not deter us from showcasing what's local. What's local in Africa, and what's local right here where we are based? We aim to bring you the pulse of destinations across Africa, right up to where we are currently rooted, connecting you with the stories of individuals that inspire us to do better so we can be better.

To the incredible hotels, restaurants and attractions that have hosted us recently – thank you for opening your doors to us. To the amazing personalities and entrepreneurs who share their journey with our readers, Travel Essence Magazine is becoming so much more because you are! To our readers; we are so incredibly encouraged by your messages and positive reviews. Thank you again and again!

To all of us – the world is slowly shaking off the turmoil of seasons past, and so start planning to venture out and explore more of the world beyond yours. Whether you are Africa bound, or thinking to take a bit of an escape to the desert for a lot of sun and sand, stay with us! We have tonnes of travel inspiration to get you thinking about where next you should be exploring! 

My warmest regards,

*Zywanne C. Mtengwa*



Can you believe we are wrapping up Q1 of 2021 already? The past few weeks for us have been about pivoting, paying attention and adjusting. In a few short months we'll be celebrating our 1st year anniversary, but this March took us back to the very moment that the idea of Travel Essence Magazine was conceptualized in a ballroom of Southern Sun Abu Dhabi – a proudly South African brand in the UAE capital - that had made waves since opening years

before for its unwavering commitment to offering distinctively African hospitality. Our publication was going to be about showcasing our destinations and our people to the diverse community of expats that call the UAE and greater GCC home. And so, as we talked about what we would be covering, we simply had no idea how exciting a journey we were getting ready to embark on!

This Issue is particularly exciting to me, as it signals the intertwining of two narratives moving forward; first of Africa's welcoming people and places on the continent that every expat and explorer must consider putting on their bucket list; AND secondly...the things we believe visitors from Africa would like to experience should they have an opportunity to visit or relocate to the Middle East. With a growing population of Africans choosing to migrate to the UAE and wider region for growth opportunities, there are so many incredibly



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# 08





*From Intern to CEO,*  
FOSTERING A STRONG LEADERSHIP  
MANTRA AND DRIVING CONSERVATION  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Travel Essence Magazine caught up with Katja Quasdorf to hear more on her professional growth in Southern Africa after migrating from Germany, and how cultural exchange, team building and commitment to conservation are integral to her success in entrepreneurship and leadership upon co-founding Hideaways Africa – a collection of bespoke properties and luxury safari experiences across Southern Africa. Passionate about the evolution of female leadership in Africa’s tourism landscape, conservation, and community impact, Katja had this to share about her journey and attachment to the continent of Africa...

**1. KATJA QUASDORF, WE KNOW YOUR STORY, BUT WE'D LOVE FOR OUR READERS TO GET A SNEAK PEEK INTO YOUR EARLY YEARS AND HOW THEY SHAPED YOUR WORK ETHIC. DO SHARE.**

Yes, the story that most people get hooked on is my journey from intern to CEO in 11 years at Hideaways and Jenman African Safaris. I am originally from Germany and grew up in former East Germany. This shaped me, not so much because I actually lived under that regime but that my parents and family and grew up within that regime which moulded their way of living and their values. As a result, I grew up overcompensating with hard work to gain acceptance and approval from family and teachers or managers. Added to that, us Germans are known for our blunt communication. Continuing my professional life in Southern Africa, I quickly realised that this single-minded approach won't allow me to connect or build teams. I needed a fast-track cultural change and adaptation of attitude when dealing with people. I am grateful that I took this step about 10 years ago and for the people that pointed out my missteps on my journey.

**2. IN EAST GERMANY, WHAT WERE THE WIDELY ACCEPTED VIEWS OF WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, AND HOW DO YOU THINK THIS HAS SUSTAINED YOUR TRANSITION WORKING IN AFRICA OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS?**

In my family, women have always worked. Women were generally, (to a certain degree) as valuable as men in the workplace; this resulted in me believing that women get the same opportunities. Having now been exposed to more global business and the world of mentorship, I see the real struggles that women all over the world and from all ethnic backgrounds face. I am not saying that I haven't come up against this 'male-wall', however my mind never took me to a place where I thought I found myself in limiting situ-

ations due to my gender. The story in my head was that I didn't have enough experience or didn't work hard enough. The barriers I'd experience were as an end-result the same, however my reasoning for it was different.

**3. LET'S TALK PASSION AND CREATING AN EXPERIENTIAL BRAND. WHAT DROVE YOU AND YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER'S VISION WHEN YOU STARTED THE COMPANY? HOW DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR COLLECTIVE VISION HAS EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?**

Having built a tour operating business over the course of eight years, we were eager to create a brand that has more sustainable impact such as employment and creating opportunities in key areas that our guests visit and to have more influence in our guests' experience. Essentially, we wanted to be the makers of the entire experience we create for travellers.

Hideaways' vision is to create life-changing experiences. We believe in tourism being a driver of conservation. When we talk about life-changing experiences, we take a holistic view. We believe we have the responsibility to create change in views and opinions of travellers, by providing an unforgettable, yet educational experience and at the same time impacting their future conversations. Hideaways thrives on creating sustainable opportunities for employees and communities adjacent to our safari lodges and camps by providing employment, sustainable work through our foundation, and through collaboration. Furthermore, we focus on positive change through landscape conservation. "Creating life-changing experiences" is an apt description of travel and business choices contributing to positive change in Africa. I have the desire to influence conversation around the dinner table for our travellers, partners and employees – rethinking and improving our impact on nature and on each other.

The year of the covid pandemic has affected Hide-



always as intensely as it has other tourism businesses across the world. We had a great start to 2020, hoping for it to be our best year yet and wishing to raise funds for many of our conservation and community projects through our bed night levies. Unfortunately, due to intense travel bans, this was not possible. However, our teams on the ground managed to look after our concessions and wilderness regions and we were able to welcome many local guests back as of September 2020 and hope to host many international guests in the months to come. Sharing again our passion for Africa, people and conservation and showcasing the healing experiences that Africa can be. Fundamentally we have our teams and communities to thank for their resilience and trust in Hideaways for working through this challenging year. We now find ourselves at a place of opportunity and change as we emerge from Covid. We have just expanded our lodge portfolio in Botswana and there are exciting future plans on the horizon which we hope to share with you soon.

#### 4. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE HAS HELPED YOU SHAPE YOUR LEADERSHIP MANTRA IN A PEOPLE-

#### CENTRIC INDUSTRY OVER THE YEARS?

Someone once said to me: “I want to see myself through your eyes, because you see more of me than I do; and then I know where to go.” It is always humbling to receive honest and positive feedback about how you influence people. It helped me realise that as much as I was learning, I was also impacting people around me at the same time while I was developing my approach to leading teams.

Having to engage into a cultural shift at a very early stage in my career truly shaped how I interact today. I practise listening every day, at work and at home and believe me, it doesn't always come naturally to me. It is one of the hardest things to focus on hearing someone out completely before allowing your mind to form a response. This has helped me realise that people are complicated, and situations are complex and that my assumptions don't always ap-



“ Still today, when I get off a plane in Madagascar, it fills me with life and joy smelling the air. Stepping off a plane in Victoria Falls, being hit with that humidity, you can smell the wilderness and the magnificent waterfall at the same time. Driving in an open vehicle through the bush is an exceptional thrill and walking or riding within the same nature connects me to earth, my thoughts and in the end reality and what is important in life.

– KATJA QUASDORF

ply. The act of listening has opened me up to relating to others and with that, mobilise others.

I used to describe myself as a ‘critical thinker’, but I am in search of a better word for this. I am not a critic, but it is important for me to illuminate ideas and situations from every angle. Listening to a diverse mindset is an integral part of that. I have learned that you can’t always come up with the perfect answer but listening carefully to people who hold different levels of experience, opinions and thoughts and also utilising tools that are available to us today, allows us to eliminate bad answers and make a better decision even though it may not be perfect.

This debating, not fearing to talk about failures and less desirable outcomes also allows me and my team to adapt or improve our decisions even after having made a call when more information comes to light.

One could describe my leadership style as one of ‘consensus’ in that sense as mostly decisions are made in debate together. This also implies that outcomes are not based on my preferences but certainly on the values I hold.

## 5. TALK TO US A LITTLE ABOUT THESE VALUES? WHAT VALUES GUIDE HOW YOU DO LIFE IN GENERAL?

I try to be guided by courage and wholeheartedness. As an Enneagram 6 (personality test), most things I do are motivated by creating safety. In my world that plays out in such a manner that I need to make decisions and find the best solutions quickly. In my position though, tough decisions must be made often that jeopardise my immediate need for safety. This is when I call on being courageous – despite feeling the fear and anxiety I choose to do “it” anyway because there is something more important at



stake; it’s choosing something that matters over being safe and secure.

I want to know that I have lived fully and that I give my whole (and open) heart to everything I do and engage with – from conservation, to my professional life, my friends, family and of course business. My team asked me the other day: “If you could claim a phrase or word for 2021, what would it be?” I responded: “Emerging with intention.” I love what I do and the impact that I can have on so many levels through conversation, guidance, thoughts, and actions.

## 6. NOW LET'S SWITCH GEARS A LITTLE BIT AND TALK TRAVEL. YOU'VE SPENT A GOOD CHUNK OF YOUR LIFE IN AFRICA. WHY TRAVEL AND WHY IS AFRICA SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I believe that we have a responsibility to look after the wilderness areas that we

have inherited and feel that through travel and the work that I have engaged with over the past 15 years, I have a true opportunity to influence people to question the impact they can make, not only through their travel choices but also through their lifestyle choices. It goes back to swaying the conversations around the dinner table I mentioned earlier.

Africa is important to me because it has shaped me, and I believe the continent has the ability to shape others. It’s what we can see and learn from nature, wildlife and from the people, their tribes, and cultures. There are traditions and beliefs that I know to build immense cultural and personal strength; people live in ways that have been ‘forgotten’ in other parts of our fast-paced world.

Gaining an understanding of nature and the circle of life that we can witness in wildlife-rich areas is to our personal benefit and indicates what negative impact

it will have on our life if we don't start protecting what is left. Naturally, we thrive to reconnect with nature, yet often we forget that we are nature. I believe that travel shapes you, makes your heart fuller and opens your mind to live a more engaged, wholehearted life forming a better understanding of cultures, beliefs, and ecosystems.

Still today, when I get off a plane in Madagascar, it fills me with life and joy smelling the air. Stepping off a plane in Victoria Falls, being hit with that humidity, you can smell the wilderness and the magnificent waterfall at the same time. Driving in an open vehicle through the bush is an exceptional thrill and walking or riding within the same nature connects me to earth, my thoughts and in the end reality and what is important in life.

There is not much else I can add besides: engaging with people from different backgrounds and connecting to nature in an open, real, and non-industrial space is what brings me creativity, joy, and a passion I can't find anywhere else. As we are part of nature it doesn't come as a surprise that many of us feel the same way when they travel to Africa for the first time and continue to return many times over.

## 7. HOW DO YOU BELIEVE THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY HAS IMPACTED BUSINESS DECISIONS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROPAGATES CONSCIOUSNESS IN GLOBAL TRAVELLERS?

There is part of the travel industry that has started to engage in different conversations and re-write the story of tourism in Southern Africa and East Africa from Big 5 focus to travel that focuses on experiences, learning, conversation, conservation, healing and overall being more sustainable. In the same way the word 'luxury' has been redefined.

Key stakeholders in certain areas have started to collaborate despite the fact they are competitors for a shared vision of conservation and community impact. The Conservation and Wild-

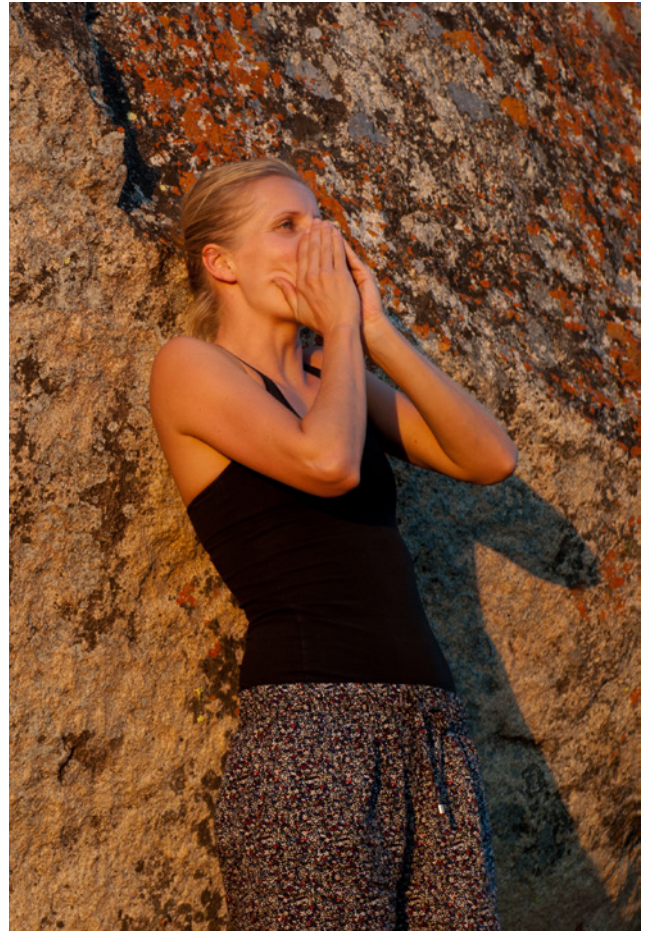


life Fund in Hwange National Park is only one example of this. A conservation trust that focuses on protecting Hwange National Park and its borders for its wildlife and surrounding communities through raising of bed night levies from operators in the park. Communication of such initiatives is more visible now in relevant travel media, which consciously and subconsciously has started influencing decision-making of travellers and industry partners.

Safari camps are opening and refurbishing, keeping not only their carbon footprint in mind but also how they empower females and communities at the same time. Private companies have started to collaborate with and communicate to government institutions to further drive positive change on a macro level.

Especially for travel in and around Southern Africa, East Africa, and parts of West Africa the topic of how we can make sustainable business decisions that look after our planet is more visible today than ever. Initiatives are being created that are inclusive and provide guidance so that barriers of entry are lessened.

We are not there yet and there is still a long road ahead of us but today it



is easier than ever before for travellers, tour operators and travel agents to choose an African experience that holds the values of conscious travelling. I have chosen to only surround myself and foster strong relationships with businesses, people and institutions that share this vision of an exciting future of tourism that drives change, inclusiveness, and opportunities.

**8. WHICH DESTINATIONS ARE YOUR FAVOURITE ACROSS THE CONTINENT AND HOW HAS YOUR EXPOSURE TO THEM INFLUENCED YOUR JOURNEY TO DATE?**

Cape Town is my home but also a place where I soak up drive and urgency to impact. There is a true sense of entrepreneurship, change, female leadership and connection of business and nature in this place. It is always evolving, and the basket of new and varied experiences is ever-growing.

Travelling for a month through Zimbabwe and seeing different corners of this beautiful and diverse country was just ... wow! I had the immense luck to travel with my former colleague Thomas, who not only showed me his country through his eyes but also allowed me insight into how his life's journey has been impacted by the country's struggles and gave me a first-hand history and cultural lesson. Zimbabwe, after South Africa, was the country that really lit up my passion for learning and growing by listening to people and stories.

Staying with Zimbabwe, I had the opportunity to spend 12 days in Gonarezhou National Park in October 2019. I had been at a turning point in my personal life's journey, and it was the first time in many years that I disconnected from any communi-

cation and screen for an extended period of time (if one can call 12 days that!). That part of Zimbabwe holds something so truly special that is almost too difficult for me to put into words. It is raw, wild, diverse, the Chilojo Cliffs have a truly spiritual energy. It was also here where I could witness the impact of collaboration of a national park with a network such as the Frankfurt Society. It sparked true excitement for the future of safari tourism.

And then there is Madagascar – the diversity of this country and island, its numerous tribes, languages, customs (fady's) and traditions is something so foreign to the world I have grown up in that it truly sparks my curiosity and I love challenging my comfort zone. The mix of Asia, Africa and old influences of Europe is a true magic potion to open one's eyes, mind, and heart.

**9. YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT PROJECTS THAT FOSTER SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION. DO SHARE WITH US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR FOUNDATION - GROW AFRICA, AND THE LAUNCH OF PROJECT PENYA. HOW HAVE THEY IMPACTED YOU AND THE COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE, AND SECONDLY, HOW CAN OUR READERS GET INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE WORK YOU AND YOUR TEAM ARE DOING?**

Sometimes it is truly hard to openly speak about how little of the world and people's struggles I knew when I embarked on my professional journey. Our Foundation Grow Africa was founded already a few years ago by the business and focused on educational trips we facilitated and provided for local schools in

and around Cape Town. In recent years we have expanded our collaborations, projects, and work into other countries that we operate in.

Project Kenya is a project we started in 2018 in the community of Dete bordering Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe. “Kenya” means “shine” in the Shona language and this project’s core objective is to empower entire generations of teenage girls to have a brighter future. I did not know that girls in rural areas miss up to 25 % of school due to humiliation and stigma related to menstruation simply because they do not have access to or cannot afford basics such as sanitary pads. There is a lot of shame and taboo for these girls attached to this.

We first heard about this from a safari lodge in South Africa (Dulini) and after speaking to them I asked for guidance and help to bring this project to Dete. We started off by providing girls with reusable sanitary pads and panties and have then expanded to hosting annual life skill workshops that don’t only focus on menstruation but also on leadership, communication, and growth. Early 2020 we hosted a workshop with which we enabled women from the community to sew these sanitary pads and panties which we purchase from them rather than import from South Africa.

When staying at our properties in Hwange National Park, we charge bed night levies which contribute to the Conservation & Wildlife Fund’s efforts to protect the national park and its periphery specifically through their antipoaching work. To donate towards projects such as Project Kenya and others, travellers can visit our website or simply ask our consultants at the time of booking. Additionally, you will see that our teams on the ground will engage safari enthusiasts into conversations around our community work during their stay if they see interest.

**10.** 2020 WAS A YEAR THAT CHALLENGED US ALL TO RETHINK HOW WE DO LIVE,

### WORK, RELATIONSHIPS, AND PERSONAL GROWTH. WHAT'S NEXT FOR KATJA?


When we set our intentions and created personal and professional plans for 2020, we had no idea what this year would hold. But in 2020, having ‘no idea’, was taken to a new level.

