

LIFE & STYLE

FROM
BALLITO & BEYOND

SPRING '23





INTERNATIONAL
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AWARDS
INTERIOR DESIGN

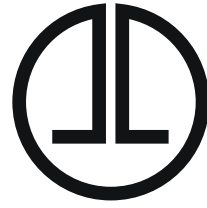
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2022-2023



Throughout Africa & The Indian Ocean Islands



OLALA INTERIORS

A COLLABORATIVE DECOR & DESIGN TEAM





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COVER

Kesivan Naidoo

Photographer: Jacqui van Staden

LIFE & STYLE

EDITOR

Mike Charles
mike@lifeandstyle.co.za

MANAGING EDITOR

Sue Charles
sue@lifeandstyle.fm

DESIGN

Mike Charles
The Lake Design

COPY EDITOR

Shannon Devy

CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Charles • Mia McCarthy • Kim Wilson
• Stephanie Du Preez
• Shannon Devy • Dave Charles

ADVERTISING

032 946 1145 / 3112 / 3674
info@lifeandstyle.fm

Candice Charles
candice@lifeandstyle.co.za
Joanie Cassidy
joanie@lifeandstyle.co.za
Tiara Govender
tiara@lifeandstyle.co.za

WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

www.lifeandstyle.co.za
@lifeandstylemagazine

RADIO LIFE & STYLE

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PUBLISHER

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info@lifeandstyle.fm

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HUNT PROPERTIES

We're Simply Different.

From a humble one-man operation in a quaint rondavel within Ballito's residential community, HUNT Properties has rapidly evolved into a phenomenon, placing 'uniqueness' squarely at its core.

Diverging from conventional norms, HUNT Properties pioneers a 'team-first' ethos that places the well-being of its employees and clients at the forefront. This distinctive organisational structure empowers them to assign dedicated team members to every facet of the process. From marketing innovation, seamless administration, seller agents liaising with sellers, or buyer agents skilfully guiding buyers, this specialised approach ensures excellence at every turn.

While an innovative model has undeniably resulted in a thriving operation, it's their community engagement and transformative initiatives that truly set this team apart. HUNT Properties exemplifies how a homegrown start-up can become an integral part of its community's fabric. *Read more about these initiatives on page 63.*

"Our entire team rallies to elevate the areas we operate in, through impactful CSI projects and unwavering support for local enterprises."

We recently achieved our fundraising target of R60,000 for The Litterboom Project's inspiring 'Back A Beach' campaign through the collective efforts of HUNT Properties and the steadfast support of our local communities. Our contribution will keep the Salt Rock beaches litter-free for the next 6 months." – Ryan Hunt

With the HUNT Properties expansion gaining momentum, rest assured that their exceptional real estate approach will be deeply ingrained in every branch, across the nation.

HUNT Properties are certainly embracing a real estate journey that's anything but ordinary.

KZN | CAPE TOWN

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PROPERTIES

RIPE FOR THE PICKING

SPRING has arrived in the Southern Hemisphere, and on the KZN North Coast (where this magazine is lovingly edited from), the tropical foliage is giving rise to an abundance of seasonal delights. While this part of the world is well known for the proliferation of sugar cane, banana palms and litchi trees, there is one seasonal fruit that (for me, at least) holds a strong association with spring in Ballito... Fancy a pawpaw?

Dotted in gardens throughout our coastline, pawpaw plants can be seen bearing their weighty, fleshy fruit as spring starts to add a dash of extra warmth to our already-balmy climate. As a firm fixture of the verdant landscape, you would be forgiven for thinking that they had always been here. Not so.

Quick history lesson: the pawpaw (also known as papaya or *Carica papaya*) is originally native to Mesoamerica – the region that includes parts of modern-day southern Mexico and Central America. They were first domesticated by the indigenous peoples of this area, who used them for food, medicine, and in important cultural rituals.

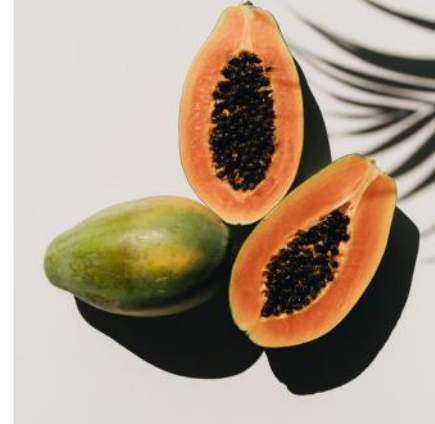
Pawpaw plants were introduced to South Africa by the Portuguese in the 16th century: they brought the seeds from Brazil, where they had established colonies and trade routes. The pawpaw plants thrived in the warm and humid climate of South Africa, especially in the coastal regions of KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

So the pawpaw – like so many arrivals in town – is an import that now enjoys the enviable status of being a Ballito local... Whether you're already living the Ballito lifestyle yourself or are still waiting for your own "pawpaw moment", I hope that this issue of Life & Style provides a little sunshine, optimism and inspiration for wherever you find yourself planted this spring.

-Ed.

Mike Charles

@mike_charles_media



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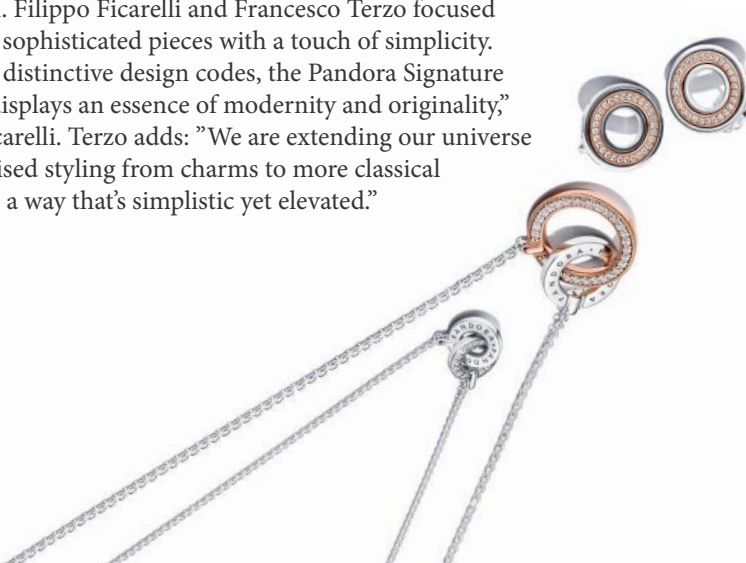
UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

Pandora Launches Its Signature Styles

PANDORA – the Danish jewellery brand known for its customizable charm bracelets, designer rings, earrings, necklaces and watches – has added a range of new minimalist jewellery styles to its Signature Collection. Inspired by a pared-down aesthetic, geometric shapes and clean lines, these expertly crafted pieces are designed to be worn alone or stacked and layered depending on the wearer’s mood and style.

From effortless go-to staples to statement pieces, Pandora Signature covers all the bases. Crafted in sterling silver, select styles such as the Pandora I-D Bangle also feature a two-tone finish that incorporates a mix of Pandora’s unique 14k rose gold-plated unique metal blend and eye-catching sparkling pavé.

When designing the collection, Pandora SVP Creative Directors A. Filippo Ficarelli and Francesco Terzo focused on creating sophisticated pieces with a touch of simplicity. “With such distinctive design codes, the Pandora Signature collection displays an essence of modernity and originality,” explains Ficarelli. Terzo adds: “We are extending our universe of personalised styling from charms to more classical jewellery in a way that’s simplistic yet elevated.”







Hand-finished by Pandora's skilled craftspeople, each piece shines with the love for craftsmanship and the highest attention to detail.

From hand-set stones to filing and polishing, the Pandora Signature collection bears the mark of a longstanding tradition of artisanal precision and passion for jewellery making. The new pieces are crafted in line with Pandora's commitment to leadership in sustainability, with all stones being man-made.

Pandora

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THE TOGO SOFA

An Icon Meets The Modern Moment

Words: Shannon Devy

“A tube of toothpaste folded on itself like a stovepipe and fixed at both ends”: this is how famed designer Michel Ducaroy described one of his most storied creations – the strange, iconic Togo sofa.

A product of a collaboration between Ducaroy and French design brand Ligne Roset, the Togo marks its 50th anniversary this year. It hasn't lost its magic: Ligne Roset is still selling new original Togos half a century later, and there's major demand on the second-hand market for rare and highly sought-after vintage originals, which go for an absolute mint. In recent years, the Togo has seen a major resurgence, but what is it about this odd design that makes it both endear and endure?

The Togo was first introduced at the 1973 Paris Salon des Arts Menagers, to general critical skepticism. The main problem?: it had no base, no armrests, and no feet – something broadly seen as a design snafu. But its undeniable comfort soon won over the critics, and before long the Togo was embedded within the 1970s zeitgeist, winning the Rene-Gabriel prize for affordable quality. Aesthetically, there's simply nothing like the Togo. Featuring an ergonomic design with multiple density polyether foam and quilted or leather upholstery, the Togo cuts a rather visceral profile, in the literal sense of the word. It speaks keenly to the almost unhinged design sensibility of the raging 70s, augmented by blocked colour options and rough, robust fabrics. Its modular design means you can mix and match sofa configurations, and the lightness of the base material makes the Togo sofa easy to move, without sacrificing comfort and support. Quite simply, the world had never seen anything like it. A fresh iteration of something as established and commonplace as the everyday sofa seat is truly remarkable, and speaks to the brilliance of the Togo's visionary inventor.

