

Chit Chat

Magic
BREAKAWAYS
LEISURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Newsletter for MagicBreakaways Members

Issue No. 32 Summer 2009/10



Buying or selling couldn't be easier • The new revamped Kwa Maritane • Legacy's latest - the DaVinci •
Legacy Private Residencies raises the bar • and much much more...

Message
from
Peter Foaden



I am sure that we are all looking forward to 2010. The markets are looking rosier and the economists are saying that we are moving out of the recession. The long awaited FIFA World Cup will be taking place in our beautiful country. We can be extremely proud that we have been selected to host this event which is the second biggest in the world after the Olympic Games. I understand that it is the biggest sporting event measured in terms of TV audiences.

Our country has already successfully hosted World Cup rugby, cricket and golf and I am sure we are going to make the FIFA World Cup a major success. We have already benefited from the massive spend taking place on our infrastructure including improved roads, enhanced airports and the Gauteng rail project.

It is expected that we will have up to 500 000 tourists over the World Cup period. This increase in consumer spend will have an exceptionally positive influence on the economy. A recent Standard Bank economic review advised that tourists visiting South Africa have grown 200% - from 3 million in 1994 to 9 million in 2007.

We all have to make sure that every one of the tourists visiting our shores goes back with a positive message about our country. Let's all do our bit and show our visitors what true South African hospitality is all about.

Levy Budgets

The 2010 levy budgets have recently been finalized. Levy increases are higher than one would like but they are largely due to factors beyond our control. One of these is increases arising in municipal charges. The largest increase is due to the Eskom power increases which we are all now familiar with. Hopefully we will not have to endure 45% increase per annum for the next three years.

In addition there have also been increases in rates and taxes affecting all of us but in particular, sectional title home owners. This arises out of the change in legislation which now requires owners in sectional title schemes to pay rates directly to the local councils. Previously this cost was included in the levy and paid by the Homeowners Association directly. Most of the sectional title homeowners should by now have received their rates bill directly from the council. If you have not yet received it, budget for it as it will arrive eventually and is more than what you previously paid as part of your levy.

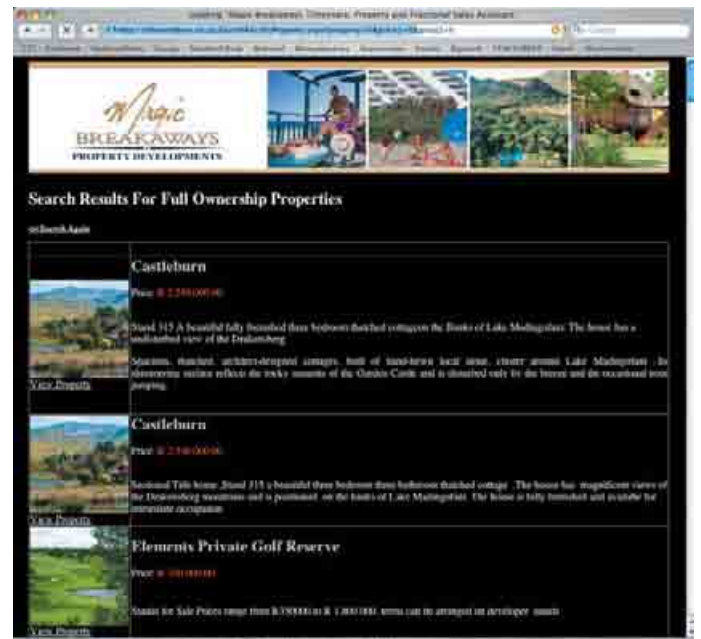
We have recently launched a new website to help owners to resell their property, syndication or timeshare week. Please refer to the article on this page for more information.

BUYING OR SELLING ???

A question that is often asked by many of our owners and prospective owners is: "How can we find out what other timeshare or properties are available at any or all of the MagicBreakaways Resorts?" Until now there hasn't been a way to simplify this matter but we are very glad to say the situation has changed. Just recently we have been able to give our owners an answer to that question.

We have launched a new website that solves all the problems of not knowing where to look and have created one space where everything comes together in a simplified way - giving you the chance to browse and find the right property, all in the comfort of your own home.

The website, www.mbmembers.co.za, enables you to see what properties are available at any given time. Whether it is a fractional ownership, timeshare option, or full ownership option, you will be able to browse through the categories until you find the perfect fit - pure convenience and a great "one stop shop".