It was a year of heartbreak, exhaustion, hope, despair, reflection, learning, unlearning, and relearning.

We persevered and built resilience; I am grateful to my team who dedicated their valuable time and passion to not only help our guests and agents, but also our communities, rangers, lodge staff and each other to get through this year.

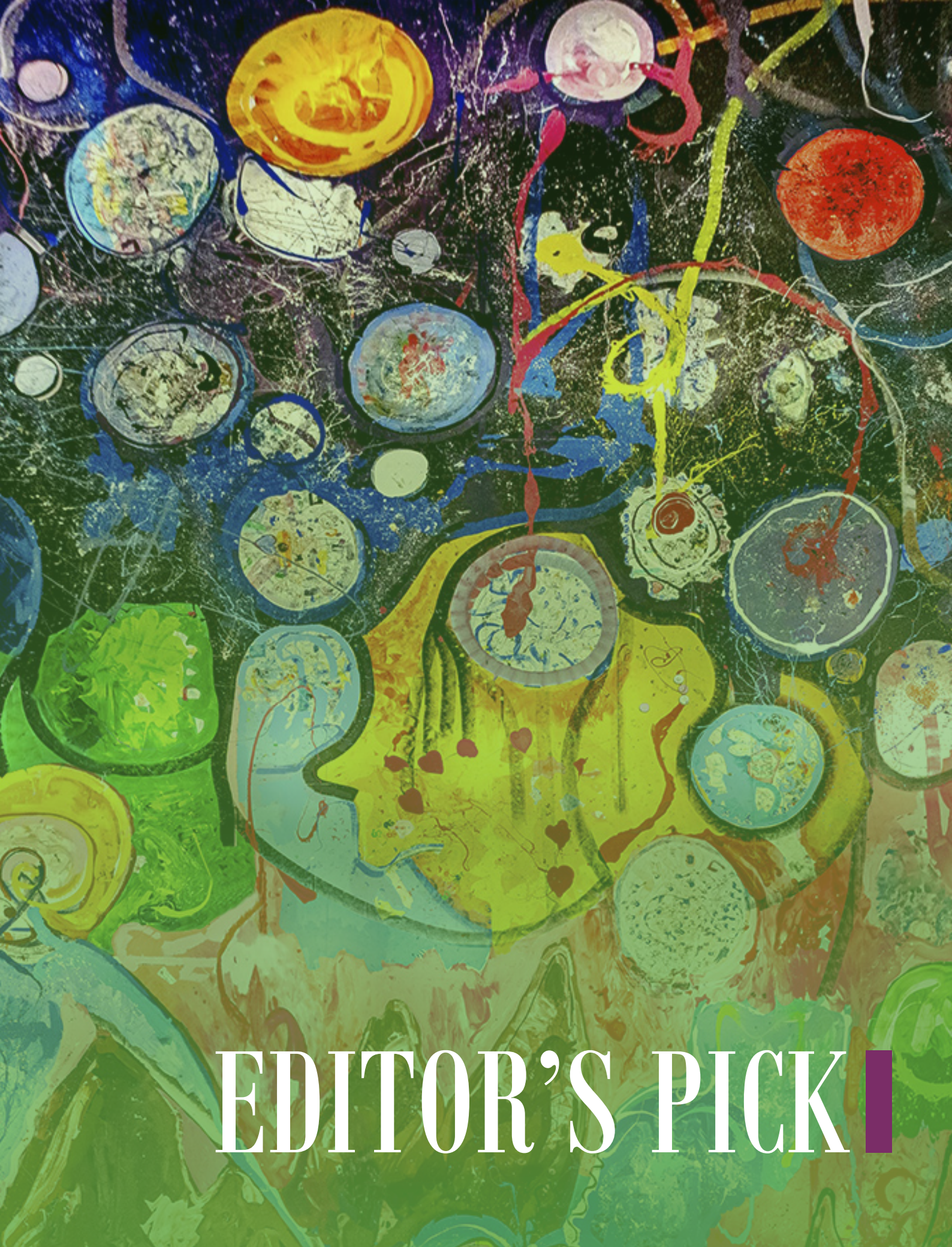
After 15 years at Jenman Safaris and Hideaways, I have taken the courageous leap to spread my wings and open my eyes to discover what else the world of travel, leadership and conservation holds for me.

Hideaways will be led by a team of creative and dedicated minds from this place of opportunity into its next chapter while the business emerges on a path of creating conscious travel experiences.

For myself I am hoping to learn, impact and dedicate my passion, mind, time, and heart to continuing to shape the world of leadership in travel and conservation. I am excited to see and create opportunities and emerge into 2021 with intention, a strong heart, and an open mind. 







EDITOR'S PICK |

# *Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk:*

**A TASTE OF FRANCO-EGYPTIAN  
CHARM AND SOPHISTICATION**



Dubai is world renowned for its unparalleled hospitality offering, with a plethora of city and resort hotels unveiling remarkable opportunities for leisure filled relaxation, unique dining experiences and sheer fascination by design. The recently opened Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk is one such presentation of sophistication, timeless elegance and an experience that will leave you yearning to extend your stay.

Upon walking through the gold framed doors, it becomes immediately apparent that one is set to enjoy a distinctive experience, as the lobby area reveals a marriage between modern French art de vivre and ancient Egyptian heritage, coupled with an infusion of the culture of the UAE. You simply cannot miss the gold falcon perched above the check-in encounters, with its wings spread wide as if to welcome you. Adorned with a gold pyramidion and in the shape of an obelisk, representative of the Luxor Obelisk currently in Paris, Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk majestically thrones in the heart of Dubai, ushering you into what you will call home for a little while.

#### UNSURPASSED DESIGN AESTHETIC

Entering the doors of a 5-star luxury property in Dubai is almost always a promise of uncontested luxury, with each hotel vying for its top spot in the rankings for design and hospitality. Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk holds its own, delicately revealing iconic Egyptian symbols that are echoed in Art Deco lines, which come to life exquisitely orchestrated by the elegant touch of the French art and way of life.

How best to describe that first walk through the doors of Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk? You can expect to be captivated by Franco-Egyptian sophistication, as you are greeted by what seems to be an entry into an ancient Egyptian temple, with statues of Horus on either side of the fountain and Anubis statues guarding the impressive golden gate. The artistic ceramic flooring is an intriguing illustration of the Nile river, with the décor carrying a host of stories to tell behind each installation.

You cannot miss the imposing nine meter-wide and four-meter-tall golden falcon, symbolic of the pride of the United Arab Emirates and the country's national bird. Upon the completion of your check-in, which is so graciously undertaken by welcoming front office staff, you are immedi-

ately, seemingly magically, taken through a visual presentation of Valley of the Kings and Queens in Luxor, Egypt, thanks to the immense pillars that showcase hieroglyphics of timeless serenity. French art deco and luxurious charm steps in, uniquely blending in with the eminent Egyptian themed surroundings. Two magnificent stained leaded glass chandeliers inspired by French Tiffany Lamps and handcrafted in Egypt, hang imposingly from the ceiling, each weighing a mammoth 3 tonnes each!

#### A LUXURIOUS STAY AWAITS YOU.

Modern, chic, and spacious, dressed in neutral tones and luxurious finishing, Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk houses 498 luxury guestrooms and suites as well as 97 furnished and serviced apartments. The hotel goes as far as to offer butler service in 68 suites, an added specialised touch for the most discerning of guests. If it is a short city break or extended stay you are looking for while in Dubai, Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk boasts luxurious, well-appointed rooms that showcase the best-in-class Art Deco lines and contrasting textures. As you leave the elevator and walk towards your room, the textured wallpaper and patterned carpets that were installed to reflect the Arabian desert, will capture your attention. Floor to ceiling windows offer a stunning view over Dubai's glistening skyline as you enjoy your coffee to start your day or a night cap from the in-room mini bar.

Each room offers delightful comfort as much as it does conveniences such as complimentary WIFI, 24-hour in-room dining, spacious working areas that do not infringe upon your space for rest, coffee making station with a Nespresso Machine and a stunning bathroom to treat you to a separate bath and shower, complete with Lanvin or Hermes amenities.

#### GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCES TO TANTALISE YOUR TASTEBUDS

**Brasserie Bouloud** grants guests sheer indulgence in the essence of gastronomic française, in a unique concept by Daniel Boulud, renowned Chef-Owner of a



variety of award-winning restaurants dotted across the globe in Washington DC, Miami, Palm Beach, Toronto, Montreal, London and Singapore. Inspired by the French art de vivre, Brasserie Boulud is Daniel Boulud's very first restaurant in the Middle East, serving up a distinctive French contemporary cuisine experience, rooted in tradition right in the heart of Dubai.

### TAIKO DUBAI

A contemporary Asian cuisine concept and bar conceptualized by Chef Schilo van Coevorden, Taiko Dubai is the brand's first international opening, awarding guests an opportunity to take their tastebuds on a journey through the tastes and textures of the Far East. Offering the same cuisine as Taiko Amsterdam, one of Amsterdam's most popular restaurants, Taiko Dubai is in fact the first time a Dutch chef's restaurant concept as expanded to the Middle East. A reservation at Taiko Dubai will guarantee you a delectable selection of unique specialties such as waygu biryani and watermelon sashimi, and the renowned live drum performance that takes place four times a week to entertain you as you navigate your way through the menu.

### THE NINE FOR YOUR BRITISH GASTRO-PUB EXPERIENCE

**The Nine** opens its doors to guests looking for a signature British neighborhood casual pub experience, except at Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk, patrons can partake of the ancient Egyptian influence in both design and atmosphere. The Nine's menus will tantalise you with the best of traditional recipes and home cooked comforts, naturally infusing contemporary twists on such British cuisine staples such Fish & Chips and Bangers and Mash. Accompanying the food menu is the wine list offering organic and biodynamic options as well as a gin trolley, where guests can craft their own favorite cocktail for their enjoyment.

### FRENCH TEATIME INDULGENCE AT BIJOU PATISSERIE

A meal at **Bijou Patisserie** is a must experience, especially the French inspired Le Goûter afternoon tea which offers guests



a unique combination of flavors created with passion and served in a sophisticated jewelry box, unlocked with a special key. Guests will delight in savorys and sweets such as Croissant with Brie cheese, rocket, honey and figs compote, Lorraine quiche with turkey bacon and cheese, Chouquette with sugar pearl, Madeleine with orange and lemon to name a few. Bijou Patisserie is an all-day dining café style establishment with an intimate ambiance, situated in the hotel's lobby for your convenience and pick up of a grab-and-go snack.

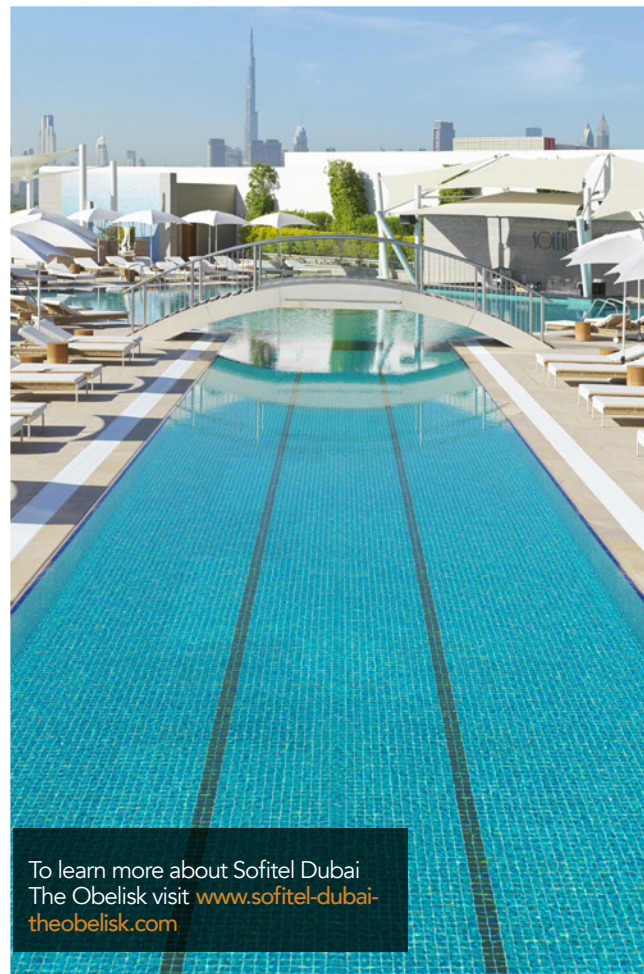
### POOL SIDE RELAXATION AT SOLEIL POOL AND LOUNGE

Because a good pool side vibe never hurt anybody! Soleil Pool and Lounge on the hotel's 6th floor sets the stage for a decadent Mediterranean and Levantine inspired menu, carefully crafted cocktails and varied shisha flavors for that afternoon chill with friends and loved ones. With a glimpse of

the nearby buildings and skyline on one side, and a striking view of the hotel's Obelisk architecture from your sunbed or luxury cabanas fitted with privacy curtains, showers as well as a jacuzzi, Soleil Pool & Lounge is all about whisking guests away to an immediate sensory overload and good vibrations.

### CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO NEAR-BY ATTRACTIONS

Connected to Wafi, one of Dubai's premium shopping and leisure destinations, Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk is just 10 minutes away from Dubai International Airport, the World Trade Centre (WTC) and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) as well as major cultural and tourist attractions including Burj Khalifa, The Dubai Frame and La Mer beach. 🚗



To learn more about Sofitel Dubai The Obelisk visit [www.sofitel-dubai-theobelisk.com](http://www.sofitel-dubai-theobelisk.com)

# *Comfort Meets Convenience At* **THE GRAND COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL**

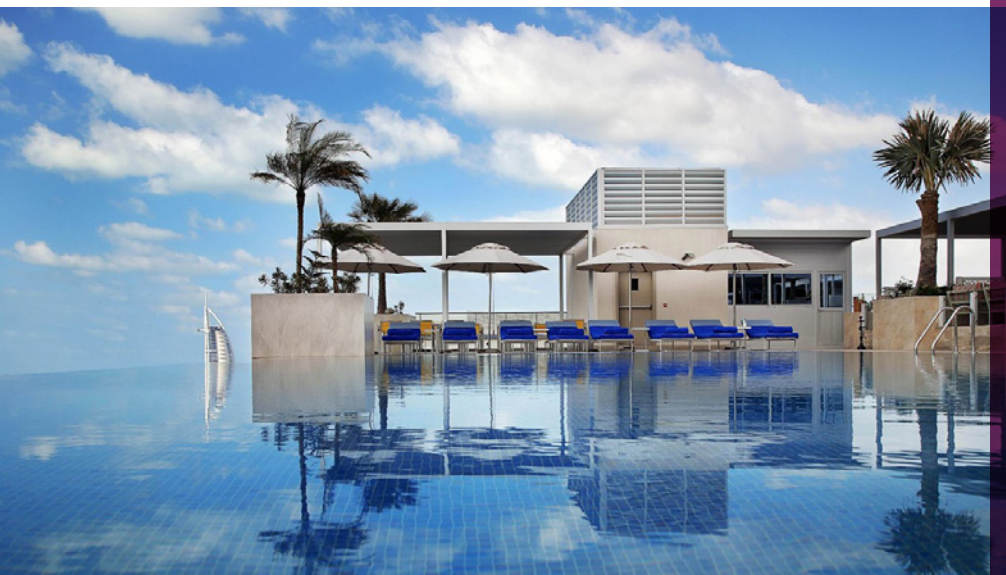
It was how spacious the well-appointed the rooms are and how pleasant the staff were for me as I took a site tour of the Grand Cosmopolitan Hotel ahead of my stay later that week. Located just minutes away from Mall of the Emirates, the hotel is the third and newest 5-star property in Dubai's Al Barsha district, making for an enjoyable stay for a travelling family or individual looking for a contemporary, stylish hotel that's convenient for city exploration for leisure or business opportunities.

**W**hen in Dubai, tourists are inevitably spoilt for choice, but the most astute of travellers also knows that time is of the essence when in town for a short stay. You will want to marry convenience so you can get around easily on the metro or highway if in fact renting a car is your preference. You will want to be close to a shopping malls and iconic landmarks, as much as you will also want a clean and comfortable room to return to after exploring the city.

#### **COMFORT MEETS CONVENIENCE.**

The 5\* Grand Cosmopolitan Hotel is ideal for holiday makers and business executives looking for a property that





offers premium standards in a trendy and a relaxing setting. Elegant and contemporary, the property is privately owned, yet holds its own when pitted against the bigger chain properties within the vicinity. Boasting exceptional service and attention to detail rendered by its staff of diverse nationalities, as a business executive or holiday maker, you can take advantage of a host of facilities, including a choice of restaurants on the ground floor or on the roof top, a temperature-controlled pool for both adults and children, a fully equipped gym and massage suites, an outdoor children's playground and gaming room, and modern conferencing facilities with advanced technical capabilities and highspeed WIFI access.

### SPACIOUS ROOM TYPES TO ACCOMMODATE EVERY TRAVELLER TYPE.

Offering a myriad of rooms and suites, the hotel's 235 rooms are among the largest in the city; the smallest coming in at 41 sqm and the largest suite a whopping 190 sqm in size! Taking my two children along for my stay, I was allotted a family room which came with a master bed, two twin beds, a small kitchenette complete with an Espresso Machine, teas, coffees and light snacks for our picking, a working desk with a smart hub and of course, a 49-inch Smart TV that could be viewed from just about every point in the room. The basket of fresh fruit and freshly made ginger and carrot juice on ice was a nice little touch because let's face it, which guest doesn't love a little surprise when they enter what will be home for a night or two or more!

Spacious rooms are a huge selling point, especially when staying with your loved ones, as one wants to feel like they can enjoy cosy comfort during moments of in-room relaxation without feeling crowded. Guests staying in the Cosmo rooms have an exclusive and



complimentary access to the Cosmo Club Lounge where an Executive Breakfast is served. A wide selection of coffees, teas, snacks, and a variety of healthy and fresh juices are also available here throughout the day.

The 62 to 77 sqm, four bedded Grand Suites or family rooms provide, are as cost-effective as much as they offer privacy, space and a good 'home-away-from home' feeling for families or 3 or 4 people. Suites offer added space at 60-190 sqm, presenting a luxury apartment feel equipped with all the trimmings. The hotel's 190-sqm Royal Suite is the ultimate choice of accommodation for guests and does well to accommodate even visitors without them feeling constricted to limitations in spacing.