Michel Ducaroy was born in 1925 into a family of prolific designers. After attending the Ecole Nationale de Beaux Arts in Lyon, he went on to work in his family's business until 1952, when he set out alone to make his fortune as an independent designer. In 1954, he joined Ligne Roset, and took up the position of Design Department Head. It was an exciting time to be in furniture design: new materials were entering the market, which opened up new creative possibilities for those who cared to innovate. Ducaroy's experimentation with foam, thermoformed plastics and wadding set the



scene for the Togo's creation, and in many senses, the sofa heralded a new era of furniture design – one that privileged comfort alongside aesthetics, affordability alongside style. Ligne Roset has sold over 1.2 million Togo pieces since the model was introduced (and counting). It's not often that a piece of furniture goes on to have such an incredible cross-generational appeal. Love it or hate it, the Togo sofa represents the kind of deep creativity that underpins the timeless. Personally, I'd take that seat.





WORLD FIRST FOR KZN

We are delighted to announce that construction has commenced for Coral Cove

Located on the KZN North Coast, Coral Cove by Auria Senior Living is a significant retirement development to be located in Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate, on the shores of Sheffield Beach.

“Given the growth on the North Coast over the past few years, the provision of lifestyle environments for senior citizens hasn’t been catered for fully, and Coral Cove is the first to comprehensively address this need,”
says Auria Senior Living CEO, Barry Kaganson.

He explains that Continuing Care Retirement Communities, (CCRCs), such as Coral Cove, are purpose-built, secure retirement communities in which older adults can live an enjoyable, hassle-free life with access to a wide variety of hospitality services, amenities, care, and support.

With the July 2023 commencement date, move-in dates for residents will be before the end of 2024. All garden villas, apartments, communal areas and care centre of Coral Cove will be operational and complete, affording residents the opportunity to utilize the full array of Auria facilities and services. With a choice of beautifully designed homes including apartments and garden villas, Coral Cove is the first of its kind in KZN and a new gold standard for senior living.

2 & 3 Bed garden villas from R3.6m

1 & 2 Bed apartments from R1.69m

Coral Cove offers sea views, private beach access, extensive lifestyle facilities, a fully equipped wellness centre and a state-of-the-art care centre, catering for frail and dementia care. The Care Centre will be operational as the first residences are occupied.

Contact us to learn more about the hassle-free, Coral Cove lifestyle and to view our show unit.

Coral Cove

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EXCLUSIVE SPLENDOUR

By Stephanie du Preez

PHOTOGRAPHY Grant Pitcher

MIX A MAGNIFICENT PROPERTY, AN OPEN BRIEF AND A TRUSTING CLIENT WITH AN EYE FOR DESIGNER PIECES, AND THE END RESULT IS AWARD WINNING.

This was a client-centered project – as are all OLALA INTERIORS' projects. The company loves the fact that their clients are well traveled, enlightened and authentic.

The brief from the client was simple: Surprise me.

The project certainly came about as a surprise. With the trucks loaded to decorate another house for the client, the OLALA INTERIORS team were informed of a change of plan: The house they were primed to furnish had been sold, and in its place was a very different property.

“We stopped everything and went back to the drawing board. A toned down, yet alluring modern industrial style was redesigned into a layered and more glamorous look and feel”, says Schanè Anderson, CEO and Creative Director of OLALA INTERIORS. The team also had to ensure that everything complimented

and functioned at the new project site.

In the end it took the team a matter of weeks to turn the project around, to travel to find exclusive designer pieces, hunt for fabulous art, and for the team at the OLALA INTERIORS factory to make the custom designed cabinetry.

To pull off a project of this magnitude is testament to the relationships OLALA INTERIORS fosters with their clients.

The brief may have taken the team by surprise, but the trust in and success of the execution was a result of knowing a client's preferences and building good lines of communication.

OLALA INTERIORS went above and beyond on this oh so stylish home, producing the relaxed glamour of a high-end retreat – just what the clients ordered!







WORK WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

High ceilings and panoramic views seen through tall sash windows are framed in lush black velvet drapes. The home's magnificent proportions allow for expressive decorating with volumes of epic wall space for beautiful imported wallpaper and local art. Custom manufactured dining table and chairs by OLALA INTERIORS Luxoure™ brand.

Comfortable and functional design and execution – curating and mixing local rising African Artist's canvasses with established and iconic European and internationally acclaimed designer pieces. Unashamedly using the spectacular scale and volume to its full potential. From every angle, this is a home that celebrates craftsmanship, design, art and its exquisite location.



PERFECTLY BALANCED FORMALITY

The mirrored Constellation coffee table by Fendi Casa, with its reflective gold finish were placed at the fireplace, flanked by a Cité armchair by French designer Jean Prouvé. This chair with its dynamic appearance, broad leather detail coated steel rocker, is said to be used by Prouvé himself in his lounge.



EXQUISITE TASTE

Creating a calm and serene sense of opulence...infusing the old worldly grandeur and charm of the architecture with lush and rich modern textiles and designs. And yet, the interiors remain warm, inviting, luxurious to the touch and easy on the eye.



A MASTERFUL MASTER SUITE

The Diane von Furstenburg rug gives a sophisticated edge to the conversation lounge in the suite, and an Alpaco hand-sewn rug underfoot in the bedroom area provides superior luxury.

Developed by Vira and Antonio Citterio, the Grand Repos armchair and footstool offer generous padding, inviting armrests, expressive wings and visually exudes the kind of comfort that only a large swivel chair can offer.

Custom manufactured daybed sofas, plasma and bedside pedestals designed for OLALA INTERIORS Luxoure™ brand. The Bed Ruché by Inga Sempéis, one of Sempé's award-winning upholstery collections, features the same quilted cover with its intricate stitch work detailing, on an airy frame in anthracite-stained solid beech flanked by gold Fosca floor lamps.

FANCY A LUXURIOUS SOAK?

The master bedroom's en-suite leads off the walk-in wardrobe. An Abe Opperman painting, Harvest, hangs above the double slipper bath. The sanitary ware is all by the luxury British manufacturer Lefroy Brooks.



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UPGRADE YOUR Life & Style with Eva-Last

With summer fast approaching, it's time to get outdoors and back to the lifestyle we are accustomed to, living in a warmer climate country. The first thing many people do as Spring arrives is to sort out the garden, but others are bolder in looking for ways to upgrade or remodel their outdoor living space. We asked a few industry experts how these kinds of updates can add both value to your property but also improve your outdoor living experience.

1 Extend the floorspace

"Add more square metres by extending the functional floorspace outdoors to convert unused areas into beautiful, welcoming ones,"
says Duane Davis of Deckon Projects.

Since the pandemic, people are looking for more open-plan, outdoor spaces. There's no easier way to add value to your property than to transform unused outdoor areas into more functional spaces with a few clever additions. Adding an exquisite Eva-Last deck or shady pergola made from lightweight Lifespan beams increases the perceived size of a property. Although you're not technically increasing the actual size of the building's footprint, you're effectively extending the usable living or working area. You seldom need planning permission to add a deck, as it's seen as a temporary, removable feature, and provided it is not elevated too high off the ground.



2 Improve the style

Improve the "curb appeal" of any property with a soft, new natural-looking "skin" with VistaClad from Eva-Last. Cladding or decorative screens can be affixed to existing structures, walls or perimeters to instantly give it a new modern look and feel. This also enables you to stay with current fashions and trends.

"You can create a whole new identity for a building simply by changing its skin," says Thomas Kriel, lead designer and architect at TJA (Theunissen Jankowitz Architects).

By introducing the soft, natural colours and finishes of wood-look cladding, screening, rails or decking to your property, you can instantly update its appearance and functionality with a more modern, contemporary touch. Modern building materials such as Eva-Last's bamboo composite products offer added convenience, saving you time and money on maintenance and upkeep and even earn you brownie points for being eco-friendly.



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THE GLASS ARCHITECTURE OF STEVE JOBS

Steve Jobs will forever be synonymous with Apple: the company that he co-founded and led for much of his life, and which stands today as the world's largest and most valuable corporation. During the course of his life, Jobs left a legacy of technological innovation that transformed industries as varied as personal computing, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, digital publishing... and architecture.

Jobs had a deep appreciation of the possibilities of glass and metal, and how they could create stunning and functional buildings that reflected his minimalist aesthetic and philosophy. His architectural sensibilities had a profound impact on the design of modern retail spaces, especially through his innovative use of frameless glass mounting systems that were central to the design of his flagship Apple stores.

True to his obsessive nature, Jobs worked closely with architects and engineers to develop and refine pioneering frameless glass mounting systems supported by special metal fittings and clamps, which required a high level of precision and craftsmanship. He even patented many of his glass innovations, such as the glass staircases and cylindrical glass elevators that are featured in some of Apple's most iconic stores.



Apple recently relaunched its iconic Fifth Avenue "glass box" store in NYC.

The architectural style revolution that Jobs unleashed with his Apple stores left ripples of influence that are felt today in retail spaces, public buildings, museums, airports, skyscrapers, and private homes across the world.