Each fractional and whole ownership property listed is described in detail and includes photographs and particulars. If you are pleased with the property all you have to do is fill in the enquiry form and more information and further details will be sent your way. It really is that easy.

You can select properties through a number of ways, either through the destination, ownership options, or price, which narrows down your selection to exactly what you are looking for with no fluff in between.

Owners are able to resell their properties on the website as well and can do so by either contacting us at MagicBreakaways and we will gladly list your property for you or you can contact the Sales agent at your resort who will happily do the same. No fees will be charged to you for the listing but a commission will be charged given the successful sale of your property.

In today's hectic schedules we often don't find the time to do everything and our job is to give you that time out. Hopefully this helps you ease the process of owning or selling your slice of bliss in the MagicBreakaways portfolio.



Kruger Park Lodge to the Rescue

Recently the staff at Kruger Park Lodge undertook a rescue mission of an interesting nature - to save the fish in the pond situated on the property. The staff at KPL lodge showed their true commitment to preserving nature. It all started when security noticed that the pond was getting smaller and smaller and seemed to be drying up rapidly. They alerted management and it was found that there was a problem with the pipe works that fed the pond with fresh water.



The staff rushed to the rescue and got full of mud trying to rescue the poor fish that were stuck. From the little babies which were less than 5cm to the bigger ones which were half a meter not one was overlooked. The fish were extracted one by one from the muddy patch that

used to be the pond. They were all deposited into buckets of fresh water where they were interned until the resourceful KPL staff managed to get enough water pumped into the pond from the Sabie River. Once there was sufficient water, the fish were then released back into their home. Almost all the fish survived their traumatic experience and it was great to see them all happily swimming around.

As always Dave Liebenberg the General Manager of KPL led from the front and got stuck in (literally) pulling the fish out one by one and getting covered in mud in the process.

Dave would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who helped in this unusual rescue mission.



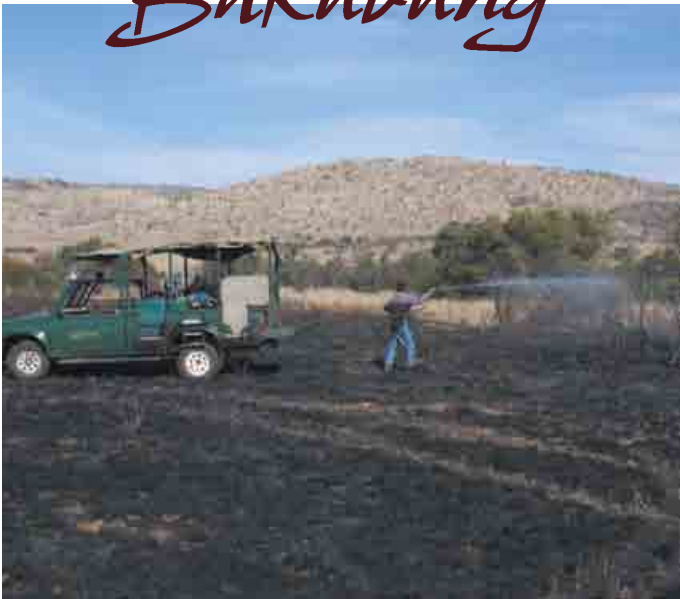
The Buck Stops Here

A decision was taken recently to relocate certain of the resident Kruger Park Lodge impala. There were a few driving factors for this decision. The impala population had reached a level higher than what the area can comfortably sustain; this can result in in-breeding and disease. Furthermore the large number of impala with their expensive taste were causing excessive damage to the greens and fairways.

They have been re-homed and from all accounts are doing well. A few new male impala are also now being brought in to change the blood line. These new rams are going to think they have reached paradise.



Bakubung



Bakubung's Fire Truck

Bakubung now has its very own fire truck. An old game viewing vehicle was converted by Dave Madden, Assistant Maintenance Manager, to be used as a maintenance vehicle by the lodge as well as to double up as a fire truck.

The seats were removed and a portable fire fighting pump was mounted on the back. The innovative Bakubung Maintenance Department also made 'fire beaters' using old fire hoses. A hand-held extinguisher completes the fire fighting arsenal (excuse the pun!).

