

JOBURG NORTHERN SUBURBS

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BEACH VIBES

We're cruising into Summer

The world is your oyster ... pearls to swoon over
ALSO ...
Lobsters and snoek and sardines (and not just to eat!)
Plus fashion with a nod to nautical

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NOVEMBER 25



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COVER PHOTO

With inspo coming from the beach this Summer, we'll be wearing these Arizona Big Buckle EVA Mauve (R1599) from BIRKENSTOCK. You'll find the latest summer styles in stores across South Africa and online at www.bashafrica.com. @Birkenstocza #BirkenstockZA

Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa
transparency you can see

NOVEMBER 25

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Engage in music, musicals, workshops and more

01 **Ross Learmonth Live** in the heart of the city. The former voice and frontman of Prime Circle takes to the stage for a night of singing, high energy and connection. Arrive to musical entertainment in The Park Bar areas before doors open. Also giving you a performance on the night will be Matthew Charles. Delish food and drinks will be on sale. 6pm to 10.30pm at The Capital On The Park, 101 Kathrine Street, Sandton on November 1. Tickets cost R350 and includes a complimentary drink. Book through howler.co.za

04 Follow the crack-a-lackin' bunch, Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe, Gloria the 'Hip Hip Hippo' and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they "*Move it ! Move it!*" in the escapade of a lifetime in **Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR**. Based on the smash DreamWorks animated film, Madagascar, you can expect plenty of laugh out loud moments. Peoples Theatre stage from November 4 to December 24. Tickets cost R175 per person. Book online at www.joburgtheatre.com or www.webtickets.co.za



Calling all plant lovers to learn more about propagation, plant care and styling at **The Houghton Bonsai, Succulent and Plant Show**. Shop all things green, view displays and buy bonsais and succulents directly from suppliers. The show also offers a range of interactive workshops and exciting demonstrations. Killarney Mall in Johannesburg from November 7 to 9. Entrance is free. *Details: www.bonsaiandsucculentshow.com*

07 Unlock your best healthy glowing skin with the **SKOON Woolworths Skincare Masterclass**. Expect guidance on identifying your skin type and needs, insight into key ingredients and how they work, step-by-step routine-building, live product demos and application techniques as well as interactive Q&A with the team. Guests will walk away educated and with a gift valued at R500. Noon until 2pm at Woolworths Rosebank Mall on November 7. Tickets cost R250 through quicket.co.za

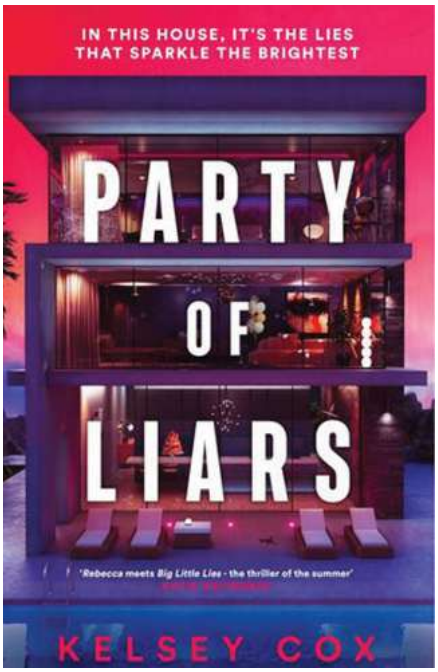
08 **Musical Chairs** … a childhood game evolved into a story blending traditional theatre, physical theatre and dance to highlight different parts of the online world we live in today from the power dynamics, trends and even how we find love. Dancers move through a story of acceptance, rejection and love using street dance styles such as Amapiano, Hip hop, House and Campbellocking. Theatre On The Square until November 8. Tickets cost from R200 through webtickets.co.za

12 **Lungs** … a love story for this generation, for whom uncertainty and chaos is a way of life. A young urban couple consider whether or not to have a child in today's toxic and insecure environment, beset by global warming and political unrest. What unfolds is a dazzling rollercoaster ride through a shared lifetime. PG13 for themes and language. Studio Theatre at Montecasino from November 12 to 30. Tickets cost from R250 through www.webtickets.co.za

If you have a date for the Get It diary page, email the info at least a month in advance to megan@caxton.co.za

Book club

New on the shelves ... books to enjoy with a glass of wine on the side!





A black tie party. An impressive mansion. An exclusive guest list. It's a 16th birthday celebration ... one that's been planned as a party to remember. There's the doting dad. A new wife with a history of postpartum psychosis. An ex-wife with a drinking problem. Ex-boyfriends and BFFs and toxic mean girls and a baby with her nanny, who talks to the spirits. And a whole host of social-status-conscious neighbours and friends. Oh. And a dead body. So one of them's a murderer! Kelsey Cox's **Party of Liars** races along at heart-pumping speed, with a twist you won't see coming. *Hodder and Stoughton* • A highly skilled and renowned army combat surgeon, Maggie has always lived life at the edge. And after a devastating series of personal tragedies, she's thrown a lifeline by a former colleague, an elite surgeon whose anonymous clientele demand the best care money can buy - as well as absolute discretion. When one of the world's most mysterious men requires unconventional medical assistance, Maggie takes on the challenge and enters a world of unspeakable opulence. But when, under her care, he suddenly disappears, she has to become a fugitive herself – or she will be the next one who is **Gone Before Goodbye**. Brilliant, as you'd expect from Harlan Coben and Reese Witherspoon. *Penguin Random House*

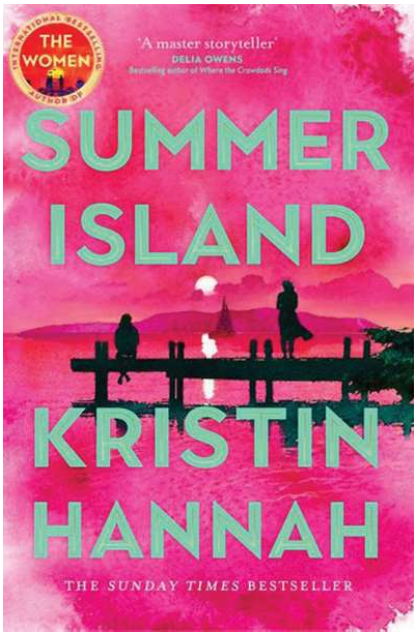


Since we're taking our inspiration this month from the coast, we'll be eating scrumptious seafood with fresh salads. And to drink ... **Spier Seaward Sauvignon Blanc 2023**. The nose displays fresh green figs, blackcurrant, and ripe tropical fruit with hints of citrus, whilst a sea-salt twist lingers on the palate. R150 a bottle from spier.co.za