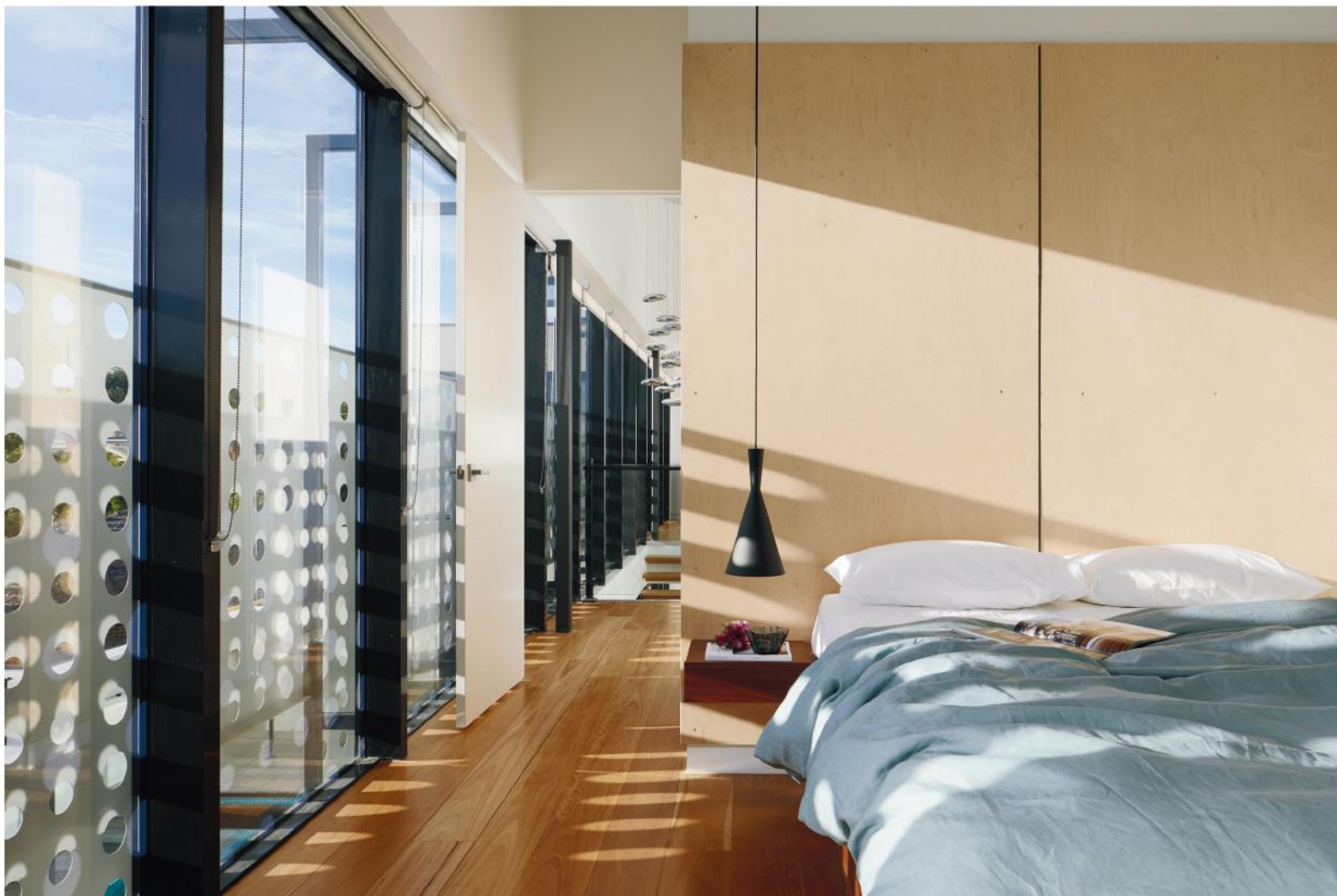
Jobs once said: "Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works." He applied this principle to everything he created, from software to hardware; from products to buildings. Whether it was in the design of his iconic products - from the iPod to the iPhone - or in his buildings, Jobs had a vision of how glass and metal could work together to create elegant and functional solutions that enhanced the lives of people. His legacy on modern architecture is undeniable, and his influence will continue to inspire designers and architects for years to come.

On the southern tip of Africa, one company has built a solid reputation as the go-to entity for bespoke aluminium and glass products that would surely meet even the high standards of Steve Jobs. North Shore Group (NSG) is regarded nationally as one of South Africa's leading manufacturers and installers of architectural glass and aluminium components.

While their reputation has attracted work on high-end projects from the Western Cape to Gauteng, NSG's founder and CEO Deon Olivier states that NSG's vision as a Ballito-based company is to become the most efficient and preferred supplier of aluminium and glass products in KZN. If Steve Jobs ever built a beach-house in Ballito, there is little doubt that NSG would be his local aluminium and glass experts of choice.

Learn more about NSG's innovation at www.nsgroup.co.za





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TIME WITH THE MASTERS

The Homecoming of Kesivan Naidoo

Words Dan Charles

KESIVAN NAIDOO is a colossal name in the Jazz world. Early in his career, he played drums with some of South Africa's best jazz musicians, like Hotep Galeta and Miriam Makeba. As a composer, he's won awards like the Standard Bank Young Artist Award. One of the highlights was when his band, Kesivan and The Lights, got a standing ovation at a packed concert at Carnegie Hall. But in Cape Town, at the Homecoming Centre Theatre, he's not just respected – he's truly loved.

“Ha! I'll never forget when, right before the gig in Cape Town, Lee [Thompson] popped his head out to look at the crowd and he could feel the electricity that was in the theater. Just before we were about to get on stage, he came back and said to the band: ‘Guys, guys, guys! Guess what? I think that those people out there want us to win!’”

Lee Thompson, a long-time friend of Kesivan's and one of the trumpet players in the Kesivan Naidoo Big Band Experience's 13-piece horn section, was right - the crowd did want Kesivan and his band to win. After all, this performance was significant - it had been many years since Kesivan brought a performance of this magnitude back to his home country since moving to America in 2015 to complete a master's degree at the Berklee Global Jazz Institute and then relocating to Basel, Switzerland with his wife Julia at the start of 2020.

During the 2020 pandemic, Kesivan took a pause from his music to think about his future. During this break, he got a chance to work with famous composer Adrian Mears and the Swiss Jazz Symphony Orchestra in 2022.





This collaboration let Kesivan revisit and complete an old project – his notable second album "Brotherhood" which got him a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall in 2014.

Brotherhood was an album that essentially served as a score for a journey through an epic comic book saga that Kesivan had written. The arrangements comprised of meticulously interwoven elements of the vocabulary of modern American jazz, the ragas of Indian classical music, and the groove and feel of contemporary South African jazz along with all of the lessons that Kesivan had learned from the masters that he had played beside. In his head, these songs were always meant to sound big, lush and orchestral in order to encompass the full cinematic experience that he had envisioned for this body of work - an experience that could finally

be manifested with the aid of a grand ensemble of musicians at Kesivan's disposal.

Bringing back the fully realized sounds of Brotherhood to South Africa was essential to the concluding of Kesivan's unfinished business. Although the songs served as the soundtrack for a comic book story, at their core, these songs were about connection - the connection felt within the music shared between Kesivan and his band of young South African jazz giants that he called his brothers and the pursuit trying to find a stronger connection with the spirits of the fallen ancestors that had initially illuminated Kesivan's own musical journey. This is probably best exemplified in the song Time With The Masters - a tribute to one of Kesivan's most significant mentors, the late great Bheki Mseleku.





Bringing back the fully realized sounds of Brotherhood to South Africa was essential to the concluding of Kesivan's unfinished business.



Bheki Mseleku, legendary Durban-born multi-instrumentalist, did not get the homecoming that many of the other giants of South African jazz received upon their return home after being exiled for 30 years by the Apartheid government - although, internationally, he was widely celebrated by audiences across Europe and The United States. Famously, Mseleku's first trip overseas earned him the attention of Alice Coltrane who recognized the spiritual connection to him and his playing to that of her late husband, John Coltrane - an idol of Mseleku's. After a thunderous performance playing with Philip Thabane's group Malombo at the New Port Jazz Festival, Coltrane gifted Mseleku the mouthpiece of the saxophone that her late husband had used during the recording of his hallowed magnum opus *A Love Supreme* - a symbolic gesture affirming him that his gift was significant and worthy of a glory that would resonate throughout history. Although he would fall on hard times after relocating to Stockholm to escape the oppressive climate of the Apartheid regime, Mseleku's international career would soar to great heights in the late 1980's upon moving to London where he would record his own magnum opus *Celebration*. However, after completing a successful world tour, Mseleku would return to South Africa in 1994 only to find that the level of recognition that he had attained throughout the world did not await him at home. After struggling to find a decent gig, reportedly squandering his earnings and falling victim to a burglary that would tear away the precious *Love Supreme* mouthpiece from his possession, Bheki Mseleku returned back to London in 2006 where he would remain until he died in 2008.



Bheki Mseleko's story is one that is regrettably all too familiar for many South African artists who have mastered their craft in their home country only to find that it is better valued elsewhere. This is not necessarily due to a lack of appreciation from the audiences that cherish and celebrate





“Ha! I’ll never forget when, right before the gig in Cape Town, Lee [Thompson] popped his head out to look at the crowd and he could feel the electricity that was in the theater. Just before we were about to get on stage, he came back and said to the band: ‘Guys, guys, guys! Guess what? I think that those people out there want us to win!’”

these artists. Rather, it is the institutions that tend to fail our artists by failing to provide the necessary infrastructure and financial support required to sustain the culture that has been grown here in South Africa and the people that tend to and cultivate it and expand upon it. It is the unfortunate case that love alone cannot keep anyone alive and so that is why so many of our artists are thrust into a type of unspoken exile of our economy’s making and that is why so many of our artists are only able to sustain themselves and their stories by opting to be lauded as an honored guest in another land rather than being loved as family in their own home.