A private gym, a large pantry, and a dining table for 6 persons are some of the unique facilities available in the Royal suite, which in itself is pretty outstanding for long-staying guests who do not want to compromise on their comfort. All rooms and suites are equipped with premium toiletries and amenities, all presented in sanitized, vacuum sealed bags for the guests' protection and peace of mind. Individual safes, a mini-bar, tea/coffee facilities, iron and board, hair dryer, 49', 55' or 65' TV sets with a wide variety of local, regional and international channels and capabilities

to cast your favourite Netflix selections also come standard in all rooms.

### DINING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE ON THE GO

The trendy Lobby Café & Patisserie, located at the heart of the hotel lobby just under the atrium, is the perfect place to relax, unwind or socialize with friends or associates. I had a host of meetings lined up during my stay, and so this turned out to be exactly the meeting space I needed to welcome my clients without having have them infringe upon my children's space as mom worked.

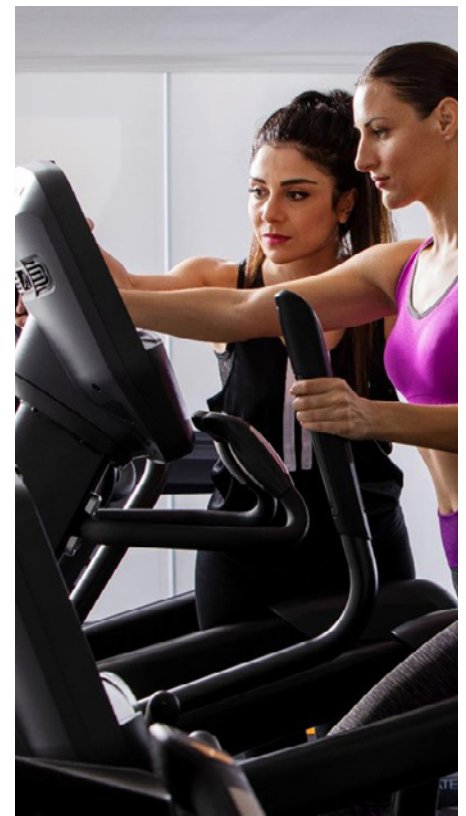
A sumptuous breakfast was served up at the all-day dining restaurant on the ground floor, welcoming us to a satisfying buffet filled with mouthwatering treats to get our day started right. Our evening took us to the rooftop Mediterranean Terrace, which provides a magnificent view of the Burj Al Arab and its surroundings by night. Taking a dip in the infinity, temperature-controlled pool was a highlight for my kids, so much that I too joined in on the fun.

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

This property ticks all the boxes for visitors that are looking to experience the pulse of the city easily. The Grand Cosmopolitan Hotel is literally a few minutes away from

the Mall of Emirates, and guests can take advantage of the complimentary shuttle that can ferry them to Kite Beach a short drive away. The Sharaf DG metro station is just a two minutes-walk away, making this convenient for guests looking to explore more of the city on public transportation.

The Grand Cosmopolitan Hotel may be brand new on the hospitality scene, having opened its doors to the public recently, but is one to experience when in Dubai and looking for a comfortable yet affordable hotel that offers up all the conveniences and amenities for a guest on the move. If well appointed luxuriously furnished rooms are what you are looking for, that's in order. If you are looking for hearty servings from the chef and roof top views in your moments or relaxation, that box too is checked. If proximity to shopping malls, off site dining, beaches, and access to Dubai's business districts during your stay are part of your must-haves, then the Grand Cosmopolitan Hotel has you covered! 







**GLOBALLY RENOWNED,  
INFLUENTIAL ARTIST  
SACHA JAFRI UNVEILS  
THE UNPRECEDENTED  
*"Journey of Humanity"***

World's largest painting on canvas incorporates art contributions from children from 16 African countries. The project aims to raise US\$30 million to help change the lives of the most vulnerable children from the poorest regions of the world affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

**I**n a spectacular evening set in the ballroom of the iconic Atlantis, the Palm Resort, the atmosphere was electric as much as it was awe-inspired. Guests were enveloped by emotion and sheer reflection, as Dubai-based British artist Sacha Jafri, who had recently set the Guinness World Records™ title for 'The Largest Art Canvas' in the world, unveiled to the world the highly anticipated complete painting, that also carried artistic contributions from children from all over the world.

The mammoth record-breaking canvas painted by Jafri over a period of seven months is titled, 'The Journey of Humanity', and scales over 17,000 square feet, the size of about two football fields. What also makes this so inspirational is that the painting incorporates the artworks of children from more than 140 countries in the world, with many from Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and South Africa being counted among those whose art submissions became a part of what is now recognized as the biggest social artistic philanthropic project in history.

In a state of complete surrender to his craft and the moment before him, the artist shared with this audience on the evening of the unveiling, how he spent 20 hours a day immersed in this creation, which resulted in him using 1,065 paint brushes and 6,300 litres of paint. The project aims to raise US\$30 million to help transform the lives of the most vulnerable children from the poorest regions of the world, whose struggles have been further exacerbated by the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked what the feeling was like to have broken a world record, Jafri said: "It was an honour to receive the Guinness World Records™ title for my project 'The Journey of Humanity'. This is just



the beginning of the ‘Humanity Inspired’ journey. ‘Humanity Inspired’ and ‘The Journey of Humanity’ is much more than a painting, it is my initiative for true societal change through the hearts, minds & souls of the children of the world – a springboard for a better future for all Humanity.”

### PAINTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Now widely recognised as one of the world’s most influential artists, British painter, (mainly based in London, with Studios in London, New York, Singapore, & Dubai), Sacha Jafri has raised just over US\$60 million from the sale of his work over the last 18 years, for the most deserving and notable of charitable causes, campaigns and foundations. He chronicles how travelling across the globe and visiting refugee camps in some of the world’s most impoverished states, and interacting with children in need, is a huge part of his work, and desire to make a continued difference through his creative expression.


“If one person can spend 20 hours a day (on four hours sleep) for seven months continuously, creating a painting of over 17,000 square feet on his own, imagine what 7.5 billion people could do together if we stopped the nonsense of discrimination, judgement and agenda. One World, One Soul, One Planet,” says Jafri.

Sacha Jafri’s record-breaking painting, ‘The Journey of Humanity’, is now described as ‘The Modern-Day Sistine Chapel’, and it is easy to appreciate why this is so. Part

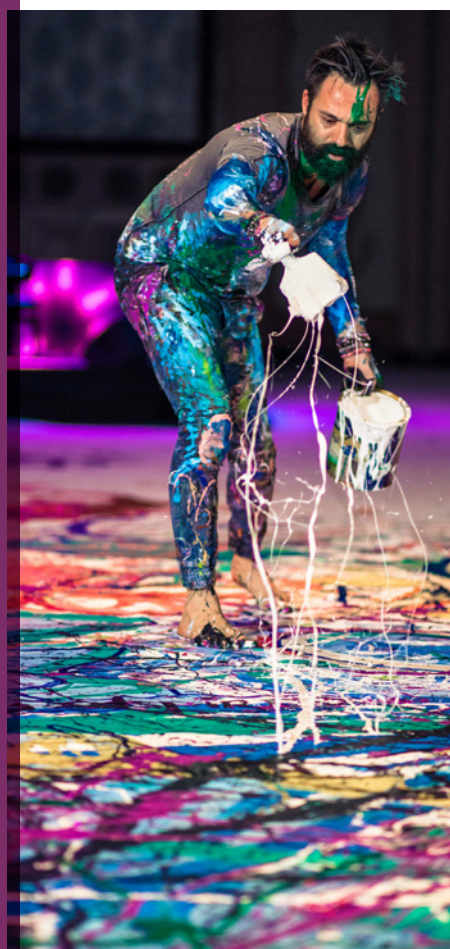
of his charitable initiative ‘Humanity Inspired’, the painting was supported by over 100 A-list celebrities, and launched under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence in partnership with Dubai Cares, part of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives and Atlantis, The Palm. The painting was created in Atlantis, The Palm’s ballroom, which was converted into the artist’s studio over a period of 8 months during the lockdown.

“I hope for my work to act as an electric shock to our senses, ignite and inspire the spirit, uplift the soul, re-awaken something that often lies dormant or asleep within, and keep the beauty, the purity, and the magic of the child within us all forever,” says Jafri.

‘With this painting, ‘The Journey of Humanity’, I am aspiring to transform humanity to collectively: “Paint the World a Different Colour”, with a message of hope and a new dawn laid before us.’

Since the painting’s completion, it has been moved from the ballroom of Atlantis, the Palm, and broken down into numbered, signed, catalogued, and framed canvases. The epic, 70 individually framed pieces of the greater masterpiece that is ‘The Journey of Humanity’ will be sold across several auctions in 2021, with the funds being raised for charitable initiatives in the sectors of healthcare, sanitation, education, and connectivity; in partnership with Dubai Cares, UNICEF, UNESCO, The Global Gift Foundation, UN-HCR, along with The UAE Government. 

To learn more about Sacha Jafri, the Humanity Inspired Initiative and The Journey of Humanity project, visit <https://humanity-inspired.com/>





# TASTE-MAKERS |

A portrait of Winnie Muchanyuka, a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a white top with a large green floral pattern. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. A large, semi-transparent red circle is overlaid on the bottom half of the image, containing the text.

*Winnie  
Muchanyuka*  
**ON SCALING  
HEIGHTS IN  
AFRICA'S AIRLINE  
INDUSTRY**

**1. DESCRIBE WINNIE AND WHAT PUTS THE PEP IN YOUR STEP?**

I am a very driven person and thrive on results and achievement. I thrive on observation and enjoy watching the world go by and people in their element. This has helped me develop an analytical streak and whilst I am extroverted and act with speed, I take calculated risks. I love family and believe a well-balanced family environment helps one to blossom and achieve.

**2. SHARE WITH US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR UPBRINGING, AND HOW IT STEERED YOU INTO VENTURING INTO THE AIRLINES INDUSTRY?**

I was brought up by parents who were extremes of each other. I am the first born in my family and my mother was strict and the disciplinarian and believe the first-born child must be orderly and a good barometer for her siblings. My father on the other hand was quite casual and engaged in more conversation, he didn't spoil me though but was strict even in his laid-back manner. These two elements of my upbringing taught me to be a creature of habit and to be responsible for those around me and to set a good example, but also to see the lighter side of life and to enjoy it.

**3. YOU HAVE HELD SEVERAL POSTS WITHIN SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS. TALK TO US ABOUT WHAT THAT JOURNEY HAS BEEN LIKE FOR YOU? HOW DID YOU WIND UP IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WHAT HAVE BEEN THE KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR YOU AS A WOMAN NAVIGATING A CAREER IN A MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRY?**

SAA allows one to extend their full potential. I started off as a Ticketing Agent and rose through the ranks to Country Manager and even had a stint

as Regional Manager. I was surrounded by people that believed in grooming talent and actually invested their time and effort in developing those that were willing to grow their careers. I was spoiled for mentors both male and female. I never felt that I had to fight for space as a woman or that I was disadvantaged as a woman. I don't know whether it was sheer luck but some of my greatest mentors and cheerleaders on this journey have been males. My key takeaway was that let your work ethic and the results you produce speak for you, that way your peers and even customers will respect you for that.

#### **4. HOW DO YOU THINK AFRICA'S AIRLINES INDUSTRY HAS EVOLVED OVER SAY, THE PAST 10 YEARS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE COMPETITION FROM BIGGER PLAYERS OUT OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS?**

I think there have been some huge strides in African airlines trying to remain competitive especially against the onslaught of Middle Eastern carriers that rapidly expanded their markets and in the last decade have focused on expansion into Africa. The continental giants, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, EgyptAir and SAA have gone a long way in keeping African Aviation relevant, but our carriers are still saddled with many legacy issues that keep them from being truly competitive. Issues of state ownership and the challenges that come with that, corporate governance and dwindling market shares make the landscape difficult for them to compete. African states have been hesitant in truly liberalising the airspace and a question begs an answer, "Does Africa need all the national carriers that exist on the continent or could these consolidated into a few airlines that could actually compete against the major carriers of the world?"

#### **5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE FUTURE OF AVIATION AS IT RELATES TO OUR CONTINENT?**

I believe that African states need to open up the airspace and consolidate national carriers probably by region so that the continent ends up with 4 or so airlines that are well resourced, well run and feed and de-feed the entire continent into the rest of the world. I think gone are the days of the glamour of a national carrier as government are now saddled with pressing economic issues and demand for social services such that a national carrier becomes a less of a priority to the state. I think Africa has the population to be able to sustain such a model for the continent and consolidation will bring benefits of economies of scale and reduction in the cost of air travel, thereby making it more affordable.

#### **6. LET'S TALK "WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP" ESPECIALLY IN YOUR INDUSTRY. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR WOMEN WHO MAY BE KEEN TO MAKE A TRANSITION INTO YOUR SECTOR?**

This is a male dominated industry especially as you rise in leadership rank. However, this should not be a deterrent as I believe that it is not the gender that performs but it is the individual. I

will not pretend to be oblivious to the fact that society is generally patriarchal, but I believe that you should let your performance speak for you. When you produce the required standard or even surpass it, it becomes easier to raise concern on matters and command an audience that will stop to listen.

#### **7. ARE THERE ANY WOMEN WHO HAVE INSPIRED YOUR PERSONAL GROWTH JOURNEY AND IF SO, WHO AND WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE?**

Oh yes, and many have cheered me on. I would do an injustice if I mentioned them by name as I could fill a page. I have had women in the aviation from different airlines be my mentors, women from other aviation entities such as the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport. I have also had help from other women in tourism sector as well other fields such as telecommunications, insurance, banking, and civil society as part of my circle. In my social circle are my friends from church and I have a great support network with my immediate and extended family.

#### **8. WE IMAGINE WORKING IN THE AIRLINES INDUSTRY HAS ALSO AWARDED YOU PLENTIFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE WORLD. NAME YOUR TOP THREE DESTINATIONS ACROSS AFRICA AND WHY?**

Travel is a great part of working within airlines and my travels have taken me across a fair share of Africa and there are 20 places I could call my favourite spots. My top 3 are: Swakopmund Namibia, where the mix of the desert and the sea is breath taking. Second is Lagos Nigeria. You haven't been to Africa if you haven't been to Lagos. It's the vibrancy of the city, the charisma of the people and the cuisine – not forgetting the traffic jams. My last of my three picks is the Midlands Meander in KZN South Africa. I love the tranquility and country living, it's a good place to wind down and drive around.

#### **9. WHAT DOES WINNIE LIKE DOING FOR FUN?**

Is it a surprise that I like to travel? I still have a few countries on my list that I want to explore. But I also love to read, and I enjoy the company of friends and family. I do cook a lot and enjoy spending quite some time entertaining.

#### **10. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF YOUR KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM NAVIGATING LIFE AND ADAPTING TO CHANGES DURING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC ERA?**

My greatest lesson has been that life is short and precious and that a lot of the things we spent our time doing were quite unnecessary. We have become more efficient and have more time on our hands to spend on the things that we had neglected before. I have also learnt that you can get by with far less than we did before and some of the spending habits we had developed were quite wasteful. Family is precious, relationships are precious, we have begun to treasure these more in this time. <sup>AV</sup>

# *Brighton Tau Muluswela:* BUILDING BUSHLIFE AFRICA SAFARIS

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Curator of intimate safaris into the Southern parts of Africa is Brighton Muluswela, also affectionately known as “Tau”. He is the Founder and CEO of BushLife Africa Safaris (BLAS), a UK based Tours company that offers authentic African safari experiences with a keen focus on wildlife conservation and sustaining local communities.

**B**ushLife Africa Safaris’ whose tagline is “Where the little things matter,” has built its reputation as a fully inclusive ethical safari tour operating company that prides itself in giving travellers clear-cut information on sustainable safari travel to Africa, doing this by partnering with the most experienced operators across in the industry.

“We create travel itineraries that contribute positively to local communities and the natural environment, and at the same time offer the best travel experience for the traveller. We work together with local safari operators and initiatives that share these same values with us, enabling us to increase our impact much more efficiently while creating work opportunities and stimulating economic growth. Sustainable tourism is at the core of everything that we do and why we do it,” says Tau.

Not only will tourists enjoy setting their eyes on some of Africa’s Big 5, antelope and exhilarating bird life, but BushLife Africa Safaris packages include accommodation at some of the most charming, tented camps and lodges in Africa! These gems guarantee peace, serenity and harmony with nature, away from the bustle of daily life. The packages also award the opportunity to witness some of BLAS’s local conservation efforts and local community projects that help empower communities in and around the areas of operation.

#### WHO IS BRIGHTON?

Zimbabwean-born and now resident in Northampton, United Kingdom, Tau grew up in the dusty streets of Highfields, one of the oldest townships in the capital city. Today, he greatly appreciates his privileged lifestyle of comfort, provision, as well as having attended one of the top schools in the country. This budding photographer and golfer believes this set the tone for his appreciation of the good life. A tertiary education in the United Kingdom exposed him to the world of different cultures, people and travel! The faith his parents had in him coupled with the independence he attained in a foreign land – made him the man he is today.

“As I evolve, I realise what a great experience and exposure I enjoyed in my youth. I am grateful to my parents for being bold, teaching me how to be strong, tough and resilient. Life is indeed full of rewards and challenges and it is not what happens to you that matters but it’s how you respond to it. Things we can’t control are realities, not problems and when you try to fight realities, you lose. Take it as experience, accept it and then embrace it – manage the pain and keep going,” asserts Tau.

#### A LIFE TRAGEDY, REDIRECTION AND FINDING A DEEPER PURPOSE IN LIFE

During his 5th year in the United Kingdom a call came from back home telling Brighton that his uncle and his father’s only brother, confidante and business partner had passed on. His father had no choice but to ask his son to return home and help in the running of their family printing business. Tau found himself successfully running the family business and later developing it into a commercial enterprise. The father and son duo soon decided to follow their family safari passion - which dates to his grandfather. He had worked for a white settler family that owned a hunting concession in the Mwenzi district of the country where Tau’s father was raised. The pair was later to diversify in the safari travel industry, co-founding Swala Safari Travel and Tours – whilst still operating in the printing business. The company offered game drives and transfers in the resort town of Victoria Falls and Hwange, specialising in photographic safari and transfers, and later extended their activities into the

neighbouring countries – Botswana and Zambia, so guests could enjoy a different experience during their safari holiday with them.