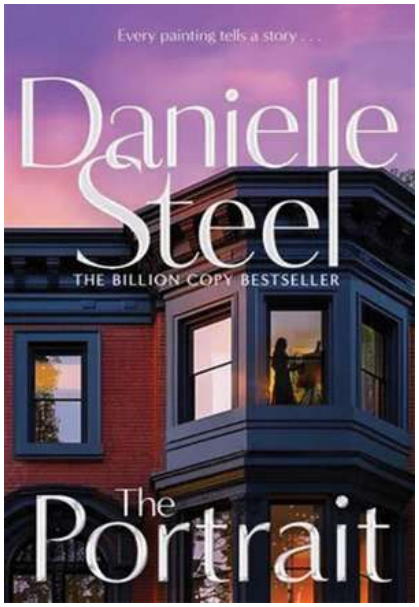
Compiled by: KYM ARGO



Nina George's **One Night In Paris** introduces Claire Cousteau - one of France's most esteemed biologists, with a seemingly perfect family life. But she has become increasingly frustrated by her marriage and her husband's affairs. As the Cousteau family prepare for a summer in Brittany, Claire's son, Nico, asks if his new girlfriend, Julie, can join them? Julie has conundrums of her own - she is an ambitious woman, and unsure if Nico really is her match. But what the family doesn't realise is that Julie and Claire have met before, in a Parisian hotel during a night that Claire thought was her secret. *Michael Joseph*



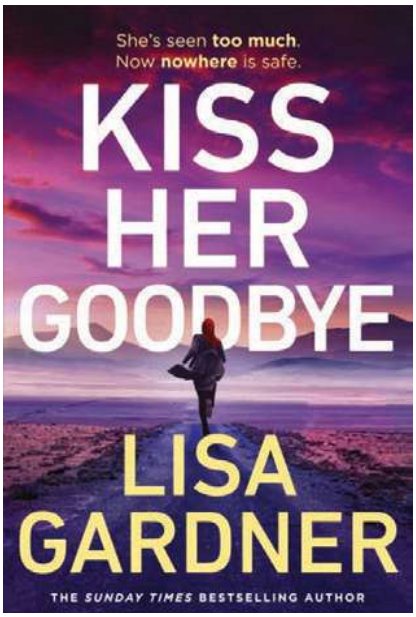
The Portrait is the latest novel from billion-copy bestselling author Danielle Steel. Devon Darcy is a highly sought-after portrait artist - but the world doesn't know about the devastating losses she has endured. Entrepreneur Charles Mackenzie Taylor has given up on love, resigning himself to a loveless marriage to avoid the inconvenience of divorce. When Charlie meets Devon at a New York gallery event, he approaches her to paint his portrait. She is intrigued by him ... the electricity between them is palpable. As they encounter each other over the course of a summer in the Hamptons, their connection deepens. But the ghosts of their pasts are not easily put to rest. *Macmillan*



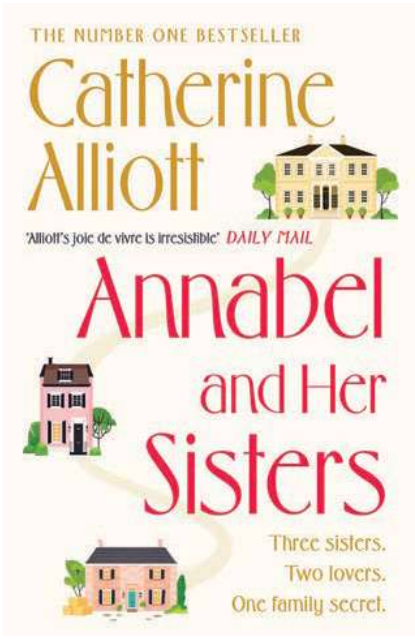
Summer Island by Kristin Hannah is a poignant, warm and tender novel about a mother and daughter - the complex ties that bind them, the past that separates them, and the healing that comes with forgiveness. *Macmillan*

Annabel is in the thick of sandwich generation territory. A widow bringing up her two teenagers, she's also facing the dilemma of what's best for her aging mother. Add two strong-willed sisters, a few love interests, and a family secret that comes to light and her life certainly isn't smooth sailing. **Annabel and Her Sisters** is Catherine Alliott's lovely, light, pool-side read. *Penguin Books*

For these and more brilliant reads,
visit exclusivebooks.co.za



Frankie Elkin usually prefers her cases cold. Until she finds herself in the broiling streets of Tucson, Arizona, where an Afghan refugee has been missing for weeks. The woman she is looking for, Sabera, is a young mother, haunted by war, scarred by the past. The police and Sabera's husband seem indifferent to her disappearance. But Frankie knows trauma. She knows it can fuel or destroy you. And when she sees the distress in Sabera's daughter's eyes, she makes a decision she soon regrets ... find Sabera. But in Lisa Gardner's **Kiss Her Goodbye**, the missing woman may not be quite the victim Frankie thought she was. *Century*



Wish list

We're all about taking inspiration from the seaside for Summer

Pearl bracelet with baroque centrepiece, R560 from @lemonsandgracestudio on Instagram.





Lana Gold coral earrings ... branch with pearl and amazonite stones. Gorgeous. R795 from colettevatelier.co.za

Elegant Earl lamp base, R1395 from homestead-decor.co.za



Fishy for your walls. Fabulous (but not only) for your beach house, this print is one of a collection from **Jasper & Jute's Merel Takken Collection**. Matt or canvas, little nano A5 through to 'it was this big' A0, and framed or not ... loads of choices, and so many amazing prints to choose from. From R349 from jasperandjute.co.za

Compiled by: KYM ARGO



Besides being eyecatching, these **Wavy Coasters** also protect your surfaces ... they're bold, fun, modern, feature a Jesmonite base and a sleek glossy epoxy top and come in four vibrant shades - Avocado, Blueberry, Passionfruit, and Guava. R345 for a pair from mantraliving.co.za

Cowrey necklace, R800, and cream shell anklet, R220 from desray.co.za

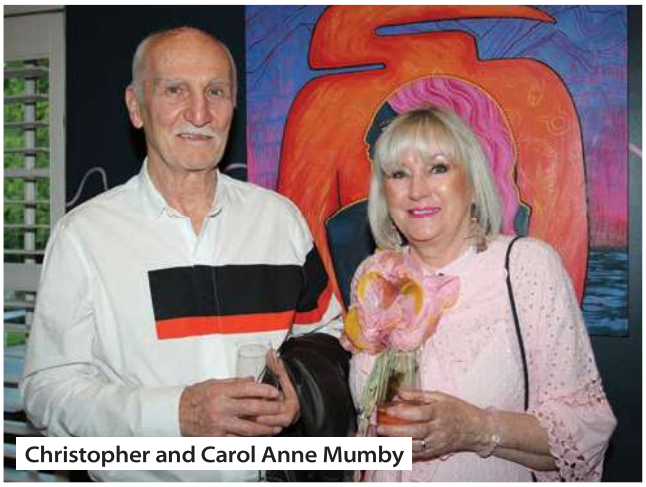
On the beach. Brunch on a sunny patio. Sunset cocktails. You simply can't beat a kaftan ... this long lightweight kaftan, with intricate embroidered pattern, has three-quarter raglan sleeves and an embroidered fabric belt - which, if you prefer wearing your kaftans loose, you can tie in your hair. And yes, it has pockets! R1790 from desray.co.za

Canvas for a cause

All dressed in a splash of pink. It was the launch of the art exhibition *Brushstrokes of Hope* at Fairlawns Boutique Hotel … a powerful exhibition with each piece celebrating the strength, resilience, and spirit of women facing or surviving cancer. Tyron Selmon, owner of Art Eye, shared insights into the healing power of art and its role in emotional wellness, while general manager of Estée Lauder, Loren Dreyer and her team formed part of the evening, expressing their drive behind Breast Cancer Awareness, which supports 60 organisations around the world, funding life-saving research and medical services as well as making a massive difference in reducing the barriers in cancer care. Art was admired, Boschendal wines flowed and the canapés kept coming out … all for a good cause. *Details: www.arteye.co.za/canvas-for-a-cause/*