As you know winter months are high risk time for fires. All the lodges in the Pilanesberg have to be on high alert. Bakubung's fire team have already assisted the Parks Board in fighting a huge fire in the Pilanesberg National Park this winter.

Well done guys!!

Wedding Bell(e)s at Bakubung

The British Lions Rugby Tour, which only takes place every 12 years, had something for the ladies this time around. Bakubung had British Lions supporters groups staying at the lodge but the wedding of Michael and Rachael Jones will definitely be remembered for some time to come!

Rachael (formally Lucas), who was the only lady in one supporters group, and Michael had decided that they could have their dream wedding, which they could not afford in England, here in South Africa.

It was a small ceremony held in Thutlwa Pool Bar. There were 12 male guests, a 'male bridesmaid' and a radiant (female) bride – all dressed in white!

Gerald Gultig, our new Assistant F & B Manager, Collette Rall, our GRO, John Tshwaedi, Victor Marumolola and Jeffrey Kgobokwe all worked feverishly to make it a memorable occasion. A pastor from Rustenburg performed the ceremony, watched by guests and staff.



Michael and Rachael sent us an e-mail when they got back home, saying that their special day was all they had ever dreamed it would be.

VOASA Salutes Kwa Maritane Team

The Vacation Ownership Association of Southern Africa (VOASA) 2009 Conference ended on 26 May 2009 with an awards evening held at the Southern Sun on Grayston Drive Sandton, where a number of awards were made to industry participants. Kwa Maritane was honoured with the "Industry Team of the Year Award" for 2009, accepted on their behalf by Tony Hazel of RCI.

According to a VOASA representative this award "was based on the performance of your employees during the fire, which they handled in a most exceptional way" and "Kwa Maritane truly deserved this award, you have set a very high standard for our industry and we know other resorts will be looking to your resort when considering what to do in the event of a fire. Congratulations! You have an exceptional team which has done our industry proud"

A proud Kwa Maritane General Manager, Dave Johnson, said on receipt of the award that all credit was due to his fantastic management and staff team whose performance had been outstanding not only during the fire but also throughout the aftermath and the rebuilding process. He congratulated the team on a job well done and added that it was largely thanks to their efforts that the Resort had been able to reopen all its facilities just 8 months after the devastating fire in August 2008.



Kwa Maritane - an Icon of the Pilanesberg Rises from the Ashes

On 01 May 2009 Kwa Maritane Game Lodge, one of the jewels in the Legacy Hotels & Resorts portfolio, reopened its doors having undergone major rebuilding after the heart of the Lodge was destroyed by a devastating fire in August 2008. The reopening of this luxury, 90 roomed, 4 star Resort in the Pilanesberg coincided, almost to the day, to the original opening date, on the 4 May 1984.

The fire, caused by an electrical fault, laid waste to the entire central complex including the administrative areas, bar, restaurant, kitchen, all back of house areas and 14 of the adjacent timeshare units. After the fire the entire Resort was closed for approximately 2.5 months allowing for the re-establishment of infrastructure as well as to ensure that the damaged areas were secure and up to our strict safety standards.

On 31 October 2008, Timeshare owners and guests were again able to access the 35 Timeshare units undamaged by the fire as well as the other remaining undamaged facilities. Temporary reception and administration operations as well as a restaurant and bar were established in the Conference Centre and the Kwa Baneng pool area. Kwa Maritane was also able to make all of its hotel rooms available over the Nedbank Golf Challenge week in December, to honour long standing relationships with its guests.

