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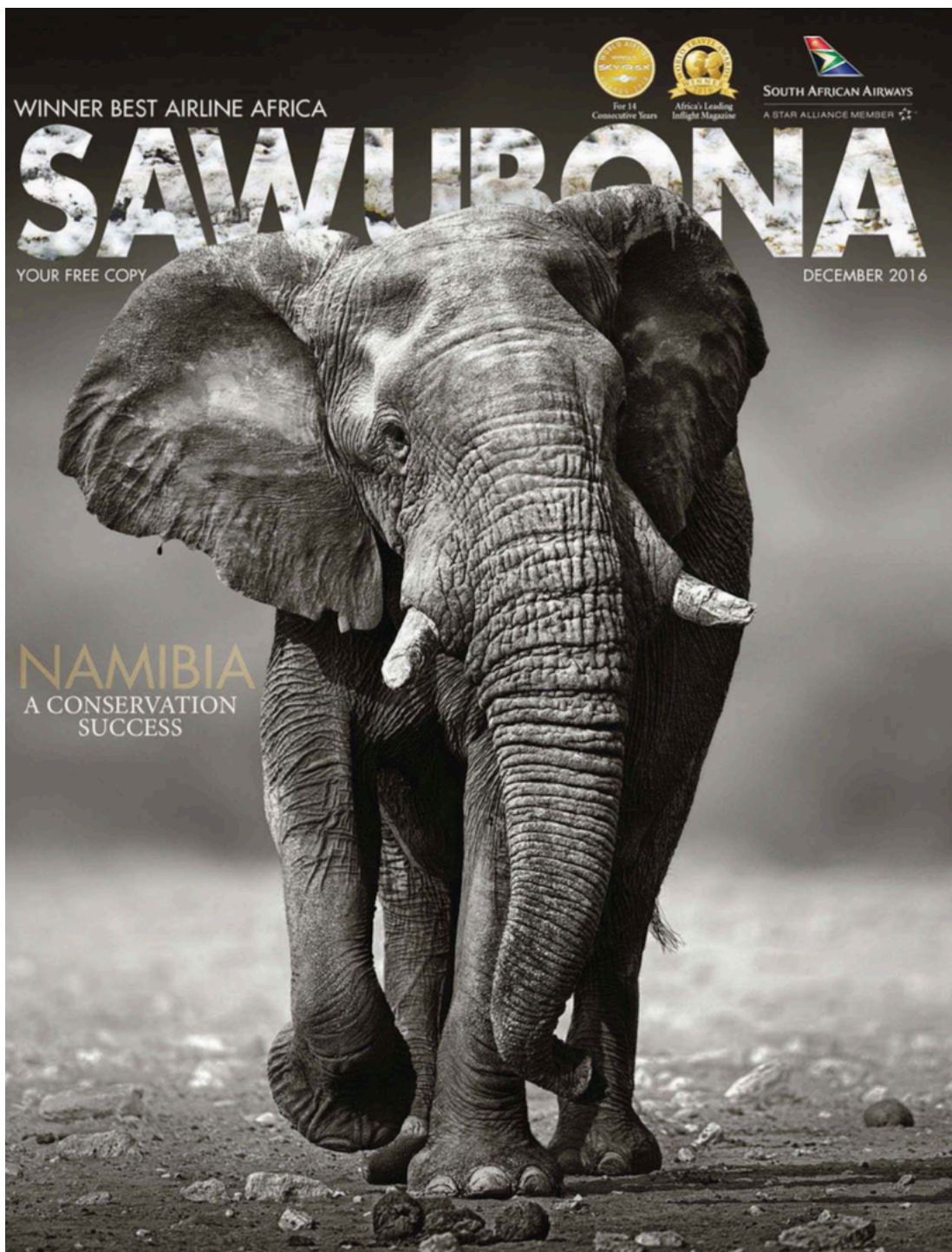
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

SAMURONA

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DECEMBER 2016

NAMIBIA
A CONSERVATION
SUCCESS



Business hotspot

The Safari Court Hotel in Windhoek is one of the Namibian city's best-known and favourite hotels. It started as a motel 50 years ago and has grown into a larger establishment, being the first in the country to offer a buffet service and banqueting facilities.

Now the four-star, family-run establishment has 215 rooms (including a Presidential Suite), a choice of restaurants and bars, conferencing facilities, a beautiful outdoor area and pool, a gym and the Oukalele Day Spa & Wellness Centre.