Lee Reddy, Geanette Reddlar



Christopher and Carol Anne Mumby



Linda Botha



Tyron Selmon, Loren Dreyer





Kgaogelo Chabalala



Georgia Pitt



Thando Ndlovu



Tony and Agata Koutakis



Erin Heaney



Lerato Simelane, Lydia Valjee



Charmaine Mulder, Karen de Meillon



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Mint moments, mighty women

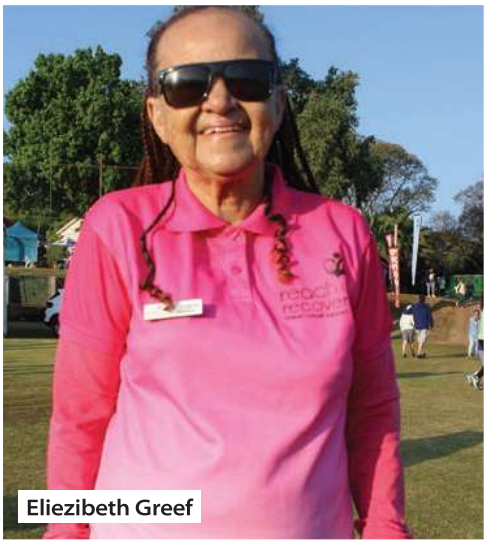
What a vibe at this year's SPAR Women's Challenge at Marks Park Sports Club in Emmarentia! Thousands of runners and walkers painted the streets mint green for #Twenty20Thrive - celebrating strength, sisterhood, and self-love every step of the way. From first-timers to fierce competitors, the energy was electric, the smiles unstoppable, and the tunes pumping from start to finish. Once again, Jozi proved why this is its most beautiful race … not just for the leafy suburbs, but for the incredible spirit that fills them. Here's to every woman who showed up for herself and for the cause.



Kgothatso Matlakala, Lehlogonolo Rasekoele



Zoleka, Sizwe and Wendy Tshiqi


Eliezibeth Greef



Irfan Pandor, Buhle Mazibuko and Mireez du Preez



Laverne de Jager, Patricia Coetzee and Jeannette Smith



Cornel Steyn

IT'S A HOT SUMMER

Text: LISA WITEPSKI.

Lloyd Madurai loves radio – has loved it ever since he was a kid growing up in Overport, Durban, when someone offered to teach him everything he needed to know about the medium. That act of kindness set Lloyd on a path that would eventually see him heading up one of the most successful stations in Gauteng: Hot102.7. Because 'success' means different things to different people, it's worth noting that Hot 102.7 has managed to garner not only industry acclaim – winning, amongst other awards, honours at this year's New York Festival – it also receives an enthusiastic thumbs up from listeners across Gauteng. In fact, the station was recently named the Best Local Radio Station in Best of Joburg (for the fourth time in as many years), as well as Best of Pretoria and Best of Ekurhuleni for two consecutive years. What's more, the morning team – Parkie, Bunny and Simon Hill – won Best Local Radio Show.

How, exactly, does Lloyd manage to get it so right? First of all, he's had loads of experience, working at many of South Africa's leading media companies before setting up Hot 102.7's forerunner, community station Hot 91.9. Here, Lloyd focused on a niche in the market, gathering together some of the radio legends that South Africans aged 35 and older had grown up with, and

When you're hot, you're hot. And Lloyd Madurai is sizzling! So is the radio station he heads up. So it's no surprise it's just scooped - again! - Best Local Radio Station, along with Best Local Show, in the 2025 Best of Joburg Readers' Choice Awards.

broadcasting the music they still love. The move to a commercial station came about when Lloyd and his consortium purchased Classic FM.

"I've sat in the same studio as most of our country's industry greats – Mark Pilgrim, Jeremy Mansfield and Darren Scott," Simon affirms, "and I've been able to learn from them, too. They knew what made great radio, and I always keep in mind the lessons they taught me."

That's one of the secrets of the breakfast team, he adds. But it helps that the irrepressible trio are friends, too – or, as Lloyd puts it, the type of people whose conversation you might listen in on at a coffee shop, feeling as though you have something to add, and certain they'd value your contribution. "On air, they're exactly the same people they are in real life: there's Parkie, the kind of guy everyone wants to invite to their braai; Bunny, the voice of reason; and Simon, our maverick who says the things everyone else thinks, but is afraid to voice out loud."

Bunny agrees. She came to Hot 102.7 through the station's academy, which Lloyd established so that radio hopefuls could enjoy the same opportunity that was given him, teaching them the basics free of charge. "I didn't realise I could knock on the door and ask for a job until Lloyd gave me a chance to work on the station," she says. She started out writing copy for the station, then graduated to hosting her own show on Hot 91.9. "I was a complete mess on my first day! Lloyd ran out of his office because he could hear I was pressing every single button I could!" She learned the ropes quickly: "The feather in my cap is losing a Radio Award to Mark Pilgrim – if you're going to lose, it might as well be to a legend!"

Since Simon has been involved in radio since his student days, he has plenty of his own cringe moments to look back on. There have been notable mispronunciations of artists' names ("that was a beautiful tune



from Sade" [to rhyme with 'paid, instead of Shar-day]), as well as his inadvertent 'Christmas in July' moment. "I had two minutes of time on air before the news, and I didn't want to fill it with talking, so I looked for a short song. I chose a track from a big band without properly looking at it, so I didn't notice that I was playing a Christmas carol – five months too early!"

Close as they are, like any close friends, the breakfast team also have their niggles. "Simon can't stand it that I sing along to every song we play! I always think of him like a flower: first thing in the morning; he has to slowly unfurl. On the other hand, I've already been to gym by the time I walk into the studio, so I'm flooded with endorphins and can't wait to get going!" Bunny says.

It's the little foibles like these that keep Gautengers listening to their favourite station. "Radio is all about being real; about connection. Your favourite presenters are there when you're happy, there when you're sad, there when your house is empty and you feel like having a dance. We're the original influencers, with you no matter what you're going through," says Bunny.

"Absolutely," Lloyd says. "With radio, you always know what you're going to get!" – in other words, many more hours of laughs, many more hours of singalong tunes, and many more hours of fun.

Details: Hot1027.co.za, @hot1027

Turn up the volume ... add these to your playlist!

Simon's top 5 Old Skool Jams:

Boston *More than a Feeling*

Mr. Mister *Kyrie*

Jackson Browne *Somebody's Baby*

Christopher Cross *Sailing*

Johnny Clegg *African Shadow Man*

Bunny's top 5 Old Skool Jams:

Whitney Houston *How Will I Know*

Doobie Brothers *What a Fool Believes*

Aretha Franklin *I Say a Little Prayer*

Queen *Don't Stop Me Now*

Prince *Nothing Compares 2 U*

Cruising into Summer

Lobster prints and fishy tales and sea creature jewels ... we're going to rock beach vibes all through Summer



Pink and orange Ibiza square bag, R550 from elizabethsummer.com



This Red Paisley Fleur is a throw-on-anytime dress that works as well for brunch with the girls as it does for cocktails with the crew. With blouson three-quarter sleeves, a tiered skirt, pockets ... you can dress up with heels or down with flats. R1880 from desray.co.za

Loving **PURA Soda** in half a dozen Summer flavours - think cranberry, lemon and elderflower, seville orange, lemon and ginger. Perfect for picnics on the beach or as a base for sundowner cocktails. You'll find it at stores including SPAR, Checkers, Woolies, Pick n Pay.





