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DECEMBER 2023



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Christmas Loading....



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Season Greetings

On behalf of Michelangelo, I would like to extend warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. We are truly grateful for your continued support and trust in our services throughout the year 2023.

Your business has been greatly appreciated. Your partnership and guidance have been instrumental in our growth and success, and we look forward to serving you even better in the coming year.

To all our readers, including all of you with the profound ability to spot the odd blunder, thank you for every email and call. We are truly thankful for you. You are the global ambassadors for the Michelangelo Magazine. We really love to hear from you.

To all the new family members next to your Christmas tree, especially the little ones, Sydney-Louise, Gamena and Elliot, welcome to a wonderful country with fantastic people. We are looking forward to meeting you; enjoy a wonderful and Merry Christmas.

During this festive season, we also want to remind you to prioritize your safety on the roads. Please drive carefully and responsibly, ensuring the well-being of yourself and others. Your safety is of the utmost importance to us.

May the upcoming year be filled with new opportunities, success, and happiness for you and your loved ones. We are excited to continue supporting you and your business in the future.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Warm regards,

The Michelangelo Team



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**ON THE COVER:
The Wild World**

'Photorealism with a touch of surrealism' is how accomplished fine artist David Bucklow describes his artwork

(See pages 38 - 43 for the full story)

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Up Close and Personal

Experience the breathtaking scenery of the oldest desert in the world in a fully ecological way without noise or air pollution, on an eco-friendly fat bike or even...an e-bike!

edited by **Anne Schaffer**
photographs supplied

.....



This is for those who like to scratch beneath the surface of everything, and relish getting up close and personal. Swakopmund Fat Bike Tours has an UP CLOSE Living Desert Fat Bike Tour, and you can choose to do it on a fat bike...or an e-bike option for the ultimate in comfort. The E-bike allows the not so fit to enjoy this tour, but you'll need a level of confidence and experience with riding a bicycle.

Did you know that worldwide, e-bike tours are the No 1 adventure activity? You'll see why.

Swakopmund Fat Bike Tours' new UP CLOSE Living Desert tour is unmissable, designed for both the scenic appreciator and adrenaline-seeking adventurer. You'll be taken up close to the wonder and life of the oldest desert in the world, exploring the vast fauna and flora found in this very unique habitat. Expert guides share their deep knowledge, and uncover the hidden secrets of this true living desert. And with the fat bike, you get up close to nature in an ecological way without air or noise pollution; you're actively involved in the exploration process from beginning to end, making the experience so much more memorable. This tour promises an unforgettable encounter with the desert's living wonders, all from the comfort of an eco-friendly fat bike. An exhilarating journey into the wild side of Swakopmund's desert area.

The tour is approximately 3,5 hours long and starts from their office in the heart of Swakopmund, a picturesque coastal town known for its German colonial architecture. On arrival, you're kitted out with a helmet and a bike to suit your size.



46 BC

The year 46 BC was 445 days long and documented as the longest year in human history. Nicknamed the year of confusion.



The tour then sets off, heading towards the dry Swakop riverbed, providing an opportunity to explore some of the desert plants. From there you'll cross some unique and rugged gravel plains in search of desert-adapted reptiles, and then the crazy, fun, thrills time begins, as you cycle along and over the vast Namib dunes, enjoying the sensational coastal views and sound of the ocean.

No air or noise pollution and shallower tracks than even footprints, makes Fat Bike Touring the most ecological way to explore this beautiful environment. This is an absolutely 'must do' Swakopmund experience. Swakopmund Fat Bike Tours offers a wide range of tours for all fitness levels, so you can pick and choose according to your interest and energy levels. All tours are available with the E-Bike option. Choose from their 2hr SCENIC Desert Tour; 2hr 'Old City' Swakopmund Tour; 3,5hr UP CLOSE Living Desert Fat Bike Tour; 3,5hr ADVENTURE Desert Tour; 3hr Desert and City Combo Tour; and the 6/7-8hr Sandwich Harbour Fat Bike Tour (including ±3hrs cycling). ☘

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Mokuti Etosha Lodge – Africa Re-imagined

With contemporary African architecture and interiors by Namibia's Chamberlain + Associates Architects, in collaboration with Design Union Solutions, the new Mokuti Etosha Lodge is turning heads locally and internationally.

edited by **Anne Schaffer**
photographs by **Shawn van Eeden**



There's a distinct, yet understated murmur of Etosha running through this glorious new lodge's design and interiors. No surprise, given its supreme proximity to the world-renowned Etosha National Park and its endless natural beauty...Etosha's flat plains and sinuous waterways during the rainy season, neutral colours and textures, and the endless, timeless sense of space and place. Mokuti is Africa Re-imagined - familiar yet different - embodying the juxtaposition of African and contemporary styling, and marrying architecture and interior spaces.

The Chamberlain + Associates' (C&AA) team described their journey: "The design concept draws from the honesty of the pans' harshness, while Mokuti Lodge stands as a contrast, offering comforts and tranquillity. Among other elements, the roofscapes and pergola structures imitate the horizontal lines of the Etosha plains." They added, "We questioned the essence of contemporary safari architecture and re-imagined the typical associations with materials and space making, for example: concealing the traditionally exposed gum pole structure of the thatch roof over the arrival and lobby spaces."

The design intent was to blur the line between inside and outside, hence there's little that impedes one's vision and movement between the two.

For C&AA, "The Mokuti architecture is not a statue on a hill, it has a layered nature unfolding not in a single moment, but through movement within the gardens. It holds a captivating sense of mystery, revealing itself in a series of enchanting glimpses unveiled by the trees."

For guests at Mokuti, there are many glorious elements of surprise. Unwinding at the firepit at night, beneath the starlit canvas, is an emotive experience, an opportunity for storytelling that weaves the rich history of Etosha. For the design team, "Mokuti is more than a destination; it's an unexpected sanctuary for the traveller. Its imperfections and the use of natural materials in its finishes and textures, pay homage to the genius loci of the pans."

Mokuti translated in Oshiwambo means 'in the middle of the veld'. For C&AA, "The building rests harmoniously upon the land, feeling as though it belongs, a creation born from the essence of the earth."

You'll feel that too at Mokuti. Africa Re-imagined, familiar yet different.





Geographical Facts of Namibia: Borders, Total: 4,220 km (2,620 mi), Highest point: Königstein 2,573 metres (8,442 ft), Lowest point: Atlantic Ocean 0 metres (0 ft), Longest river: Fish River 650 km (400 mi).



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CHAMBERLAIN + ASSOCIATES
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Some interesting facts about Mokuti Etosha lodge:

- Location – GPS coordinates -18.81391241779944, 17.04895334353422
- How far the lodge is from Etosha? Namutoni Gate, 40m from Mokuti gate, ± 1,5km from lodge itself.
- What can you find at Mokuti? A 30-metre long swimming pool; water lounge; kids' wading pool; outdoor showers next to swimming pool; spa with jacuzzi and steam room; gym; tennis courts; reading lounge; conference facility; meeting room; retail shop; restaurant; poolbar; firepit.
- African safari experience: game drives, bush walks offered by Hai//om San people; snake park.
- Tarred airstrip.





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Rafting down the Orange

Increasingly, family, solo or duo holidays are about achieving that balance between 'doing' and 'doing little'. A trip down the Orange River involves loads of that...and a high level of adventure! If you're an outdoor activity enthusiast or fisherman, you've come to the right place, the right people

edited by **Anne Schaffer**

photographs supplied



Bucket list vacation...white water rafting or canoeing is the best fun you can have as a family, a couple, student, or even solo. And for kids, this is the ultimate.

Bundi River Rafters is a Rafting and Canoeing Operator. They're specialists in trips down the Orange River, starting from their base in Noordoewer, Namibia, and offer different packages ranging from ½ day – 5 day tours. The longer the better really, because it takes time to get to Namibia, and you're not going to want to spend more time traveling than on the water. The Orange is the longest river in South Africa, and considered iconic because it flows from Lesotho into South Africa and Namibia – in essence, it travels through three African countries. It's among the top 10 major rivers in Africa, and forms the border between the south of Namibia and South Africa.

The section of the river on which Bundi River Rafters' rafts is ideal for the entire family from 6 years of age.

Bundi River Rafters has specifically chosen the Richtersveld, a magnificent stretch of the Orange River renowned for its glorious natural wealth – it begins at Noordoewer and stretches all the way towards the Fish River confluence. The Richtersveld National Park is a semi-desert region, one of the largest mountain deserts in the world. Over 50% of the plants are endemic and they support a wide variety of fascinating animal

and insect life. Willow and ebony trees line the riverbanks, providing shade and shelter to river rafting clients.

Fishing is a major activity on the river, and Bundi caters well for fishermen, either as a group, or as part of a group. In terms of fish, currently, eight fish families are represented by 22 species in the Orange River System, 15 of them indigenous freshwater species, 6 endemic. Bundi River Rafters is an eco-friendly, highly responsible operator focussed on conservation of Red-listed endangered fish. Guests honour that code.

The Base Camp is close to the Namibian border, 10kms from Noordoewer, on the banks of the Orange River. It's located in the old River Rafters base camp used in the pioneering days to explore the Orange River. It's 680km due north from Cape Town, and 1300 km from Johannesburg.

Bundi River Rafters is not only about canoeing and river rafting but camping too. The Bundi River Rafters base camp is a destination not only an overnight stop. Visitors often end up staying longer than a night. There are 22 chalets of different configurations, all with en-suite bathrooms, flush toilet and shower. The big lawns are ideal for kids to play, and the river the perfect cool-off spot.

All campsites – with communal bathrooms with shower and flush





Namibia holds the treasure of one of the **largest concentrations of Rock Paintings in Africa.**



toilets - are on grass underneath the trees. Guests bring their own tents and camping gear. The camp is limited to five camp areas, with a designated number of people eligible for the different sites.

