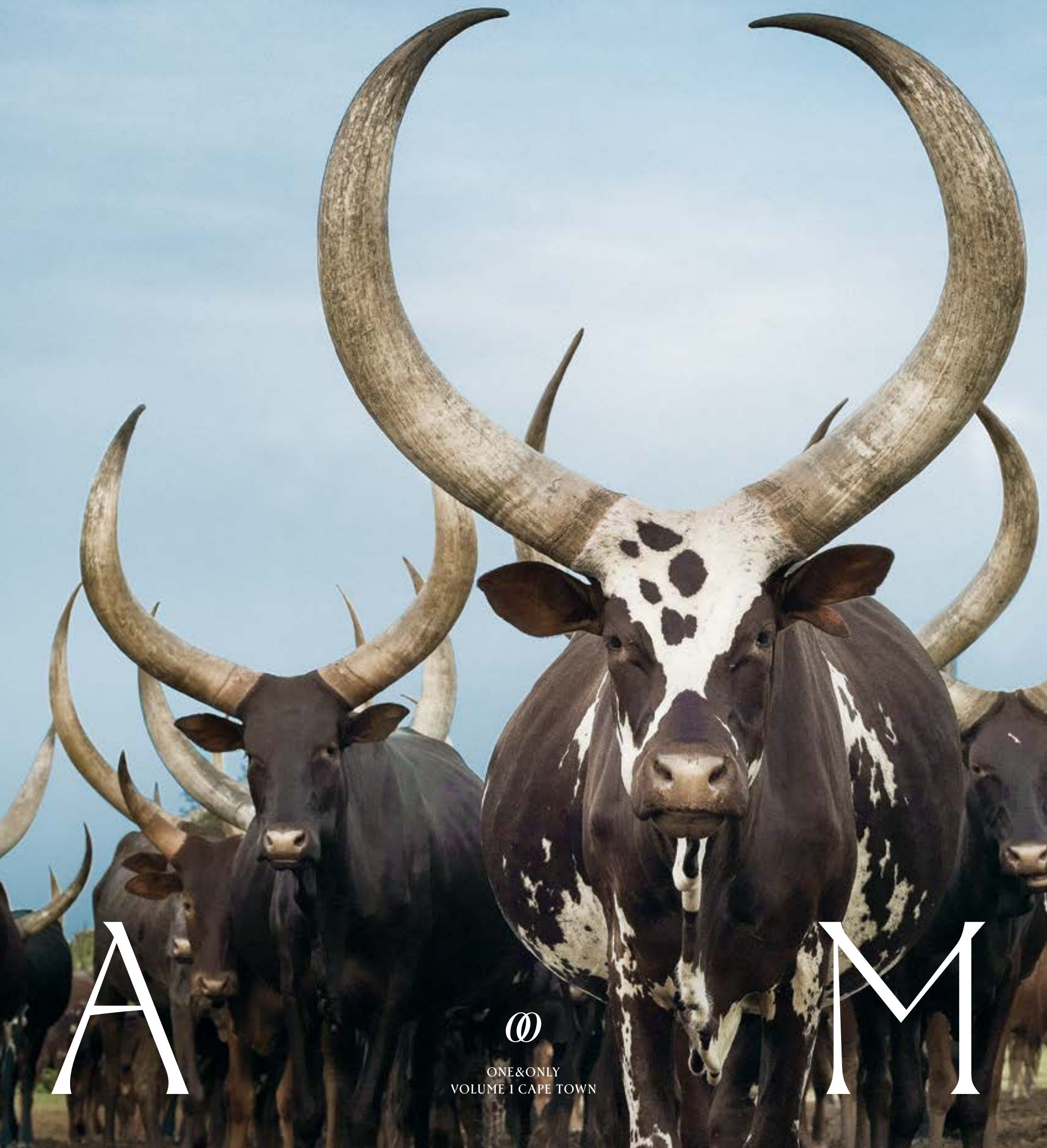


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ONE&ONLY  
VOLUME 1 CAPE TOWN



“CAPE TOWN’S BEAUTY  
LIES NOT ONLY  
IN ITS LANDSCAPES  
BUT IN ITS SPIRIT.”

DESMOND TUTU

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## WELCOME

Dear esteemed guest,

Not only am I delighted to welcome you to One&Only Cape Town, but also to the Mother City, one of South Africa’s capitals and the little piece of paradise we are fortunate enough to call home.

Every day, I’m reminded how special this city is. When you rise from your bed during your stay with us, take a moment to appreciate the natural beauty around you; the majesty of the mountain before you, the peacefulness of the waterways that surround you. Breathe in the fresh, salty air of the ocean and know that you can fully and truly, relax. Cape Town is a city like no other—a tapestry of vibrant local cultures, renowned world-class dining and heritage-based dishes, breathtaking landscapes and beaches and a collection of experiences that allow you to explore a country as unique as the people who form a part of this rainbow nation.

As you flick through these pages and read our words, I hope you find glimpses of what makes One&Only Cape Town so extraordinary. From new additions to our culinary offerings such as ROOI, to local highlights and moving stories we’re proud to share, I hope it inspires you to soak in every moment in this special city – savour every bite, enjoy every beautiful view, immerse yourself in the local culture and surround yourself with the people who bring this place to life.

And when the mood strikes, let your curiosity lead you to ROAM freely. You are, after all, on the doorstep to adventure.



Anne Scott, General Manager

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# MOOI



The match has been lit, the fire is roaring, and the hearth is ready.  
Welcome to ROOI.