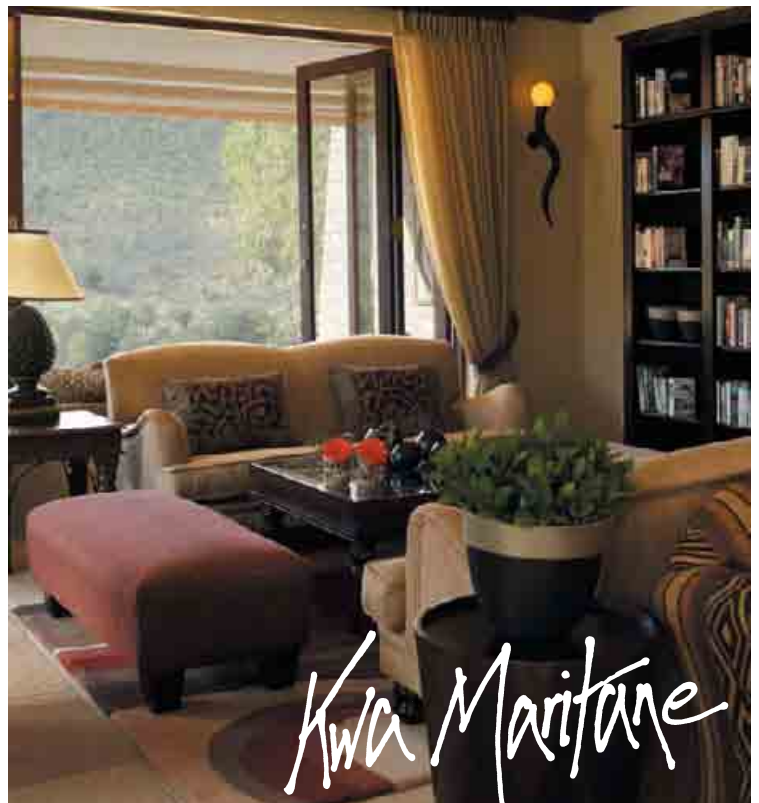
Since rebuilding commenced in October last year, monumental efforts have been made to restore this icon to its former glory in the short space of only eight months. The original design was so close to being perfect that very little had to be altered during the rebuilding. The changes that were made were more inclined to meet modern trends, to create more space in certain areas and to enhance standards of service to guests.

In addition to new décor throughout and a complete facelift in the central complex, visitors and guests are able to enjoy the following improvements:

- A larger restaurant with additional outdoor seating enabling diners to fully appreciate the views of "the rock" and the vistas of the Pilanesberg National Park
- An exclusive residents' lounge and cocktail bar leading off the restaurant providing a tranquil haven for guests
- A revamped kitchen provided with state of the art equipment and facilities and a new outdoor cooking area, enabling our chefs to offer an even greater variety of cuisine and the traditional sumptuous buffets for which Kwa Maritane is renowned
- Overlooking and accessible to the main pool deck, the modernized, more spacious Kwa Mazout bar provides the perfect venue to meet for a drink
- All 90 Lodge rooms have also recently been refurbished and provide for guests' every need



Above: The sumptuous new restaurant at Kwa Maritane
Below: The new lounge area where guests can enjoy some quiet time





Legacy News

Legacy adds Riviera on Vaal Hotel & Country Club to its hotel portfolio

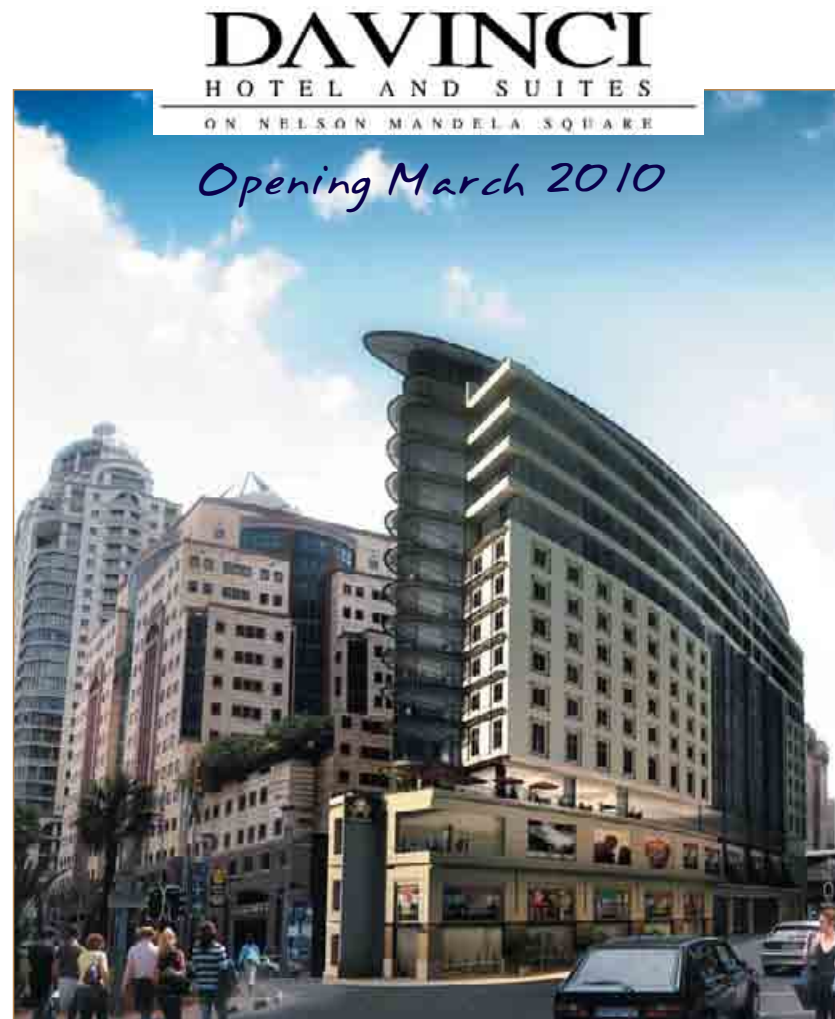
Opening March 2010 and located on Sandton's Nelson Mandela Square, the DaVinci Hotel and Suites offers guests all the luxuries and comforts they have come to expect from Legacy's extraordinary portfolio of hotels and resorts.