Frill-trimmed, striped cushion cover, R179 from H&M at superbalist.com

Beach treasures



Long Heartstring beaded necklace in turquoise with a coral charm, R450 from themakerycollection.com

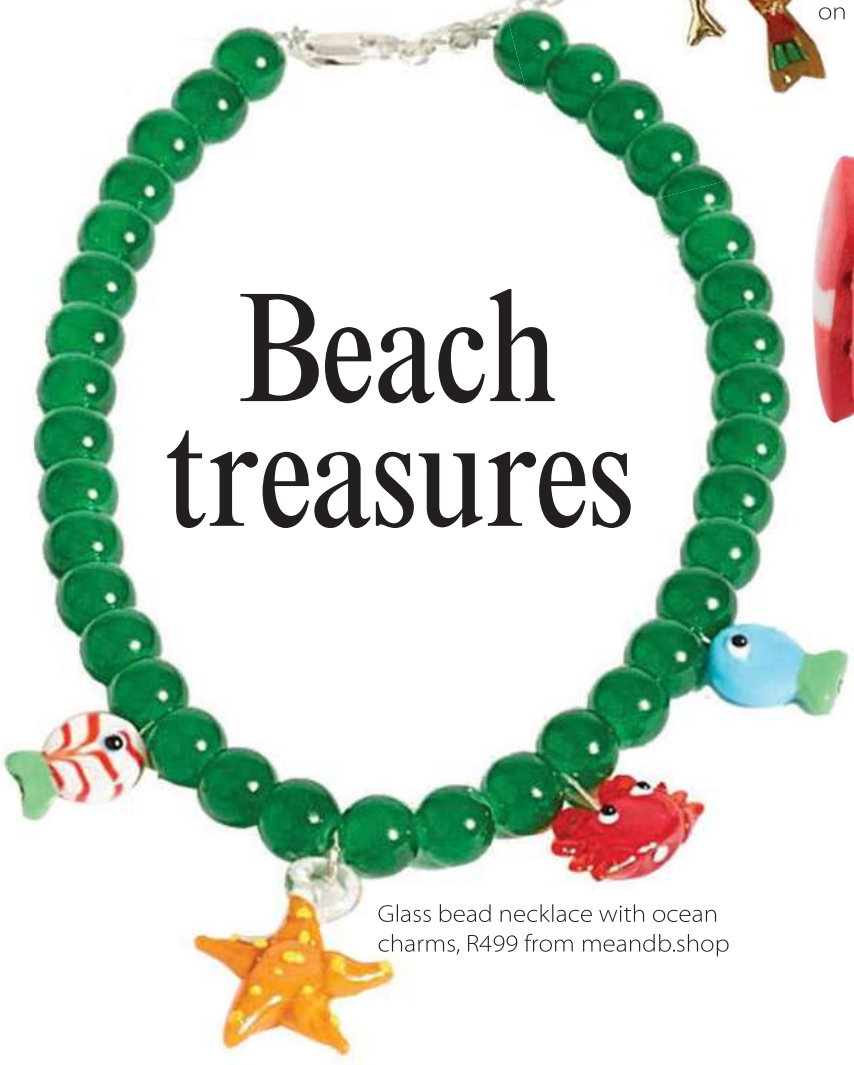


Glass bead necklace with lobster charm, R499 from meandb.shop

Pearls with red coral, shell and turquoise, with fish charms. R1860 from @lemonsandgracestudio on Instagram



Red bone bracelet, R220 from desray.co.za



Glass bead necklace with ocean charms, R499 from meandb.shop



The MisMatched Fish Hoop earrings, R349 from meandb.shop

The world is your oyster



The Seaside Pearl Necklace is the perfect blend of natural freshwater pearls and dramatic pearl sticks. R5644.88 from lullu.co.za



Reef pearl earrings, R2618.72 from lullu.co.za



Pearl necklace with crystals and sun charm, R1680 from @lemonsandgracestudio on Instagram



The Nizza freshwater pearl necklace comes with a removable shell charm. R1350 (also a smaller one for R950) from spicyava.com



These glorious Siren wine glasses and napkin rings are on the very top of our lust list. From R300, depending on each individual piece, directly from bare.home.decor on Instagram, also from mantraliving.co.za



Amalfi coast vibes



Glorious Inwear Resort Print satin pants and scarf top, R699 and R499 from truworths.co.za





Tavola Amalfi oversized biodegradable paper napkins, R149 for pack of 25 from yuppiechef.com • Bottega Limoncino Limoncello Liqueur, R399 from Makro and your local bottle store • Capri lemon paper plates, R60 for a pack of six from prettypartyshop.co.za







Clam shell ornamental resin bowl, R899.99 from elevenpast.co.za



Our go to this (and every) Summer ... **The Laser Beautique Sun-Kissed Tinted Sunscreen**. Looks like a foundation, acts like a sun screen ... win win! With an SPF50, this high-performance cream-gel delivers broad-spectrum protection against UVA, UVB, infrared (IR), and high-energy visible (HEV) light - including the blue light emitted from screens. It's light-weight, water-resistant, comes in three shades (Pearl Glow, Sunlit Tan, Mocha Bronze) and is complexion correcting, so conceals redness and blemishes while delivering a flawless glow. R615 from the-laser-beautique.myshopify.com and from all The Laser Beautique stores.

Sun kissed

COSRX Aloe 54.2 Aqua Tone-Up Sunscreen is a lightweight sunscreen that protects against harmful UV rays, soothes sunburn, and gives a soft, non-greasy appearance all day. R310 from skinbeat.co.za • For year-round sun-glowed radiance ... **Novexpert The Caramel Cream Ivory Radiance**. On the make-up side, a healthy glow and a flawless complexion. On the skincare side, a concentrate of anti-ageing active ingredients for visibly smoother skin. For a deeper shade, choose Crème Caramel éclat doré. R400 from novexpert.co.za • **QMS Active Glow Tinted Day Cream** SPF 50+ not only gives lightweight, sheer colour, but helps to blur imperfections. R1300 from futurethis.co.za • **Helase Photo-Repair Tint 50+** uses broad spectrum inorganic filters that can protect against visible light - critical for providing additional protection for those struggling with hyperpigmentation including melasma. With four shades to choose from, the cream offers a smooth and even application that adjusts to your own skin tone. R675, visit Lamelle.co.za for stockists.





SVR Sun Secure Blur Tinted SPF 50+ optically evens the skin tone, provides very high sun protection and is water resistant for 80 minutes. R399 from skinmiles.com



Soft, plush, and waterproof - **Azura Lobster velvet makeup bag**, R420 from elizabethsummer.com

Easy breezy



Poplin striped **tie-up tiered maxi dress** R749 from Woolworths.