One of the key elements of any successful trip is a superlative guide. Almost all the workers and guides reside in southern Namibia. These guides – many of them with the company for many years - grew up on the banks of the Orange River (Gariep), and so have a wealth of fascinating river stories. First aid certifications are renewed every two years, as well as swift-water training...and they're all fabulous cooks!

Distances covered on each river rafting tour vary, depending on each group's paddling strength. Short, relaxed three-day trips usually cover 45km, while longer trips range between 63 and 86km. Each day, about 15km (river flow average about 4km/h) is covered, with regular stops for refreshments, lunch and simply to share in the excitement of the Grade 1 - 2 rapids.

For the Orange River rafting expedition, the minimum age is five, while the canoeing adventure has a minimum of 6 years. The reason? Inflatable crocs are more stable than the Mohawk canoes. Helmets are not necessary as the biggest rapid is only grade 2, however they are recommended from grade 3 rapids and up as per The International Rafting Federation.



What's the difference between rafting and canoeing? Rafting uses an inflatable raft to navigate a river or other body of water (Bundi River Rafters uses two-man inflatable 'crocs'), whereas canoeing involves paddling a light, narrow boat (Bundi River Rafters uses two-man fibreglass Mohawk-style canoes).

All in all, crocs are considered safer – they don't break or capsize as easily as a canoe, and they have self-bailers which drains out water; and they're easier to steer/get in and out; and more comfortable.

You're going to eat very well! Bundi River Rafters calls it their bush cuisine, and they handle it all themselves, no outsourcing. You relax, the guides prepare delicious meals. You even get your menu ahead of your trip so if you have any unique dietary requirements – they cater for basic and vegetarian - you can substitute.

Every Orange River adventure combines incredible scenery, friendly guides, all rafting or canoeing gear, delicious food prepared by the guides, and camping. The Orange River Experience is a truly unforgettable bucket lister. No experience necessary.

Bundi River Rafters has been 'on the water' for many years, and in this industry, experience counts. It is not just about safety and security, it's about meeting and surpassing guest expectations, about understanding your group and their primary interests...fishermen? Children's activities?

Utter relaxation? Family? Team building?

The Richtersveld is a sensational landscape in which to step off the treadmill. Sunsets, mountains, the soothing sound of water, campfires, the cry of the fish eagle... it's memory making at it's best. ❄️

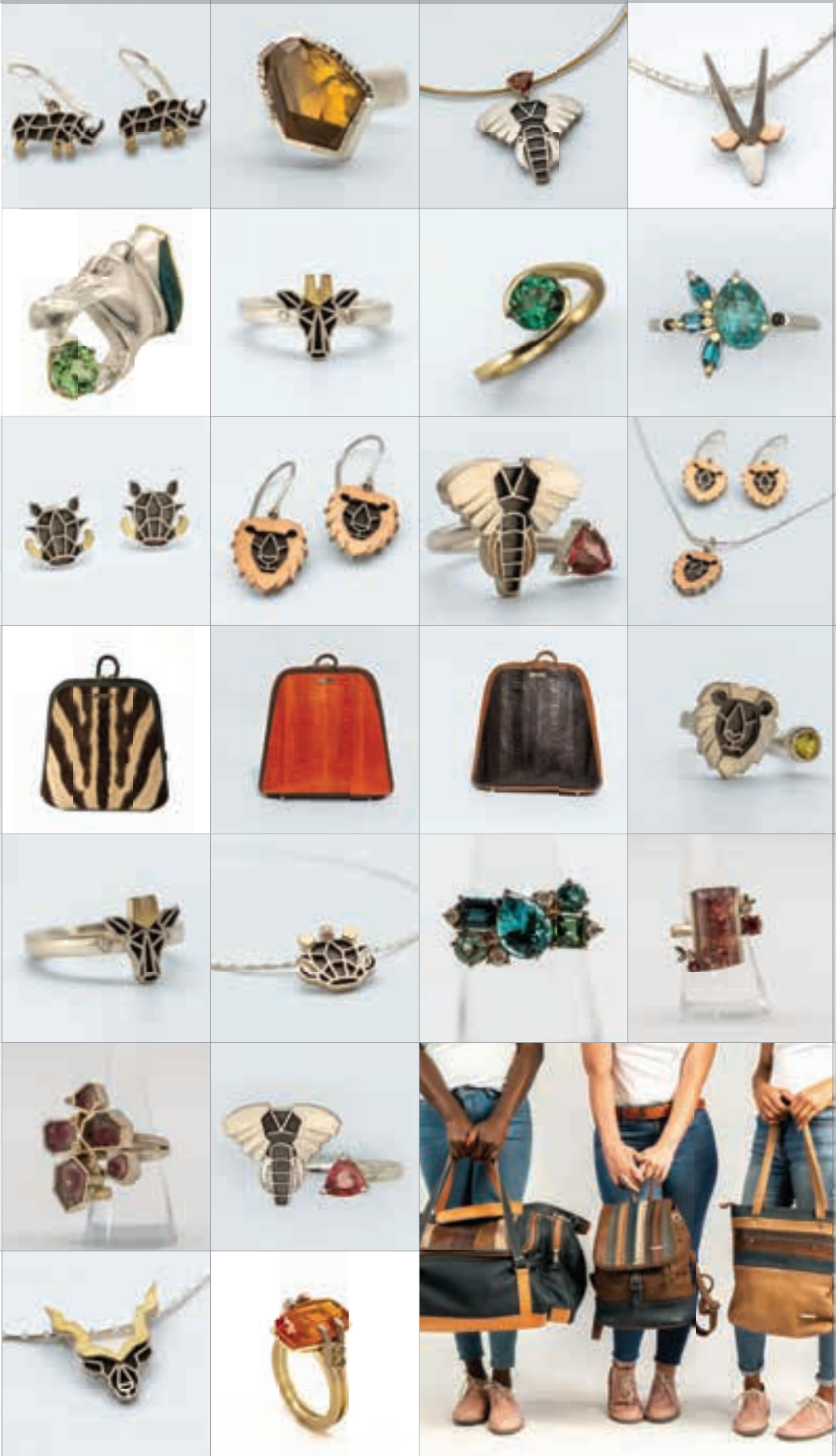


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Ohange Lodge

The name Ohange is derived from the Herero word 'peace'. Enough said... well, other than for birders, for whom Ohange is deemed paradise

edited by **Anne Schaffer**
photographs supplied



Ohange Lodge is a small, intimate, owner-managed birder's paradise, a mountain retreat in the heart of the Otavi mountains to the east of Etosha. Karla and Justus are the owners and hosts, and for them, it's all about providing a warm, personal experience for their guests. It feels like home, but on holiday...

The goal at Ohange is for guests to enjoy wildlife naturally. This region also receives more rainfall than central and southern Namibia, so the Otavi, Grootfontein and Tsumeb area – known as the maize triangle - boasts a rich biodiversity of flora.

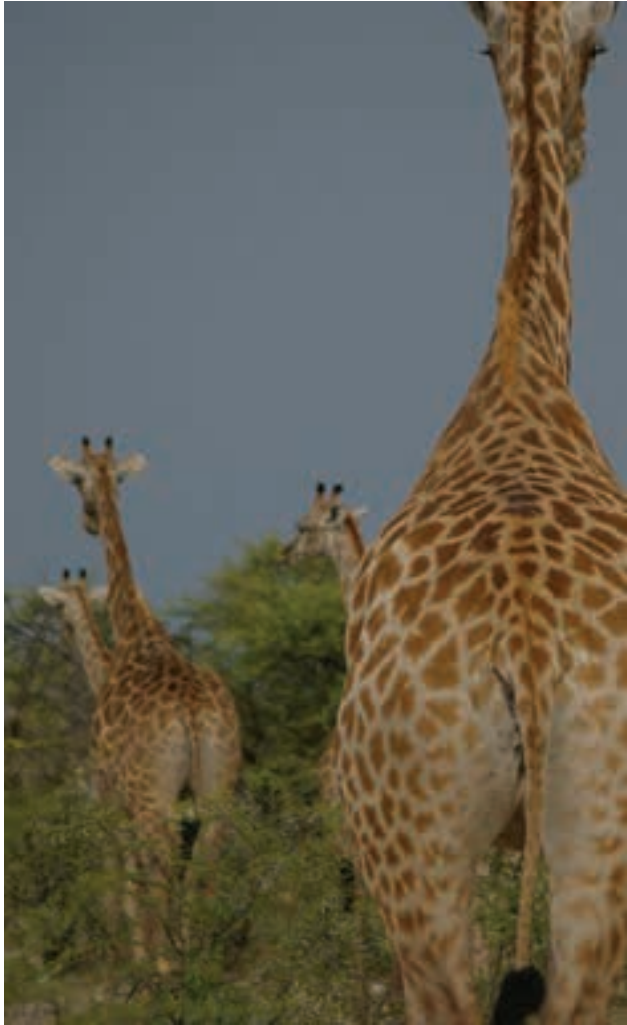
There are organised morning nature walks and afternoon game-viewing drives in search of everything from Eland and Damara Dik-dik to Black Wildebeest and cheetah. You can also take a guided (or unguided) hike to explore the area....considered the perfect way to discover some of the extraordinarily abundant birdlife in the region. After dusk, there's the unmissable opportunity to seek out the secrets of the night - Bushbabies (or nagapies meaning 'little night monkeys'), Porcupines, Genet, Owls and Nightjars. With luck...a free-roaming Leopard!

Other local points of interest are the Ghaub Caves, Lake Guinas, Lake Otjikoto, Etosha National Park, Hoba Meteorite or even the Thonningii Wine Cellar.

Shaded by large Marula and Tamboti trees, Ohange overlooks a landscape as breathtaking as it is peaceful, with the dramatic vista of the Otavi mountain range stretching as far as the eye can see. Closer to home, different species of wildlife wander slowly in and out at most times of day and night to slake their thirst at the waterhole. In the evening, it's a joy to sit around the campfire enjoying a drink, breathing in the tranquillity of the location, and listening to the sounds of the Namibian night.