Boasting 166 en-suite hotel rooms, 50 one, two and three bedroom suites and four penthouses - the DaVinci Hotel and Suites has something for every taste. All rooms have plasma screen televisions with DSTV, direct dial telephones and individually controlled air conditioning.

Guests will also enjoy high speed internet connectivity with unlimited free internet access and 24 hour room service. Butler and babysitting services are available on request.

Take time to relax in the Legacy fitness gymnasium or swimming pool, or let our therapists pamper you in the wellness spa. Enjoy sumptuous fare in The Maximillien situated in the Legacy Corner Mall. This restaurant offers an array of delicious French-style, Mediterranean and Asian cuisine.

For business meetings and conferencing, the DaVinci Hotel and Suites will offer up-to-date conference rooms and facilities for delegations of 12 to 120 guests. The hotel offers direct access to Legacy Corner Mall, Sandton City and the Nelson Mandela Square, as well as easy access to the Sandton Convention Centre.



As of October 1, Legacy Hotels & Resorts has a new member in the family. The company has taken over the management contract for the Riviera on Vaal Hotel & Country Club overlooking the Vaal River in Vereeniging.

The Riviera, boasting a classic façade and modern interiors, has been gracing the Vaal Triangle since 1936. A mere 45 minutes from the bustle of Johannesburg and within easy reach of OR Tambo International Airport makes this luxury hotel the perfect conference and family getaway.

The hotel has a host of activities on offer to keep the entire family happy for the duration of their stay. Children can spend time in the Murphy clubhouse, on the jungle gym, on the outdoor chess board or in the swimming pool. Adults have the option of spending time relaxing in the spa or on the golf course which overlooks the Vaal.

Three restaurants tantalise your palette or, for an elegant dining experience, choose a cruise of the Vaal River aboard the iconic Petit Verdot Floating Restaurant or an intimate affair in Cellar Richelle.

Six conference and function venues and a wedding chapel ensure that the Riviera is the perfect venue to meet your every need.



RIVIERA
on vaal hotel
& country club

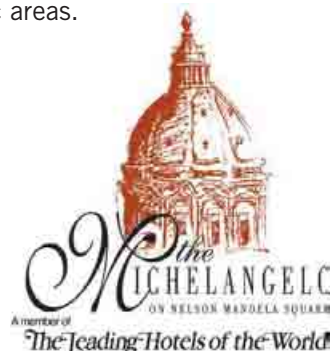
Legacy expands into Nigeria in 2010



The Michelangelo undergoes refurbishment

Guests to the Michelangelo in Sandton will soon enjoy the luxury of the hotel's fully refurbished rooms.

The refurbishment, which began in September and should be complete by the end of January 2010, will see all rooms and suites receiving a complete facelift with all hotel rooms receiving new soft furnishings including carpeting, curtains and the reupholstery of some of the furniture. The suites will also have the curtains, carpets and upholstery replaced as well as some of the furniture. New carpets will be laid in the public areas.



Set to open in mid 2010, The Wheatbaker in Lagos will expand Legacy's footprint into Nigeria.

Located in the residential heart of Ikoyi, the Wheatbaker is destined to become Lagos' premier five-star boutique hotel. The hotel is targeted at entrenching itself as the top lifestyle and entertainment address in Lagos.

