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ZAMBIA

THE WARM
HEART
OF AFRICA



Travel Talk

Compiled by Ingrid Wood

BEAUTIFUL ESCAPES AND EXPERIENCES FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

The need for a home-away-from-home boutique hotel is fast gaining traction as discerning travellers seek places that are conveniently located and have the luxe element, but also offer an efficient out-of-office working environment. One place that ticks all the boxes for us in **DURBAN** is **The St James on Venice Luxury Boutique Hotel**. Situated in the pretty suburb of Morningside, the building was originally built in 1892 and its charm and history have been maintained, despite the refurb.

With only 15 rooms, you're guaranteed an intimate, exclusive stay.

Business amenities include meeting rooms, conference facilities and dining options, while couples can enjoy romantic picnics and high teas, always with the right dose of quality service. ☎ www.stjamesonvenice.co.za
☎ 031 312 9488





Enjoy a luxury safari in **KENYA** and the mindfulness of yoga in one package with **Cheli & Peacock's** bespoke yoga and fitness safaris. Available at any of the seven Kenyan C&P properties, the trip includes a private yoga teacher



who'll personalise your itinerary, whether you want a relaxing session a day or an intensive yoga retreat. If adrenaline-inducing fitness is more your game, fitness safaris are also available. www.chelipeacock.com

The **Da Vinci Hotel** is the Legacy Group's luxury establishment adjacent to Nelson Mandela Square in Sandton, **JOHANNESBURG**. The

hotel now offers a home-away-from-home experience to frequent guests by welcoming them with linen embroidered with their initials. Now, that's a special touch! www.legacyhotels.co.za/en/hotels/davincihotel

After a four-month closure and a US\$30 million makeover, Tsogo Sun's **Southern Sun MAPUTO** has re-opened. The renovations included the business, conference and public areas, as well as an expansion involving 11 new rooms and a revamped bar and restaurant, complete with views of Maputo Bay. In addition, the beach is cleaned every day with special equipment brought in from the USA! www.tsogosun.com

The **Cape Milner** in Tamboerskloof, **CAPE TOWN**, has had a full-on facelift. With new wooden flooring, modern decor and lighting, entirely revamped bathrooms and the addition of luxurious elements, it's now an authentic boutique hotel. A must-see is the new Glass Lounge, a chic venue option with a plush bar and glass roof to allow views of Table



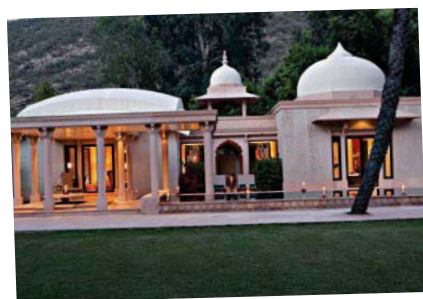
Mountain. Business travellers can expect a well kitted-out work centre, an in-house gym and free Wi-Fi and conference facilities. www.capemilner.com



Bird-lovers will enjoy the spectacular setting of **Arabella Country Estate** in the **WESTERN CAPE**. Part of the Kogelberg Biosphere and bordered by the Bot River estuary, the area attracts more than 178 species, including breeding fish eagles, falcons, hawks, kites and buzzards, owls, flamingos, pelicans and black oyster-catchers, as well as migrating birds such as osprey, terns and

even rare European oyster-catchers. "The whole Overberg region is a birding Utopia; we have the Rooisand hide, the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens (Betty's Bay), the Rooi Els site for the Cape rock-jumper and the Swarttrivier roads," says Arabella Country Estate Manager Dirk Uys. www.arabellacountryestate.co.za and www.westerncapebirding.co.za

Clockwise, from top left: Riding at Cheli & Peacock. A barn owl at Arabella Country Estate. Da Vinci Hotel. The Cape Milner. Southern Sun Maputo.