Accommodation at Ohange consists of 10 African-styled thatched bungalows, four self-catering chalets, five Stable rooms and two campsites. The African-style thatched bungalows are well-spaced on a leafy hillside close to the main Ohange building. Each is stone-built and equipped with comfortable twin beds, ceiling-fan, tea and coffee facilities, and a large en-suite shower room with open-plan WC and washbasin. From your shaded veranda, you'll enjoy uninterrupted views of distant mountains and the wildlife around the nearby waterhole (illuminated after dark).

A little further up the mountainside, are the four self-catering chalets, with fully equipped kitchens, comfortable twin beds and en-suite open plan showers, WCs and washbasins.





Chilly Bites Biltong is a beloved snack in Namibia and Wessie's Chilly Bites might just be the very best.



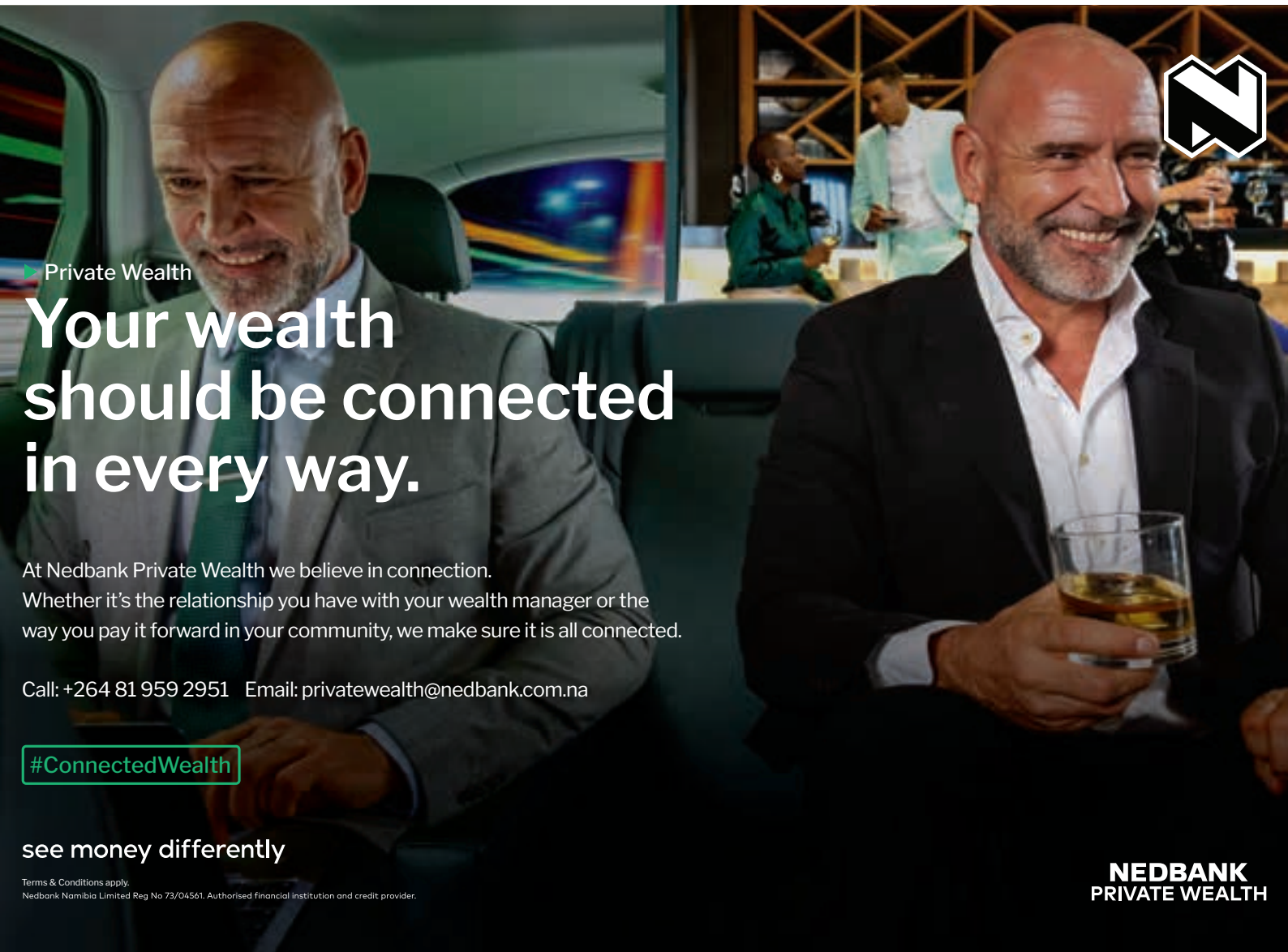
The five self-catering twin-bedded (Stable) rooms are simple and economic, two with own ablution and cooking facilities, the other three share ablution and kitchen facilities with one campsite.

The two campsites are shaded by enormous old trees, and are situated close to an old German stable block (Stalle). One campsite is exclusive, sharing kitchen facilities and ablution block with one Stable Room - the other has communal facilities and an ablution block.

The main Ohange complex comprises of the reception, dining-room, bar and other essential services. The veranda and nearby camp-fire area are used for dining most times of the year; breakfast is also served there. Ohange has a glorious swimming pool, and in the warmer months, you will spend hours lazing on the tempting pool terrace.

Ohange Lodge is situated in the Otavi Mountains on the tarred B1 main highway, approximately 28 km north of Otavi and 30 km south of Tsumeb. The gateway to the lodge is on the eastern side of the B1 and the beautiful 3km drive from there to the Lodge is perfectly manageable for non 4x4 vehicles. ❄️

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Musgrave Copper – Dom Pedro Reinvented

Dom Pedro reinvented! Yum. Musgrave Copper is made to mix...and here are a few delectable cocktails to make the festive season jollier than jolly

edited by **Anne Schaffer**
photographs supplied

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Musgrave Spirits is bringing back the Don Pedro, edging up the brandy industry and setting its sights on the mighty South African cocktail: the Don Pedro. Summer is going to be hotter - and cooler - than ever with Musgrave Copper's Don Pedros. The Black Honey and Vanilla flavours make this cocktail far more than a milkshake - expect a melt-in-your-mouth blend of sweet and sticky that solves all your dessert - or one more drink - decisions. Musgrave's new take on an old classic is sexy, luxurious, and sophisticated. You may cool down, but your night will undoubtedly heat up.

See which one takes your fancy...first!



MANGO CHAI DOM PEDRO

Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS

100ml coconut cream
2 chai tea bags
2.5ml ground cinnamon
150g frozen mango pieces
100ml Musgrave Vanilla Copper
500g vanilla ice cream

To garnish:

Ground cinnamon

METHOD

Heat the coconut cream, chai tea bags and cinnamon in a saucepan over a gentle heat.

Once the coconut cream starts to simmer, remove from heat and allow it to infuse for 15-20 minutes. Strain and discard the tea bags.

Chill the coconut cream in the fridge and allow to cool completely.

Once chilled, pop into the blender with the mango, Musgrave Vanilla Copper and ice cream. Blend on high until smooth.

Pour into two glasses, and top with a dusting of cinnamon powder.



HONEY LAVENDER DOM PEDRO

Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS

100ml cream
6 sprigs of lavender leaves
1000ml Musgrave Black Honey Copper
500g vanilla ice cream

To garnish:

lavender flowers

METHOD

Heat the cream and 4 lavender sprigs in a pot over a medium heat. As the cream is about to simmer, remove from heat, set aside and allow to infuse for 30 minutes to an hour, until the cream has a strong lavender taste.

Strain and discard the lavender sprigs. Refrigerate the infused cream in the fridge until completely chilled.

In a shaker, shake the Musgrave Black Honey Copper and remaining 2 sprigs of lavender to allow the lavender flavour to infuse into the alcohol. Strain and discard the lavender.

Once the cream is cold, pour into a blender, add the ice cream and infused Musgrave Black Honey Copper. Blend until well combined. Pour into two glasses and garnish with picked lavender flowers.



5 kg of hydrogen (at 700 bar), will give a range of approximate 500 km.



BURNT HONEY AND ORANGE DOM PEDRO

Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS

1 orange, segmented
40ml honey
Pinch of salt
80ml cream
500g vanilla ice cream
100ml Musgrave Black Honey Copper

To garnish:

2 halved dehydrated orange slices

METHOD

Place the orange segments into a pot with the honey and a small pinch of salt. Place the pot over a low-medium heat. Stir the oranges through the honey so everything is coated and sticky. Allow this to cook slowly until the honey turns a dark caramel colour, then deglaze with the cream and stir through thoroughly. Remove the pot from the heat, put the contents into a bowl and into the fridge to chill completely. Once the mixture is fully chilled, put it into a blender and blend until completely smooth. Then add the ice cream and Musgrave Black Honey Copper, blend quickly to combine well. Divide into two glasses and top with your garnish.



HAZELNUT PRALINE DOM PEDRO

Serves: 2

INGREDIENTS

500g vanilla ice cream
50ml cream
50ml hazelnut praline paste or hazelnut syrup
100ml Musgrave Vanilla Copper

To garnish:

50g hazelnut praline, roughly chopped

METHOD

Blend the ice cream, cream, hazelnut praline paste (or syrup) and Musgrave Vanilla Copper on high until smooth and creamy. Divide into two glasses and garnish with the chopped hazelnut praline.

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DID YOU KNOW

TRAVELLING, ESPECIALLY TRAVELLING TO NAMIBIA WILL IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH?

Text: **Angela Rechter** | Images: **Gondwana Collection** | Layout: **Marlene Orffer**

We all like to dream of travelling to far off places. We see a photograph, read a post or hear a story and the real dreaming and planning starts. Although sometimes the planning doesn't materialize, and you just hop on the aeroplane and plan your trip in the fly.