The hotel will feature 70 luxury rooms and suites with DSTV, an internationally graded à la carte restaurant and delicatessen, a private membership gymnasium and health spa and 24 hour room service.

There will also be secure on-site parking for all guests.

For business meetings and conferences, the Wheatbaker will have a function venue which will seat up to 200 delegates, full business centre facilities and wireless internet connectivity.



Cheers!!!! to Brookeshill Suites...

The staff at Brookeshill Suites recently celebrated the opening of their new bar and restaurant. The restaurant can seat 50 people and serves the finest cuisine specifically designed by the in-house chefs. The restaurant and bar are open from 6am to 10pm and according to those in the know the cocktail menu is very tempting - they make a mean martini ranging from frozen to a very interesting one called the choc chilli! For those guests who would rather stay in for dinner the room service operates 16 hours a day!



...and an upgrade

Brookeshill Suites recently upgraded some of their facilities within the resort. The bathrooms in all the suites have new shower doors which have replaced the old shower curtain. The kitchens have also all received an upgrade. The counters are now a beautiful granite and the sinks have all been replaced by stainless steel versions. Small changes but ones that have made a huge difference.



Hermanus Beach Club Recyclers

Hermanus Beach Club made a decision at the beginning of 2009 to make a positive contribution to both the community and the environment. A whopping 3234 kilograms were recycled by the Beach Club Recyclers. This included paper, glass, plastic and cans.

All the recycled material is kindly sorted and transported by Jack and Hestea Verster to the Hermanus Recycling depot, where it is converted to cash and distributed among several worthy causes within the community including:

- **The Hospice 600 Club**

The Overstrand Hospice train homecarers, who assist terminally ill patients and also comfort and support their next of kin in times of illness and loss.

- **The Rainbow Trust Sponsor a Child Fund**

The Hermanus Rainbow Trust is a non profit organization which was formed in 1998 to assist in catering for the acute needs of the township children. Nursery schools and houses of safety are being built, and assistance is provided to poor families in their need to send children to nursery and pre-primary schools. A donation of R 70.00 per month ensures payment of fees to the nursery school/ crèche which the child attends, 2 wholesome meals per day, full day care by trained personnel, educational learning materials, a birthday and Christmas present, management of childhood illness, counseling and full school uniform.

Our prodigy is Aviwe Magudumane, a pupil at Zwelihle Pre-primary School.

Hermanus Beach Club would like to appeal to all concerned to bring newspapers, magazines, tins, glass and plastic to the Timeshare Office. They also collect all unwanted linen and clothes. Every quarter all "condemned" goods are collected and distributed to the community via the Hermanus Community Services centre. If anyone would like to make a donation to either of these worthy causes please contact:

Hestea Verster 028 313 2484 or Charmaine Lehy 083 410 4334.





Storms at Castleburn

June was a rather hectic month as far as the weather was concerned. The resort was buffeted by huge storms and hurricane strength winds for four days in a row which damaged the chalets and even went so far as to snap five of the lightning masts on the property. The temperatures ventured below freezing over these days. It took just under a month for the resort to recover and we are happy to report that the damages have been repaired and hope that storms like these are few and far between.



As can be seen from the picture above, extremely strong winds caused substantial damage to the roofs of the chalets.

Something else to do while you are here.....

Castleburn is pleased to announce that we have recently acquired a pedal boat that guests can use on the lake. We are sure that it will ensure hours of fun for the whole family.

Sani Fly Fishing Experience

Twice a week, guests are offered free fly fishing lessons on the front lawn of the Castleburn Resort. Fly fishing is definitely an art and one can see how much more respect the pupils have for expert fly fisherman who are able to cast their line gracefully into the water without the fly getting caught in the bushes. All the while somehow managing not to get a knotted leader (what is a leader you say?), avoiding body piercing by a Walkers Killer fly as it whizzes past the virgin earlobes of the want-to-be fly fisherman.

Not to mention the hours of patience, focus and skill it takes to effortlessly cast out the line and then retrieve the line all the while by mimicking a distressed juicy insect on the water's surface!

The guys from Sani Fly Fishing experience take those people who are interested to fishing spots within the area. They say once the bug has bitten you are hooked for life!



Castleburn Welcomes a New General Manager

Gwyn and Christelle Viljoen have taken over the management reins at Castleburn. They follow in the footsteps of Dave and Brigitte who have moved to take up positions at Kruger Park Lodge. "We are very excited to be able to be part of such a wonderful resort and look forward to making many friends and having many great experiences", comments Gwyn Viljoen, new General Manager of Castleburn.