Bheki Mseleku's tragic homecoming story is worth mentioning because it highlights the significance of Kesivan's return to South Africa. Even though Kesivan now lives in Europe where it's easier to get funding for the arts—like the Swiss support for his Big Band ensemble—he remains deeply connected to South African jazz. Kesivan knows that he plays a big part in taking this music into the future. The great jazz masters who inspired him from the beginning were as much a part of the Kesivan Naidoo Big Band Experience as the musicians that he performed with.

When the horn section began to breathe life into the overture of the evening’s performance at the Homecoming Centre Theatre, it felt like a benediction akin to that of the opening sounds of John Coltrane’s saxophone on *A Love Supreme*. As the shimmering of Kesivan’s cymbal swells beneath the horns shifted into the enrapturing groove of *Time With The Masters*, it felt as if the spirit of Bheki Mseleku had been rejoined with the treasured mouthpiece that had been taken from him and that his spirit had also been rejoined with a love and reverence that had eluded his own homecoming. That is why the work that Kesivan Naidoo does, as the conduit between the past and the future of South African jazz is so important and deserves to be celebrated. That is why we want him to know that we want him to win.

Kesivan Naidoo

@kesivannaidoo



MUZE

Co-founders Wendy van Zyl and Stephanie Wilkes empower women by boosting confidence. In our stores, we play "personal stylists," unveiling inner beauty.

Photography: Pagiel Chetty
Styling: Danielle Henry
Hair & makeup: Kiss & Make-Up
Models: Sarah – MODELS INTERNATIONAL
Lindelwa – BOSS MODELS

Passionate about style and quality, MUZE curates collections that draw from the power of colour to inspire and navigate the world around us. Our clothes are made by South African women, supporting sustainable fashion.

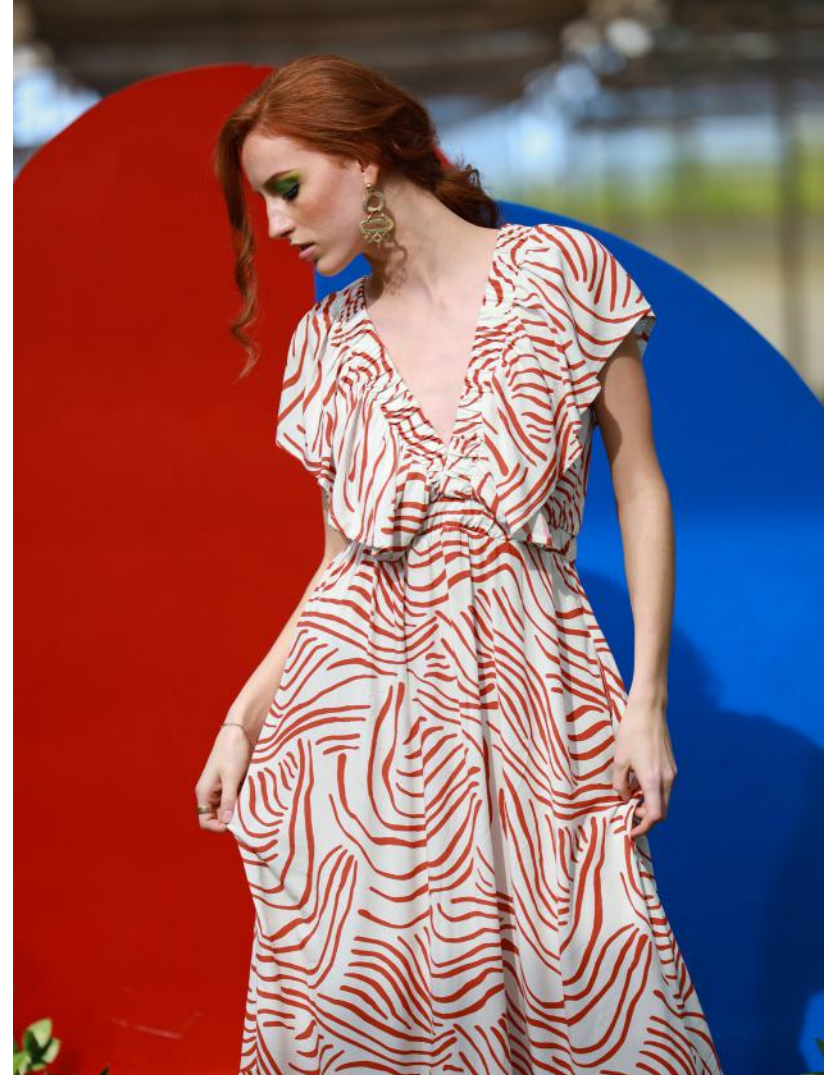
Authentic designs, limited releases, and careful craftsmanship define us. We blend seasonal trends for timeless style. Our capsule wardrobe approach creates adaptable, lasting fashion beyond trends. Inclusivity matters. Every woman finds her fit, enjoying personalized shopping. Shopping here is empowering, not just transactional. Our staff offers expert guidance. MUZE is at Ballito Lifestyle and Gateway, offering tailored experiences. Ready for a style journey? Embrace your uniqueness with us, inspired by the wonders of colour and nature this Spring. Stand tall, be unashamedly you.

COLORTERAPIA - SPRING '23

"Colour is a power that directly influences the soul." - Wassily Kandinsky

Our predisposed associations and personal experiences with colour greatly impact our perception of the world. Ultimately, colour help us navigate the world around us and add richness to our lives, inspiring artists, poets and creatives throughout history.

This season, we announce Spring with a bold burst of colour; stand tall and be unashamedly you and draw inspiration from nature and the beauty that surrounds us - paying close attention to our wonderful, colourful, awe-inspiring creation.







Cinched in waistlines, off-the-shoulder tops and relaxed silhouettes and of course, BOLD pops of colour welcome in the warmer weather and the celebration of changing seasons!



Drawing inspiration from Wassily Kandinsky's words:

"Colour is a power that directly influences the soul"- we understand the impact of color on our perceptions and experiences. Just as color enriches our lives, we curate collections that resonate with your unique fashion identity."



GET A HANDLE ON THE BIRKIN BAG

It all started with a basket.

Words: Mia McCarthy

Before 1984, singer-songwriter and actress Jane Birkin was known for two things – coquettishly redefining how sex was depicted in European film and music, and a signature straw basket that she touted everywhere she went.

From quotidien grocery stores to sparkling discotheques, Birkin's iconic basket was her most constant accessory. The basket was allegedly present at her fateful encounter with Hermès CEO and artistic director Jean-Louis Dumas on an Air France flight in 1983. In fact, the infamous Birkin basket is indirectly responsible for the design of the even more infamous Birkin bag.

Because it was during this encounter with Dumas that the idea of the Birkin bag was born.

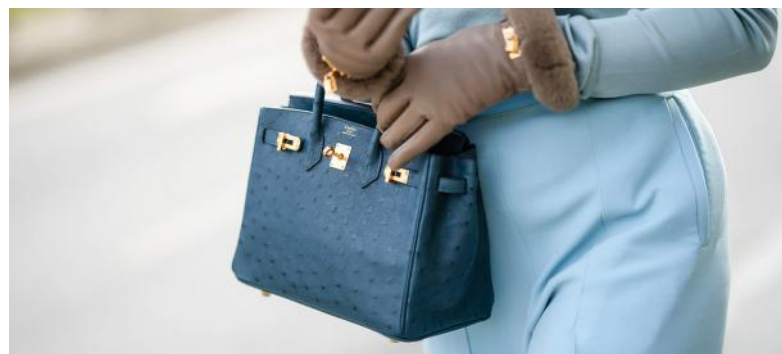
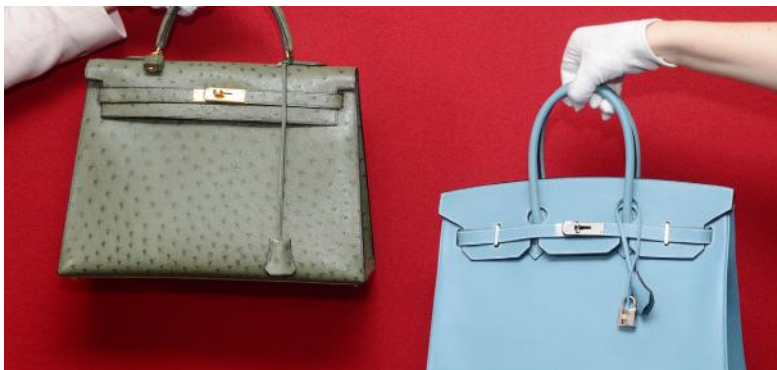
The exact details of its origin story differ slightly. In one account, Dumas saw Birkin's myriad belongings spill out of the impractical basket when she tried to shove it into the plane's overhead luggage compartment. In another, Birkin's beloved basket had been intentionally run over by her then-husband, Jacques Doillon, two days before the flight, and she was using a different travel bag. In any case, Birkin explained to Dumas that it had been difficult to find a leather weekend bag that she liked, and wondered aloud if Hermès could produce a larger version of the Kelly bag.