What if I told you there are legitimate health benefits to travelling? I kid you not. Travelling helps to boost your immune system by exposing you to new environments. And it also reduces stress and advances brain health. Not to mention it improves your blood circulation and overall feeling of "wellbeing." Need I continue?

Now that we have confirmed the health benefits of traveling... here is why Namibia should be your number one choice. Your first thought. We want you to be healthy, after all.

In Namibia, the phrase "fresh air" takes on a whole new dimension as you immerse yourself in the country's vast and magnificent landscapes. The expansive, wide-open spaces stretch as far as the eye can see, providing a liberating and invigorating atmosphere that becomes a breath of fresh air for both body and soul. The clean air in Namibia is unlike anything you've experienced before, carrying the scent of untamed nature and offering a welcome escape from the hustle and bustle of more crowded environments.

The unspoiled beauty of Namibia's natural surroundings, from the sweeping deserts to the sprawling savannahs, allows you to indulge in a long-awaited respite from the confines of urban life. Whether you find yourself standing atop towering sand dunes, gazing across endless plains, or exploring the rugged terrain, Namibia's fresh air becomes a vitalizing force, replenishing your spirit and creating a profound connection with the untamed beauty of this remarkable land.

And the ultimate selling point – travelling will let you live longer! Or so research claims. This is because you are more active while travelling. Namibia offers all the experiences you need to be active and healthy. (i.e. live longer!)

Let's talk about being more active while travelling. Grab an e-bike at our Kalahari Anib Lodge and ride along the clearly marked trails. There are a few routes to choose from. For those who do not cycle, don't worry, the bikes are battery operated. This makes the cycling less strenuous and more enjoyable.

At The Desert Grace Lodge, embarking on a self-guided walk

through the Namib Desert is an immersive adventure that allows you to intimately connect with one of the world's oldest and most captivating landscapes. Traversing the desert on foot unveils a sensory journey, allowing you to feel the soft, warm sand beneath your feet and hear the subtle whispers of the desert breeze. The self-guided aspect adds a personal touch to your experience, granting you the freedom to set your pace and immerse yourself in the solitude of this awe-inspiring environment.

Embarking on leisurely, soul-rejuvenating walks along the beach right in front of our The Pearls Beach Pods in Swakopmund is an experience that transcends the ordinary. As you set foot on the sandy shores, the rhythmic sound of the waves serves as a calming soundtrack to your stroll. With each step, the sea breeze gently tousles your hair, carrying with it the unmistakable scent of the ocean. The cool, invigorating breeze becomes a companion, refreshing not just your body but also your spirit. The play of sunlight on the water, the occasional cry of seagulls, and the feel of the soft sand beneath your feet contribute to the tranquil ambiance.

For those with a fondness for wildlife and the thrill of game viewing, an excursion to our exclusive private waterhole within the Etosha National Park is an experience tailored to your taste. This unique opportunity is reserved solely for guests of the Etosha King Nehale Lodge, ensuring an intimate

and privileged encounter with the natural wonders of this iconic park. The secluded setting offers a front-row seat to the captivating theatre of the wild.

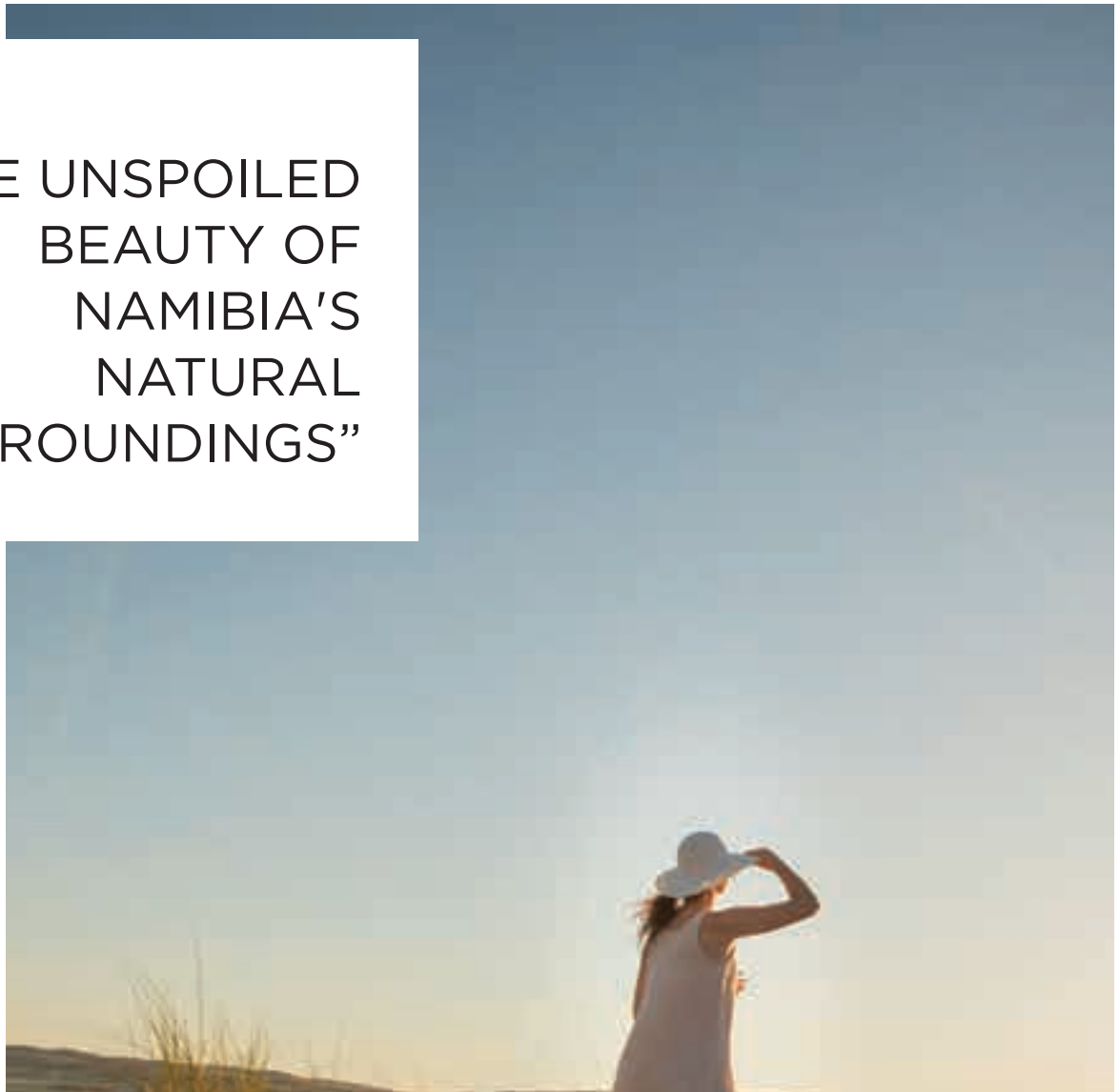
Guests have the chance to savour moments of serenity while enjoying some refreshments, creating a perfect interlude in the midst of wildlife wonders. This exclusive access not only provides a memorable game viewing experience but also instils a sense of connection with the pristine wilderness.

Travel to Namibia and feel the everyday stress melt away as you are lost in the natural wonder of the country. Stay healthy and have the travel experience of a lifetime, in Namibia.

If you would like to visit Namibia and need some assistance to plan your trip, please contact us at <https://gondwana.travel/> or scan the QR code.



“THE UNSPOILED
BEAUTY OF
NAMIBIA'S
NATURAL
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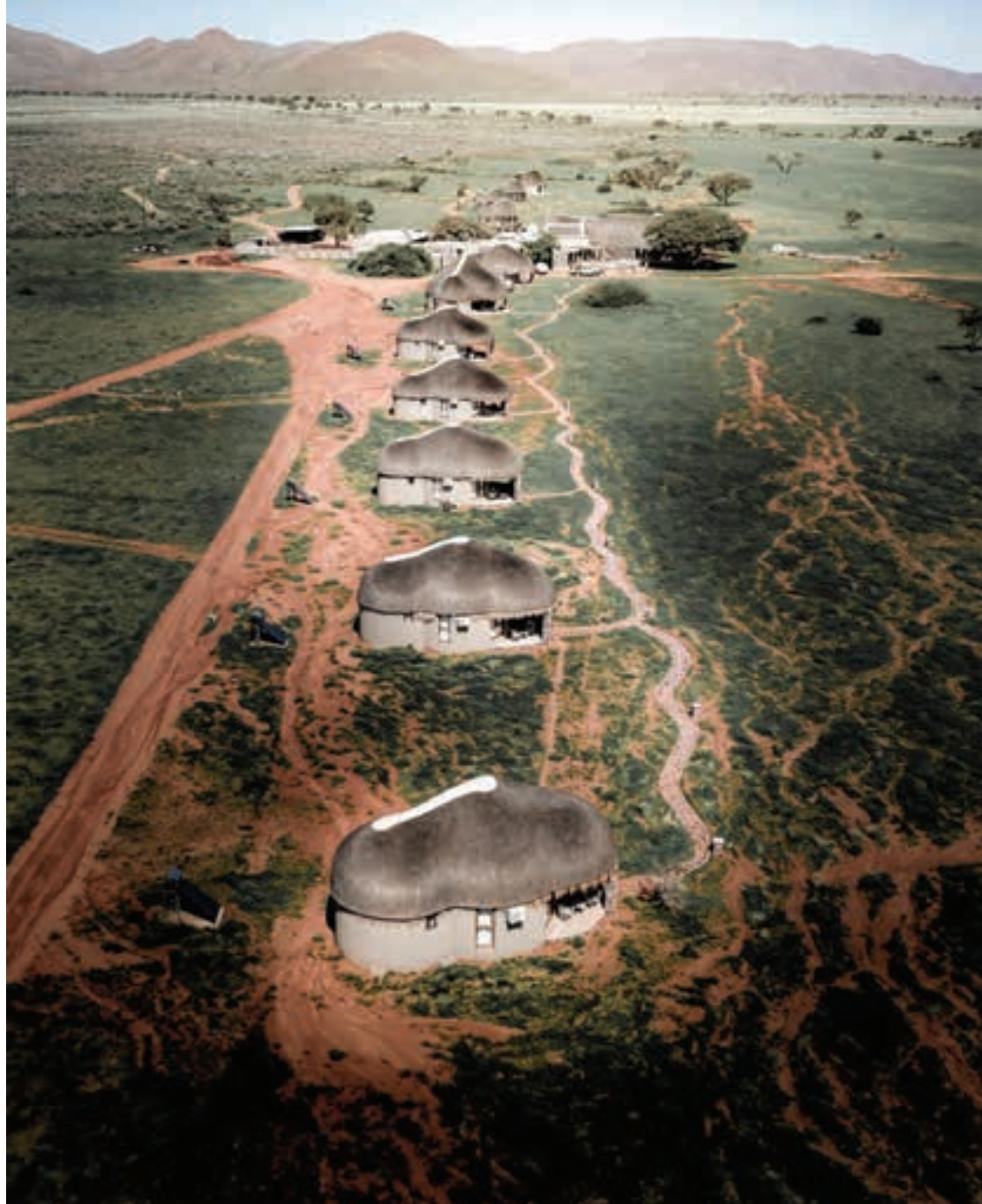