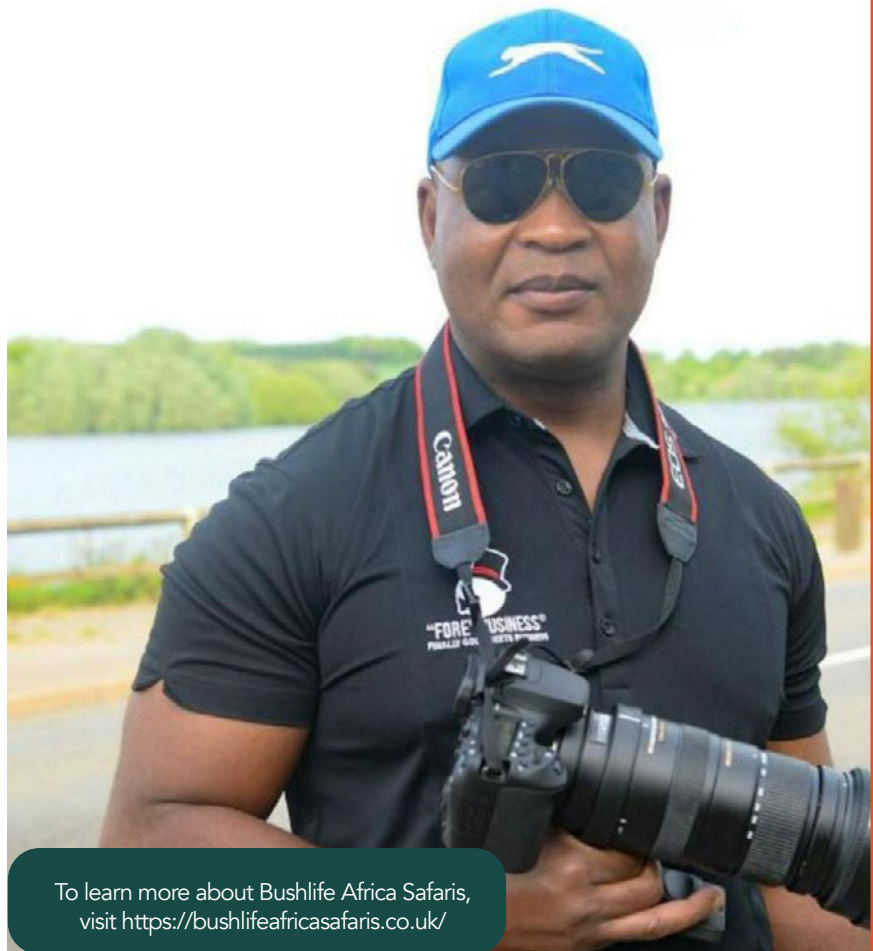
Zimbabwe took a downturn both economically and politically and twelve years later Tau, now with a family of his own, found himself back in the United Kingdom. Working part-time in mental health, his love for the bush and Africa continued to burn within. He kept a keen interest in the safari travel industry and on the 10th of January 2017 (his birthday), he gifted himself by setting up BushLife Africa Safaris (BLAS).

“Apart from leaving a legacy for my family and making a positive impact in both the continents I have lived; I am passionate about community development and wildlife conservation projects in Africa,” asserts Tau.

“I believe in helping impoverished communities in wildlife rich areas, and am deeply passionate about equal distribution of wealth, where revenue brought in by visitors directly benefits the communities and wildlife of the source areas. Bookings made with BLAS, help raise and uphold community and animal welfare standards in the destinations we operate in. We are all deeply connected to each other and the earth. It belongs to all of us. The minute we help, the natural world pays us back a thousand times over”, says Tau.

#### A MAN AND HIS INSPIRATION

“My own efforts and teaching from my parents are my inspiration in life,” says Tau. “I do get inspiration from many other people and the articles I read, but what good is that when I do not put it into practice? My father has always been a man with strong work ethic given his humble beginnings. He was a goal getter and my mother, who lived her life as a full-time housewife raising her children, was also a very enter-



To learn more about Bushlife Africa Safaris, visit <https://bushlifeafricasafaris.co.uk/>

prising woman, running all sorts of small business projects at home. Both their efforts and way of life remains an inspiration to me, making me the man I am today.”

Tau is quick to say that he is also inspired by his fellow countryman and legend Beks Ndlovu, African Bush Camps founder and CEO. “He has done amazingly well in an industry that is slowly gaining popularity amongst our own nationals. I thank him and his team for leading the way and appreciate the support they continue to give me and my business,” says Tau.

He credits his wife as his pillar of strength, who ensures that he and their children are well taken care of and the home is running smoothly - despite her busy work schedule. “This allows me to

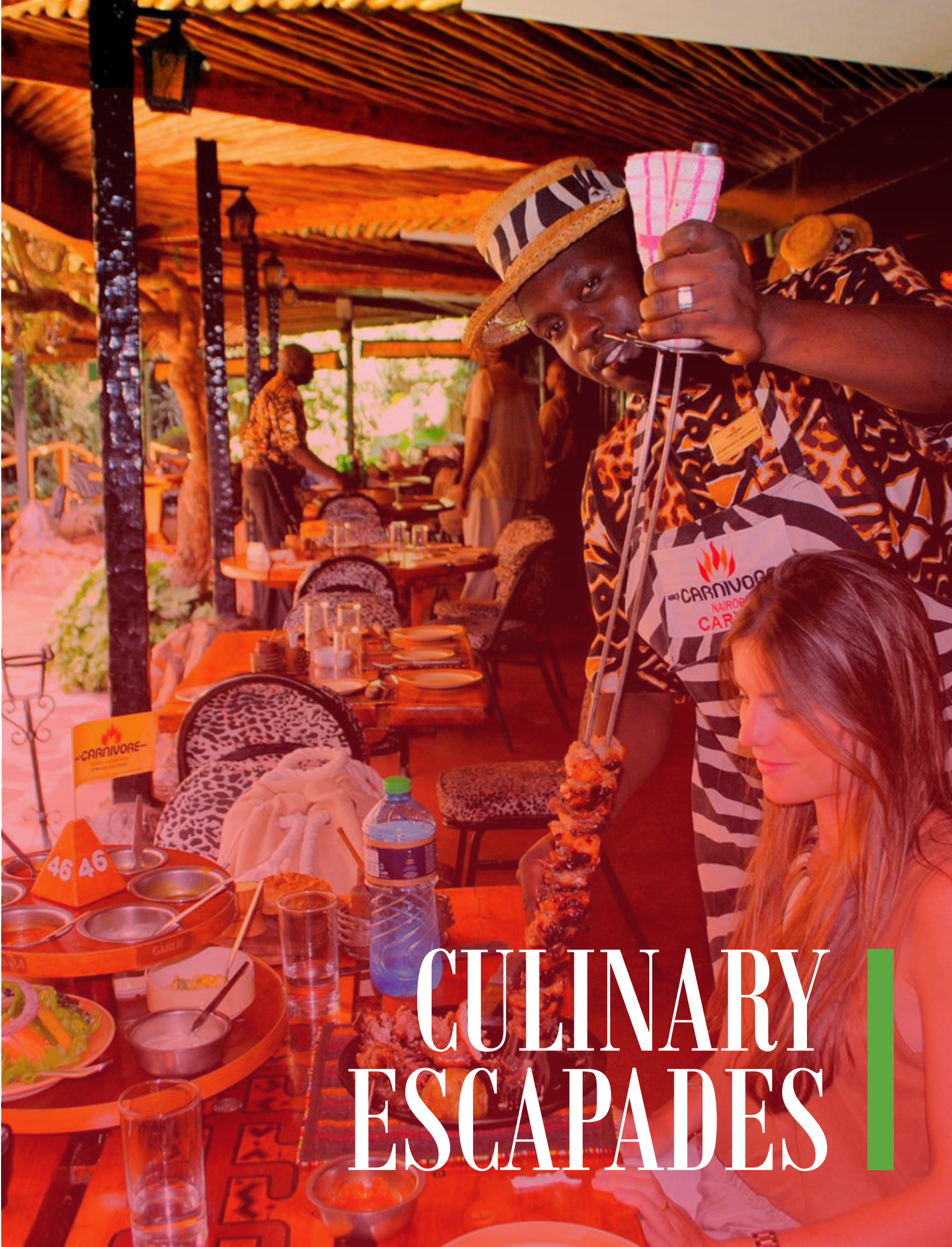
focus on building my business. I was recently blessed with a beautiful granddaughter and this new addition has become another inspiration in my life,” Tau adds.

#### DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

Tau’s dream is for his business to one day own their very own eco-friendly semi-permanent camps in Africa. They are also in the process of setting up a Foundation Trust, which will help manage their community and wildlife projects within the continent.

“My aim is to get involved in as many community development projects as possible to help alleviate poverty in Africa and help make sure local communities are in control of their own natural resources while remaining self-sustainable. 🌱





# CULINARY ESCAPADES





# Chiyedza Muyaruka Nnani:

## COMEBACKS AFTER SETBACKS, TO BUILDING A FOOD & BEVERAGE CONSULTANCY IN THE UAE

30-year-old Chef Chiyedza Muyaruka Nnani is a wife and mother and was born and brought up in the small city of Mutare in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands region. Having lost both parents at an early age, her grandmother and late grandfather stepped in to become instant parents after her tragedy, shouldering the responsibility of raising her alongside her aunt. It would be a few years later that their input would inspire her decision to chase her dream in culinary arts...

“I studied Hotel Management and Culinary Arts in South Africa where I graduated with a Diploma. I had the opportunity to work at five-star hotels in South Africa for two years,” Chiyedza shares.

To realize her dream of becoming a renowned chef, she took off on a journey to acquire more knowledge in the world of culinary arts, beginning with some research on how and where she could gain more familiarity, understanding and exposure in this field.

“Going back to school was my auntie's idea in a country with multicultural cuisine that could offer not just the knowledge, but also the platform to establish myself in the industry. To her, Dubai was the place and so I soon enrolled into one of the top-notch culinary schools in UAE – the



International Center for Culinary Arts Dubai (ICCA -Dubai, UAE). I graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Hospitality Commercial Cookery by London City and Guilds.”

### *The inspiration to pursue Culinary Arts.*

Chiyedza recalls how one early morning, years back when she was just 7 years old, she and her great grandmother visited their rural home for a family meeting.

“The meeting went on and on, typical of rural family gatherings and I felt so hungry but because everyone was in the meeting, my great grandmother called me and whispered into my ears a recipe for preparing our traditional millet porridge. She asked me to prepare the porridge by myself,” says Chiyedza.

“The outcome was a disaster! The result was a lumpy and uncooked mixture, which I instantly threw away, but it challenged me to try two more times until I got the basics right. This is when my PASSION for cooking was ignited. This small but big incident for a 7-year-old, inspired me to later gain more and better understanding and skills on the basic techniques and methods of cooking,” she cites.

When asked what cuisine she specializes in today, Chiyedza credits her studies in French cuisine, a mandatory module in Culinary Arts studies, as what piqued her curiosity to know more about the diversity of cuisines around the world. This eventually led her to also exploring many other varieties of cuisines until she decided to specialize in African Mediterranean cuisine.

“I was fully exposed to the world of Mediterranean cuisine during my employment with Armani Hotel where I worked as a chef in the

famous Atmosphere Restaurant. Soon after I changed jobs and crossed over as trainee in Mediterraneo Restaurant in Armani Hotel. I was deeply immersed in Mediterranean cuisine during my travels to Morocco, Turkey, Greece, and France, when I was an inflight chef with Etihad Airways. The fusion of fresh, delicious yet wholesome ingredients and recipes is what I enjoy working with,” asserts Chiyedza.

### *Chiyedza on career milestones and her evolution as a Chef*

“A few opportunities I consider to be career highlights as a Chef were during my time at Radisson Blu Hotel Sandton South Africa. At this gem of a hotel, I had the pleasure of cooking for Shakira, the famous Colombian singer. I also loved working at The Atmosphere Restaurant in the five-star Armani Hotel in Burj Khalifa Dubai, and at the Vivaldi Restaurant & Lounge Sheraton Hotel Dubai Creek. I owe much of my expertise in culinary arts to these experiences,” she says when asked to share the most memorable seasons along her journey.

Chiyedza also had the opportunity to work with Michelin-starred restaurant owner Alfredo Russo. The opportunity to be First Class In-Flight Chef for the UAE’s national airline Etihad Airways exposed her to the required skills for in flight food service, which was very different from other kitchens she had cooked from. She also marvels at having had the opportunity to consult for one of the world’s leading state-of-the-art cloud kitchens Kitopi.

### *Pivoting into the world of entrepreneurship*

As life would have it, sometimes we are met with challenges that redirect us onto a different path. Chiyedza experienced a redundancy from work due to a company-wide restructuring exercise, and this happened at the same time that she also found out she was expecting her first child.

“This turned out to be a blessing in disguise and totally God’s doing, as almost immediately, my culinary entrepreneurship journey took another big step. I started working for myself as a food and beverage consultant for VVIP families and cloud kitchens, creating meal planning, menus, and fostering quality management,” Chiyedza shares.

Today, Chiyedza is the Founder and Man-

aging Director of Cheddachi Food & Beverage Consultancy. The business specializes in providing gastronomy food safety and food quality services advice, with the company offering its services not only to food industry businesses like restaurants, cloud kitchens, hotels for food and beverage concept development, food safety and food quality management, food service operational strategies, but also to individuals and families, where she and her team assist with menu development, meal planning services and training. The company has also diversified its offering to retailing kitchen ranges, from unique kitchen utensils to chef wear, all sold on their website.

Chiyedza believes there are unending opportunities in the field of culinary arts, and while the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a shift in the food preparation and service sector, the fact remains that food will always be a universal element that brings people of all cultures, traditions, and experiences together.

“Everyone everywhere loves to enjoy a great meal – and food preparation starts with having a sharp eye for good quality ingredients, complemented by the art of infusing all these into a hearty meal. The culinary arts space requires lots of patience, resilience and determination,” she asserts.

Chiyedza looks forward to pursuing growth opportunities for her company in the UAE, with ambitions sets on exploring possibilities of introducing her footprint in her home country – Zimbabwe.

“I want to leverage the opportunities that the current trends in technology can bring to inspire innovation and to broaden my business networks. I believe with my experience and knowledge I can contribute to the food and beverage industry in Zimbabwe too!”

To learn more about Chiyedza and connect with her brands, visit her social media and online at:

Facebook: @cheddachi Instagram: @cheddachi Twitter: @cheddachi

Email: cheddachienquiry@gmail.com

Website: www.cheddachi.com



Spotlight  
on

# Caroline and Tinashe Madziwa

Selling hope in every Rwendo Wines bottle

“**R**wendo” which means “journey” in the Shona language of Zimbabwe - is inspired by life struggles. It describes the journey that its founders have travelled and all the hardships they encountered along the way, the obstacles that have been overcome and the goals the brand owners aim to achieve.

“We wanted a name that could relate to everyone because we are all on a journey of life,” asserts Caroline, one of the sibling duo of Caroline and Tinashe Madziwa – the Founders of Rwendo Wines. With Caroline at

the helm and Tinashe as Brand Manager, both sisters are Agri-preneurs, actively pursuing their entrepreneurship dreams in the field of agriculture and wine making.

## *Where it all began*

“Just after I graduated from Blackford College of Agriculture, located in Mazowe, Zimbabwe, I realized there was an untapped branch of Agriculture in Zimbabwe and this I found very enticing” says Caroline. She decided there and then that this was the field her heart wanted to pursue and so it took a trip to Cape Town to

see, taste and learn about the wine industry. This was followed by more research and mentorship from Joseph Dhafana, Founder and Owner of Mosi Wines. It wasn't long before Caroline found herself at the Cape Wine Academy to further her studies.

Rwendo wines was birthed after a journey of pursuing investments, collaborations, partnerships, tests, learning, and coaching cites Caroline. Initially it really was not about the wine for her, but she was attracted to the world of wine because she wanted a career she would never retire from. In Caroline's words "All work without play is boring!" and any work that involved wines promised to be a winning combination.

### *The Rwendo Wines Appeal*

"Our wines have a distinct taste from what most people have tried. In a market where we compete with really big brands we really had to bring in something different. It was of importance to create something that our customers would feel a part of and would support as the brand took flight," shares Caroline.

Furthermore, Rwendo Wines sell more than just wine. They sell hope. Rwendo was birthed from hope and the brand's Tsimba (meaning 'footsteps') range is a reminder that as humanity, we should make the most of the time we have, leaving an indelible mark no matter how great or small - for generations to come. The brains behind the brand hope that their customers can relate to the brand's story and find hope in their real-life stories as they forge ahead with growing Rwendo Wines.

Rwendo wines are premium range wines, with Cape Town being the home of the grapes! Available in Zimbabwe, Rwendo Wines retail Rwendo Merlot, Tsimba Pinot Noir Rose, Tsimba Sauvignon Blanc, and Tsimba Shiraz.

When the lady vintner was asked what thoughts she carries on women's advancement in the world of winemaking, whether they are a novice or more advanced in the industry, Catherine asserts, "I encourage women to follow their dreams, much like I did ahead of venturing into the winemaking industry. Get all the necessary information you can, learn all that you can about wine, the different types of grapes, how and where they are grown, the types of wine they produce and so on." She further

adds that it is important to have strong brand identity and believe in yourself before anyone else does.

### *Clinching entrepreneurial awards on the journey*

The Madziwa siblings have celebrated significant milestones in recent years, crediting their passion and hard work for their recognition in the marketplace. With a couple of awards under their belt such as the "Outstanding Youth in Agriculture" honor from 4-H Zimbabwe and "Second Runner Up – Diversification Award" from Women in Agriculture, the two hope to attain similar accolades beyond the borders of Zimbabwe.

"We are encouraged by the reviews from our customers," says Caroline enthusiastically. "We hope the sophisticated taste of Rwendo Wine, a proudly Zimbabwean product, continues to garner traction regionally and beyond Africa's coastlines.

"I'm just as passionate about food as I am about wine, and absolutely love pairing a grilled lamb steak with rosemary butter and chargrilled broccoli with Aurora Syrah 2016, a well-balanced wine which can be enjoyed by anyone, and is an expressive bold red! Its black fruits which include black cherry, offers rich plum, fig flavors with oak and vanilla undertones.

Of course, a chat couldn't end without Travel Essence Magazine asking about what Caroline's top three African destinations are.

"My top places to visit in Africa are definitely Tanzania, Rwanda and Madagascar! My first love however still remains Cape Town for its breathtaking and beautiful views, luxurious 5-star hotels and the unmatched serenity of the vineyards, beaches and mountains!" states Caroline boldly. <sup>AV</sup>



To learn more about Rwendo Wines, connect with the brand on social media on [f](#) @Rwendo\_Wines ZW and [@](#) @rwendo\_wineszw.