A mere 4km from the city centre, adjacent to Eros Airport (Windhoek's domestic and charter air terminal) and 45km from Hosea Kutako International Airport, it's the ideal spot from which to do business or escape for some downtime. There's also a free weekday return shuttle service to the city centre on the hour. The hotel recently introduced an eight-course fine dining and wine pairing concept. Visit: www.safarihotelsnamibia.com



LIGHTEN UP! Still need to finish your festive season shopping? Us too. If you're looking for the perfect gift, consider H&M's Paradise Jasmine Scented Candle (R229), which infuses any space with a delectable, tropical fragrance. For those who can't manage to spend a week in Mauritius, it's the next-best option!



5 MINUTES WITH...

In preparation for Conrad Bora Bora's opening, **Jean-Marc Michel** has joined as the property's General Manager. It's the year for French Polynesia and this beachfront property will celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the overwater bungalow.

Best holiday destination: "Bali."

Favourite travel book: "The Emperor's Tomb by Steve Berry [Ballantine]."

Paris or Hong Kong? "Hong Kong is far more exotic and still has the 'East-meets-West' look, feel even though there have been drastic changes."

Best packing advice: "Travel lightly and easily." — **DS**

'Tis the season...

This holiday season, try doing something as simple – but life-altering – as buying a SIM card for a South African who needs free Internet access. That, in turn, means free educational content and life-saving information on their mobile phone. The Internet of Good Things (IoGT) is an initiative led by Unicef that provides free access (it's partnered with Free Basics by Facebook and Cell C) to a mobile website to find vital information about everything from health to sanitation, safety, education and equity. Also available is Unicef's Early Life tips, providing parents, families, caregivers and healthcare providers with practical guidelines and activities that can improve young children's health. The only thing needed is a web-enabled mobile phone and a Cell C SIM card.

The data's entirely free of charge.

Visit www.freebasics.com (from your Cell C mobile phone) or visit za.goodinternet.org directly.

Here are three other ways you can reach out to those in need:

DONATE

Pride Shelter Trust is an NPO raising funds and providing temporary shelter for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community of greater Cape Town during times of crisis periods. There's a wish list on the organisation's website of items it needs, such as kitchenware, office supplies and bathroom items.

Visit: www.pridesheltertrust.com

BUY

Buy your Christmas pudding from Johannesburg's San Salvador Home for intellectually disabled women. R120 for a big pudding and R60 for a small one. Tel: 011 788 4646.

Visit: www.sansalvador.org

SPONSOR

Pick up the tab for a stable at the Carthorse Association's Recovery & Rehabilitation Centre (R500 a month) to help care for sick and injured carthorses, as well as provide a shelter for those up for adoption and mares ready to foal. Visit: <http://carthorse.org.za> — **Helen Clemson**

WHAT'S HOT

GLOBAL EYE

By Daniel Scheffler

THE AZORES, PORTUGAL

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean are the beautiful Azores islands, offering spectacularly beautiful natural features such as volcanic calderas, crater lakes and hot springs. Think hiking, biking, yachting and all things outdoorsy. www.azoresgetaways.com

NEW YORK

If you're in the Big Apple this festive season, head to where the retail action is: the Hotel on Rivington is on the Lower East Side, with views across the bridges and downtown. Its Japanese-inspired giant bathtubs are ideal for unwinding after a day of shopping. www.hotelonrivington.com

MALDIVES

These islands are fast becoming prime holiday destinations before they disappear. New properties include Milaidhoo Island Maldives, the St Regis, the Intercontinental Four Seasons and Soneva Jani. What's more, 2017 will be the year of the Maldives, with new flights, infrastructure and hotels. www.visitmaldives.com

ACRE, ISRAEL

This 4 000-year-old fortified Mediterranean port city is a gem of history, culture, food and the arts. Located in the Western Galilee – the "Tuscany of Israel" – there are more than 80 boutique wineries within a 32km radius. Acre (pronounced "Ah-ko") was once the capital of the Second Crusader Kingdom and its well-preserved ruins still reflect its ancient glory. The Efendi Hotel, an Ottoman-era palace, consists of two restored former residences. www.efendi-hotel.com