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We Kebi Safari Lodge

Discover the quintessential escape at We Kebi Safari Lodge, Sossusvlei, in Namibia

words by **Karel Swanepoel**
photographs supplied



Eons ago, when earth was still an infant, Nature set its sights on a piece of earth it decided to delight in. With its playfulness, it blew sculpting winds, washed the landscape with prehistoric seas, and burnt away at the land with an intense sunlit joy. The landscape was shaped and reshaped over and over, layers upon layers of geographic wonder. Massive mysterious creatures roamed here, their passing a breath in eternity. After them ancient men came, looking for the wondrous pockets of water in hidden fissures and cracks, playing an ancient game of Easter egg hunting. They hunted here, a dry land, but so very alive.

As the wheel of eternity turns on its ancient axle, these olden folks also gave way to modern denizens, bringing great flocks of woolly ruminants with them. Their time also came to pass as such things would, and in their place came people set on creating beautiful abodes, inspired by the wonder of the landscape around them. They invited others to come and revel in nature's beauty with them, to be awed and astonished at how loving and harsh it can be in the same moment.

As I drive into the gate at We Kebi Safari Lodge, these poetic inspirations swirl around in my head. I can imagine my thoughts popping and bubbling like a great morass, primordial and raw. This is not my first





The Namib Spitzkoppe is more than 120 million years old and holds magnificent views of the Namib, the oldest desert in the world.



visit, nor will it be my last. Each visit is like returning to a home you never knew you had, welcomed by family you never knew you loved.

My bags have been portered to my private little fortress of solitude for the next few days. I sit on the deck sipping my refresher, while a few feet from me an ancient horned beast does the same. I imagine I make eye contact, but I can't tell if the giant beast looks at me or through me, its skin too hard and its build too stocky to reveal emotion. Next to its massive horned bulk, eland and zebra mingle, a dress-up party of stripes and horns I am privy to.

It is such a pity that these things too shall pass, my own existence fleeting in the grand scheme of things. Yet my heart is filled with joy for being allowed to be amused in this wondrous playground. To share time and breath with this magnificent landscape, mingling with creatures and co-visitors alike.

I look down and see my drink is empty. Dusk has fallen and will not get up, and the void in my stomach reminds me the day has been long,

adventurous, and full of pleasant surprise. Idly, I make my way to the great dining hall. Around me waiters buzz at their tasks, waiting on their patrons with eagerness. My turn comes and my plate is swooped in under my nose. I stare at my plate, salivating while I decide where to start – the first bite of any meal is always one of the most important to me and I plan my approach. I hadn't realized how hungry I was, even my garnish devoured, the delicious meal now stashed away to grant me energy for another day of adventure in this wondrous ancient landscape.

To take a story away from any place is the greatest gift, I got to tell mine this time, but as I am writing this my head is already planning to live the next and the next and the next intrepid adventure, this barren landscape never failing to inspire. ❖

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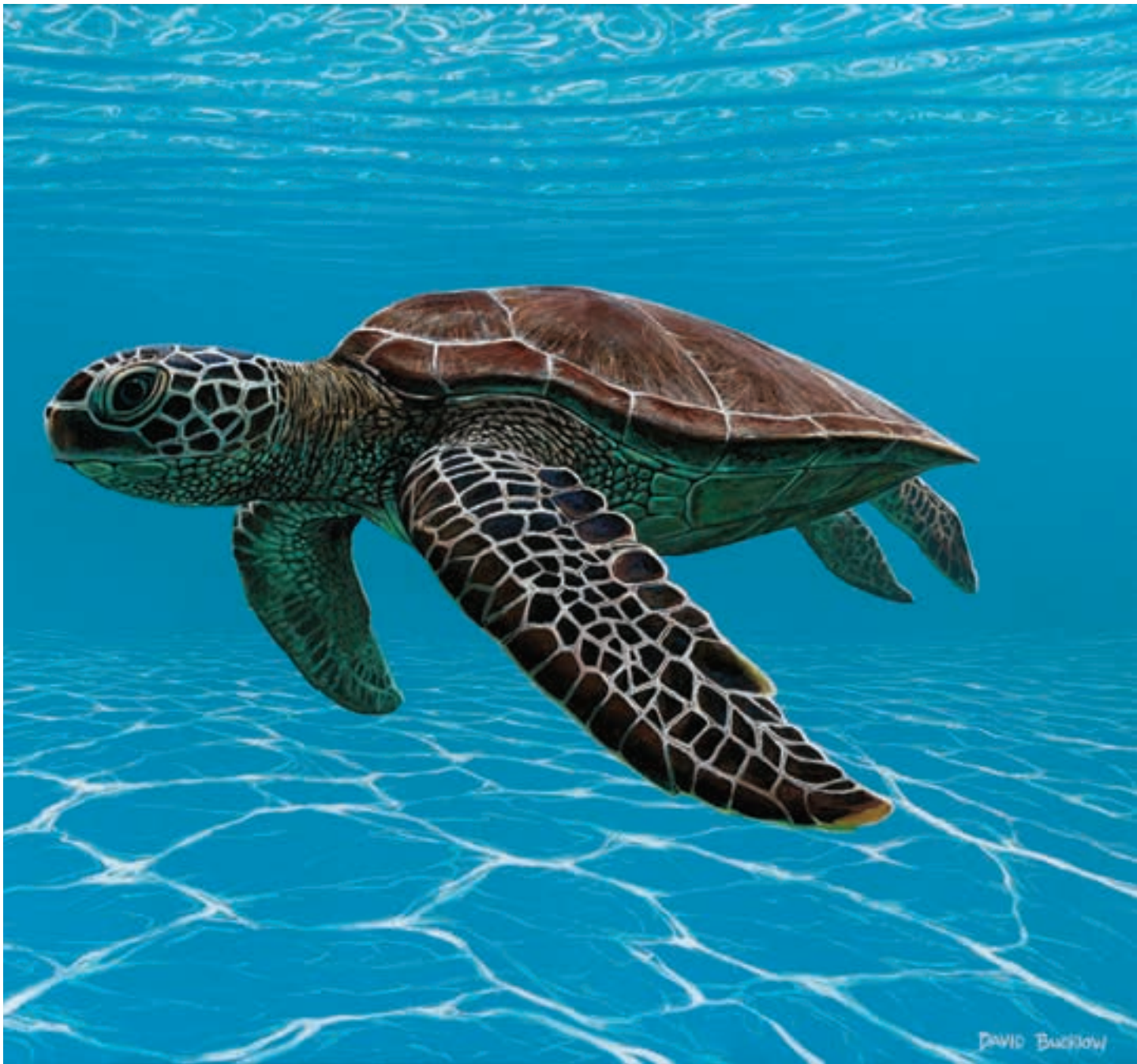
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The Wild World

'Photorealism with a touch of surrealism' is how accomplished fine artist David Bucklow describes his artwork

edited by **Anne Schaffer**
photographs supplied

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David Bucklow grew up on a smallholding in Johannesburg, before moving to the Kwazulu-Natal south coast. That's where he learned to surf, and his love of the ocean began and grew. A year prior to moving to Cape Town in 1988, Dave did his national service in Mpumalanga...and there, cemented his love of the bush. That wasn't a new love though: "In primary school, I'd wanted to become a game ranger, so I'd always had this passion for wildlife. As a family, we went regularly to Kruger National Park so that love was fostered and grew."

A love of the sea and a love of the bush and wildlife...these were strong drivers for his later art, but initially, he'd been drawn to sketching and working with his hands: "I didn't have a tertiary education, so I'm entirely self taught as an artist. I began by sketching portraits of people and wildlife. I draw my inspiration from travelling to new locations, never knowing what I'll find, then creating art out of it. It could be a thousand-year-old olive tree, or simply wildlife," he says.

Dave takes his own photographs but often changes the backgrounds and lighting to make the paintings more dramatic. He works in acrylics and finishes with a gloss varnish. He likes that medium because it's quick drying which is how he likes to work: "Oil paint takes too long to dry."

He has never lost his love of surfing: "I've spent hours surfing in different parts of the country and I just love water and painting it, especially the reflections and the movement. I paint lighthouses, seals, waves and boat scenes..."

Dave has been a full-time artist since 1999: "I have my own gallery on Long Street in Cape Town - my son Kyle is the gallery curator - and I sell my work through there, on social media, and then a few other galleries."

What's the ultimate dream? "To travel the world and create paintings of the places I go to...then people will want to buy them," he smiles.