# The Carnivore Nairobi Kenya: A meat lover's delight

By Louisa Choruma

“Zambia has the Mosi Beer, Zimbabwe has Zambezi Lager and Kenya has ...Tusker Lager!”

**T**his was our trip leader PK, cleverly avoiding divulging where we would be dining for our last supper in Nairobi – Kenya. The preceding four days in the beautiful East African nation's capital had been filled with an assortment of full –day activities.

From game drives through Nairobi National park, to a tour of the Giraffe centre, a day trip to Lake Nakuru to see the spectacular pink flamingos which was a true birder's treat, and a quiet afternoon at the Karen Blixen Museum, the former African home, now turned museum of Danish author of the same name, best known for her 1937 masterpiece “Out of Africa”, was an itinerary for the books.

Sad to be leaving and keen to have a memorable night of good food, cold drinks and the buzz that is synonymous with Nairobi's night life – we eagerly waited

with PK for our pickup from the hotel to the “undisclosed “dining location!

Our excitement built very quickly as the sound of traditional drumbeats intertwined with that of happy voices and laughs grew louder and louder as we approached the entrance. Drawn to this magic, we all picked up pace and followed the sounds into the magnetic world that is The Carnivore Restaurant. What an energy! There was so much going on and one is compelled to try and take it all in at once! Wide eyed and motionless, our group unwittingly blocked the entrance as we moved only our heads, absorbing the ambiance, sounds, lighting and distinct smell of roasted meat and garlic flavour!

It took taps on the shoulder from PK to snap us out of our trance, so we could follow our waitron to our reserved table. Finally seated, PK gave us time to settle, and with his easy smile and deep voice said: “Welcome to the Carnivore folks!” As he spoke, I remembered reading about this place on the internet under the “Top ten must dos in Nairobi”, and the article had one line



that read “The atmosphere combines the rustic feel of a rural setting and a medieval banquet hall!” I couldn’t have agreed more with this description.

#### AN INTRODUCTION INTO THE CARNIVORE EXPERIENCE

A member of the Tamarind Management Limited (TML) stable, Carnivore Nairobi restaurant was successfully established in 1980 and can host a maximum seating capacity of 800 people a night!! This open-air restaurant is in the Langata suburb of Nairobi, Kenya. The Carnivore Restaurant’s specialty is their “all-you-can-eat meat buffet” - serving a bountiful spread of beef, lamb, crocodile, chicken, pork, and ostrich.

“The Beast of a feast” as it is aptly called, is an indulgent array of breads, potatoes in all forms, from roast to jacket, and a vegetarian’s paradise of fresh greens and salads! Special dietary needs are fully catered for with couscous for the gluten intolerant, lactose free deserts and of course, roast bananas are a staple of any East African menu!!



## A FOOD EXPERIENCE THAT SPEAKS TO THE SOUL OF MEAT LOVERS

Brilliant is one of many words to describe the service. This personal touch is a display of skill, warmth, and food presentation! All meat is grilled on huge metal skewers – a Maasai sword of sorts to be exact. It is on these same swords that the meat is gallantly brought to the tables and carved in front of the guests. This spectacular performance is one of many highlights of the food experience at the Carnivore. With the Maasai sword upright in one hand, fully stacked with whole joints of meat, the waitrons swiftly carve the slices off into the guests' platters. The aroma of seasoned grilled meat, together with the sizzle of the slices make as they land onto the wrought iron platter is enough to awake all tastebuds. Each waitron carries a different meat variety and in a synchronised manner - as beef is served, lamb is next, chicken is on its way from the next table and the ostrich is back for refills.

## AN EVENING IN HIGH SPIRITS

In true African fashion-all beers are cold. "Bia yangu, Nchi yangu" means "My beer, my country" in Kiswahili - is the slogan for the local brew Tuskers, which together with other beers, whiskies, soft drinks, cocktails, and wines, are also available from the restaurant bar – throughout dinner.

Doctor Dawa is a famous feature of the beverage experience. He is the “medicine man” who theatrically delivers the house cocktail on a portable tray to all guests. The “Dawa” medicine or magic potion in Swahili, is a must-try and is based on a famous Brazilian drink.

As we wound down the evening and shared highlights of the tour, it was a nice touch to have some good strong Kenyan Coffee after dessert.

Looking round the restaurant, from the paintings on the walls, local artefacts in various corners and display units, to the service staff clad in their African print uniforms, and the live band to keep us entertained – this dinner truly was a great way to conclude our trip through East Africa! Thank you PK! 🍷







# ADVENTURES IN WILD AFRICA



# INSIDE AFRICAN BUSH CAMP'S ICONIC SOMALISA





Since his early childhood, Beks Ndlovu wanted to explore and share the authentic African wildlife experience with people worldwide. This premise sparked his talent for narrating Africa's wonders and encouraged him to pursue his dream of becoming a safari guide.

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In 2006, Beks acquired a private concession in the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe where he opened African Bush Camp's (ABC) first base, Somalisa. Set under dappled shade, and before gorgeous views of the park's golden savannah plains, the camp set the standard for every ABC camp to follow; elegant styling, reclaimed wood and organic features, solar power, eco-friendly building techniques, a garden for fresh produce, and a remote setting right in the bush.

From sipping sundowners while listening to the distant roar of lions, to close encounters with elephants at the 'elephant pool' edging an expansive deck, Beks and his team set out to immerse guests in the Africa their guides knew like the palm of their hands. The philosophy is that the most magical experiences happen when you least expect them to, spontaneous moments and getaways and ensuring that nothing in the planning is rigid or overly planned.

Due to its popularity among international guests, Somalisa expanded with two camps: Somalisa Expeditions and Acacia.

#### **SOMALISA ACACIA**

Trees represent rooting and connection, which is one of the reasons why ABC's family-friendly camps are named after a favourite African tree. The Acacia tree is a valued symbol of Africa. Its silhouette in front of the sunset's vivid orange and pink hues harmonises with the tranquil sounds of the hornbill in the distance, creating truly serene moments to share with loved ones.

Acacia trees fill the area, creating a dappled stream of light over the deck which shapes an ambience of tranquility and security. The splash pool at Somalisa Acacia borders the wild elephant waterholes and are frequented by these peaceful, powerful animals. By being in the presence of these profound and wise creatures you are humbled and exhilarated all at once. The fundamental focus at Somalisa



To donate towards the cause, visit:  
<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/covid-19-support-to-rural-communities/>

Acacia is creating memories for families to keep forever, with activities such as guided walks with child specialist guides who enlighten and delight guests with their passion and knowledge.

Synchronisation of the wilderness and innovative design is what you can expect at Somalisa Acacia. The camp consists of two family tents with interleaving and two standard units. The central area enjoys its private views of a small waterhole, frequented by large herds of big game, which is the perfect place to enjoy valuable family time. A small splash pool allows you to cool off during the heat of the day. Burlap textile is dramatically draped over the bed, offering guests an idyllic setting to sleep in the African bush. From brick face to natural wood to copper, the fusion of textures brings an organic atmosphere to this incredible family camp.

Senses are awakened on game drives, bush walks, bird watching excursions and cultural visits. ABC's professional guides transform an experience from passive viewing of sightings to a passionate demonstration of beauty and wonder. Their wisdom about the African wilderness will fascinate and amaze you.

### SOMALISA EXPEDITIONS

Capturing a mobile camp's ambience, but with all the trimmings, Somalisa Expeditions offers authenticity and comfort. They are slightly more grounded with common areas on the land, giving you a closer connection to the real




wilderness experience, without sacrificing any luxury. The design of the camp grants you the space to explore Africa as it should be.

### COVID-19 AND ABC FOUNDATIONS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

COVID-19 has undoubtedly raised awareness of the importance of handwashing. With running water and essential commodities being rare among some rural African communities, the ABC Foundation is introducing essential health and hygiene in communities in the form of Tippy Taps.

The simple device is assembled with a five-liter container suspended from a stand;

a foot-activated lever to tilt the container and start water flow; and a bar of soap suspended from a piece of string, enabling public handwashing without touching the stand and potentially spreading dirt and bacteria.

ABC Foundation will install 980 Tippy Taps as public hand-washing stations as well as provide drinking water to households in rural communities surrounding ABC's properties. This will be coupled with a pilot project to improve food security in Mambanje (near the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe), whereby backyard semi-scratch chickens will be provided for eggs and meat production. ABCF's fundraising goal for the Tippy Tap project is \$10k. 



# Fisherman's Cove Resort: Your key to inherited paradise

By Glynn Burridge



## ADVENTURES IN WILD AFRICA • FISHERMAN'S COVE RESORT

The Seychelles archipelago's 115 islands are situated 1600 km from the east coast of Africa. They are divided into 41 steep, granitic islands and 74 flat coralline reef islands and atolls of which only 16 currently offer accommodation for visitors. They lie spread across their secret corner of the western Indian Ocean like precious gemstones set in a universe of azure water – steppingstones to the east coast of Africa, some thousand miles away, and natural gateway to the many treasures of the continent beyond. Only 2 centuries old, Seychelles has always been a melting pot of peoples from every corner of the planet who, together, form today's tranquil yet vibrant 90,000-strong Seychellois Creole society, the vast majority of whom are catholic.

### THE HISTORY OF SEYCHELLES

These islands were first discovered by the brave Arab mariners of the 9th century B.C. who first began to chart the unknown waters of an ocean they called the 'bahr al zanj' or 'sea of the blacks', leaving traces of their presence in the names they gave to certain of the islands such as Aldabra which is sometimes appropriately translated from Arabic as 'the rock.'

After having served as a hideout for the pirates of the 17th and 18th century, one of whom, Olivier Le Vasseur, also known as La Buse, is believed to have buried a massive and as yet undiscovered treasure hoard on the main island, Mahé, the islands were finally settled by the French in 1756. They remained a French colony until they passed to the English after the defeat of Napoleon in 1814 and it was, they who administrated the islands until their independence as a sovereign republic within the Commonwealth in 1976.

The islands' legendary loveliness has long acted as a magnet to travellers in search of the Holy Grail of pristine tropical beauty. Many famous travellers have beaten a path to its shores, including the likes of Ian Fleming, author of James Bond, who visited the islands to receive inspiration for one of his Bond books.

The Seychelles Islands finally emerged from their slumber of ages in 1972 when they became connected to the rest of the world via a new international airport which saw the birth of the islands' tourism industry.

### FISHERMAN'S COVE RESORT

Today, in every way, Fisherman's Cove Resort is an authentic reflection of the rich soul of the islands since their eventual settlement in 1770; and also of Seychelles' multi-dimensional culture - and beyond - to the indomitable island-style spirit that still reigns as a reflection of the unique topography, diverse flora



To discover more about  
Fisherman's Cove, visit [https://  
fishermanscove-resort.com/](https://fishermanscove-resort.com/)





and fauna and the wonderful air of other-worldliness that pervades everything from the mist-topped granite peaks, the emerald forests, right down to the sapphire ocean.

The pedigree of this hotel extends back to 1943, even before the opening of the international airport several decades later and ranks among the very earliest island accommodation establishments on the island to open its doors to the first wide-eyed travellers to visit these shores.

#### **ON LOCATION AT FISHERMAN'S COVE**

Situated in the quaint seaside town of Bel Ombre on the principal island of Mahé, the birthplace of Seychellois hospitality, Fisherman's Cove Resort nestles in its very own corner of a lush tropical paradise. Whether strolling one of the most beautiful beaches in the Seychelles, or savouring the extraordinary nuances of Creole cuisine, a stay at Fisherman's Cove Resort creates memories to last a lifetime.

Overlooking Beau Vallon, the most iconic and popular beach on Mahé, the ideal location of the resort allows clients to make enriching and diverse discoveries at this western tip of Seychelles. Lush and vibrant gardens create an inspiring atmosphere





for a romantic idyll or a serene getaway while two restaurants and bars allow you to explore innovative pairings of flavours and spicy aromas. Meanwhile, beyond the simple relaxation afforded by the sand and sea, an exhilarating choice of water sport activities is available for your enjoyment.

Fisherman's Cove Resort offers an extensive choice of rooms with magnificent beachfront views of the Beau Vallon beach, complete with ivory sands and crystal-clear Indian Ocean waters. Designed to embrace a typical Creole style, all rooms are open plan, light and airy with wooden accents and rattan furniture. Whether you choose a chalet-style room, or one situated within the main hotel block, you will enjoy all the ample comforts of bathrooms with their modern showers. Separate deep soaking tubs, oversized rainforest showers, and ample toiletries create a haven of comfort and sweet indulgence. Air-conditioning in every room may be finely adjusted to keep you cool and comfortable and tea and coffee making facilities, Chromecast, LED TV and refreshment centre add to that feeling of being pampered.

Designed to create an open natural setting, each room enjoys its own private terrace offering beautiful views of the resort's lush tropical gardens or dazzling blue Indian Ocean, which you can capture perfectly and boast about online by taking advantage of the free WiFi.

Fisherman's Cove Resort features an asymmetrically shaped infinity pool that creates an idyllic setting for you to spend a long, languid day relaxing in the sun on one of the surrounding sun loungers. Those who prefer a more active

holiday will enjoy their time in the gym or on the tennis courts at our sister property and water sports enthusiasts can try their hand at canoeing or pedal boating.

As you near the end of an active day, Fisherman's Cove Resort welcomes you to its very own corner of paradise and invites you to enjoy golden sunsets from one of the finest vantage points on the island.

The Fitness Centre is accessible 24hrs a day via the room key while a steam room and plunge pool is available to guests on a complimentary basis.

## DINING AT FISHERMAN'S COVE

The resort boasts two restaurants and two bars, all with ocean-facing views, featuring a sensational selection of international and local dishes in an elegant, yet relaxed, atmosphere. Discover the local touch, aroma, and taste of Seychellois Creole cuisine; experience a-la-carte dining in the Paris-Seychelles Restaurant that offers a true culinary journey of discovery with a lavish buffet of differently themed delicacies every night in its beautiful, open-air dining

room and a memorable combination of French and Creole gastronomy. Its especially intimate and romantic ambiance allows clients to generally unwind while sipping exotic cocktails accompanied by breathtaking views of the ocean.

For a relaxed gathering spot at sunset, Le Cocoloba provides a relaxed atmosphere and options for light, fresh lunch, and dinner options while the Sunset Bar serves fine wines, signature cocktails and light snacks against a particularly chic backdrop. Additionally, the resort offers a delicious selection of In-room dining options at any hour of the day or night.

## OUT AND ABOUT AT FISHERMAN'S COVE

A mere 15 minutes away from the smallest capital city in the world, Victoria, guests are urged to make the most of the resort's unique location and explore the local seafood and craft markets. Dive into the region's fascinating history and experience firsthand the subtly intertwining French, Indian and Asian influences that permeate the cooking and culture. Explore the resort's winding pathways, lush landscape and private enclaves which set an undeniably romantic stage for couples who want to escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Home to a mesmerizing underwater world of coral reefs and tropical fish, Fisherman's Cove Resort is the perfect destination for snorkelling and diving enthusiasts. Explore pristine white sands lapped by topaz waters, coral sunsets and ignite your inspiration with an underwater encounter on a vibrant coral reef literally attached to the seashore that leaves you with incredible memories of your stay on the island.

Visit enchanting underwater sites on the unique and educational

snorkelling trail that introduces visitors to the many wonders beneath the waves and learn about the importance of marine conservation with marine experts from our partner, the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles, who have helped us develop the project and continue to support it. Proceeds from the donations collected go towards sustaining the marine conservation projects that are at the heart of the resort's sustainability drive such as the coral rehabilitation project that allows guests to adopt a coral and monitor its future growth.

### **EXCHANGE MARRIAGE VOWS IN AN IDYLIC SETTING**


In a utopian setting overlooking the coral reefs of the Indian Ocean, Fisherman's Cove Resort offers an authentic venue for your wedding experience that you will find resonates with a unique cultural vibe.

Get married on the beach or on the pontoon that offers a unique setting for the exchange of wedding vows with the ocean as a spectacular backdrop. The team at Fisherman's Cove Resort can even take care of all the legal documents that are required for the ceremony as well as arrange the logistics of your special day through tailor-made packages.

Even though the Fisherman's Cove Resort prides itself on being able to retain the interest of the most discerning traveller across its broad spectrum of facilities and amenities, this exceptional resort is also an ideal steppingstone to the wider arena of Seychelles adventures.

### **A LITTLE MORE ON WHY SEYCHELLES?**

It should not be overlooked that Seychelles is home to 2 UNESCO World Heritage sites, the legendary Vallée de Mai in which grows the mysteriously shaped Coco-de-Mer, and Aldabra, the planet's largest raised coral atoll. With nearly 50% of its limited landmass set aside as national parks and reserves, Seychelles remains a sanctuary for some of the rarest flora & fauna on earth.

With an economic zone of over 1,400 million km<sup>2</sup>, and a climate providing almost perpetual summer, Seychelles offers a captivating choice of accommodation options throughout the islands and unparalleled diving, sailing, cruising, fishing, golf, spa & wellness, golf, and eco-activities. 



A photograph of a beach scene under a thatched roof. In the foreground, a wooden lounge chair with a blue and white striped fabric seat is positioned on the sand. To the right, a small table with a white tablecloth holds several jars and a rolled-up cloth. In the background, a large white cushion with blue accents and a blue towel lies on the sand. A wooden post supports the thatched roof. The ocean and a sailboat are visible in the distance under a blue sky.

# Idyllic Escapism at *Santorini Mozambique*



## ADVENTURES IN WILD AFRICA • SANTORINI MOZAMBIQUE

It is magical as much as it is reminiscent of mystical Santorini, Greece's most prolific destination in the Aegean Sea; except this one lies on the South East coast of Africa on the coast of Mozambique, offering you a compelling escape from everyday reality for a time of oneness with nature.

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beneath the ocean's surface, or head out on a boat to spot marine life, if lucky maybe rare dugongs. Whether you are staying at the resort as a couple or group of family or friends, activities that allow you to take in the majesty of the Bazaruto Archipelago are plentiful, from picnics on the beach to island hopping onboard the Aphrodite, Santorini's luxurious Super Cat 38 Sport. Nearby Paradise, Magaruque, Benquerria, and Bazaruto Islands await the keen adventurer, creating a pristine playground for those looking to take their minds off the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life that would have called for their retreat in the first place.