The encounter inspired Dumas to design the Birkin bag, a luxury leather tote named for the Anglo-French style icon. The Birkin has since become one of the rarest and most highly coveted bags in fashion history. Buyers once had to join a waitlist of approximately six years before receiving a bag. Artisans purportedly train for five years before they are permitted to make their first Birkin bag, a process which takes up to 18 hours to complete.

Although the fame of the Birkin bag is legendary, Jane Birkin's handle on the tote was relatively short-lived. She initially used her eponymous bag, but later gave it up because it was too heavy. However, Birkin was photographed in 2004 wearing her well-worn Hermès Birkin bag to Paris fashion week with trademark insouciance. The pictured bag (which is literally worth more than its weight in gold) is scuffed, heavily accessorised, and full to bursting with the same items that one imagines fell into the lap of Dumas all those years ago – makeup, a signature oversized luxury knit, perhaps a spare baguette and a half-smoked cigarette.



Jane Birkin passed away in July of this year, leaving behind a formidable legacy as a musician, an actress, a style icon, and a philanthropist. Whether she was styling cashmere with Converse sneakers or dragging a beat-up Birkin through Paris fashion week, her louche approach to personal fashion is a lasting reminder that our clothes are meant to be lived in; that is part of their beauty.



Birkin

It may take you a while, but you can buy a Birkin straight from the boutique. You just can't walk into an Hermès boutique and buy a Birkin immediately. It must be ordered, and there is a waiting list. You also can't buy the Birkin, Kelly, or most of Hermès's more iconic styles online

www.hermes.com
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/ CURATIONS /



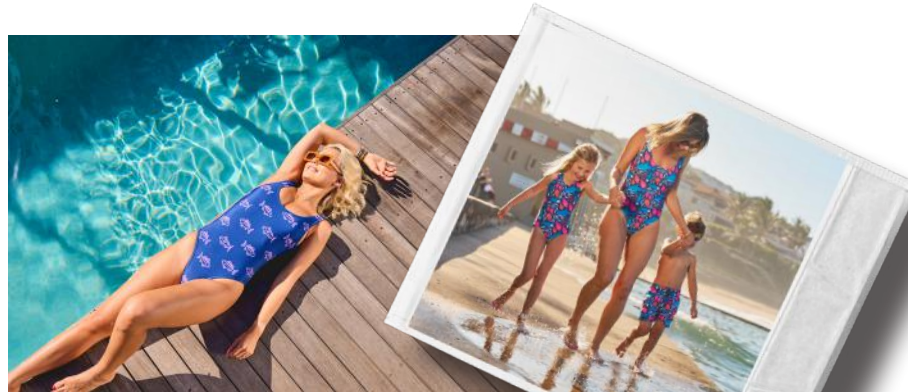
LIVE EASY, IN BREAZIES

Fun, freedom and adventure: these are the essential elements embodied by the sun-kissed Salt Rock swimwear brand *Breazies*. With unique limited edition prints, in bold and vibrant colours, Breazies specialises in creating affordable luxury swimwear & lifestyle apparel that's pretty much guaranteed to slide you straight into holiday mode.

Husband and wife team James and Kerry Greene founded the brand in 2017, after falling in love with the word "breazies" (and all that it evoked) during their honeymoon in Mauritius. Living in Salt Rock on the KZN North Coast (where swimwear is staple attire all year round), they knew exactly what kind of lifestyle brand they wanted to launch. Their aim was to create stylish, comfortable swimwear that could be lived in all day long – from beach to bar.

The Breazies range caters for the entire family, which includes swim shorts for men and boys, along with a selection of swimwear styles for ladies and little girls (yes, the whole family can match) and most recently a growing line of luxurious, easy wearing linen clothing.

Get your hands on some fun and vibrant swim wear and browse their wide assortment of new prints from the freshly launched Breazies SS24 collection, just in time for summer - find their new flagship store at the Lifestyle Centre Ballito, or shop online at breazies.com. 🌊





Gabby and Jared are wearing one of our latest prints, "The Shoal".
Pictured at the beautiful Sala Beach House.



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THE COMFY CO.

The Comfy Co. specialises in crafting the dreamiest lifestyle and loungewear. Their range is luxurious, elegant, and of course, exceptionally comfy, designed to help put the style into self-care, one perfectly made robe or pyjama set at a time. Their motivation comes from wanting women to be their authentic self. The Comfy Co. is the ultimate house of luxury and encourages women to Be Your Own Muse.

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THE COMFY CO.



FRESH & FABULOUS

Spring Essentials

A collection of Spring Essentials to enhance your lifestyle in the season of renewal and re awakening.



PRINCESS GABI

Princess Gabi is bringing the sustainable principles of slow fashion to the world of children's apparel. Each item is made to order and made to last, lovingly stitched in their family studio. **Princess Gabi** is female-founded and 100% women-led, and while their absolutely magical princess dresses are certainly a stand-out item, their range includes everything from adorable rompers, to brilliant clothes for boys, and matching outfits for Mum and Daughter.

www.princessgabi.co.za.



THE BLOOM BAR

Located at Sage Centre in Salt Rock, **The Bloom Bar** specializes in gorgeous seasonal flowers and flower arrangements. Their perfectly arranged bouquets are perfect for any special occasion.

If you're a flower fan, you can purchase a **Bloom Bar** Subscription, and get fresh flowers delivered directly to you every week for a month!

The Bloom Bar also delivers in Salt Rock, Ballito and Umhlanga

@thebloombarzn

bloombarzn@gmail.com



MAXIMIZING EXERCISE COMFORT AND RECOVERY

Your Guide to Alleviating Pain and Enjoying Your Workouts

Words Kim Wilson

Aiming for peak performance during workouts while minimizing discomfort is a goal we all share. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just beginning on your fitness journey, understanding how to decrease pain during exercise and optimize recovery between workouts is essential. In this article, we'll delve into evidence-based nutrient and supplement recommendations, as well as a few lifestyle tips to help you feel your best throughout your fitness endeavours.

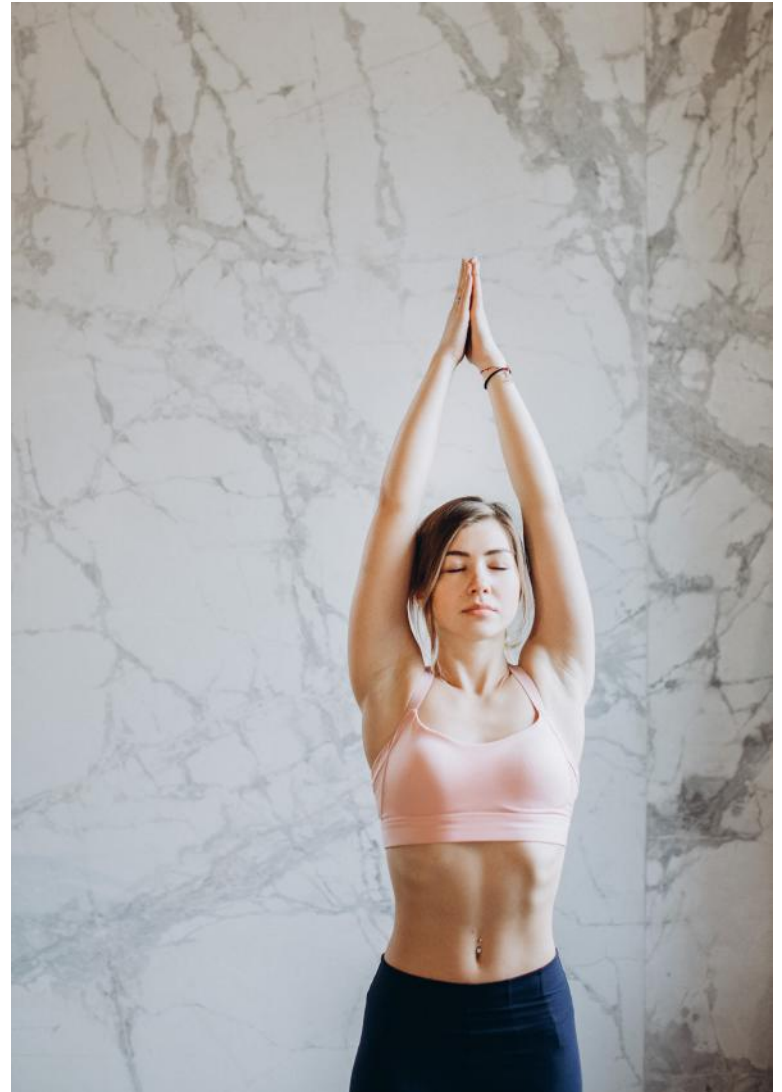
NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES TO ALLEVIATE PAIN

Fuelling your body with the right nutrients can play a pivotal role in managing exercise-induced discomfort. Scientific research has highlighted specific foods that offer anti-inflammatory and recovery benefits:

Tart Cherries: Rich in antioxidants and polyphenols, tart cherries have demonstrated their ability to reduce muscle soreness and inflammation. A study published in the Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition showed that tart cherry supplementation reduced muscle soreness after intense exercise.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Omega-3s found in fatty fish and walnuts have potent anti-inflammatory effects. A systematic review published in the Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition concluded that omega-3 supplementation can mitigate inflammation and support recovery in active individuals.