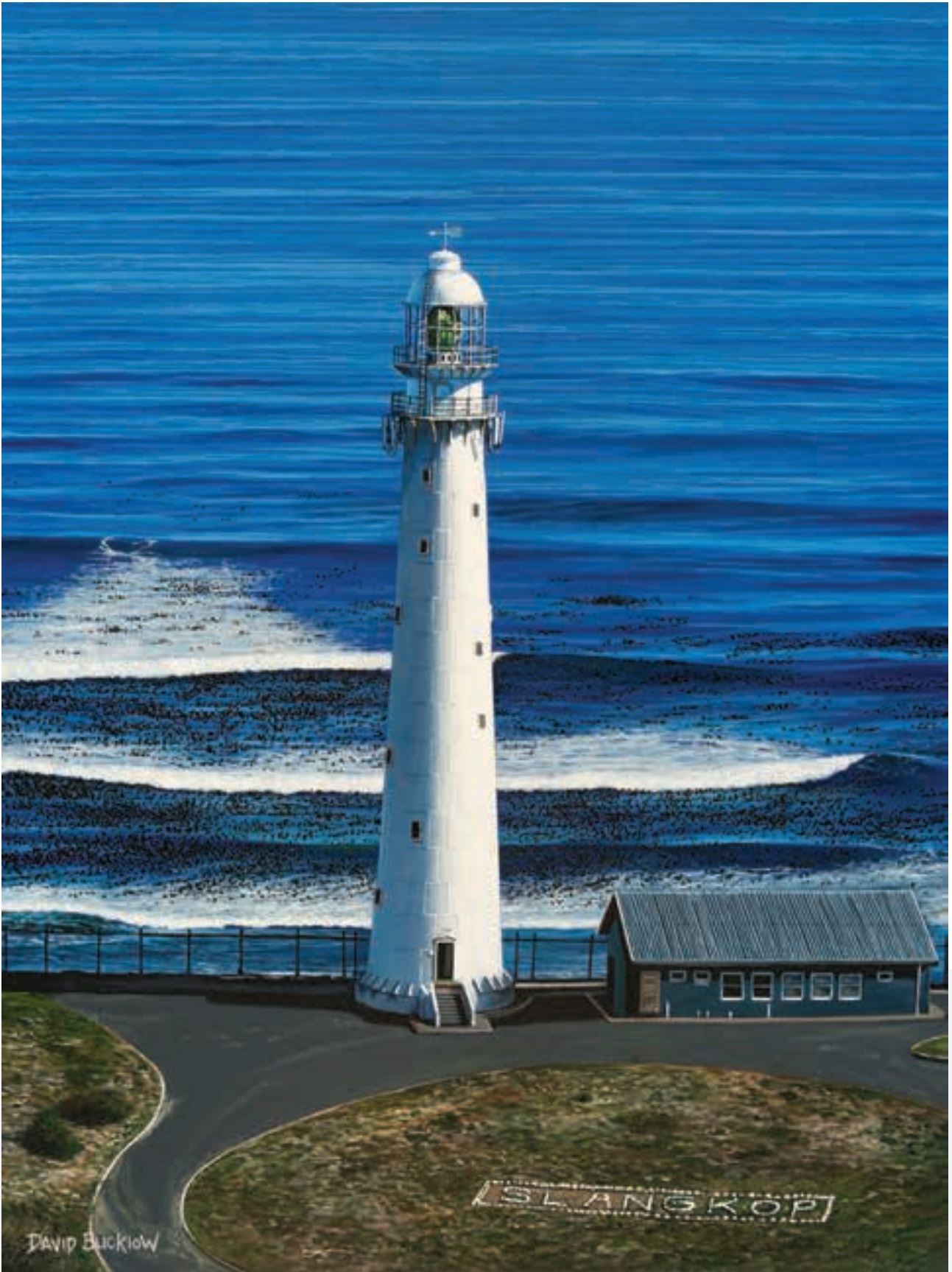
The Atlantic Ocean covers over 20% of the earth's surface, with a surface area of 106.5 million sq.km².







The Atlantic Ocean is the saltiest among all the oceans of the world.
The coordinates for the Atlantic Ocean are 14.5994° S, 28.6731° W.



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Thuúla Hidden Haven

Irresistible winelands mountain escape situated at the pinnacle of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley near Hermanus, and surrounded by internationally acclaimed wine farms and majestic mountains

edited by **Anne Schauffer**

photographs supplied





It is tucked away, yet it's easily accessible and oh-so-close to a host of fabulous eateries, wineries and activities. Thuúla Hidden Haven is a superlatively luxurious hideaway, hidden behind the rolling fields of the Overberg, cosying up to the glorious mountains of the splendid Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, and embedded in wild fields of fynbos. The setting is as sensational as the interiors of Thuúla Hidden Haven, naturally understated, delightfully decorated, neutral and tranquil...with everything pretty, practical and perfect you could possibly need. This is the place to go to recharge, be re-inspired and restored - views can be experienced from whichever spot you choose to relax.

You will find accommodation for four here, but just two's good too. There are two bedrooms – one with a queen, the other twin beds or a king; each bedroom has an en-suite bathroom with a bath and double shower. The kitchen is fully equipped with top-notch appliances, and the lounge has an indoor fireplace to warm up house and hearts during the winter months. Curl up with a book or a blanket, or both.

The veranda is equipped with a sunken wood-fired hot tub, a pizza oven, braai and an outdoor dining table. Eat in or out, the options are limitless. The house is 100% off the grid and runs on solar energy.





The Namib's Skeleton Coast ranks among the **most feared and scary places on Earth.**



The natural surrounds are spectacular, and you can strap on your hiking boots to tackle the trails, visit no less than three of the prettiest waterfalls and natural pools, and head off to the beaches and little town of Hermanus.

Locally, you are spoilt for choice. You will find a host of superb wine tastings, restaurants and wine farms, many of them legendary... Creation Wines, Spookfontein Wine Farm, Newton Johnson, Ataraxia Wines, Bosman Wines, Hermanus Brewery; and Ficks Restaurant.

Thuúla Hidden Haven is just that. Hidden, and a haven. But step outside, and there's a whole world at your feet. ❄️

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Life on the edge by Amit Eshel, Israel
Winner, Animals in their Environment



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Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London. Here are the winners of 2023

edited by **Anne Schaffer**

Photographs supplied by **Natural History Museum, London**



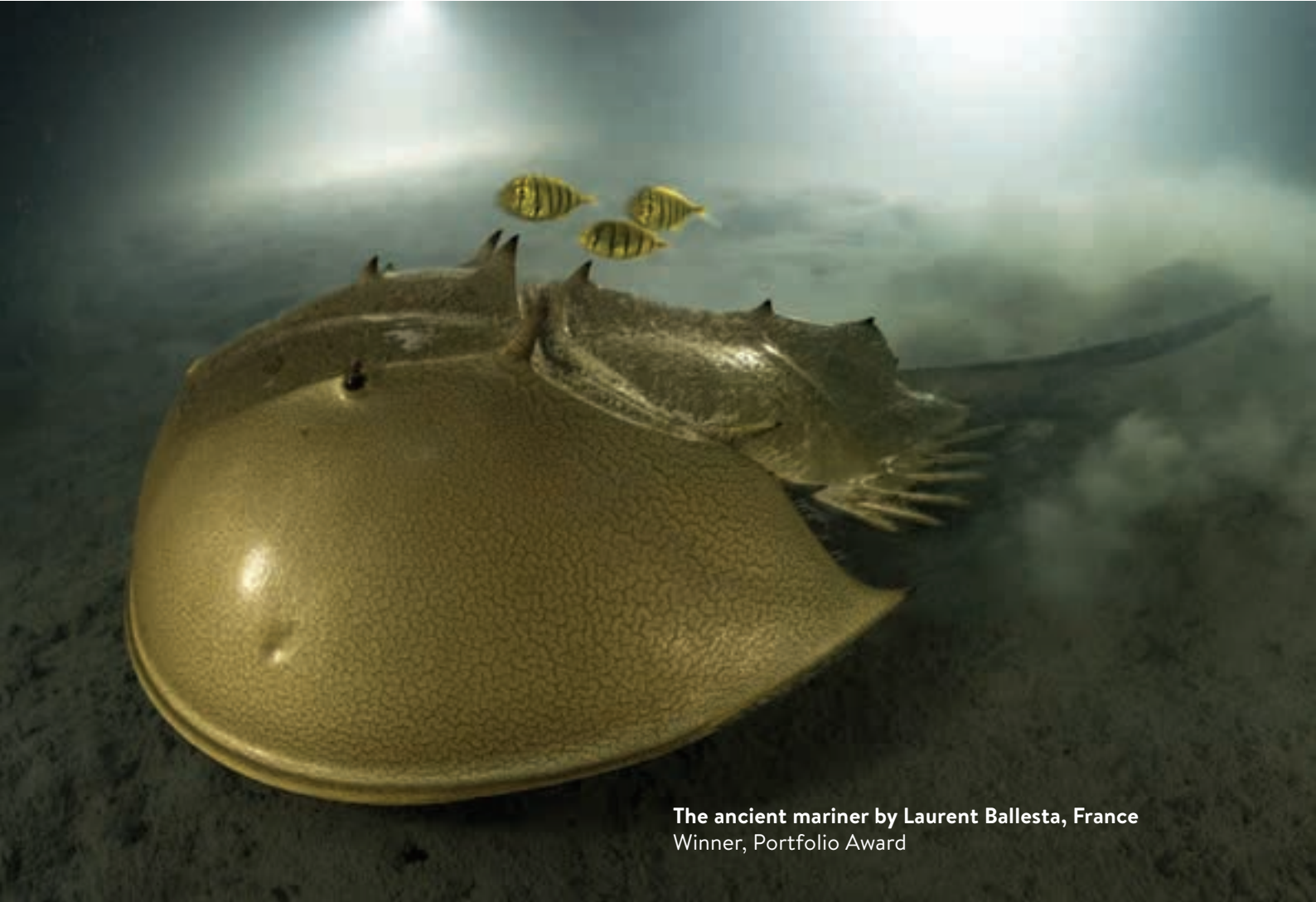
Face of the forest by Vishnu Gopal, India
Winner, Animal Portraits

Selecting from nearly 50 000 entries from 95 countries, the winners of the Natural History Museum's prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition were recently revealed at an awards ceremony in South Kensington in London. The flagship Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition featuring the awarded images opened mid October at the Natural History Museum in London.