### *Where you will stay*

Built with the intention to provide an enriching yet private experience for its guests, Santorini consists of 3 villas, with the main villa consisting of 5 separate suites, each with balcony and ensuite bathrooms, as well as a shared pool as a central feature. The Chapel is a short walk from the main villa, however superbly pristine and far enough to feel complete space and privacy, making it perfect getaway for honeymoon couples, or small families. The Chapel boasts two large suites, a private pool and is serviced by a private butler. Villa de Praia is the largest of the three properties and is perfect for families or groups, with three large suites, a private pool and a personal butler and chef service.

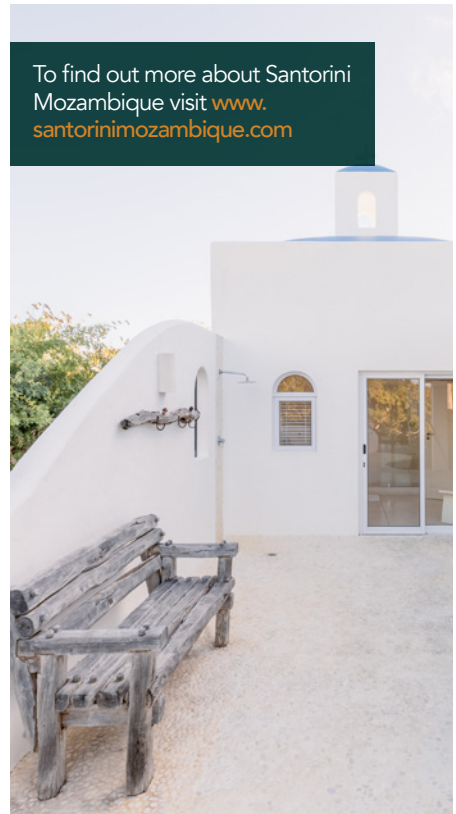
The property was built with the outside in mind, the clean, crisp, and neutral tones of the breezy, luxurious rooms are as such to accentuate the dramatic blues and reds of the views beyond. For a complete recharge guests can visit Spa Na Colina tucked away on a hill amongst palm trees and lush vegetation. Here therapists will work their magic using products created from the local marine world, awarding you unsurpassed relaxation as you surrender your mind to the magical, natural environment that surrounds you.

The pride of Santorini, Mozambique is their exceptional staff and service. The phrase "home away from home" comes to mind when considering the warm welcomes and personal touches throughout a stay. Here luxury goes

**N**estled among the red cliffs of Kingfisher Bay, sits an idyllic resort that celebrates the captivating nature of the Cycladic islands of Greece, yet looking out over the Bazaruto Archipelago. Santorini, Mozambique is like a tiny Greek village in the heart of the raw African landscape, unveiling a remarkable sanctuary for rest and relaxation as one takes in the pristine white sands of Bazaruto and the untainted clear waters of the Indian Ocean. Positioned where it is awards guests the opportunity to explore the coastal town of Vilanculos as well as the exploring the islands of the archipelago.

Guests are spoilt for choice, taking advantage of the ability to charter a vessel to snorkel the islands of the Bazaruto for a sighting of reef fish and corals






To find out more about Santorini Mozambique visit [www.santorinimozambique.com](http://www.santorinimozambique.com)

### *Exploring Bazaruto and nearby islands*

A stay at Santorini Mozambique awards guests unparalleled exploration around the famed Bazaruto Archipelago World Heritage Site and National Parks, which are ecological wonders and renowned conservation areas off the coast of Mozambique. Measuring a significant 1400km<sup>2</sup>, Bazaruto is one of the largest marine conservation areas in the Indian Ocean, ranking alongside Australia's Great Barrier Reef in diversity and beauty of its marine and coral life. Few things rival viewing Bazaruto from a state-of-the-art Eurocopter or Bell Helicopter, as you take in the pristine beaches and crystal waters below, or enjoy spotting flamingos and other sea life, historic light houses, stunning sunsets, and remnants of tides past. Taking to the skies above Bazaruto Island comes highly recommended and will leave you with many a story to tell.

You can also choose to go bill fishing, kite surfing, or enjoy the ever so scenic horseback safari as you saddle up and trot across the superb variety of white sand beaches, all the while mesmerized by the alluring golden African sunsets. Views are always best from the top and so cantering across the towering cliffs overlooking Bazaruto are nothing short of a dream, leaving you with memories to last a lifetime. 

hand in hand with a genuine humility and modesty that produce true richness and sophistication adding a welcoming warmth to its ambiance. It is truly a destination that speaks to the heart and soul of each guest, invoking a sense of tranquility and newfound awakening to the restorative power of nature.

### *Immersive culinary experiences to arouse your tastebuds.*

The magic created in the Santorini Mozambique kitchen is enchanting, with resident local chefs ensuring that food preparation and presentation is sensual as much as it is an exploration of a variety of fresh textures, vibrant colours, superb flavours and aromas to entice your tastebuds.

With a wide selection at breakfast, a 3-course lunch and 4 courses at dinner, all created from vegetables and herbs from the Villa's own garden and an option of the day's fresh catch, dining at Santorini is truly a sensory adventure. From homemade sticky granola at breakfast; crunchy gourmet pizza over lunch, the piping hot and oozing chocolate fondant at dinner; homemade ice creams at any time of day and not forgetting the incredible Irish coffee after dinner; there is something for every lover of decadent food platters and delicate treats that create a dance with every mouthful.

Those who appreciate wine will enjoy discovering Santorini's wine cellar, located off the guest kitchen. While a commendable selection of excellent wines, spirits and malts is included in the daily rate, a selection of premium wines, champagnes and spirits are available for those who wish to spoil themselves further.



A scenic view of a garden with a white wall, a stone path, and a view of mountains in the distance. The path is made of light-colored stone tiles and leads up a set of steps. A white wall with a black lantern on top runs along the path. In the background, there are green hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. A tall, thin tree stands in the middle ground. A large, dense green hedge is on the right side of the path.

# THE WANDERLUST WITHIN







# WAYS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFARI JOURNEY MAKES A MEANINGFUL IMPACT

By Luke Brown

**C**ovid-19 has brought untold suffering to millions, but it has also forced us to think differently and in so doing, ponder our decisions with more care. For example, it has forced us to pay more attention to our individual footprint in life and the resulting legacy we will leave behind for the next generation. When it comes to taking a safari, the deliberate act of being more conscious and aware about the journey is what will now define how travellers can make an impact before, during and after their safari. This approach offers safari goers a chance to enrich themselves experientially and in so doing, create measurable, positive differences for the environments and communities they will visit.

With this in my mind I offer you 10 ways below to get the most impact from your safari journey. I proffer advice to you from the planning stage through the journey itself and beyond, so that your impact need not remain a finite one.



## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

### 1. RESEARCH YOUR POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS AND MAKE YOUR CHOICE CAREFULLY

You first need to do your own research about the different safari areas in Africa, but you can also seek help from specialist safari planners and designers both in your home country and importantly on-the-ground-in-destination too (more about this in point 5). Don't only choose one source of information and please don't make the error of trying to book an African safari itinerary all on your own. There are many safari areas, but they certainly don't all offer the same thing. Wildlife, climate, people, accommodation, activities, modes of transport, landscapes, safety issues, insurances, health, and immigration requirements are just a few things that differ between destinations and must be taken into account before rushing off somewhere on this diverse African continent.

There are two broad regions to choose from, East Africa and Southern Africa. You also need to decide whether to visit one country or multiple countries. In the past safari seekers have wanted to pack in as much as possible. The Covid situation has changed that for many reasons, including the logistical challenges, as well as the newfound need to reduce the pace and pursue what is now termed a more enriching 'slow safari'.

### 2. CONSIDER HOW LONG YOU WILL SPEND ON SAFARI

How much time do you have for this important break in your life? Let's face it; a safari trip to Africa is unlikely to be cheap and the logistics can be pretty tricky, so definitely err on the side of more time, at least 10-14 days, but preferably more. This also relates back to the 'slow safari' method, where you must balance out your desire to see loads of places and have multiple experiences with a need to appreciate each day for what it brings. Africa's wilderness areas are timeless and spontaneous, so rushing your journey may leave you feeling rather unfulfilled.

The best time to view animals on safari is in the early morning or late afternoon. That's when the animals like to move about. The early mornings can take a toll on you so if you are allotting only a short amount of time in each place then you could easily wind up being exhausted by the end of the trip which kind of defies the object.

### 3. REFLECT ON WHAT YOU WANT TO PERSONALLY GET OUT OF THE JOURNEY

Set your goals carefully. Decide what you want for yourself on a personal level. Do you want the journey to transform your life in some way? Don't create unrealistic expectations but do list your desires and detail them. How will this safari make an impact on

you and your destination? Visualise the outcome. Put together this list and add clear criteria that you can easily use to measure them with when you get home. You will also be able to take this with you and check some of them off or even grow and adapt the list along the way. Remember, the list does not need to be a specific length – that's up to you.

### 4. READ UP ABOUT CONSERVATION IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY THAT WHICH IS TAKING PLACE IN YOUR CHOSEN DESTINATION

When you research your possible destinations be sure to include some reading on whether those areas have a good track record in



conservation. Fortunately, there are many countries in Africa that have done huge amounts to protect their wildlife and there are loads of bona fide organizations you can find online to get cracking with this. You will discover that there are multiple layers of conservation and different organizations plug into these different levels – these range from those on the frontline to those in support positions. Each one plays a crucial role, and one cannot succeed without the other.

A common denominator is that collectively they face a myriad of challenges, stemming from habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade and everything else in between. It is important to get some sense of what these challenges might be, so that you can be fore-armed before you travel. Once again, seek multiple sources for your information, particularly that coming out of genuine conser-

vation organizations on the ground. They tend to have years of experience in this field and are employing local people who understand the complexities intimately.

## **5. THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHO YOU WOULD WANT TO PARTNER WITH FOR SUCCESS**

You are aiming to have a safari journey of epic proportions, but of course you are going to need help to put it together. Try your best to not start this search for help before you have rigidly followed the points above. It is understandable that you may think ‘why all this extra work when I can just pay

others to do it for me?’ The trouble with this thought process is that those ‘others’ (where the help is) do not know what you want or why you want it, and if they are good at their job, they are going to ask you a bunch of things before they even start working with you. The questions they ask will be a whole lot easier to for you to answer if you have done some homework.

Don’t get me wrong, I am not asking you to go into some kind of PHD thesis or something before you speak to them. You can simply and methodically work through each of the points and believe me you will likely have fun in the process. This is going to make the world of difference in the success of your journey and will help you select your safari planners with a positive and discerning mindset. It is imperative that you find a good match for you as this can be a make-or-break moment in the safari making process. Very often safari goers end up becoming lifelong friends with their safari planners and come back to them over and over again for future trips.

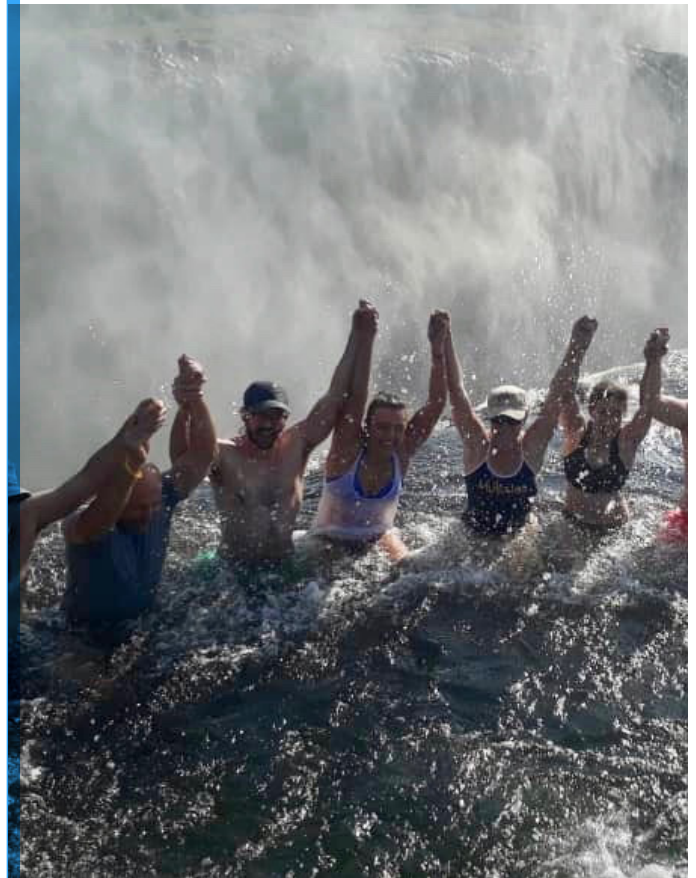
## ON THE GROUND

### 6. BE PRESENT AND MINDFUL

Finally, a dream come true, and you have made it to Africa. Now you owe it to yourself to live that dream! One of the best things you can do is put your work away and home life away. Live for the moment, be present and stay conscious during your adventures. This is where you will get maximum fulfilment and enjoyment. It will also help you to retain clear memories. Fortunately, when you visit new places this is a much easier thing to do than when you are in the throes of the sometimes-mundane daily life back in your comfort zone. If you are not sure how to be mindful, present and conscious then take a meditation course before you leave home and bring the things you learn on that with you.

### 7. ASK HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT

It really is not enough to take a safari to tick off animals alone. This is not some kind of race to achievement “I saw the Big 5, yay I am fulfilled!” Nope, there is so much more to be gained, especially if you are trying to make an impact both for yourself and the environment and communities you are visiting. Armed with questions from the research you did on conservation prior to your trip you will be able to put these to good use on the ground. Every good African safari operation has some sort of conservation focus, so take advantage of this and learn about what they are doing on the ground. If it is something that resonates with you then ask what you can do to help. Try not to impose your perceived solutions on anyone unless you really understand what you are talking about.



## ONCE YOU GET HOME

### 8. MEASURE THE IMPACT OF YOUR JOURNEY

Once you are settled back at home do yourself justice by taking time to honour the memory by reliving it in your memoirs, videos and pictures. This is very important, but at the same time this is also the perfect chance to go back to that list of criteria you made before you left. What did you achieve? Did you transform yourself? Did you help someone or something on the ground? Can you continue to help? You will have your own personalised list so take the time to measure your safari’s impact by it. Some of the criteria may have evolved now that you have taken the trip – that doesn’t matter, but the important thing is to follow the process. This may be one of the most important things you ever do in your life. Many people that visit Africa on a safari for the first time are somehow touched deeply by it. I do not say this lightly, but don’t be surprised if you end up booking more trips or get involved in projects taking place in the destinations in some shape or form. You may be able to assist remotely, or you may wish to get back out there again as soon as possible. The choice is yours.



## 9. SPREAD THE WORD

Tell as many people as you can about your safari trip. I am hoping that most of it will be positive. It is rare to find the opposite, but of course there will be things that did not live up to your expectations. Nothing is perfect, although I would happily put myself out there and say that getting extremely near perfect is certainly a distinct possibility on a safari to Africa. The reasons for telling lots of people include 'bragging rights' about the experiences and encounters you had. At this stage I am trusting that you took a great deal of care during your trip to understand and appreciate the conservation and community challenges on the ground. You are now in a position to spread the word correctly about these. Proffer to others how they can learn from you to understand them. You will also have started to get some idea of the solutions that create lasting success. Share these with your friends, family and colleagues. Get them excited for they too can make an impact if they get a taste for what a safari can do for them.

## 10. PLAN YOUR NEXT MOVE TO ENSURE A LASTING LEGACY OF IMPACT

So, what next? You have documented your journey and you have shared your wisdom about it. The temptation may be to leave it at that. The world is a big place and maybe it's time to turn your attention to the next place you want

to visit. Those places also have loads to offer you, but if you leave the last piece of this process out then you won't make that lasting impact that you set out to do. Does this step need to take lots of extra effort? It may be perceived to be so, but in reality, it does not have to at all. Quite possibly, on your discoveries during the safari, you will have found that one conservation effort that just sits right with you. You have the option to donate something to them each month. Why not trade in that takeaway coffee just one day a week in favour of this? Or you may join a social group that spread awareness for the plight of wildlife in Africa. The mere gesture means that you have committed to staying the game. Others of you may want to ramp this up further, make bigger donations or actually give of your time to do more. There are so many ways one can help and create a lasting impact. Don't forget what I said earlier about the very high number of safari goers that after their first visit decided that their connection with Africa's wild spaces needs to stay with them! This can happen very easily, and you will definitely know it when it comes. <sup>AV</sup>

## Conservation Kabunga – an event not to be missed:

On the 31st of March 2021 Luke will be hosting the inaugural Conservation Kabunga, an online gathering of people passionate about wildlife conservation and its related community upliftment in Africa. Everyone, from the novice to the expert conservationist is welcome and there is no charge. The Kabunga will last approximately 2 hours and has some incredible speakers with lots of chance for interaction with the audience. The Keynote address will be delivered by the Right Honourable Lord William Hague of Richmond, who works closely with Prince William and is the Chairman of the Royal Foundation as well as the United for Wildlife Task Forces.

### About the Author

Luke Brown is based in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. He is the co-owner of Vayeni – Safari Experts in Africa [www.vayeni.com](http://www.vayeni.com) and a co-founder of the Zambesia Conservation Alliance [www.zambesia.com](http://www.zambesia.com). He is a co-moderator of the We Share Africa group on Facebook, a space for all those passionate about Africa's wild spaces and communities can share their stories.



“IT’S A LIFESTYLE”  
*with* PATRICIABLACC





# W

we all dream of being globe trotters – exploring the Big City Lights in the Big Apple, eating croissants under the Eiffel Tower in Paris, or even taking selfies outside the Big Ben in London ... but very few of us dream of travelling and discovering the beauties within our own countries. Imagine if we all dedicated as much time and effort into travelling in and around our own countries as we did when planning an overseas trip. What would discovering the hidden gems within our nations do for our soul - from the day-to-day activities or even just exploring more of the night life? Given a chance to do so, I think we would come to the realisation of just how much there is to explore and uncover about the places we call home.

Let us take South Africa as a prime example – my home. Nine provinces, title holder of two world wonders, known for its wine farms and vineyards and being one of the major economic hubs of Africa to name a few points. Each province holds a different story, a different culture and a different message waiting to be explored. Gauteng is known for its gold and tenacious nature, beaming with luxury and status. Kwa-Zulu Natal, nicknamed “the warmest place to be” and Home of the King Shaka, as well as the Zulu warriors, is better known for its hustle and bustle nature and world class entertainment. The Western Cape; what many describe as the European region of South Africa because of the colonial influences, is known for its aesthetically pleasing coffee shops, urban nature and who could forget the ever so beautiful wine farms & vineyards.....