This **Azure Pebble necklace** (also love the ones in shades of Sea Myst, Sea Salt and Midnight Tide) is a sculptural choker inspired by ocean-worn stones ... handmade, it's a striking statement piece. R1655 from mantraliving.co.za



Beach tote bag, R265 from Pop Candy on superbaslist.com





Baby swim bucket hat, R149 from Cotton On, and blue and white striped **swimming trunks** for beach babes from 18 months to 10 years. R149 from H&M - both on superbalist.com



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Sardine run



Piccolo Pesce tablecloth, R1999, and sets of matching napkins, R450, from meandbe.shop



Quick healthy snack ... stock up on Lucky Star sardines, and Woolworths sardines in vegetable oil, in tomato sauce and smoke flavoured.

Posh sardines on toast

Serve these, with a chilled Portuguese Vinho Verde, a lovely local sauv blanc, or go Spanish with a dry sherry, at your next poolside cocktail party.

Finely chop a small red chilli (remove seeds if you prefer less heat) and crush a large clove of garlic. Heat a little oil from the tin of sardines, add the chilli and garlic and cook over gentle heat, taking care not to burn the garlic. Once cooked, add the sardines until just warm. Toast slices of baguette, then pile the sardine mixture on top. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and a squeeze of fresh lemon.




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This **Great Barrier Reef Fishes** from Jasper & Jute's The Deep Sea Collection. You can choose between matt paper or canvas, sized anywhere from a discreet A5 to a make-a-statement A0, and can buy unframed, or in a white, natural or black frame. From R349 from jasperandjute.co.za





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Hooked on snoek!



BRAAI SNOEK WITH AVO AND SALSA DRESSING

Fresh, bright, and full of coastal sunshine, The South African Avocado Growers' Association's braaied snoek, drizzled with a honey-orange glaze and topped with chunky avocado salsa, is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. *Serves 6*

You'll need: Avocado or olive oil to drizzle; 800g snoek; 2–3 stalks thyme, picked; 2–3 Tbsp honey; juice and zest of 1 orange; salt and pepper, to taste

For the salsa dressing: 2 ripe avocados, peeled and stoned; 2–3 ripe tomatoes, deseeded and chopped; 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped; 15g (½ punnet) fresh parsley or coriander plus a little extra for garnish; 1 red chilli, deseeded and chopped (optional); 1 small red onion, finely chopped; 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar; ½ cup avocado or olive oil; lemon wedges to serve; roti to serve

To make: Preheat oven to 200°C or prepare the coals on a braai. Drizzle oil over a large piece of aluminium foil. In a small bowl combine the thyme, honey, orange juice and zest, and season well.

Pat the fish dry with kitchen paper and place skin side down on the foil, baste with the honey-orange mixture. If cooking in the oven, place the fish on a baking tray in the preheated oven and cook for 10–12 minutes.

If cooking on a braai, place the foil directly onto the braai grid. When the fish has turned white, approximately 8–10 minutes (depending on the heat of the coals), turn the fish and baste again with the honey mixture. Cook for a further 2–3 minutes until the fish flakes easily when pressed with a fork.

To make the salsa: slice the avocados and set aside. Combine all the salsa ingredients in a bowl.

Serve the fish on a platter, arrange slices of avocado and drizzle with the salsa dressing, lemon wedges and extra flat-leaf parsley. Serve with roti.

BRAAIED SNOEK AND PEACHES WITH HERB MAYO

Chef Mbonani Daniel Mbombi gives snoek the royal treatment in his cookbook *An African Bite*. Juicy peaches, herby mayo, and smoky fish make this a weekend favourite for family and friends. *Serves 4*

You'll need: 1 whole snoek (± 1kg); 2-3 Tbsp olive oil; 1 Tbsp black pepper; 1 Tbsp biltong spice or braai spice; 1/2 tsp salt; 1 lemon, thinly sliced; 4 ripe peaches or nectarines; 1-2 Tbsp olive oil; ground black pepper to taste

For the herb mayo: 500ml mayonnaise; 2-3 Tbsp lemon juice; fresh parsley, finely chopped; fresh basil, finely chopped; 1 Tbsp black pepper; 2 tsp truffle oil (optional)

To make: Using a sharp knife, make three or four diagonal cuts in the skin of the snoek.

Combine the olive oil, pepper, biltong or braai spice, and salt in a small bowl and rub all over the fish.

Place the lemon slices inside the snoek. Leave to chill in the fridge for 1-2 hours.

When ready to cook, prepare the braai with medium-hot coals. Place the snoek on an oiled braai grid and cook for 10-15 minutes per side.

Halve the peaches and remove the stones. Brush lightly with olive oil and season with black pepper. When you turn the snoek, place the peaches on the grid, skin-side down. After about 5 minutes, turn them to give the flesh some grill marks. (Prepare the peaches at the last minute, to prevent them from discolouring.)

For the herb mayo, spoon some mayonnaise into a mixing bowl with the lemon juice, herbs, and black pepper. Stir to combine. Scoop into a serving bowl and place in the fridge until ready to serve. Just before serving, drizzle the truffle oil over.

Chef's note: Instead of truffle oil, use 1-2 teaspoons of garlic- or chilli-flavoured oil for the mayonnaise.

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Redefined modern dining

Meet Chef Dario de Angeli, who'd rather talk technique than nostalgia, and discover why SEC Rosebank is Johannesburg's new culinary sanctuary.

The anti-nostalgia chef Chef Dario de Angeli avoids sentimental influences in his cooking. Ask him about the influence of his Italian family's Sunday lunches, and he'll shrug. "They're just memories. They don't shape my food."

For a chef overseeing two of Rosebank's most exciting restaurants – SEC Restaurant and 400 Degrees at Clico – this might seem surprising. But in Dario's world, cooking isn't about heritage. It's about execution, consistency, and the quiet confidence that comes from mastered technique.

SEC Restaurant (named after the French sec, denoting dry sparkling wine) embodies this philosophy perfectly. It's a space where precision meets approachability, where every element from the seasonal menu to the curated wine list speaks of intentionality rather than ego.

Who Is Chef Dario?

With 30-plus years of global culinary experience, Chef Dario crafts SEC's vibrant, seasonally driven cuisine, where modern techniques meet creative fermentation.

His distinguished career spans ...

Operating acclaimed venues like Cube Kitchen (where he mentored talents like Darren O'Donovan) and Est Est Alea.

Authoring a best-selling cookbook

Working in prestigious 5-star establishments world-wide

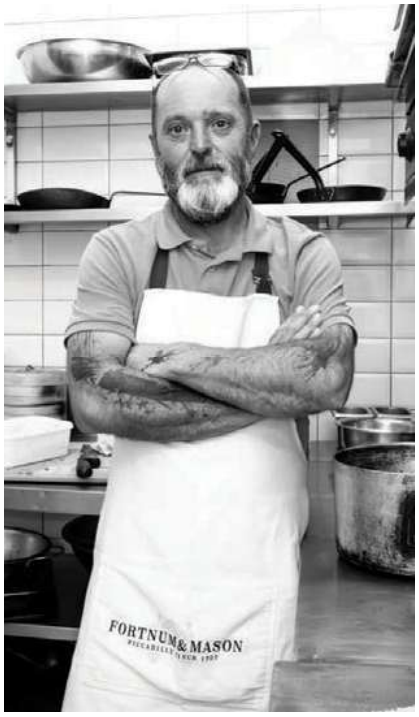
Catering to high-profile international clients

Yet, despite these accolades, Dario remains refreshingly grounded.