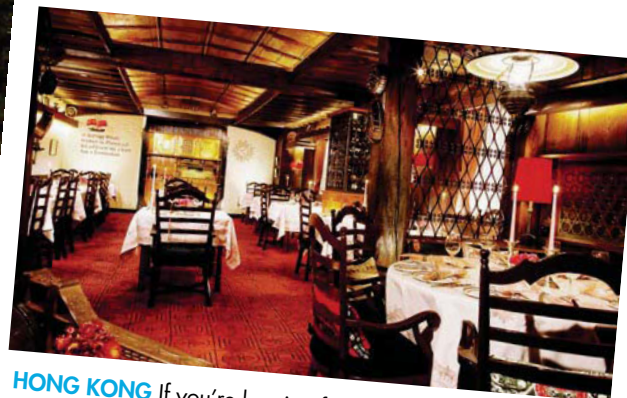
RAJASTHAN Offering ultra-luxurious treatment, the Amanbagh – a modern-day Moghul Palace – pays homage to the golden age of India. The resort offers heritage and cultural tours that avoid tourist traps. Visits include the breathtaking Ajabgarh Fort and Temple, built in 1635 and the 17th-century Baba Kapoor Shah Mosque. www.amanresorts.com/amanbagh/resort.aspx



CHILE The Explora group now offers luxury trips to the best and most remote areas of the country: think wild animals, amazing vistas and delectable food you can't get anywhere else on the planet. www.explora.com

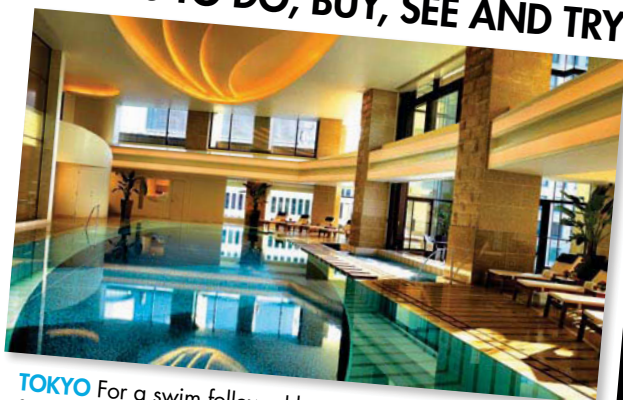


LONDON One for the men. If you need some special care after a flight, Nottinghill's Privet offers facials, massages and pampering in a man-cave toolshed. www.privetbody.co.uk



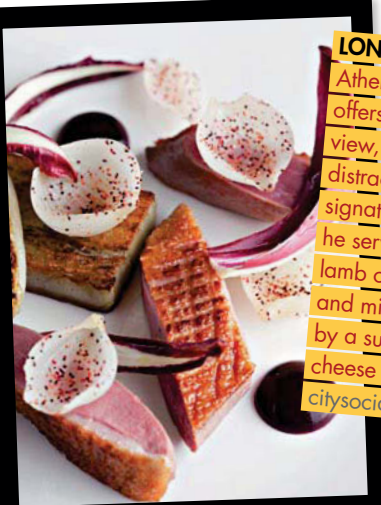
HONG KONG If you're longing for Swiss cuisine in Asia, the Chesa – an Alpine chalet-like restaurant – serves traditional hand-made sausages with rösti, Spätzle and a selection of cheeses for the special fondue. <http://hongkong.peninsula.com>

GLOBAL THINGS TO DO, BUY, SEE AND TRY EYE



TOKYO For a swim followed by some serious R&R, try the noted Peninsula across from the Imperial Palace. Offerings include massages, facials and customised, romantic treatments for two. www.tokyo.peninsula.com

PARIS FOR WINTER, RELAIS CHRISTINE IS OFFERING A POP ART TREAT FOCUSING ON ARTIST NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE AT THE GRAND PALAIS. PLENTY OF CHAMPAGNE IS INCLUDED. WWW.RELAIS-CHRISTINE.COM



LONDON Chef Jason Atherton's City Social offers a magnificent view, but the food will distract you from it. In signature British tradition, he serves superlative lamb chops with mash and mint, followed by a sumptuous local cheese plate. www.citysociallondon.com

JODHPUR, INDIA Within the walled city, the Raas – the area's first designer hotel – offers sweet solace. The Moghul-style gardens and views of the famed Mehrangarh Fort enhance the tranquillity. www.raasjodhpur.com



SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN The Silk Road just became accessible, with Wild Frontiers offering tailor-made trips from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan. The trek is accompanied by Noorgul, the shepherdess in Son Kul and Jergal, caretaker of the medieval caravanserai, both in traditional yurts. www.wildfrontierstravel.com