Now – let me take a moment to talk about these wine farms cause whew chile, I cannot get enough.

Stellenbosch and Franschhoek are home to the wine estates of many famous wine brands within the country; namely Rupert and Rothschild, Darling Cellars, La Motte and even Boschendal. Acres and acres of land stretch with vineyards looking out at the mountain views, greenery that stretches as far as you can



see and the bluest skies to marvel. With décor that radiates the truest luxury and wine tasting so good, you will want to bathe in it.

I am on a personal mission to travel within my country, discover the hidden gems and document the beauty that lies within. And Ugh, how can I forget? You must be wondering who I am...

I am a South African 22-year-old girl with a passion for travel, social media and people waiting to tell their stories. My content creating persona goes by the name of Patricia Blacc, but I was born Reneilwe Sebulela. I'm a self-proclaimed global citizen, having studied my fashion degree in Paris, France, living and working in New York City for a chunk of my post graduate years and travelled around Europe in search of the greatness that the world had to offer. Now residing in Cape Town, I am a firm believer that travelling is the best thing that money can buy. Learning different cultures and immersing myself in the perspectives of the world has allowed me to broaden my scope of thinking, helping me build a more globally conscious view on things.

I created 'PatriciaBlacc' in 2017 as a blog journaling my journey to self-discovery and self-acceptance as an 18-year-old fresh out of high school and living in a foreign country. Over the years, the blog has not only turned into a personal brand but has morphed into a lifestyle platform that I use to document my travel experiences, daily encounters and create meaningful and inspirational content.

### **PATRICIABLACC AND THE WINE ESTATE LIFESTYLE**

Wine Farms have become my latest obsession (\* inserts heart eyes\*). We are often so captivated with final products - the wines themselves - that we forget about the beauty that lies in the process of the actual creation of the wine, its historic background, and the farms where the grapes are harvested. Nothing says "top-notch experience" for me like being able to walk through the wine cellars whilst listening to how the wines are aged, bottles are packaged and distributed across the country or exported. And who could forget the ever so amazing experience of wine tasting. Three or Five different histories, tastes, and effects on the palette? Are you convinced yet?

**I have only been in the Cape for a very short period, but I have already visited and worked up a list of my three favorite wine farms/estates so far, with more to add I'm sure...**

#### **1. BOSCHENDAL WINE FARM**

Located in the Franschhoek region, this wine farm will have you in awe the entire time. The luscious greenery stretching for acres with the mountain scenery as a backdrop is incredibly pristine. The wine farm has a large selection of wines and sparkling wines to taste and an even better selection of lunch dishes if you decide to join them for lunch. I recommend you sit by the terrace facing the garden and order the fish Risotto dish. Thank me later...

#### **2. LA PETITE FERME**

Also, in the Franschhoek Area, this wine farm has prestige and luxury written all over it. The minute you step through its doors, you are welcomed with the grand view of the vineyards and mountains ahead. The menu is slightly limited but offers a fine dining experience with dishes that include beetroot gnocchi and filet mignon. With a selection of reds, whites, and sparkling wines to choose from, this wine farm is perfect for a Sunday afternoon in the sun.

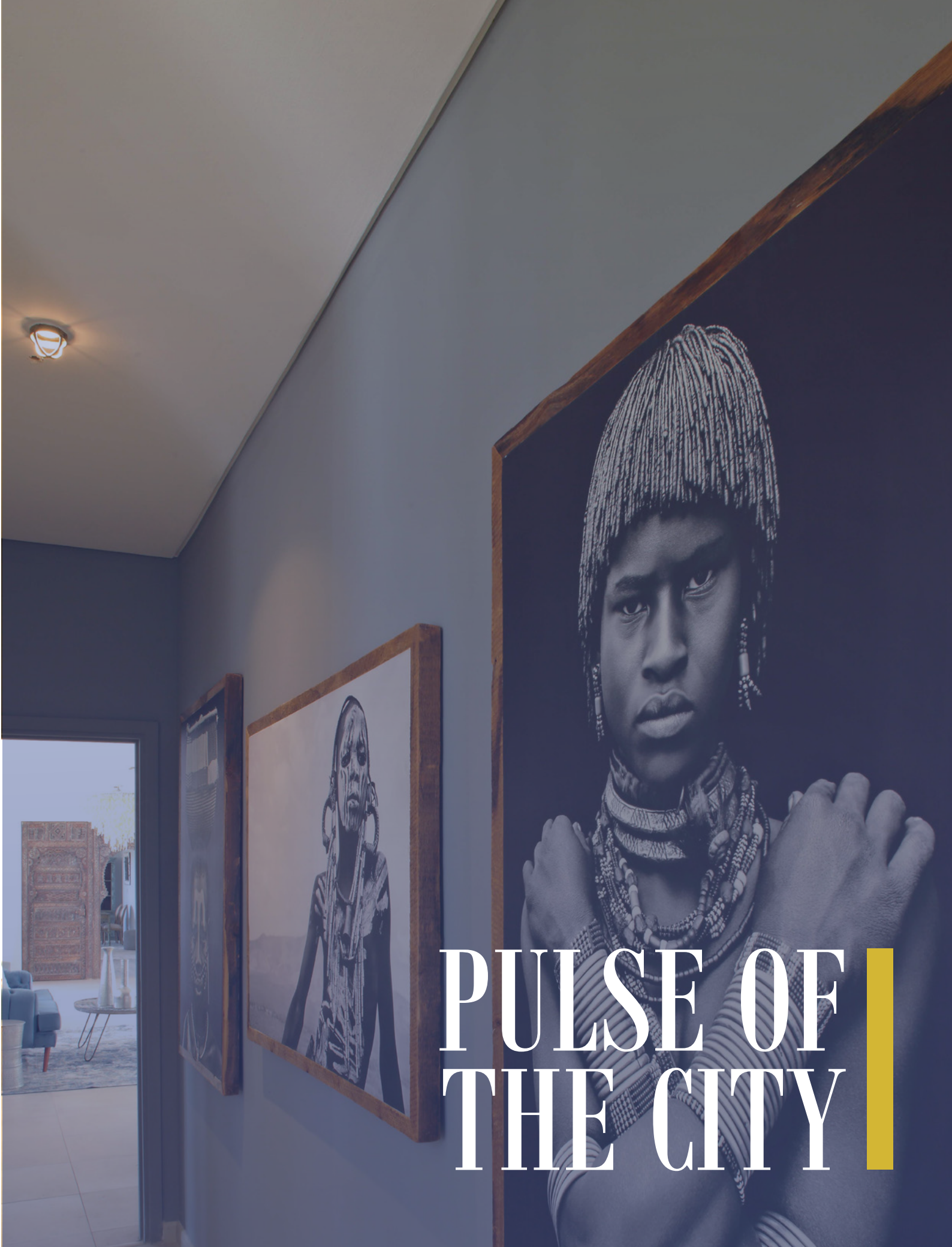
#### **3. CONSTANTIA GLEN**

Located in the Constantia region (home of the original wine farms – or so I was told), this stunning wine farm is located on top of the mountain and tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Slightly closer in distance from the Cape Town City center, Constantia Glen offers the greatest quick city escapes, a wine tasting menu that is rich with family history and a lunch menu that is sure to satisfy any of your cravings. Views stretch as far as your eye can see, looking over the entire cape. Trust me when I say this; you won't be disappointed. 🍷



To get a glimpse of more of her love for lifestyle, Connect with PatriciaBlacc on

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# PULSE OF THE CITY |



# GET SOCIAL IN THE HEART OF GABORONE

**A**vani Gaborone Hotel & Casino is located in Botswana's capital city and offers leisure travellers a great city escape and businesspeople, a sophisticated conference and meeting spaces with the added advantage of a premium casino. A stay at the heart of Gaborone gives guests access to all the city action, nearby wildlife, and plenty of fun on site.

Gaborone is the commercial heart of Botswana and Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino with its excellent dining establishments, lifestyle events and conference facilities offers just the right blend of hospitality, business, and leisure.



A big draw card at Avani Gaborone Resort & Casino is the casino. The up-market gaming area has 11 tables and numerous progressive slot machines for players looking to hit the jackpot.

### FOR YOUR SUMPTUOUS SERVINGS...

Dining at the hotel turns into a sophisticated intimate affair at **Mahogany restaurant**, which has a large and varied menu of international and local favourites. Mahogany's restaurant sets itself apart as the ideal location to experience amazing food, in an intimate and classy setting. The menu includes 100% locally sourced beef which is grass-fed and organically reared, providing patrons with honest and authentic food. Some of the menu highlights include a Beef Fillet Steak Diane, flambéed with cognac and served with tofu and steamed vegetables and a Cape Seafood Chowder, made with mussels, line-fish shrimps, served with saffron and Pernod. An extensive wine menu provides endless options for every whim and taste.

**The Savuti Grill** is a quick service restaurant offering an extensive carvery for lunch and dinner. This is also

the venue for an extravagant English breakfast or if you prefer, a continental breakfast of baguettes, croissants and a variety of jams and cheeses.


**The Pool Bar and Restaurant** has become Gaborone's social and lifestyle spot. Hosting some of Gaborone's must attend lifestyle events ranging from art exhibitions, music events and wine tasting festivals - it's also a perfect spot to unwind during summer while enjoying a delicious cocktail or a refreshing local beer.

The hotel has sophisticated conference facilities that appeal to incentive and conference organisers mainly because of the superiority of the venues, the high-tech equipment and the excellent and professional service offered by the banqueting team. The PEO Executive Lounge offers the executive guest wonderful privileges such as choice of two breakfast venues, access to a selection of refreshments served throughout the day in the lounge. Complimentary evening canapés and drinks are served daily in the Peo Executive Lounge. The business lounge offers three small private meeting rooms and the common area accommo-

dates six to eight people around the main table plus an additional three desks for individual use.

### ABOUT TOWN WHEN IN "GABS"

City highlights in Gaborone include Botswana Craft store which offers authentic African art and basket-ware, The Three Dikgosi monument in Gaborone's business district, which features the statues of the chiefs responsible for Botswana's independence and the Riverwalk Mall. The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Tour offered by tour operator; Africa Insight is highly recommended. The tour takes in many of the sites referenced in Alexander McCall Smith's No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency' series including Zebra Way (Zebra Road in the books) where the fictional main character, Mma Ramotswe lives, The University of Botswana, the rural village of Mochudi and the car yard and workshop that Speedy Motors was modelled on. At each location the guide vividly brings to life the characters from the books with additional interesting information about Botswana's history and culture.

The Sir Seretse Khama International Airport is 15km from the hotel and there are daily direct international flights available from Gaborone to OR Tambo International Airport. 





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87

91

89  
DANIELLE



A row of colorful houses in the foreground, including shades of pink, blue, yellow, and black. The houses are set against a backdrop of a hilly landscape with green trees and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

*BO-KAAP.*

A CELEBRATION OF  
COLOUR AND RICH  
CAPETONIAN HISTORY

Cape Town has long stood as one of Southern Africa's top travel destinations, with travellers from all over the world venturing to this picturesque city for its beautiful beaches, rolling winelands and so much more. Cape Town is truly a postcard destination that offers activities for both the young and the old, creating unforgettable memories for both.

Affectionately referred to as the 'Mother City' by locals, Cape Town within its environs, possesses a hidden gem that has become quite intriguing for tourists looking for experiences that connect them with the heart of the city's culture and heritage. Bo-Kaap, a residential area in Cape Town, boasts a history and vibe that is truly distinctive. Definitely a place you don't want to miss when you visit the beautiful sunshine city of Cape Town, Bo-Kaap is an old part of the city, viewed as being emblematic of the nation's journey to freedom and post-Apartheid triumph. As you walk through the cobbled streets of Bo-Kaap, its multi-coloured buildings tell a compelling story of this neighbourhood and its residents, in a tour that will remain etched in your mind for a lifetime.

### *The History of Bo-Kaap*

Bo-Kaap, which means 'above the Cape' is a township situated on the slopes of Signal Hill above the city centre. It was once known as Malay Quarter, and today, it stands on the strong history of its ancestors who fought to have a place in this world after being displaced from what they called home.

Bo-kaap dates to the 1700s, where it became a settlement for slaves initially brought in from Malaysia, Indonesia, and other parts of Africa. Their cultures became intertwined, and the community was predominantly Muslim, and so built the Auwal Mosque in 1794 as a symbol of their faith and culture. The community continued to grow and in the 1800s, Bo Kaap became a hub for tradesmen, craftsmen and artisans, and a safe haven for the Muslims. However, even though





the people worked to build their own community, they still had a long fight for power or basic rights.

It is said that inhabitants of this community could only wear dull white and grey coloured clothes and their homes were the same dull colours. During the apartheid era, a dark time in South Africa's history, Bo-Kaap was occupied by British colonists who also wanted the houses to be a certain way. In 1994, when South Africa gained independence, the residents of Bo-Kaap were able to buy and own these homes, and they decided to paint the houses as a celebration of their true freedom. This is the tale told today about what prompted the vibrant colours.

### *Bo-Kaap Today*

Because Bo-Kaap is such an attraction to tourists from far and wide, it has fast

evolved into a tourist area, with arts and crafts shops within the neighbourhood, tours taking place a few times a day and more. With street art to marvel at, with some of the art having been done by some famed South African artists, such as the famous mural by Jason Sonny that has brought many art lovers to the neighbourhood, there are plenty sites that make Bo-Kaap perfectly Instagrammable. The Auwal Masjid is also a popular landmark, as it was the first mosque to be built in Bo-Kaap by the Cape-Malay slave settlers.

### *Lots to keep you wanting to stay longer in Cape Town*

Tour the streets of Cape Town as you venture from Sea-Point, through to Bo-Kaap and the V&A Waterfront. Whether you tour on foot or on bike, you stand to gain a true appreciation of the town.

From serene beachfront to beautiful views and vibe of the waterfront, eat your way through the tour, immersing yourself in the unique cuisines that Cape Town has to offer. From eateries offering local delicacies, to the famous food spots, the Mother City is an unsurpassed invitation to explore the culture using your palette.

If a little outdoor adventure is your idea of a good time, then hiking up Table Mountain is something you can't miss. You can also take a trip outside the city, to the Cape of Good Hope and fall in love with the other side of Cape Town; which offers the tranquil coastline, breathtaking beaches, and up-close encounter with the beautiful penguins in their habitat. Learn about the history of the Cape Peninsula and the other landscapes as you stand at the edge of Africa and take in the fresh sea air.

Bo-Kaap's rich history, blend of culture and colourful vibe, is a great place to add to your Capetonian holiday itinerary, whether you start or end one of the days of your trip in this neighbourhood of colourful pretty houses with great historical significance to behold. 📍



# LATITUDE 0° KAMPALA: AN URBAN CHIC OASIS IN UGANDA'S CAPITAL



Sir Winston Churchill called Uganda the “Pearl of Africa”. Avid explorers of Africa today can pull together a myriad of reasons why Uganda is a must-visit in the continent’s Eastern region. With a warm and friendly people, vast landscapes that avail you remarkable encounters with nature, the ability to take your money further, cultural diversity that is in fact synonymous with every nation in Africa, and an enviable nightlife that will satisfy the curiosity of every entertainment fiend, there’s a lifestyle brand that has set its mark in the city, presenting a hospitality haven for the posh and chic resident or tourist while in Kampala.



**L**atitude 0° Kampala is carefully designed and crafted to fit among the indigenous trees and orchids atop Makindye Hill, six kilometres south-east of the city of Kampala. An urban oasis with stellar views to Lake Victoria, it is a destination easy to access, but harder to leave. This boutique hotel offers 30 spacious guest rooms, and 15 suites of varying sizes,

a restaurant, bar and lounge with a crystal pool and lake view terraces, combining signature Latitude twists, with a modern and vibrant Africa.

For the patron who sets a premium on exclusivity, Latitude 0° Kampala is also home to a private club, The Other Side, where guests and local members a separate environment that raises the bar on socialising, dining, enjoying a great cocktail, networking, and entertainment. The space is coupled with contemporary work and meeting spaces, a fully equipped gym, and a spa



within LATITUDE 0°, a sanctuary to pamper the body, mind, and soul. At Latitude though, above and beyond the distinctive offering, is the fact that it has become well established as Kampala's high end social and stylish spot, a unique juxtaposition of a place that celebrates people, places from which they come, while fostering an environment that stimulates connections with both locals and international visitors alike.

### A HAVEN FOR REST

Whether you are visiting for business, or popping in before or after your safari adventures, Latitude 0° will have guest rooms that surprise and delight. Each room and suite make use of natural light, and plentiful tree canopies to create spaces that are soothing and stylish, bedecked with luxurious linens, sumptuous fabrics and furniture, and bespoke artworks. Rooms come with all the trimmings that make for an epic yet relaxing stay in the Ugandan capital, and for those travelling with families and groups, or even those guests that choose to stay longer, the hotel boasts suites in one and two bed configurations with an abundance of space to stretch out.

### TANTALISING DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCES

The Latitude 0° kitchens create gastronomic delights that fuse together flavours from all corners of the world and offer an alluring array of wines curated from some of the most well-known estates in South Africa and Europe. But their gourmet offering isn't just about the food; it's also



about the surroundings, the atmosphere, and the buzz of fellow diners, all combined with a service to match.

The experience is everything about where and how you decide to dine, with their main restaurant, The Other Side club, or even the rooftop cocktail bar being some of the options. Inside or outside? Garden, pool, or lake view? Something light and healthy, a fine dining experience, or informal sharing dishes are perfect for creating connections with those with whom you are networking or socialising. All bars will concoct drinks and cocktails to satiate while you unwind, sitting on the deck overlook-






ing the pool, or the shimmering Muchison Bay of Lake Victoria.