"I'm technically adept at cooking," he insists, dismissing lofty artistic labels.

A chef's blueprint ... technique over trends

What sets this chef apart in Joburg's



competitive dining scene isn't flashy innovation, but his uncompromising standards. At SEC Restaurant, dishes like the duck breast with sriracha velouté or shio koji-cured scallops showcase his ability to balance bold flavours with refined execution.

"I'm not interested in creating dishes that can't be replicated perfectly by my team day after day," Chef Dario explains.

This discipline stems from his early career frustrations ... hours spent studying cookbooks during kitchen breaks, determined to bridge the gap between what he saw and what he could create.

At 400 Degrees, his other culinary domain within the Clico Boutique Hotel, the approach shifts to embrace fire and smoke. The wood-fired oven, blazing at 400°C, transforms ingredients like aged ribeye and wild mushrooms into deeply flavourful centrepieces. Yet even here, the focus remains on controlled mastery rather than rustic simplicity.

The SEC experience: dry wines and deliberate moments

The restaurant's name hints at its soul. Sec refers not just to dry sparkling wines, but to a philosophy of clarity and purpose. The wine list celebrates this, featuring crisp Cap Classiques and Champagnes that complement rather than compete with the food.

But SEC's true magic lies in its rhythm. By day, light floods through the space, illuminating dishes that are as visually appealing as they are technically sound. By night, the ambiance shifts - intimate but never intimidating, with service that's attentive yet unobtrusive.

Then there's the no-corkage policy, a radical act of hospitality in today's dining landscape.

"Great food deserves great wine," Dario says. "If someone wants to pair their special bottle with our scallops, why should we stop them?"

Looking ahead: stewardship, not stardom

Unlike chefs chasing Instagram fame, Dario's ambitions are refreshingly grounded.

"Right now, my job is to make these two restaurants the best versions of themselves," he says.

It's this quiet dedication to craft that makes SEC Rosebank and 400 Degrees at Clico stand out. In a city where dining concepts often chase novelty, Dario's kitchens offer something rarer ... the assurance of excellence, one perfectly executed dish at a time.

Details: SEC Rosebank and 400 Degrees at Clico - 011 252 3300

Text: SUPPLIED

Drama in the garden

We've gone a little dramatic this month ...
with black flowers, Delicious Monsters and deep purple-skinned egg fruit.



We're planting ...

This November we're going dramatic, and this is the perfect plant to add a little black magic to your garden! Angelonia AngelFlare is the only black-flowered Angelonia and it is highly drought and heat tolerant. It will always be a talking point in the garden and looks gorgeous when offset by silvery-leaved lavender, purple shades of alyssum, or golden yellow border plants like Bidens Golden Empire or Blazing Star, even bright yellow and gold Zinnia Zahara Sunburst, Yellow improved or Starlight Rose.
AngelFlare has a V-shaped habit and produces a mass of flower spikes that make it stand out in combinations and in mixed containers. Use a slow-release fertilizer at planting. Water regularly until plants are established then they will thrive in hot and dry conditions. It is not necessary to remove old flowers. In fact, deadheading actually retards the continual blooming characteristic of the plant. *www.ballstraathof.co.za*

Garden tasks for November

This is the last month to sow summer annuals like alyssum, dwarf marigolds, nasturtium, portulaca, cosmos, dwarf sunflowers and zinnias.

Fertilise flowers and shrubs.

Water annuals and perennials at least twice a week, and shrubs once a week, unless there is sufficient rain.

Plants in containers and hanging baskets should be fed weekly and dead flowers removed to encourage more flowers.

Lawns should be watered and mowed weekly. Don't cut the grass too low in hot weather.

Many vegetables can still be sown and where it is too late to sow, seedlings from the garden centres can be planted out.

Text: ALICE COETZEE & KYM ARGO



Indoor plant of the month

Always dramatic ... the Delicious Monster. This totally benign houseplant can grow into a monster or it can be trimmed to fit into smaller spaces, but for the full effect give them space to grow as a feature indoors or on the patio. These undemanding and easy to care for houseplants are especially suitable for beginner plant parents. They like bright, indirect light but will tolerate medium light. Keep the soil moist and feed with a liquid fertiliser every now and then in Summer to maintain bright green, healthy leaves. Because the leaves are so eye catching, keep them clean and glossy by regularly wiping with a damp cloth. *www.lvgplant.co.za*

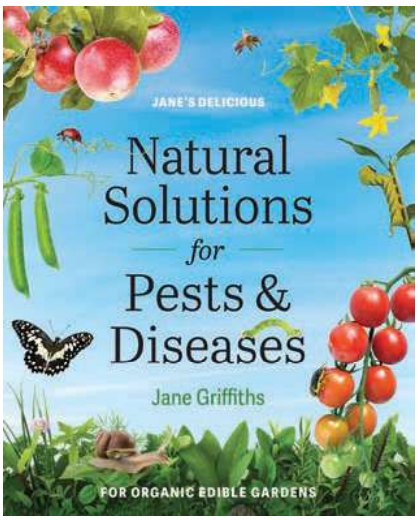


Vegetable of the month

Rosa Bianca is an eggfruit with a difference. This gourmet vegetable is an Italian heirloom that produces round white fruit with a rosy hue and mild flavoured creamy flesh. This easy to grow veggie produces harvestable fruit within 85 to 90 days which is earlier than other varieties.

All it needs is full sun, and fertile well drained soil. Water regularly as eggfruit are thirsty plants that need plenty of water, especially when producing fruit. When the first fruit starts to set, fertilise with an organic 3:1:5 or 5:1:5 fertiliser like Vigorosa every three weeks. Plants in pots should be fed weekly with Margaret Roberts Organic Supercharger diluted at half strength. Drooping flowers is a sign of a potassium deficiency.

Don't leave fruit on the bush because over-ripe fruit tends to be bitter. As soon as fruit loses its glossiness it is overripe. *www.rawliving.co.za*