Turmeric and Curcumin: The active compound curcumin in turmeric exhibits strong anti-inflammatory properties. A randomized controlled trial published in the Journal of the American College of Sports Medicine found that curcumin supplementation reduced exercise-induced muscle damage and inflammation.



EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPLEMENTS TO ALLEVIATE PAIN DURING EXERCISE

Targeted supplements can complement a well-balanced diet and further aid in your recovery. If getting the above nutrients from your food isn't quite working for you, consider a high quality supplement. Further supplements you may want to consider include:

Branched-Chain Amino Acids (BCAAs): BCAAs are crucial for muscle protein synthesis and reducing exercise-induced muscle damage. A study published in the Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition showed that BCAA supplementation during resistance training reduced muscle soreness and improved muscle function.

Pure, Hydrolyzed Collagen Peptides: Collagen is a key component of connective tissues. Research published in the journal Nutrients indicated that collagen supplementation may enhance joint health and alleviate exercise-related joint pain.

SMART LIFESTYLE CHOICES

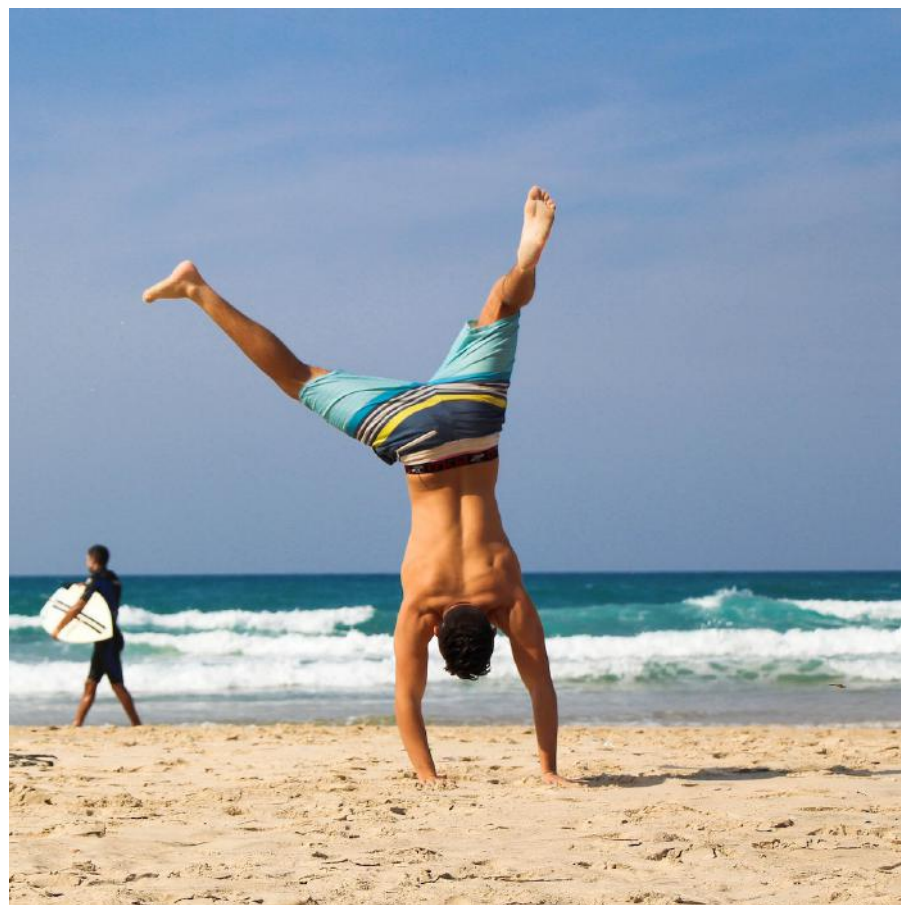
Incorporating mindful lifestyle practices can significantly impact pain alleviation and recovery. Scientific evidence underscores the importance of the following practices:

Proper Warm-Up and Cool-Down: A study published in the Journal of Sports Science & Medicine emphasized that a structured warm-up and cool-down routine improves muscle flexibility, reduces the risk of injury, and aids in recovery.

Hydration: Dehydration can exacerbate muscle soreness and hinder recovery. Research published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research highlighted the significance of adequate hydration for muscle function and overall performance.

Quality Sleep: Sleep is crucial for recovery and repair. A study published in the journal Sports Medicine found that sleep deprivation negatively impacts muscle recovery and performance.

Active Recovery: Engaging in light physical activities on rest days promotes blood flow and helps in the removal of metabolic waste. A review published in the journal Sports Medicine highlighted the positive effects of active recovery strategies.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Exercise should empower and invigorate you, not lead to debilitating discomfort. By integrating scientifically supported nutrient-rich foods, supplements, and mindful lifestyle choices, you can alleviate pain during workouts and speed up recovery between sessions. Prioritizing your well-being translates to improved performance, reduced pain, and enhanced recovery. Here's to embracing pain-free workouts and embarking on a journey to a healthier, happier you!

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/ WELLNESS /

Find Your Balance After Burnout

JOURNEY BALLITO

Burnt out. Overwhelmed by stress. Struggling with substance abuse and addictive behaviours. Battling unresolved trauma and other psychiatric concerns. Reaching a breaking point...

If any of these descriptions applies to you, there's a new coastal wellness centre that aims to offer you a holistic approach to recovery, restoration and well-being: Journey Ballito.

Benefitting from the permanent holiday atmosphere of the beautiful North Coast beach town where it is based, Journey Ballito is the brainchild of Yonit & Clive Blumenthal, who founded the original Journey Recovery & Wellness Centre in Johannesburg over a decade ago.

During the past few years, they have seen firsthand how the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global lockdowns have taken a toll on people's physical, mental, and emotional health - leading to increased cases of burnout, anxiety, depression, and addiction. They saw a real need and decided to create a new centre with a primary focus on helping people cope with these challenges, restoring balance and harmony in their lives.

The centre offers a range of services and programs that cater to individuals, couples, and families (both local and international) who want to experience a personalized wellness retreat or a structured package that combines evidence-based therapy, integrated healing disciplines, wellness spa sessions, and transformative nature-based experiences.



Journey Ballito's founders, Clive & Yonit Blumenthal.

Whether you want to relax and rejuvenate, heal and recover, or learn and grow, Journey Ballito has something for you.

More than just a wellness centre, Journey Ballito is a place where you can rediscover yourself, reconnect with others, and reawaken your passion for life. If you are ready to embark on a journey of transformation and renewal, don't hesitate to contact Journey Ballito today.



Visit www.journeyrecoverycentre.com to start your journey today or email yonit@journeycentre.co.za to find out more about Journey Ballito





/ SPACES /

PRINCE'S GRANT ESTATE

THE WAY LIFE SHOULD BE LIVED

IF YOU ARE LOOKING for a place to relax, unwind and enjoy the best of coastal living, golf and nature, look no further than Prince's Grant Estate.

Located just north of Ballito, this exclusive, secure, residential, golf and beachfront estate offers secluded beach access, a pristine lagoon, and a top-rated golf course designed by the legendary Peter Matkovich. The 18-hole championship course is a links/parkland layout set among indigenous forests and wetlands, offering spectacular views and challenging gameplay. The course is also home to a variety of antelope and wildlife, including over 200 bird species.

But Prince's Grant Estate is more than just a golf resort. It is also a family-friendly community offering a tranquil and elegant lifestyle. With 306 properties developed out of a total of 495, prospective homeowners can still choose from extremely well-priced, spacious residential stands that offer the opportunity to build a dream home. Of course, residents also enjoy the amenities and facilities of the estate, such as the clubhouse, restaurant, bar,

spa, tennis courts, swimming pools, and children's playground.

Over the last 25 years, Prince's Grant has developed into a self-sufficient estate, with boreholes providing the residents with a constant water supply, telecom towers ensuring that phones and internet are available to all, and generators around common areas mean that work continues despite the load shedding South Africans have become so accustomed to.

Situated within close proximity to Kwadukuza Private Hospital, Fire & Rescue Services and the local Mall, residents needn't travel too far for the everyday necessities needed and basic replenishment items can be purchased through the Halfway House. Daily shuttle services to King Shaka International Airport or Umhlanga, make this estate stand out as remote and yet accessible.

Far enough to escape traffic and yet close enough to all that matters, Prince's Grant lives up to its motto of, "the way life should be lived."

To find out more about this hidden gem on the Dolphin Coast, visit www.princesgrant.co.za and discover the way life should be lived.



Photos: Chris Allan



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/ HOLIDAY /

UTOPIA

Memorable Luxury Holidays and Franchise opportunity

Elsbeth Terblanche is the founder of Utopia Memorable Luxury Holidays, a renowned holiday accommodation company established in 2016. With a hands-on approach and a dedicated team, Utopia Holidays has become synonymous with top-notch quality in the industry. In early 2023, Elsbeth decided to franchise her successful brand, opening doors for aspiring entrepreneurs to join the Utopia family and benefit from its well-established business model.

The Ballito location offers luxurious beachfront self-catering lodgings, while the UTOPI Ballito - Estates branch specializes in picturesque estate accommodations. Plans for expansion into new territories are underway, solidifying the company's path to success. A key factor behind Utopia Holidays' allure is its strong collaborations with local businesses, providing guests with exclusive experiences and a diverse array of services during their stay.

