

FAIRLADY

July/
August
2021

+
20
PAGES OF
PUZZLES!

HOW TO
**LOSE
WEIGHT**
The **9** RULES

**START YOUR
SIDE HUSTLE!**
Practical advice
from an expert

**THE
SUPER
LIFE** OF
A SECRET
SHOPPER
& *4 other very
strange jobs*

*'10 crucial money
lessons lockdown
taught me'*

**WE
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oil heaters

your
wellbeing

- ▶ ULTIMATE SLEEP UPDATE 2021
- ▶ RECOVERING FROM BURNOUT
- ▶ WHAT'S GROUNDING ALL ABOUT?

Reader's story
'MY YEAR OF BDSM'

5-STAR
**WEEKENDS
AWAY**
WORLD-CLASS
HOTELS AT
LOCAL RATES

Ana de Armas
'Bye, Ben; hello, Bond!'

FOOD
FATIMA SYDOW'S
FAVOURITE
FAMILY MEALS

Win!
**TWO NIGHTS AT
A LUXURY LODGE
ON THE ZAMBEZI**



RSA R85.00
(VAT INCLUDED)
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5-star HOLIDAYS in South Africa



STRANDLOPER OCEAN BOUTIQUE HOTEL, PATERNOSTER, WESTERN CAPE

NO OVERSEAS HOLIDAY THIS YEAR?

Excellent! Spend your money locally: South Africa can more than match the rest of the world in terms of luxury holidays. Here are eight fabulously luxe local getaways – with some excellent South African-friendly deals to be had!

COMPILED BY THE
(REMARKABLY WELL-RESTED)
FAIRLADY TEAM

Walking towards Strandloper's renowned Leeto Restaurant, your breath is literally knocked out of you. In front of the hotel stretches nearly 9km of pristine beach, lapped by a sparkling sea and laced with seagulls mewling and diving in the extraordinary light that everybody talks about. And what they say is true: it's the kind of light that artists abandon happy homes to seek out.

Strandloper often uses the phrase 'barefoot luxury', and that's exactly how it feels: the fact that there are

so few rooms and such a tight team makes it seem intimate yet at the same time you feel very spoilt; it's a wonderful, unusual balance.

Our sea-view suite felt absolutely private yet showcased a sweeping view of the bay. At our first breakfast, I saw a guest in intense conversation with the general manager, Abraham Mouton. They paced up and down the beach, finally seeming to settle on a spot. The next morning, luxurious loungers, umbrellas, fresh flowers and bubbly had been set up in the chosen spot, ready for the guest to propose to his girlfriend. (She accepted, of course!)

BABYLONSTOREN FYNBOS COTTAGES, SIMONDIUM, WESTERN CAPE



I had been to Babylonstoren before, strolling through the gardens and eating lunch at the Greenhouse, but I had barely scratched the surface. The first thing that tipped me off was the wine tasting at the end of our cellar tour. Each of the 10 Babylonstoren wines was paired with a complementary snack: macadamias (from the farm) to go with the crisp Sprankel MCC, lemon-zested buffalo mozzarella (from the farm) to go with the oaked Chardonnay, charcuterie and biltong (from the

farm) to go with the reds... I'm sensing a theme here. Our evening drive to the Clouds, a lookout point with glorious views of the farm, as well as the next day's garden tour, confirmed my suspicions: there's very little that doesn't grow on this farm. The 3,5-hectare garden lies at the heart of Babylonstoren. Besides the plum and citrus fruits grown for export, they also cultivate olives for olive oil, table grapes, figs, prickly pears, persimmons, custard apples, guavas, almonds, pecans, macadamias, cacao pods, rooibos tea, wheat for their bread... the list goes on.

Our dinner at the flagship restaurant Babel ended with the BitterSweet dessert: chocolate and cardamom *delice* with mampoer-marinated satsumas. Back in our

glass-fronted cottage, we cracked open a bottle of Shiraz to enjoy by the fire. Besides the obvious luxuries – the plush four-poster king-size bed, the bath made for soaking and the fully kitted-out kitchen, there are personal touches everywhere, like fresh cold-pressed juices in the larder.

Armed with a few bottles of that Shiraz, jars of preserves and oudh-scented soap from the Scented Room, we gave the donkeys out front a pat goodbye and vowed to return soon.

Special offer

There is a 'Pay for 1, stay for 2' special on until 31 August 2021. Your stay includes access to a variety of activities, like guided farm walks, olive oil and balsamic vinegar tour, paddling and more.

babylonstoren.com/hotel/fynbos;
reservations@babylonstoren.com