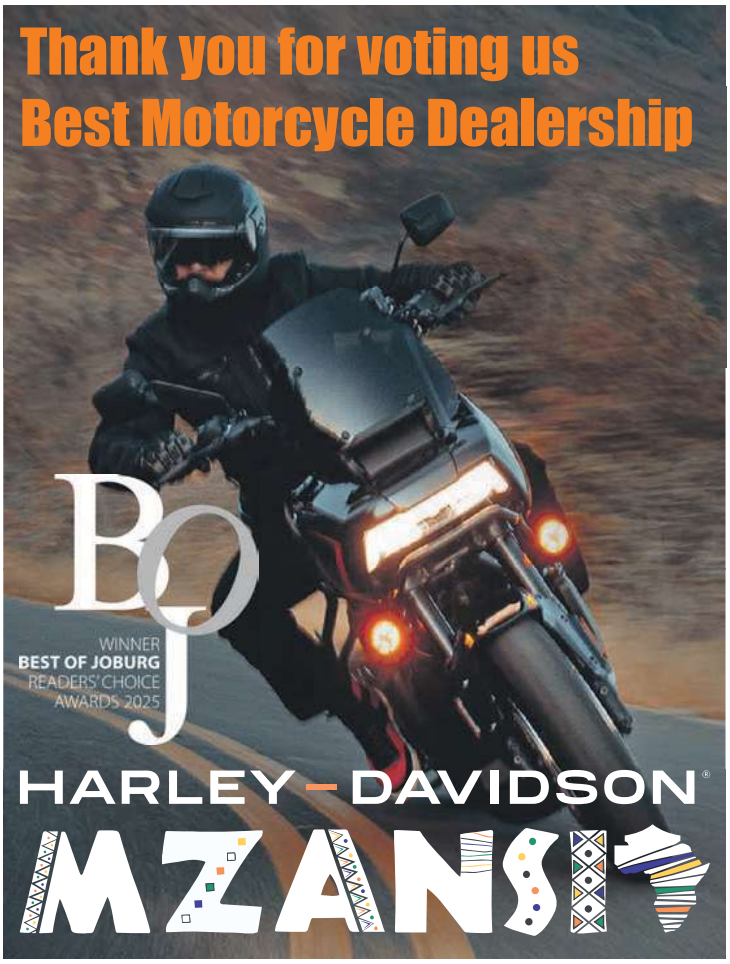


If you're an African spotted tortoise beetle eating your sweet potatoes, charcoal rot on your melons, or black spot on your basil, you need to get a copy of **Jane's Delicious Natural Solutions for Pests & Diseases** ... a book which is a guide to creating a balanced environment in your edible gardens, and provides detailed advice on what to do when that equilibrium is upset. Jane Griffiths shows you how to identify, tackle and solve both pests and diseases naturally in your organic edible garden. There are five easily navigable chapters – prevention, solutions, host plants, pests and diseases, and quick guides to help identify common problems, detailed indexes which are essential for navigating the book, a useful glossary for those gardeners just starting out, and images that make identifying pests and diseases easier. *Sunbird Publishers*, R410

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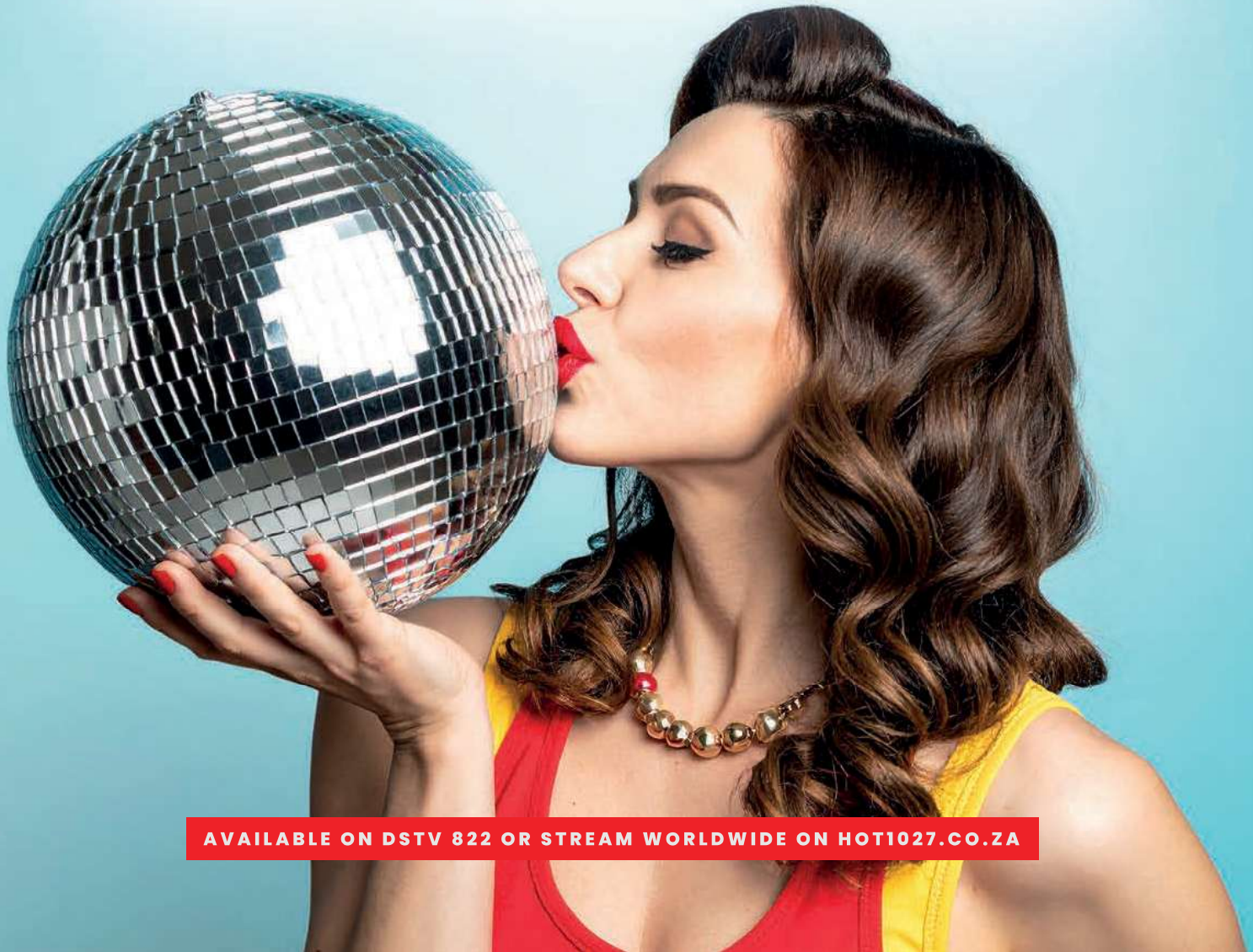
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Spectacular seas

Whales and starfish and periwinkles and octopuses. Add the land attractions and the bird life, and you've a destination like few others in the country ... Lovers of nature should immediately put De Hoop Collection on their bucket list.

The coastline along the De Hoop Nature Reserve in the Western Cape's Overberg region near Cape Agulhas is arguably the most spectacular in the country. There are the whales - if you plan your visit for September through November, there are always dozens of whales in the bay of this World Heritage site, clearly visible from the dunes. But equally as exciting, and all year-round, there are also beach treasures in the rock pools that are astonishing ... spiny starfish and brightly coloured sea urchins, sea cucumbers and limpets, giant periwinkles and octopuses. A guided marine walk - around an hour or half or so - will, trust us, be a highlight of your De Hoop Collection visit.

The area is also absolute paradise for birders - experienced and beginner, with more than 260 species of birds ... there's a chirping this and a feathered that every which way you look. The eco boat cruise on the vlei is massively rewarding for waterbird enthusiasts, as is the vulture outing ... a hike in the Potberg Mountains, where you climb to a viewing platform and watch the swooping of the endangered Cape Vultures - close on 200 roost and nest there.

For the energetic, there's mountain biking, with some challenging and a few easier trails, more relaxing are the nature drives - with a large and varied collection of animals ... from the Cape mountain zebra to the rare bontebok, loads of eland and pretty grey rhebok, baboons and caracals and so much more. You can also book for the De Hoop Trail – Vlei to Whales - a memorable walking experience where you cover a few steps less than 40km over four days.

Some of us just fancy relaxing - a book by the pool, a lovely lunch, maybe a stroll to see the fascinating Origins of Early Southern Sapiens Behaviour exhibition housed at De Hoop - and there's that, too.