We at MagicBreakaways wish you the greatest success!



Elements Raises the Bar in Golf Estate Living



An emerald amidst the Waterberg bushveld, Elements offers more than just its beauty; it is rated as the ninth best golf course in South Africa.

Situated in the breathtaking Waterberg Mountains in the Bela-Bela region of Limpopo, one will find one of the rarest of African treasures, Elements Private Golf Reserve. This magnificent slice of heaven is a mere two hour drive from Sandton.

This is no ordinary golf estate; it is 495 ha of majestic African bush experience. The golf course which has recently been voted 9th in the Top 100 golf courses by Golf Digest Magazine was designed by Peter Matkovich and offers golfers a real challenge as it is voted the 6th most difficult course in Africa.

What sets Elements Private Golf Reserve apart from all the other run of the mill golf estates in South Africa is the fact that none of the houses are built next to the fairways or vicinity of the course. The houses are built away from the course so that you are ensured of the utmost privacy as well as allowing the golfers a truly African golfing experience.

Elements is managed by the Legacy Hotels and Resorts Group and marketed by MagicBreakaways Property Developments.

Legacy Private Residences have recently acquired a new home on the estate which will be used for Fractional Ownership purposes.

The five bedroom five bathroom home is located on a 4 400m² stand that overlooks the 14th and 15th holes. The house was designed by privately sourced architects which makes this magnificent home the only one of its kind on the estate. It is extremely spacious and boasts a total size of ± 588m² under roof.



The comfortable and gracious living area in the Legacy Private Residences home



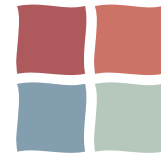
The interior has been furnished to the highest standards with state-of-the-art home appliances and fittings



The house comprises the following:

- Double Garage + Golf Cart Garage (2 Golf Carts included)
- Reception area
- Large dining room
- Very spacious lounge with built in fire place
- Massive kitchen with breakfast bar, lockable storeroom, scullery and courtyard
- 5 bedrooms all with en-suite bathrooms
- Guest bathroom with shower
- Spare bedroom/study
- 5th bedroom of the house has its own kitchenette with fridge, microwave, stove and oven (Apartment studio)
- Lovely outdoor deck area with patio furniture, built in gas braai and rim flow swimming pool.
- Unique landscaping
- Fully furnished to Legacy's 5 star standards

This house is currently valued at R5.8 million.



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For information on the Fractions available please contact Ewan Dykes on edykes@magicb.co.za or (011) 208 8300





High Tides Cause Havoc at the Dunes

In June this year Mother Nature decided to flex her feminine muscles and show everyone just how powerful she can be. The huge waves and high tides that were experienced were the biggest seen in a number of years along the coast.

The maintenance team headed up by our talented Peter Quinn at Wilderness Dunes repaired the boardwalk as their contribution to the community, "Our guys managed to make the boardwalk look exactly the same as it was before the storms came", comments Susan Du Toit, GM of Wilderness Dunes.



The tides rose up to the boardwalk leading down to the sea. The lower steps onto the beach and a section of the walkway were washed away.

The Outeniqua Choo Tjoe

Steaming good fun in the Garden Route! Kids and steam buffs take note - the Outeniqua Choo-tjoe train drives twice a day between George and Mossel Bay during December. Grab the kids and experience a day's trip down memory lane. Visit the Outeniqua Transport Museum before you travel on South Africa's only remaining scheduled steam train, the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe.

The Choo Tjoe takes its passengers on a unique, picturesque and scenic 52 kilometre journey through the Garden Route with spectacular views of the Indian Ocean. Leaving from George, you'll be snaking along through farmlands, crossing two rivers, careering down and around horseshoe bends before coming to the dramatic sight of hills falling to the crashing Indian Ocean waves near Glentana. Finally arriving in Mossel Bay at Santos Beach and the Diaz Museum Complex you will have the opportunity to visit the Post Office tree, Aquarium, Granary, Maritime, Cultural and Shell Museums. From there all the restaurants, shops and other facilities are within walking distance.

Unfortunately the Choo Tjoe no longer operates between George and Knysna since the landslides along the Kaaimans Pass in 2006. Negotiations to reopen the pass seem to have reached a stale mate.



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