MINNEAPOLIS, USA

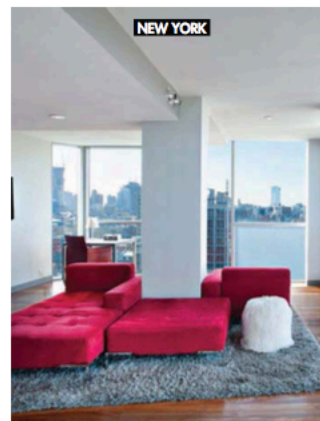
Hewing Hotel in the North Loop area of Minneapolis has opened as part of the revitalisation of the Warehouse District. The Aparium Group knows how to find the pulse: the hotel has serious retro charm, with lakes, woods and Nordic-style cuisine. www.aparium.com/hotels/the-hewing-hotel

BOTSWANA

Botswana's spent its entire military budget on an anti-poaching fund, which has resulted in greater awareness of conservation causes such as Rhinos Without Borders and Rhino Relocation. Then there's Botswana's world-famous Okavango region, featuring luxurious retreats like the new Bushman Nomadic Camp. Or opt for the 2017 CroisiEurope Africa cruise, which will include a voyage up the Chobe River on the north-eastern border of Botswana's Chobe National Park. www.abucamp.com



THE AZORES



NEW YORK



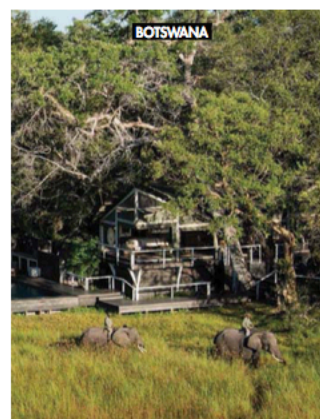
MALDIVES



ACRE



MINNEAPOLIS



BOTSWANA

WHAT'S HOT



BOOSTING TOURISM

A R2,5 billion refurbishment of Pretoria's award-winning Menlyn Park Shopping Centre is set to put SA's capital city firmly on the map.

By Megan Whittington

Having officially opened in November, the revamped shopping centre has emerged as Africa's first mega-mall and, with a gross leasable area of 125 248m², is the largest of its kind on the continent.

"Menlyn Park's been an iconic part of Pretoria's landscape since its construction in 1979," says Malose Kekana, Group CEO of Pareto Ltd, owner of the centre. "It's a leader in the retail industry and makes a substantial contribution to Tshwane's economy, while also employing over 3 000 people."

Shoppers can expect sleek, updated finishes, light, open spaces and a host of new facilities in the revamped centre, which has focused on adopting green building principles. The new layout includes a Food & Fun Court, a Fashion Wing and Pretoria's first Grocery

Avenue, making navigating the shopping precinct effortless.

The number of stores in the centre has increased from 275 to over 500, including newcomers H&M, Zara, Hamleys, Krispy Kreme, Burgundy Fly and Hard Rock Café.

The building's own Central Park, a unique open-air space bordered by restaurants, provides a convenient meeting place in the heart of Tshwane. Other unique features include personal shopper and concierge services, a VIP lounge and parking space, and the Menlyn Gift Card, which can be used at any store in the centre.

Menlyn Park Shopping Centre is located just off the N1 highway and there's a Gautrain bus station outside the centre for easy access. Visit: www.menlynpark.co.za



A LITTLE BLING

If you're visiting Cape Town's V&A Waterfront this festive season, the Shimansky Diamond Experience tour (open daily from 9am-9pm) offers a rare glimpse into the transformation of a rough diamond by craftsmen into a perfectly polished and finished jewel. This is also where you can have your piece of jewellery designed and manufactured within 24 hours by Platinum Pioneers at the Shimansky Jewellery Manufacturing Workshop.

While there, take a walk through the Diamond Museum, where you can follow a three-billion-year-old story and learn more about our country's fascinating diamond history.

Visit: www.shimansky.com/diamond-tour

Travel savvy

TOMMY MARCHANT, owner of luxury travel brand Black Tomato (which offers niche experiences), is always on the move. He offers these tips:

GETTING AROUND: "Put the phone/digital guide down and talk to the locals. Asking questions can lead to the best travel experiences you'll ever have. While technology's a great enabler, it can suck the romance out of travel. Start conversations instead."

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS: "A backpack, a notebook and the right playlist. Every trip needs the right soundtrack."

FAVOURITE DESTINATION: "Iceland. It's the greatest adventure playground God ever created, inhabited by the kindest people you'll ever meet." — **Daniel Scheffler**