Compiled by: KYM ARGO





The De Hoop Collection revolves around the Opstal area, where there's a pool with views over the vlei, a tennis court, and The Fig Tree restaurant - dishing up magnificent breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Nothing average here ... think leek and courgette soup with the most delicious homemade bread, roasted beets with chevin cheese and onion marmalade, herb-crusted rack of lamb with a minted pea spring roll, melt-in-your-mouth apple crumble with Chantilly cream. And alongside ... something special from the wine cellar, located in a converted silo.

In and around the Opstal area there are also a dozen Cape Dutch-style suites - all beautifully furnished with king-size beds with mosquito nets, luxurious en-suite bathrooms, and views over the fynbos and the wildlife ... there's always an ostrich or two and a couple of antelope hovering nearby.

There are three-bedroom houses with spacious bedrooms, separate sitting and dining rooms and a fully equipped kitchen, which are available as catered or self-catered, and for families and groups, the newer, gorgeously decorated De Mond Villa is a fabulous option. Five en-suite bedrooms overlooking the vlei, with incredible views, a private outside area with a barbecue and swimming pool, spectacular bird life, and sightings of various wildlife. And this is a proper spoil-yourself getaway, there's a private chef to whip you up gourmet breakfasts or lunches and dinners on the coals. The Villa is off the grid, thanks to solar and gas facilities. For those who simply can't do without (or who have teenagers in their party!) there's Wi-Fi, too.



Do-it-yourselfers can opt for the self-catering cottages or one of the five thatched, two-bedroom rondavals that have shared showers, loos and braai facilities. There's a small campsite, each with a braai area and picnic bench, and shared power points, taps, bins, basic kitchen facilities and an ablution block.

The De Hoop Collection really is a destination that's hard to beat ... particularly for nature lovers. So many options ... unspoiled beaches, rock pools simply teeming with marine life, rare fynbos, diverse wildlife, accommodation for every pocket and activities for couples, hikers, families, groups of friends. We'd highly recommend at least a three-night stay, five or so nights even better to fit in all there is to do.

De Hoop Collection is a member of Cape Country Routes, one of SA's leading non-profit marketing collective of owner-operated and managed accommodation and activity establishments. There's a loyalty programme that's worth investigating if you're regular travellers - it offers great discounts and value-adds.

All the deets

Nightly rates range from R1995 for rondavals, R3600 for four-sleeper cottages, from R5950 for the three-bedroom houses. There are self-catering or fully catered options.

The De Mond Villa option is R4250 a person, with a minimum of five guests, and a minimum two-night stay. Included are activities - guided marine walk, nature drive, guided MTB, guided bird and vlei walk, all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea, cake and snacks).

Cape Country Routes loyalty programme (individuals/couples R200 per annum, families R500 per annum)

Details: The De Hoop Collection dehoopcollection.com. Cape Country Routes capecountryroutes.com

November Spoil

Summer living ... with Volpes' new Kramerville store



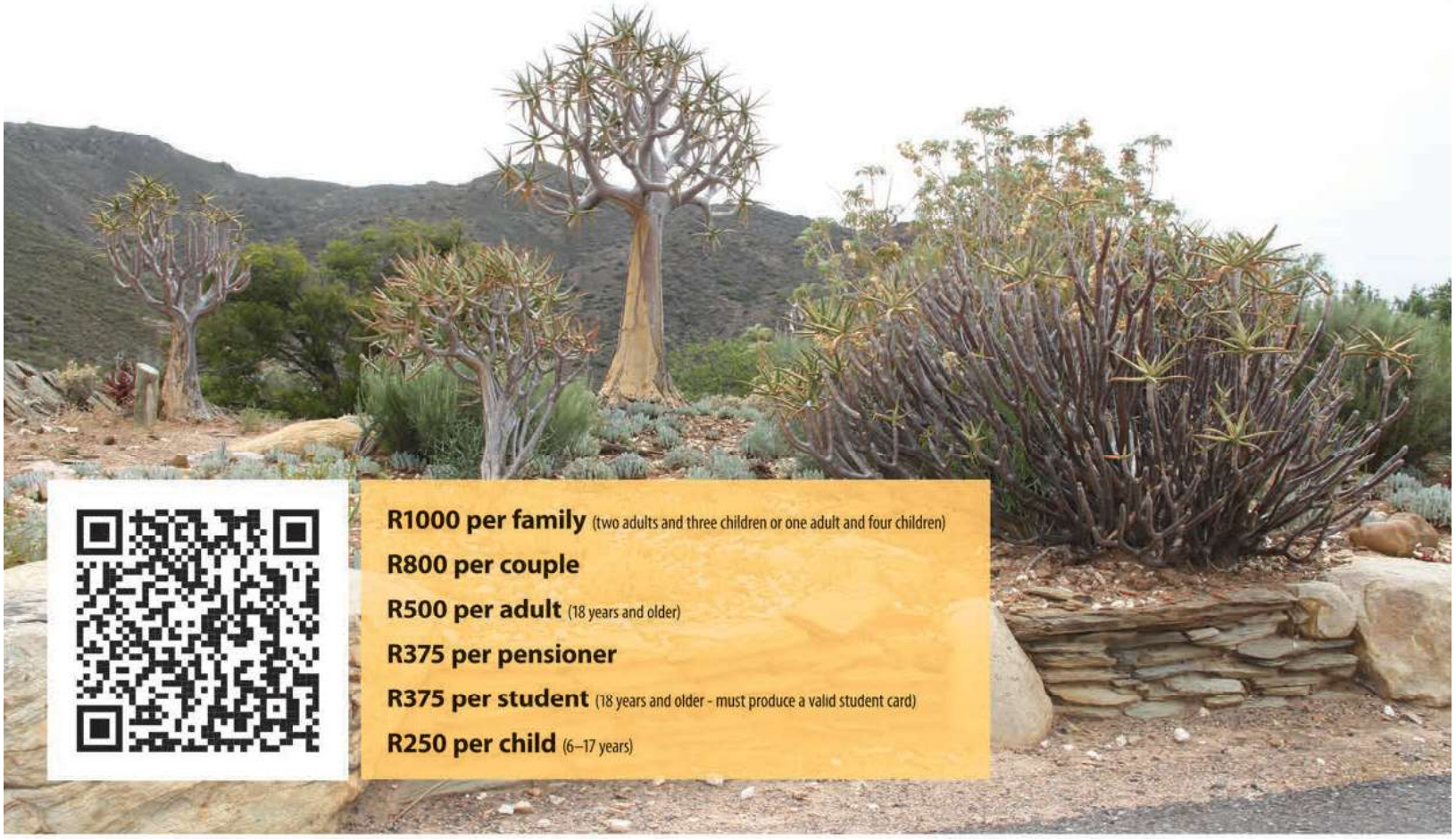
Volpes has opened a magnificent new store in Kramerville's design and décor district, a beautifully designed space that offers inspiration for luxury living. The store boasts a full digital experience with touch screens and access to the complete product range. Samples are available for you and your decorators to work with, while a dedicated coffee station and workspace create the perfect environment for planning projects. With expertly trained staff providing personalised attention, the new Volpes store delivers a seamless blend of innovation, comfort, and style. We've a R2500 voucher to give away ... pop over to @get_it_joburg_north on Instagram or Facebook, find the Spoil post and follow the prompts.

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