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JULY 2016

Celebrating
**NELSON
MANDELA**
*International
Day*



Africa's Leading
Inflight Magazine



For 14
Consecutive Years

Winter weekend escape

Brahman Hills is a retreat to soothe the soul

The setting: The undulating hills as you gaze into the green distance and moody, misty mornings will make you feel as if you've stepped into Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. However, this romantic getaway has no Gothic drama – just sheer beauty.

The accommodation: Our self-catering unit had three bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms, ultra-comfortable, king-sized beds and pillows that made us reluctant to raise our heads again. The decor's chic and understated, yet cosy and the home-away-from-home ethos is truly effective. Enjoy full DSTv, electric blankets and a private deck with a Jacuzzi and braai, among the usual offerings.



The food: From simple lunches to gourmet dinners, the fare won't disappoint. My highlight was dinner in the cellar at 89 on Copper: grilled artichoke, mushroom and plum risotto for starters; beef fillet with potato gratin, celeriac purée, root vegetables and salsa verde for mains, followed by a sinful chocolate dessert. Each course was paired with wine.

The service: Friendly, down-to-earth staff who do their utmost to please.

The walks: If you're a walker, don't forget to bring sun lotion with you – in this lush environment 1 600m above sea level, you're closer not only to God, but also to the sun. Alternatively, curl up on the couch in front of the fire with a book.

Recommended outing: Nearby Nottingham Road is fabulous for a shopping excursion.

The climate: During winter, temperatures range from 7-25°C by day, but can drop below zero at night, so bring warm clothing.

The highlights: G&Ts on the deck overlooking the Blue Crane Reserve; a fully catered picnic at the dam with rosé bubbly; relaxing in the beautifully decorated cellar bar, featuring raw brick walls, shiny copper fittings and lights to lust after. It's hard to fight that smug, spoilt feeling!

The special: A two-night stay, including accommodation for two sharing in a standard hotel room. Dinner, bed and breakfast and cappuccinos on tap. R927 per person, per night. Valid until 30 September 2016. *Curry's Post Rd, Mount West, Midlands, KwaZulu-Natal.*

Visit: www.brahmanhills.co.za – **Fiona Davern**



ALL THAT GLITTERS...

The Bvlgari boutique has opened in Johannesburg and is full of lust-after treasures. Sunglasses, leather goods, jewellery and watches adorn the shelves of this über-stylish stand-alone store, with a design based on the brand's flagship boutique at Via Condotti 10 in Rome. This famous boutique was given a makeover in 2014 to mark its 130th anniversary. Refurbished by world-renowned American architect Peter Marino, the refurb was a tribute to over 2 700 years of Roman history, incorporating elements such as bronze, marble and wood. *Shop U28A/B, Diamond Walk, Sandton City, Johannesburg. Tel: 011 883 1325*



5 MINUTES WITH...

New York's finest hotel, the Pierre, is the perfect place to hide out with fabulous views. The property's GM, Francois-Olivier Luiggi, shares some of the hotel's secrets – and more



Favorite mode of transport?

New York by foot seems to be the quickest way to get around these days, though the subway comes a close second.

Hotel secret? The 41st floor of the Pierre, which is now part of a privately owned triplex, was the hotel's original ballroom. It has four gorgeous Juliet balconies, including two overlooking Central Park. We have lovely pictures in our archives of impeccably dressed guests (including bowties!) dining al fresco in the Thirties.

Best travel app: It may seem simple, but it will always be Google Maps for me. I've used it all over the world – it prevented me getting lost in Cape Town and helped me find the perfect lounge bar in Mumbai.

The hotel signature experience? The ride up to your room with our white-gloved elevator attendants. They're the epitome of luxury hospitality – caring, kind and always treating guests as if they're in their own homes.

– **Daniel Scheffler**



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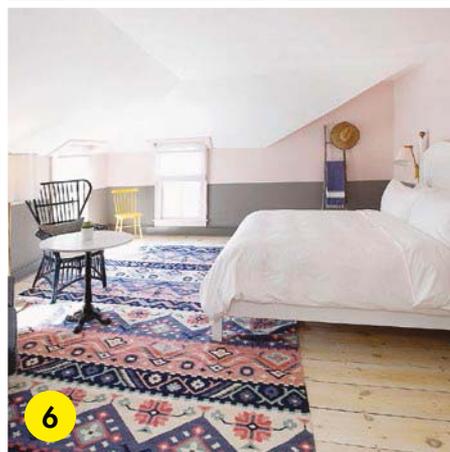
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GLOBAL EYE

1 HONG KONG: Diamond Hill, a little-known neighbourhood just a 20-minute subway ride from the madness of Central, used to be a slum area, but is now attracting artists and young couples in search of affordable studios for work and less chaotic living. It's an amazing area to explore – but resting your head should be reserved for the Peninsula Hong Kong. www.hongkong.peninsula.com

2 NEW YORK: American Cut recently opened its second location in the city – this time in midtown, perfectly situated for post-meeting meals. Kick off with oysters from both coasts, followed by the finest steak (wet- or dry-aged) in Manhattan, all washed down with the establishment's famous crackerjack sundae. www.americancutsteakhouse.com

3 PUCON, CHILE: Whether you're in Patagonia for the snow or the beautiful lakes, any time of the year is perfect. At Hacienda Vira Vira, you can enjoy horse-riding with a local *huaso* (cowboy), trekking the volcanoes or just spending an afternoon in the hot tub. Then look forward to the incredible cuisine. www.hotelviravira.com

4 BOSTON: Right in Boston's Public Garden is the Four Seasons, where guests can expect everything from a complimentary house car to cookie-making classes and in-room spa treatments. It's now also offering a fourth night free of charge if you're staying for three nights. The USA's most European city never felt better. www.fourseasons.com/boston

5 TEHRAN, IRAN: Abercrombie & Kent has revealed an itinerary for Iran that will cover 5 000-year-old landmarks and many of the 19 Unesco World Heritage Sites – all in a 4x4. Highlights include the ancient city of Ahvaz, the architectural splendour of Isfahan (Iran's equivalent to Machu Picchu or Angkor Wat), the ruins of Persepolis and the gardens of Shiraz. www.abercrombiekent.com.au/journeys/iran-journey-through-persia

6 SHELTER ISLAND, USA: For a perfect summer weekend out of New York, it's a quick drive or a train plus ferry to The Chequit B&B. Take a bike with you for exploring the area, enjoy long, lazy lunches at the establishment's White Hill Café or head for the beach with a picnic hamper. www.thechequit.com – **By Daniel Scheffler**

SWIPING HOT

Do some damage on your credit card every time you travel? MasterCard's latest rewards programme might make you feel better about your swiping habits.

The brand has launched its new premium credit card products – the World Elite MasterCard – for busy travellers, although the benefits can be used both at home and abroad. “The affluent market is increasingly seeking experiences that drive personal growth and happiness,” says Mark Elliott, Division President for MasterCard SA. The programme's bonuses include room upgrades at selected hotels, discounted airline tickets, a dedicated SA-based travel concierge service to help book your next business trip or family holiday and access to over 500 airport lounges globally. There's also the MasterCard For You app (for iOS, Android, BlackBerry and Windows users), which gives you benefits such as Buy 1 Get 1 offers at over 1 400 hotels, fine dining restaurants and premium spas across the Middle East and Africa. Visit: www.mastercard.co.za/world and www.mastercard.co.za/worldelite – **Helen Clemson**