This year, Utopia Memorable Luxury Holidays received prestigious accolades, including the title of "Best Luxury Self-Catering Resort in Kwazulu-Natal" by LUXLIFE and "Best Holiday Accommodation" in the 2023 Best of Ballito Readers' Choice Awards.

As Utopia Holidays continues to grow and expand its franchise offerings, the company remains committed to upholding exceptional standards and delivering unforgettable vacation memories. For more information about the exciting franchise opportunity, visit our website or scan the QR code.

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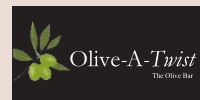


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Lifestyle
 THE BALLITO WAY

BALLITO'S BUSH BREAK

Rain Farm Game Lodge & Yembeni Private Bush Lodge

Visitors to the KZN North Coast (and North Coast locals alike) looking to follow the call of the wild needn't drive far from Ballito's beaches to find a fantastic bush retreat. In fact, there are two excellent options just a stone's throw away: Rain Farm Game Lodge and its sister lodge, Yembeni Private Bush Lodge, offer a variety of accommodation and experiences that will make you feel closer to nature and the wildlife of the African bush.

Located just 15 minutes inland from Ballito and a mere 30 minutes from King Shaka International Airport, Rain Farm Game & Lodge is tucked away between rolling hills and sugar cane fields and boasts a 300 hectare reserve that is both ruggedly beautiful and rich in adventure.

Founded as a wildlife sanctuary, Rain Farm has grown to include ten self-catering units and six luxury tree-top tents as well as a popular plains-view restaurant where those enjoying a meal or a sundowner can enjoy sightings of free-roaming giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, ostrich, nyala and eland (to name but a few).

You can admire the prolific birdlife from the privacy of a romantic treetop tent overlooking the tranquil Umhlali River, relax in the outdoor pool, or simply unwind with a treatment at the onsite spa.

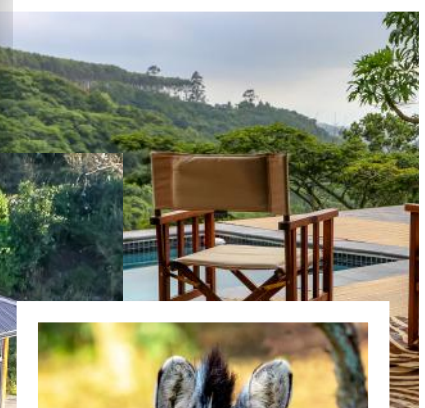
There's always the option of joining a game drive with an experienced ranger, or even exploring the trails with a guide on foot or horseback. Meanwhile, those looking for an extra adrenaline rush can experience activities ranging from rock-climbing and paintball to archery and abseiling.



Located on a separate property about 15 minutes from Rain Farm, those looking to experience a different side of the bush will find Yembeni Private Bush Lodge - a more intimate and exclusive lodge comprised of three luxury rooms, each with its own private deck, outdoor shower, and stunning views of a valley below.

Guests can enjoy a tasteful communal lounge area, dining area, fire pit, boma, and swimming pool, whilst guided walks or drives on the property offer an immersive wildlife experience. The fact that the reserve is home to over 450 species of birds as well as 17 species of game (including giraffe, waterbuck, kudu and nyala) makes Yembeni a paradise for budding wildlife photographers.

With a passion for conservation and hospitality, Chris and Cara McDaniel - the owners of Rain Farm - have made a savvy move by securing the ability to offer accommodation at Yembeni to compliment Rain Farm's established offerings. What's more, by staying at either lodge, guests can be assured that they are supporting genuine efforts to protect and preserve the local wildlife and tourism industries.



Photos: Les Weaver
(Yembeni & Wildlife)

Book your stay at Rain Farm Game Lodge or Yembeni Bush Lodge today by visiting www.rainfarm.co.za and discover the beauty and adventure of these brilliant bush escapes on the KZN North Coast. 📍



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YORI ŌKĪ SUSHI GRILL

A Modern Japanese Culinary Odyssey

Nestled within the chic Eat Street enclave of the Ballito Lifestyle Centre, Yori Oki Sushi & Grill beckons with an invitation to embark on a modern Japanese gastronomic journey that transcends the ordinary.

As you step into Yori Oki, the fusion of contemporary Japanese aesthetics and upscale comfort envelopes you. The interior is a careful dance of minimalist elegance and plush coziness, setting the stage for an experience that is at once refined and inviting.

While Yori Oki takes sushi seriously, it's not bound by tradition alone. The centerpiece is, of course, its exquisite sushi, where every roll is a testament to culinary artistry. Yet, the menu expands beyond to embrace the essence of modern Japanese cuisine with a medley of small plates, dim sum, robatayaki grilled offerings, and divine desserts.

The symphony of flavours at Yori Oki isn't content with the expected; it thrives on reimagining taste. The chefs embrace innovation, crafting dishes that blend the classic and the contemporary, creating an experience that tantalizes even the most adventurous palate.

Amid the culinary delights, Yori Oki embodies the modern Japanese spirit of seamless hospitality. The staff embodies the "omotenashi" philosophy, curating an experience that marries genuine warmth with attentive service. From the presentation of dishes to the art of anticipation, every element contributes to an experience that leaves a lasting impression.

Yori Oki Sushi & Grill is more than a restaurant; it's an homage to modern Japanese culture, where flavour, design, and hospitality converge. It's an oasis for those seeking a contemporary twist on the classic, where each visit is a step into a world where tradition meets the avant-garde in the most delectable way.

So, if you're ready to embark on a culinary odyssey that pays homage to modern Japanese cuisine, Yori Oki Sushi & Grill is your destination. Experience a symphony of flavours in an ambiance that embraces the best of both worlds – modernity and tradition – all while indulging in an evening that captures the essence of modern Japanese sophistication.

Yori ōkō

Ballito Lifestyle Centre
www.yorioki.co.za
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Lifestyle Centre, Zimbali, Ballito, Dolphin Coast



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We are delighted to announce that construction has commenced for Coral Cove.

With the July 2023 commencement date, move-in dates for residents will be before the end of 2024. All garden villas, apartments, communal areas and care centre of Coral Cove will be operational and complete, affording residents the opportunity to utilise the full array of Auria's facilities and services.

Coral Cove by Auria Senior Living is a 21-hectare continuing-care, purpose-built retirement community for over 70's, situated on the magnificent KZN North Coast, within the safety and serenity of the Zululami Luxury Coastal Estate.

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CRIME IN THE KITCHEN

A South African Tail

Words: Dave Charles

It started secretly – a little hole in the plastic bag stashed carefully in a cupboard in the kitchen. I had bought it from our local dealer just a few days earlier.

Yes, in this part of the world, most upwardly mobile and connected people have a dealer – one that you know is more expensive than the rest but who you can generally depend on for quality and discretion. People used to be more discreet but now it's a bit of a status thing. I blame my beloved Sue who introduced me to this indulgence, but I must confess to having now become quite a convert.

Let's face facts, there are times when a flutter at Woolworths is totally worth the hole in the wallet, and the baked oats muesli that I had recently packed away looked fantastic. Which is why the little hole that appeared in the bag as if by magic was particularly annoying.

I wondered who the thief could be. As it had apparently only taken a few oats I thought that it might be a little field mouse that had wandered in by chance and spied an irresistible prize. A cursory look through the cupboard revealed nothing else out of place so we wrote it off as a once-off event and transferred the remaining muesli to a thiefproof container just in case.

But the little fella had by now acquired a taste for the finer things in life and was back the next night. This time he did more damage, eating into a new packet of self-raising flour and having a full go at the hard plastic lid of a sealed container. There was also much more evidence of his visit this time in the form of little black droppings. So now the die was cast – he had to go!

My first foray to the hardware store saw me returning with four mouse traps which Sue was adamant had absolutely no place in the sanctuary of peace and tranquillity that is our kitchen.



No, what was required was a non-lethal option that would merely capture the miscreant for relocation to a more suitable environment.

It's amazing what you can find online. Judging by the plethora of options available, there is quite a substantial market for traps that leave the intended target happily unscathed. Reading the instructions, it seems really odd that anyone would go to the trouble of catching a little creature unharmed to despatch it humanely afterwards. I mean who would be so perverse to go to all this trouble and expense (these traps are not cheap). This is obviously a rhetorical question.

A quick trip to Builders' Warehouse and couple of hundred bucks later and we were now the proud owners of a small wire cage with a spring-loaded mechanical door designed to snap shut with even the slightest pressure on the plate that holds the bait. This would be a dollop of peanut butter laced with the muesli that had attracted our friend in the first place.

I must admit to being just a tad sceptical that this would work. It seemed much too easy. Still, I placed the trap on the counter close to the scene of the crime and we retired for the night, partly expecting to be roused

by the clatter and commotion of a captured wild beast frantically trying to break out of jail. But there was not a sound from the kitchen that night and to my complete surprise, when I ventured into the kitchen in the pale light of dawn on the following morning, our little friend was sitting quietly in the cage apparently quite unphased at his recent incarceration. It was not a field mouse but a young rat who had devoured most of the peanut butter and muesli bait in the trap which would account for his excellent spirits.

Of course we now had the real problem of what to do with it. Despite the bad reputation rats have for spreading plague and other awful calamities, this one looked rather cute and harmless so there was no thought given to humanely sending him to Jesus.

What we decided would be a more acceptable outcome would be to take him with us and our German Shepherds on the pre breakfast drive to our regular walking spot in the Zimbali Lakes precinct.