French underwater photographer and marine biologist Laurent Ballesta was awarded Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2023 for 'The golden horseshoe', an otherworldly image of a tri-spine horseshoe crab accompanied by a trio of golden trevallies. The tri-spine horseshoe crab has survived for more than 100 million years but now faces habitat destruction and overfishing for food and for its blue blood, used in the development of vaccines. But, in the protected waters of Pangatalan Island in the Philippines, there is hope for its survival. Chair of the jury and editor, Kathy Moran says, 'To see a horseshoe crab so vibrantly alive in its natural habitat, in such a hauntingly beautiful way, was astonishing. We are looking at an ancient species, highly endangered, and also critical to human health. This photo is luminescent.' Laurent is only the second photographer in the competition's fifty-nine-year history to be awarded the Grand Title award twice. He was first awarded Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 2021 for his intriguing image of camouflage groupers exiting a milky cloud of eggs and sperm in Fakarava, French Polynesia.

Seventeen-year-old Carmel Bechler from Israel was awarded Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2023 for his 'Owls' road house', a dynamic frame of barn owls in an abandoned roadside building. Using the family car as hide, Carmel made the most of natural light and long exposure times to capture the light trails of passing traffic. Carmel was just 11 years old when he began wildlife photography, and this is his first award in the annual competition. 'I hope to share with my photography that the beauty of the natural world is all around us, even in places where we least expect it to be, we just need to open our eyes and our minds,' says Carmel. 'This photograph has so many layers in terms of content and composition. It simultaneously screams "habitat destruction" and "adaptation", begging the question: If wildlife can adapt to our environment, why can't we respect theirs?,' says Kathy Moran.

The two Grand Title winners were selected from 19 astounding category winners that showcase the rich diversity of life on Earth. In an intensive process, each entry was judged anonymously by an international panel of experts on its originality, narrative, technical excellence, and ethical practice. Dr. Doug Gurr, Director of the Natural History Museum comments, 'Whilst inspiring absolute awe and wonder, this year's winning images present compelling evidence of our impact on nature – both positive and negative. Global promises must shift to action to turn the tide on nature's decline.'



The ancient mariner by Laurent Ballesta, France
Winner, Portfolio Award



Lights fantastic by Sriram Murali, India
Winner, Behaviour: Invertebrates



Did you know, it only takes your brain **4 minutes to decide whether you like someone or not.**



Last gasp by Lennart Verheuvell, the Netherlands
Winner, Oceans: The Bigger Picture



Last breath of autumn by Agorastos Papatsanis, Greece
Winner, Plants and Fungi

The wall of wonder by Vihaan Talya Vikas, India
Winner, 10 Years and Under



Silence for the snake show by Hadrien Lalagüe, France
Winner, Behaviour: Birds



The tadpole banquet by Juan Jesús Gonzalez Ahumada, Spain
Winner, Behaviour: Amphibians and Reptiles



The dead river by Joan de la Malla, Spain
Winner, Wetlands - The Bigger Picture



The tourism bulldozer by Fernando Constantino Martínez Belmar, Mexico
Winner, Photojournalism



The unprotected by Karine Aigner, USA
Winner, Photojournalist Story Award



There is no sign to represent 0 in Roman Numerals.



Birds of the midnight sun by Knut-Sverre Horn, Norway
Winner, Urban Wildlife

The newly redesigned exhibition also features videos showing the impact wildlife photography can have, and insights from jury members, photographers and museum scientists to invite visitors to advocate for the natural world. The journey continues online with planet-positive actions audiences can take. The exhibition will tour across the UK and internationally to venues in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, and more.

The sixtieth Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition opened for entries from photographers of all ages, nationalities, and experience levels on Monday 16 October 2023. Ahead of the momentous anniversary, Wildlife Photographer of the Year has announced the international jury of industry experts, an entry fee waiver for over 100 countries, changes to the competition's rules, and a new prize to further encourage hopeful stories of the natural world.🌱





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was developed by the Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia to showcase Namibia's finest produced meat and to provide visitors with a guide of where to find the BEST Namibia has to offer.

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Our meticulous enhancements are thoughtfully crafted to enhance your stay and provide you with an even more intimate and personal connection to the Chobe and Zambezi rivers and the breathtaking surroundings.

We want to assure our valued guests that we'll remain open throughout the transformation period, ensuring that these upgrades will not interfere with the exceptional experiences you've come to expect at Chobe Water Villas.



“We proudly offer a selection of experiences that are rooted in the spirit of the region”



Unveiling a Seven-Star Experience

Chobe Water Villas has long been celebrated for its exceptional qualities, encompassing what we like to call our unique attributes designed to enrich your stay. Our unwavering commitment to excellence shines through various essential aspects, including our extraordinary location, exclusivity, top-notch quality, personalised service, culinary delights and captivating activities.

Our villas' unparalleled and iconic location along the Chobe River sets the stage for an unrivalled experience, while our exclusivity and remote setting make our lodge a sanctuary for those of you seeking an extraordinary escape.

At Chobe Water Villas we ensure the highest quality in every facet of your visit. We take personalisation to heart, creating a nurturing and authentic experience

for each guest. In the realm of gastronomy, you can expect unique and exclusive culinary experiences featuring the finest quality and expertly crafted dishes, often sourced from local ingredients.

In terms of activities, we proudly offer a selection of experiences that are rooted in the spirit of the region. These experiences are flexible and customisable, allowing you to explore the Chobe region in a way that resonates with your preferences.





The Chobe Water Villas vision

At the core of the vision is the "O&L Leisure Experience," a philosophy rooted in purity, inspiration and the finest handpicked elements.

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Chobe Water Villas is not just a destination. We represent a breakthrough in luxury travel.

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Realism In Black And White

Capetonian Lizl Bode works largely in graphite and technical ink pens. Her monochrome work is beautifully detailed and layered. You'll find her work around the world, and next February, at Rust en Vrede Gallery's co-exhibition

edited by **Anne Schauffer**

Photographs supplied



Lizl was born and raised in Cape Town's northern suburbs, and now lives in Kuils River. She's been drawing for as long as she can remember, but only in 2019 did she attempted to create art on a more serious basis. She considers herself fortunate in that her parents supported her as a child, and today her husband and children are her biggest fans: "Their belief in me has been incredible," she says. Although Lizl did begin a graphic design qualification, she was not able to pursue that, so she is, essentially, self taught.

MICHELANGELO quizzed her about her work and motivation:

Can you remember your first breakthrough?

From around 2019, I joined local galleries which exhibited my work in various group shows - my work was always well received. By the end of Covid, a Cape Town art gallery took all my work and sold numerous pieces, which gave my confidence the boost to explore the art industry more seriously. I began working on my own styles and ideas, and have been elevating my technical and creative skills since then.

I think the one sale, though, that stands out for me, was my very first international sale that went to Dubai. It was a drawing in ink pen of a lion.

Since then, I have sent works to various parts of the world, from New York to France, Canada to Japan, and more, which remains exciting and a massive honour.

How did you make a decision about how to earn a living – the arts are notoriously unpredictable in that regard

I don't think it is a decision any more than art is part of me. I am driven to create art, more than I am about making money from it – of course earnings are a motivation, but it's not the driving force. I currently work as a freelance designer, so I do have an income to fall back on, but my goal is to be able to create art full time. Finding the right market and gallery for one's works is the key to earning a living from art, but at the end of the day, you have to enjoy creating art, because when art becomes a chore then it shows in your work.

What's your primary inspiration when painting/drawing?

I think inspiration for my work comes from finding what I love, then turning that into an artwork which speaks to my inner self. It is a process to take a topic and work through that to try and mold it into something a little different and new, sometimes quirky, sometimes more serious.

I find the more meaning a piece has for me, the more passion and soul the artwork provides the viewer. All the emotion I put into an artwork, shines through.

What media do you work in?

I work mainly in graphite but also have a love for technical ink pens. Graphite lends itself towards precision and allows me to control the level





Nelson Mandela was named Rolihlahla Mandela at birth. **He is known by six different names in South Africa.**



of detailing. With graphite, I can achieve a wide range of shades and tonal values which is important to convey emotion and depth. How you use graphite is up to the artist, as it can either be basic line and mark making or intricate detailed drawings.

Do you do whatever you like, or do people also commission you – if yes, who, and why?

I mainly create what inspires me, whether it is for an exhibition or for myself. I prefer to work on my own ranges, rather than commissions, because people tend to ask me to draw their pets, and I am not a pet portrait artist. I do, however, accept commissions if they are within my artistic style or if they are of people.

Any anecdotes about your work/the public reaction?

I often get asked how I reach my level of realism and the simplest answer is: practice. Your most successful artists use one medium to create their own style of art. This does not mean you have to limit yourself to only one art form, but rather pick one medium and style for your main practice. Experiment and learn all you can about what you can achieve with that medium. Find out what works best and what tools and techniques you can use to better your artistic skills. Find like-minded artists and research their methods and processes. One can learn so much from other artists, then shape what you have learned into your own formula and style.

Most importantly: be patient with yourself. Art is a process of constant learning and adapting - it is a process of soul searching.

What size are they generally?

I work in a range from 20x20cm up to A2 size.

Where can people find your work?

Facebook and Instagram - I do post on those when my works are on exhibitions at galleries.

People can contact me via email or any of my social media accounts to view my catalogue of available works. They can also join my mailing list for updates.