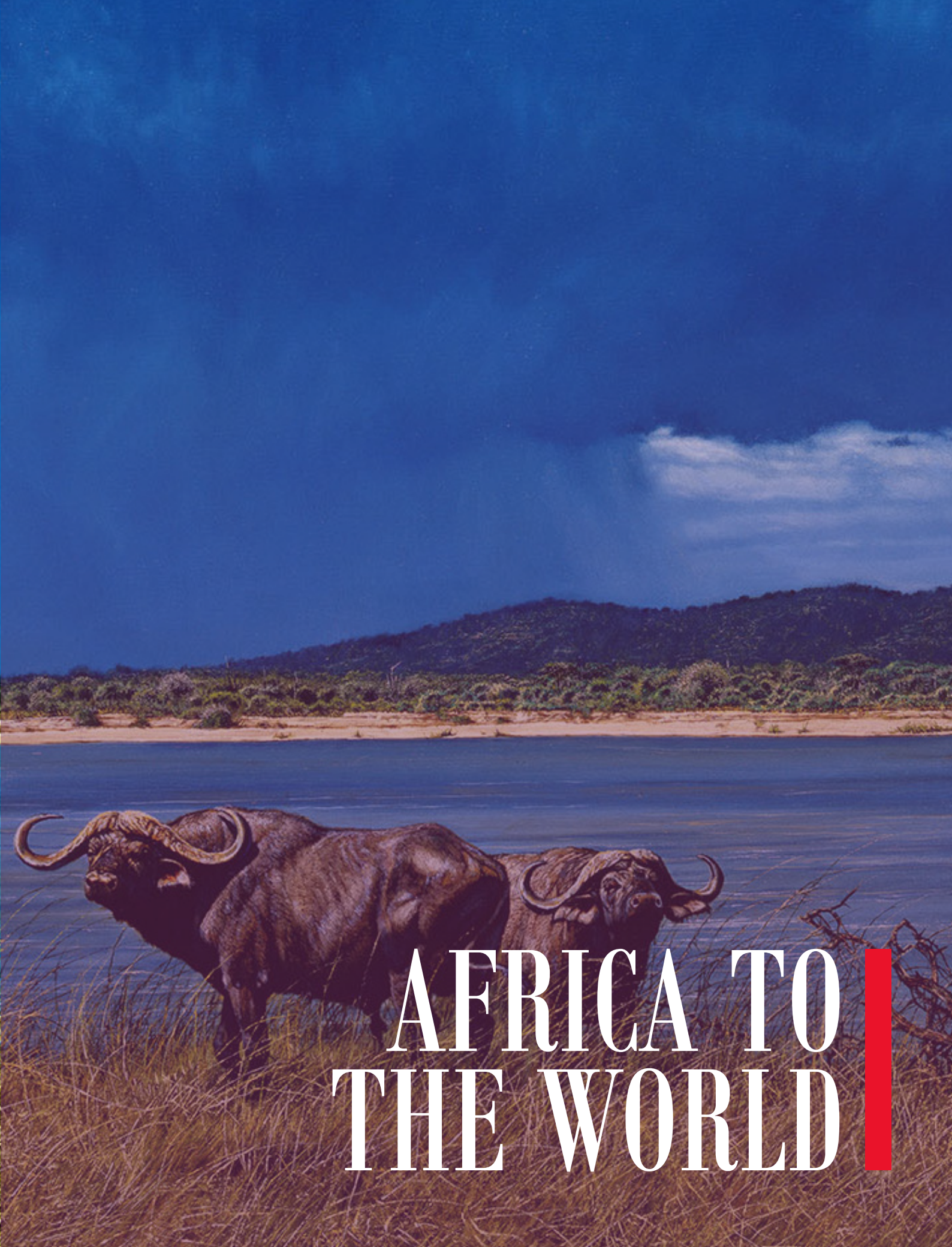
## WHY STAY AT LATITUDE HOTELS?

The answer to this question will appeal to patrons who are always on the lookout for best-in-class experiences that invoke the spirit of welcoming African hospitality. The brand's DNA incorporates the belief that a unique African-centric hospitality group can provide the very best of experiences at a reasonable cost. Consequently, the cookie-cutting, formulaic approach which blurs brand recognition is replaced by a sustainable, exuberantly fresh series of offerings, showcasing the very best of local, each of them being unique and yet a recognisable part of a growing African brand.

Latitude Hotels believe that the success of each offering requires a strong local flavour with a contemporary feel - which means building solid local partnerships, emphasising local art and the expertise of the local pool of labour available. The Latitude Hotels promise is one of bespoke and personal attention, with space to stretch out in private rooms, sofas to sink into and gardens for quiet reflection. 







# AFRICA TO THE WORLD





# Farai Machingura

## ON REVOLUTIONIZING THE DUBAI AFRO SOCIAL CIRCLES

**F**arai is the Co-Founder of The Circle Socials, an entertainment brand that is raising the stakes in bringing to the fore eclectic events that target the African diaspora and wider expat community in Dubai. Travel Essence Magazine caught up with Farai to speak on his journey to entrepreneurship since relocating to the UAE.

### 1. WHERE TO START BUT TO START BY ASKING ABOUT YOU. WHO IS FARAI AND WHAT 5 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU AS AN ENTREPRENEUR?

Farai is a small-town boy, born in Harare who grew up in Marondera, which is about 30mins from the capital city of Zimbabwe – Harare. I think I am defined by my origin story and being a kid, I imagined this massive world which made me very curious. My 5 words are bold, refreshing, eager, daring, and persistent.

### 2. YOU ARE ZIMBABWEAN IN ORIGIN. TALK TO US ABOUT WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE UAE?

So, moving to Dubai for me was just one of those times you hear about when people say: “I was at the right place at the right time.” Life handed me an opportunity and I took it. It was never premeditated or anything, it just happened, and I never expected to come and find myself in a desert...but I did. I got here in 2015 and I saw the endless opportunities to create something new, but at that time I just did

not know what it was, but I knew for sure that there was something for me here.

### 3. WHAT INSPIRED YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING AN ENTERTAINMENT ENTREPRENEUR AND WHERE WOULD YOU SAY YOUR JOURNEY BEGAN?

My journey started in 2018. I was a bartender at the time, but I would write ideas on a small paper and just stuff those in my pocket. Fast forward to a few months later, I got a new job but there was a mess up in the onboarding and I had to join the new company 2months later instead of immediately. So, I was there with 2 months of pure nothingness and I came across one of my papers I stuffed in my pocket, and it said: “If I know 2 people, those 2 people know 2 people, it becomes a gathering”. It clicked immediately and for the first time in my life I knew what I was supposed to do. Since then, I have not slept! Lol.

### 4. THE CIRCLE SOCIALS HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT OF A HOUSEHOLD NAME FOR THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY LOOKING FOR A MUSICALLY IMMERSIVE NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN. TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR BRAND CIRCLE SOCIALS. WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT SETS YOU APART FROM OTHER EVENT PROMOTERS IN THE DUBAI DINING AND NIGHTLIFE SPACE AT THE MINUTE?

With The Circle Socials, we specialize in exper-

imental concepts that elevate brands into popular culture and share worthy immersive moments. We love the creative solution, we live for unexpected design, unique experience, and seamless production. From concept creation to execution, we combine seasoned knowledge with inspiration. Cohesive creativity is our touchstone, where no detail goes unconsidered; be it food service, entertainment, or design. These unite in harmony.

**5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED AS A ZIMBABWEAN/AFRICAN ENTREPRENEUR NAVIGATING A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE ENTERTAINMENT LANDSCAPE?**

One of my biggest challenges is adapting to the 'norms' of Dubai. In creating themed events, at times you are limited to how you can express a particular idea or culture because of guidelines and nightlife policies. However, once you understand more about how things work you are about to carefully navigate yourself. Also, putting across a new concept and idea is not the easiest thing to do. People like what they like, and it is our job to make them like new things.

**6. WHAT ROLE HAS CREATIVE COLLABORATION PLAYED IN LAUNCHING AND POSITIONING YOUR BRAND?**

Massive, I have worked with some amazing brands that have taught me so much and you get to understand that you can never build Rome alone. You will always need help, advice, and a different perspective. Shout out to Kiza Dubai, Savanna Creations, African Market Team, Zikora, Bite Club, We are Those Guys Events, Stansy&Co, Respect the Tribe, Haukuri Creations, & UAE African Networking Group. All these and more are not just brands, that are breaking grounds in their fields, but they are also empowering a generation of African Entrepreneurs, and we appreciate them all.

“With The Circle Socials, we specialize in experimental concepts that elevate brands into popular culture and share worthy immersive moments. We love the creative solution, we live for unexpected design, unique experience and seamless production.”

– FARAI MACHINGURA





#### **7. ENTERTAINMENT IN THE COVID-19 ERA. WHAT'S YOUR TAKE?**

Unstable, however it is everyone's responsibility to be safe and help curb the spread of Covid-19. As we host events, we are also playing our part by following the regulations and rules as per Dubai Authorities. We also would like to thank the Dubai Authorities for constantly making efforts to ensure we are safe and taking strides to try to get things back to normal.

#### **8. KEY EVENTS ON THE CIRCLE SOCIALS EVENT CALENDAR THAT YOUR FOLLOWERS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES?**


We are working with a very popular Cognac brand that will be featuring at all our events and their brand ambassador Riky Rick is one of our most exciting additions to our First Season line-up along with DJ Maphorisa and a few other surprises coming up when entertainment permits come back.

#### **9. LET'S GET A LITTLE PERSONAL WITH FA-RAI. BEYOND ENJOYING AN INCREDIBLY VIBRANT SOCIAL LIFE, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO IN YOUR QUIETER MOMENTS?**

Well, I enjoy jogging a lot. Spending time with my

better half is on top of my list! I also make time for friends and family, as I have nephews that work and live in Dubai. Besides that, I think a lot of my personal time has a lot to do with resting my mind and just taking time to appreciate those around me and how God has just blessed my journey in my ways.

#### **10. WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANY AFRICAN EXPATS LOOKING TO START THEIR BUSINESS IN THIS MARKET? WHAT HAVE BEEN THE KEY LEARNINGS FOR YOU AS YOU BUILD YOUR BRAND IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ICONIC DESTINATIONS?**

I think the best advice I was told was "Start the journey with whatever you have". One thing about being an entrepreneur is that you constantly need to make use of what you have at the moment. You will never have enough, and you will never have the perfect timing or moment. Your moment is now! Another thing is you must be ready to put in the work. We get so carried away with the end product, but we forget to think about the process to becoming top tier in your field. We should also seek guidance and mentorship from those who have been in the game! You will learn a lot if you pay close attention. And last but not least - NEVER STOP TRYING TO OUT DO YOUR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS! 





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# An encounter with Larry Norton

Captivating art lovers with brushstrokes depicting nature.

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arry Norton's talent emerged very early, drawing compulsively from the age of 2. His grandmother was an amateur painter and always believed that one day he would paint full time. She gave him his first set of oil paints at the age of 10, encouraging what she perceived as an artistic destiny.

After completing an agricultural degree in Australia, he decided to change direction and launched into a full-time painting career that has ultimately brought him to his studio and

home base in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Larry's work has been exhibited worldwide, with his journey beginning with a one man show in a gallery in New York, which in time led to another one man show in London, and subsequent exhibitions worldwide. Based in his native Zimbabwe, his work has been sought and commissioned by collectors over decades.

## *The inspiration behind the paintings*

The key to his paintings is a hard-earned wealth of African experiences. Many gruelling field trips and expeditions have added authenticity to his pieces. These journeys have ranged from a year-long flight through 18 African Countries, with Bush pilot Tom Claytor, to a three-month descent of the Zambezi River.

His work has helped to raise money for conservation and other charities throughout his career, as he works in a classical style that celebrates the myriad of details to be found in the surrounding bush. Working mostly in his favorite medium of oils on canvas, he also produces field studies in pencil and watercolors.

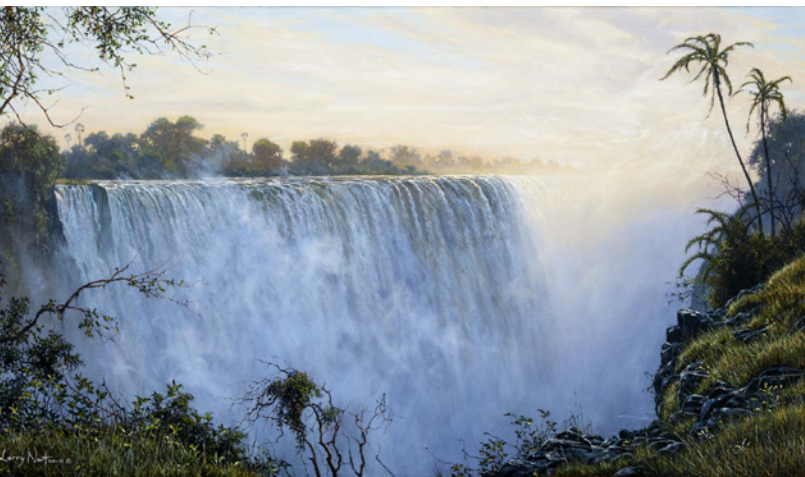
## Paintings:



### LONG SANDS OF GONAREZHOU

104 x 226 cm, fine art print on canvas

This was the third piece in a series of 10 massive paintings of Zimbabwe undertaken by the artist. Beginning as a field painting, the challenges were immense as heat, wind and a passage of elephant and other game were constant companions in this incredible place.



### MORNING LIGHT ON THE FALLS

61x102 cm, fine art print on canvas

Spray and mist and roaring cataracts characterise the Falls at dawn.

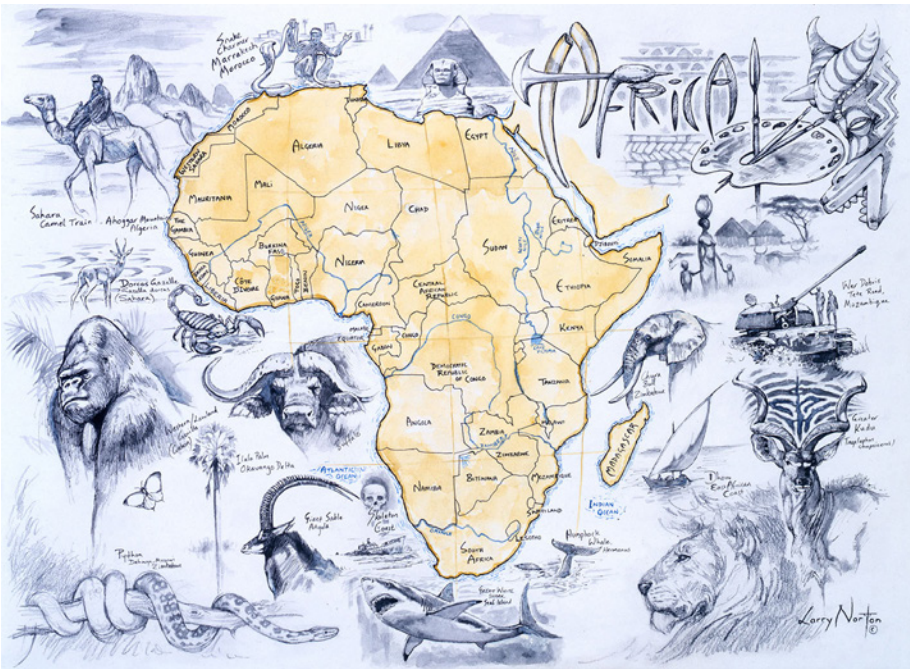
### MEAN, BUFFALO BULL IN GREEN GRASS.

61x91 cm, fine art print on canvas

During a week-long hike through the Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe Larry encountered this lone bull glaring back from a thicket, deep in the backcountry.







**AFRICA MAP II**

**42x58 cm, fine art print on canvas**  
 Sketched vignettes allude to life, adventure, and the wonders of the African continent.



**DESERT DREAM**

**60x91 cm, fine art print on canvas**  
 A trio of Gemsbok drift across the shifting sands and painted shadows of Skeleton Coast desert in north western Namibia. Contorted ridges of black granite and gneiss rise out of the surreal landscape. Observing this scene was like watching the elements in a dream of a different world.



**ETOSHA SKYLIGHT**

**60x91 cm, fine art print on canvas**  
 In the vastness that is Etosha, three Gemsbok bulls move beneath a dramatic sky, flirtatious with the promise of rain. Shafts of light penetrate windows in the clouds and dull the hope of a thirsting land.



### ZAMBEZI STORM

**71x101 cm, fine art print on canvas**

A heavy storm builds over the Zambezi river. Two buffalo bulls are alert as the wind draws in the darkening sky. The rain in Africa has always fascinated Larry. He continues to paint these scenes often trying to capture the remarkable atmosphere.

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### NEAR KENNEDY PAN

**46x91 cm, fine art print on canvas**

Portrait of an elephant bull near Kennedy Pan. Great conservation efforts keep looking after our wildlife through this testing time.

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### TEMBWAHATA PAN

**91x122 cm, fine art print on canvas**

A hundred stories seem intertwined at this busy pan, deep in the Gonarezhou bush. Larry camped here for a few days whilst sketching out the canvas for the final painting. "It was like walking through the unfolding pages of a storybook," he says. Wherever he looked, there were herds of game, flocks of birds and swarms of insects interacting, feeding, hunting, and playing in thick riverine bush.

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### PLACE OF ANGELS

**105 x 285 cm, fine art print on canvas, limited edition**

This massive painting of the Victoria Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world, was completed in 2019. Double rainbows, and a diffused central rainbow emphasized the exceptional beauty of this place. An elephant bull feeds on Cataract Island, a pair of bushbuck browse on the lip of Devil's Cataract and trumpeter Hornbills traverse the thundering abyss. This place of haunting beauty and exquisite light has long been described as a place of angels.

Larry's biggest wish is that his paintings inspire others to share his love for this continent, it's people, landscapes, and wildlife. His work may be seen in the Larry Norton Gallery, located in the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel. The artist undertakes commissions and sells fine art prints on canvas as well as a full gift range is on display in the gallery. 

Follow his work on  
 @Larry.Norton  
and on  under  
Larry Norton Art



# A CALL FOR *Contributors*

ARE YOU A **HOTEL, TOUR OR WILDERNESS CAMP OPERATOR** OFFERING DISTINCTIVE EXPERIENCES YOU WANT PROSPECTIVE GUESTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT?

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE COVERAGE OF YOUR **TRAVEL, HOSPITALITY, LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE BRAND** AND OPERATION TO EXPAT TRAVELLERS IN THE UAE?

ARE YOU A **TRAVEL BLOGGER OR CONTENT CREATOR** LOOKING TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH THE WORLD THROUGH AN ENGAGING TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE FOCUSED PLATFORM?

Register your interest in becoming a contributor or send your proposed content (press release, feature article, listing guides or reviews) to [info@travelessencemag.com](mailto:info@travelessencemag.com).

All content should be accompanied by relevant hi-resolution images or video content, facts sheets and a bio for personality profile pieces.

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