I think he enjoyed the drive and seemed reluctant to leave the cage when we reached our destination. It didn't take long though before he realised that he was being upgraded to a more exclusive address and then he was gone before Sue could capture the moment. All we were left with was an image of my hand in front of the cage about to release the captive, and then...nothing. Just an empty cage.

It's a bit like life, I suppose.



Disclaimer: *I subsequently discovered that capturing and releasing rats into wild places is not a good idea – here's why:*

*Brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and house mice (*Mus musculus*) are commensal – they live with us, like it or not. Humans have unintentionally created an environment that attracts them. They will not live anywhere other than with humans. They do not live in spruits or the "bush" which is why no one has ever seen them there.*

They will inevitably live a miserable life with us suffering from varying degrees of organ failure because of rat poisons, and they doom our indigenous wildlife to a similar fate by becoming toxic prey.

Brown rats in particular, have evolved to live with humans. The irony of "releasing captured rats into an urban spruit a short distance from residential houses", is that you just gave them to your neighbour – exactly how you got yours!

Sadly, the spruit-side property is the one most frequented by wildlife.

Hundreds of indigenous creatures die each year in SA due to secondary poisoning from rodents. Snakes, genet, pet dogs, pet cats, mongoose, barn owls, spotted eagle owls and other raptors like black shouldered kites, die in agony from eating poisoned rats and mice.

It's naive people with good intentions who perpetuate the rat problem by releasing captured rats into the wild.

Other than the hundreds of owls (including whole nests of babies) that die from ingesting poisoned alien rodents, many other creatures die from secondary effects like becoming weak and being smashed by cars or colliding with objects and dying horrible deaths.

Anyone who states that so called eco-friendly rat poison is "eco-friendly", perpetuates the lies of the companies that sell it.

Old fashioned traps are therefore ecologically far better for the environment than the poisons. Spread the word if you care to make a difference.

Dave Charles presents the Afternoon Drive –
Monday – Friday on 88FM Radio Life & Style – The Voice of Ballito



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Renishaw Hills
THE START OF A NEW ADVENTURE

/ PROPERTY/

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

Hunt Properties

Since its inception, community upliftment has remained a core principle at HUNT Properties. They believe in action, not just words, and their track record proves it.

Through initiatives like the HUNT 5K Friday run and the HUNT Cup Golf Tournament, they've strengthened community bonds and made a significant impact on various philanthropic causes.

One striking example is their partnership with The Litterboom Project, focused on preserving Ballito's pristine beaches. They've raised substantial funds, supporting initiatives that maintain coastal beauty.

Recently, they aimed to raise R60,000 for The Litterboom's 'Back A Beach' initiative, achieving this in just six months. These funds sustain a dedicated team's mission to keep beaches from Shaka's Rock to Sheffield Beach immaculate for six months.

Their commitment extends beyond milestones. In times of adversity, they've mobilized to aid flood and civil unrest relief efforts, delivering food parcels to local communities.

They're equally committed to empowering less advantaged individuals, providing employment opportunities, one job at a time.

As they expand nationally, they're steadfast in growing their community upliftment efforts. Their weekly HUNT 5K Friday run now extends to Cape Town, with the Umhlanga run launching in October.

Moreover, they're introducing monthly HUNT Cup events in Cape Town and Hillcrest, with proceeds directed towards local environmental and community projects.

Here's to six more years of unwavering community-building dedication!

Hunt Properties

www.huntproperties.co.za

@ huntproperties

22 Sandra Rd, Ballito,
Dolphin Coast, 4420

087 352 4278





/ GROOMING /

COMB OVER

The Afro-Comb Reimagined



As haircare accessories go, the humble afro-comb has a story to tell. Its origins can be traced as far back as 6000 years ago to Ancient Egypt, and its distinctive design—upright with long teeth—is universally recognizable across cultures.

Now, Swedish industrial designer & artist Simon Skinner has reimagined the iconic object as part of a pursuit to investigate and reconceptualize predefined symbols.

Simon launched his Stockholm-based studio in 2020 focusing on object and furniture design. In his latest project titled "Syntax", Simon explores beauty rituals as an act of power and liberation through elevating historically charged objects connected to hair and beauty.

The result is a series of limited edition handcrafted afro-combs, transformed into objet d'art. Accompanied by a solid vanity table in birch, adorned with aluminium gilded edges, Simon creates an intimate space for self-care and personal idiosyncrasies.

Drawing on his own vivid memories of combing his hair with the picks his mother gave him as a child, Simon's exploration of the diversity of Black and mixed-race identity in Sweden led the designer to interview eight different people of African descent about their lives and perspectives on what it means to be Swedish. The resulting combs are named after and inspired by these interviews.

SIMON SKINNER

www.simonskinner.co
info@simonskinner.co
[@simongskinner](https://www.instagram.com/simongskinner)



SIMON SKINNER





As writer Jared Das explains: "With his reimagining of Afro combs, Skinner reminds us of the politics of hair, representation and belonging, yet he elevates what might be seen as everyday functional objects into works of art and collectable objects."



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Our publications, website and social media platforms have shaped opinion in the KZN North Coast region for the past twenty years creating a media brand that is credible, authoritative, and universally acclaimed.

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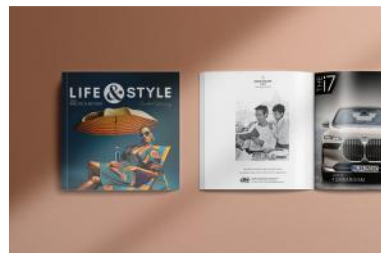
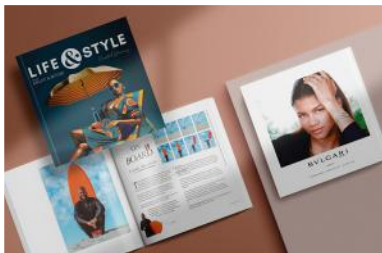
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/LAST WORD/

THE BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

*I have never been one to make much of a thing of my birthday – in fact,
I have always secretly dreaded the event...*

Words: Dave Charles

Despite my rather public facing persona, I am quite reclusive. But this one was absolutely lovely. I was thoroughly spoiled with thoughtful gifts from our little radio team and received a host of kind messages from friends and family from across the planet that made me appreciate how lucky I am.

I am writing this missive on the flipside of a trip to Cape Town – a birthday breakaway organised by my beloved Sue. As it happens, the timing was perfect to kill a few birds with one stone (if you will pardon the rather horrific expression).

My son, Dan was performing with his band on the Friday night and, as I had never seen them play, this would be the perfect opportunity. Also, there was the opportunity to visit my sister who has moved to Val de Vie which modestly claims to be “The Most Secure Luxury Lifestyle Estate in Africa”, and to catch up with a dear friend in Simonstown who has a condition that is fast robbing him of the ability to play music – a passion that we have shared for most of our adult lives.

To make the Friday night performance of Dan’s band, I had to swop radio shows with my son, Mike, so I was first in at the radio studio on that morning and, after the show, we caught a flight to Cape Town where Sue had booked a very comfortable apartment overlooking a rather wild Atlantic Ocean.

That evening we travelled back in time to a venue filled with young music lovers eager to enjoy the illicit pleasures that the evening might produce. It was all so familiar, and, for a brief while, I was lost in a kind of déjà vu. The band was really good, and I was so proud to be there to see my son and his friends in action.

Arriving at “The Most Secure Luxury Lifestyle Estate in Africa”, the next day was another experience entirely. It’s big, it’s expensive and it’s interesting...as in the old Chinese whammy...may you live in interesting times. But it was good to reconnect with my sister who has done well, and we spent a wonderful day together exploring the viticultural delights of the region.

On the following day we relocated to a harbourside hotel in Simonstown from where we set out to reconnect with our old friends. We have had a profound musical connection through the years as our families grew up and drifted away. We played many of the songs that brought back memories, both happy and sad but now, in his weakened state, he battled to hit the notes that had once soared like an eagle and the guitar was reduced to a percussion piece. Still, there were moments. A lifetime of memories was rekindled and then faded away. It was our final show – our last performance - and my heart broke as we embraced for the last time before we headed back to a world that has now changed forever.

So, that was a birthday that I will remember. Through both the joy and the sadness, it is good to know that the Universe is unfolding as it should.

*Dave Charles presents the Afternoon Drive -
Monday - Friday on 88FM Radio Life & Style - The Voice of Ballito*







FUTURE

It's An Attitude

FOR ICONIC AUTOMAKER AUDI, shaping the future is an expression of attitude. Nowhere is this attitude as palpable as in the brand's concept cars. With the Audi skysphere, Audi grandsphere, Audi urbansphere and Audi activesphere concepts, the Four Rings is illustrating its vision of progressive luxury.

The word “sphere” in the names emphasizes that the inner space – the interior – will be granted heightened importance in the mobility of the future. The interior will become the foundation for design and technology, turning the vehicle into a sphere where the passengers can enjoy life and experiences while on the go – a third living space.

For Audi, this includes a comprehensive ecosystem of automotive services: communications or relaxation, work or retreat in privacy – the car is transforming from a mere automobile into an “experience device”. With the sphere series, Audi is showing off its vision of the electric premium mobility of the future. &



Clockwise from top left: the Audi grandsphere, Audi urbansphere, Audi skysphere & Audi activesphere concept vehicles.

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