I have an exhibition coming up on 24 February 2024 alongside the talented artist Anina Deetlefs, called Unfurled. This exhibition, which will be held at Rust-en-Vrede Art Gallery in the heart of Durbanville, explores the symbolism of flowers in our everyday lives. Flowers serve as beautiful and sometimes tragic reminders of our experiences as we walk through life. From birth, to love, to death, and everything in between, flowers play an important part in almost everything we do. ❀

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- ENT Surgery
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CONTACT DETAILS

Practice Rooms Private: Roman Catholic Hospital, 3rd Floor, Suite 5, Windhoek
Tel: 061 246 000, Fax: 061 253 635, Email: namheartcentre@gmail.com
State Cardiac Unit: Windhoek Central Hospital (WCH), 1st Floor (1 West)
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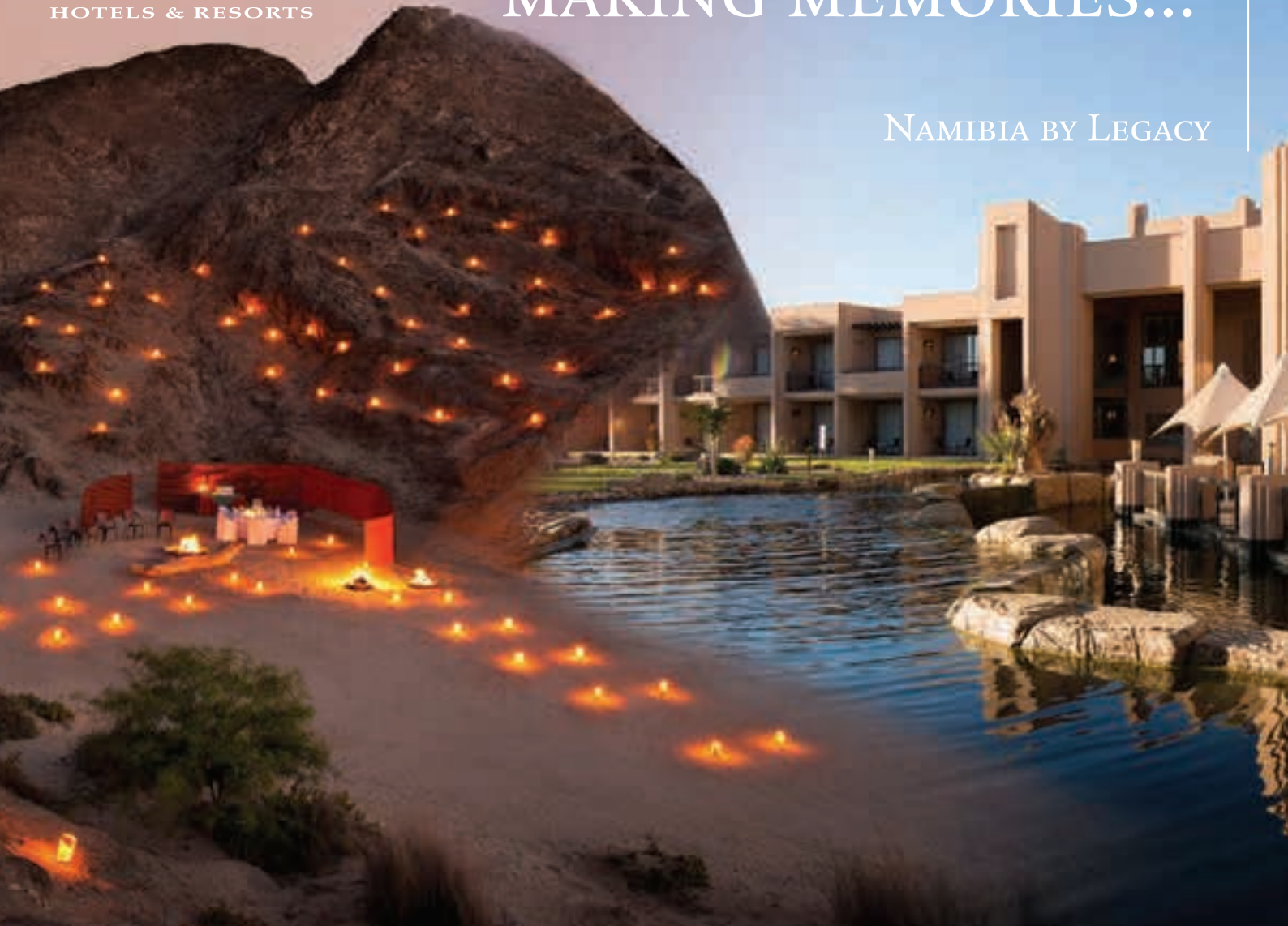
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EASY

9	3		7		1	4
7		6	5	4	8	3
		4	3	9		5
	4	9			8	
	7			2	1	
6			2	3	9	
2		3	4	1	6	7
4	7			6	2	1

MEDIUM

			8	9	2	4
3		4		1		7
		9		5		
1	2		9			7
	9					2
	5			2	1	8
			5		1	
9			6	7		2
	1	5	3	7		

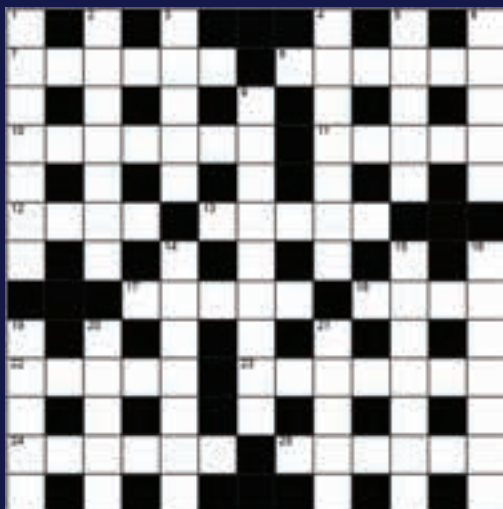
HARD

					8	
		4		6		5
		3	9		1	7
	5	8	7			9
	7		2			5
2				9	7	1
5	6	7		1	4	
3			6	8		
		2				

						7
			2	4	9	8
7	8	2		9		5
5			1	6	8	2
8						9
2	6	7	9	3		5
9	2		4		5	3
4		6	3	5		
	1					

		6	5			9
9	1			6		8
5		4		7		
2			1			
1	7			5		3
				9		7
			9		4	2
	9		3			7
		1		5	3	

C	B	A		P	S	A
H	E	A	R	S	E	C
I	Y	P	S	T	O	T
C	O	N	N	E	C	T
K	T	L	E	O	Y	M
E	T	O	N	O	V	E
N	N	F	E	E	S	T
		F	R	A	N	K
A	B	E	S	M	N	O
T	H	Y	M	E	O	V
E	A	A	M	N	A	T
A	N	N	A	L	I	N
M	Y	N		S	R	Y



ACROSS

7. In Loving Memory vehicle (6)
8. The Sweeney role for Dennis Waterman (6)
10. Only presented by Victoria Coren Mitchell (7)
11. BBC News presenter Clive (5)
12. College attended by Inspector Lynley (4)
13. X Factor category mentored by Sharon Osbourne (5)
17. Skinner honest (5)
18. Andy playing Jude Watson in Emmerdale (4)
22. Rosemary partner (5)
23. Mrs played by Julie Walters in Acorn Antiques (7)
24. Appeal like Children in Need (6)
25. Tax nolt paid by Del Trotter (6)

DOWN

1. Fried at Rooster Spot in Channel 4 series (7)
2. The Wrong Mans co-ster Matthew (7)
3. Former Antiques Roadshow presenter Michael (5)
4. Surname of Downton Abbey cook (7)
5. One was told on Jackanory (5)
6. Chigivintsev partnering Natalie Gumede (5)
9. The Oracle actress Juliet (9)
14. Martin who played Tim in The Office (7)
15. Occupation of The West Wing's Arnold Vinick (7)
16. Wheeled feature of Supermarket Sweep (7)
19. Headed by Hannibal Smith (1-4)
20. Drama starring Warren Brown (2,3)
21. See 20 down (5)

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Sudoku Answers...

9	3	5	7	2	8	1	6	4
7	2	6	5	1	4	8	9	3
8	1	4	3	6	9	2	7	5
1	4	2	9	3	5	7	8	6
5	8	9	1	8	7	4	3	2
3	7	8	6	4	2	5	1	9
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4	9	7	8	5	6	3	2	1

1	9	4	5	8	3	6	7	2
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7	8	2	6	9	1	4	5	3
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2	6	7	9	3	8	1	4	5
9	2	8	1	4	7	5	3	6
4	7	6	3	5	9	2	8	1
3	1	5	8	6	2	7	9	4

5	7	1	8	3	9	2	4	6
3	8	4	2	1	6	5	9	7
2	6	9	7	4	5	8	3	1
1	2	6	9	8	4	3	7	5
8	9	7	1	5	3	6	2	4
4	5	3	6	7	2	9	1	8
7	4	2	5	9	8	1	6	3
9	3	8	4	6	1	7	5	2
6	1	5	3	2	7	4	8	9

7	8	6	5	1	2	9	4	3
9	1	2	4	3	6	7	8	5
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2	4	8	1	7	3	5	6	9
1	7	9	6	5	8	2	3	4
6	5	3	2	4	9	8	1	7
3	6	7	9	8	1	4	5	2
8	9	5	3	2	4	1	7	6
4	2	1	7	6	5	3	9	8

9	3	6	1	5	7	8	4	2
7	2	1	4	8	6	3	9	5
4	8	5	3	9	2	1	7	6
6	5	8	7	4	1	2	3	9
1	7	9	8	2	3	6	5	4
2	4	3	5	6	9	7	1	8
5	6	7	2	1	4	9	8	3
3	9	4	6	7	8	5	2	1
8	1	2	9	3	5	4	6	7



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Infinite iii	N\$ 750	N\$ 750	✓	✓
Infinite iv	N\$ 950	N\$ 950	✓	✓
Infinite v	N\$ 1,150	N\$ 1,150	✓	✓
Infinite vi	N\$ 1,350	N\$ 1,350	✓	✓
Infinite vii	N\$ 1,550	N\$ 1,550	✓	✓

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