# ROOI







ROOI's story starts where all good stories begin – a long, long time ago, along the wild plains of Africa. In a land filled with majestic mountain ranges, rolling savannahs, roaming wild animals, stunning vistas and fire-red sunsets, there lived the Khoisan tribes. The first and one of the largest tribes in South Africa's ancestry, they came to be more than 100 000 years ago and it is their legacy we speak of today.

The Khoisan's way of living was one of simplicity, spending their days fending off mighty predators, living off the land and passing on their culture and histories through storytelling.

Generations after they had all but disappeared, people would come to find cave paintings of their adventures, telling the tales of their victories and triumphs over the years. Their legacy lives on in the lives of South Africans today, trickling down into the cracks and crevices of modern life without most realising. Like the cave painting of the ancestors, ROOI's origin tale is told through vivid painting and design, found on the dramatic entrance portal walls and beneath your feet on the custom plush carpet.

The portal, hand-painted by local artist, Elise Wessels, showcases a mythological depiction of local South African animals – sugarbirds, lambs, crayfish, and a majestic bull – frolicking amongst brightly painted flora and fauna. Known for her talent and unique painting style, Elise was an obvious choice for Muza Lab, the UK-based design team who brought the embodiment of ROOI to life, and who entrusted the task to Elise of creating a unique, memorable moment to signify the beginning of every patron's dining experience.

The animals of both land and sea continue to be celebrated once patrons have stepped into the dining space with a seamless tie in from the entrance mural to the carpet. The golden thread (forgive the pun) uniting the two lies in the similar depictions of the native animals such as the Monarch butterfly, the indigenous Blue Crane, (South Africa's National bird) and the patriotic Protea. Whilst the Khoisan were known to be skilled hunter-gatherers, it was their respect for the land and their desire to live in harmony with nature that made them such historic figures. The women of the tribes were often expert foragers and had knowledge of thousands of plants that were safe for consumption or used for medicinal purposes. The men were revered and skilled hunters, known to be physically fit and protectors of the tribe. And perhaps, their greatest legacy they passed on, is that of man's relationship with flames and fire.

"ROOI signifies flames and fire and its natural effect on everything — fire transforms, hence why we say our menu is sourced from both land and sea, transformed by fire". These are the words uttered by a passionate Resort Head Chef, Terrence Ford, who, alongside his culinary team, have brought the authentic menu of ROOI to life, focusing on cooking each dish via open flame and coal grilling in some manner or form. "It's inspiring to cook on flames like this, as it is the most ancient way of cooking," explains Chef Terrence. "Hundreds of years ago, the Khoisan people cooked on coals; there were no grids or anything. So the way we're cooking today is showing a different representation of how meat was cooked then, paying homage to our heritage."

ROOI began as a concept and with a flicker and a flame, sprung to life in the winter months of 2024. Based on the desire to combine fire and feast, the grillroom intends to be a welcoming space for family and friends alike to come together and share a meal, just as South Africans do around a braai and just as the Khoisan did all those years ago around their own hearth. Today, ROOI has opened her doors for all to enjoy a celebration of land and sea, touched by fire.

A grillroom at heart, meat and seafood are not in short supply at ROOI. The bespoke menu crafts extraordinarily authentic South African dishes, honouring local flavours and the diverse culinary landscape whilst also telling the stories behind the dishes in a refined yet recognisable manner. "We are recreating local and childhood favourites but in an elevated form to showcase our country and our heritage to our guests", explains Chef Terrence. The dishes tell the story of South Africa, spanning from the authentic cooking methods of the Khoisan, all the way to the modern era of elegant vegan dishes and beloved desserts. Each dish has a story, such as the hertzoggies, a traditional Cape Malay dessert, originating from the 1920s. Named in support of General Hertzog, the South African Prime Minister at the time, the dessert is made of biscuit, apricot jam and coconut and was said to be a favourite of the prime minister. However, the

EVERYTHING FROM  
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AND FROM  
WELL-DESERVING  
LOCAL BUSINESSES

dessert was later altered to have pink icing along one side to represent his hypocrisy (and being 'two-faced') as he failed to follow through on his promises to provide voting rights for women and equal rights for the coloured community.

Not only does every menu item tell a story, but it also seeks to do so in a sustainable manner, with everything from meat to herbs being sourced under the guidance of sustainable practices and from well-deserving local businesses. "As chefs, we dictate the narrative as to what the market does", explains Chef Terrence Ford. "If we use suppliers that don't reflect a sustainable practice, we're encouraging the wrong behaviour."

Looking to draw the outside world in, Muza Lab introduced seven towering Natal Mahogany trees into the dining room, with the largest standing tall and proud in the centre of the room. Whilst the trees undoubtedly are something that draws the eye, it is perhaps the motif of the Pincushion Protea that is the most visually impactful, liberally used throughout the space and seen on the menu covers, the coasters and even in the vases on every table. With a beautiful red, fire-like appearance, the Pincushion Protea is one of 136 subspecies in the protea family (another of which, the King Protea, is South Africa's national flower) and rely on fire to germinate, thus earning themselves the title "the phoenix of the floral kingdom." Cape wildfires help these resilient flowers spread, a poetic tie-in to the flames that are reflected time and time again in ROOI's story.

The story of fire continues in the showstopping copper fire oven, located in the centre of the open-plan kitchen. With a unique, dragon-like appearance, the "scales" of the oven are individual pieces of forged metal, carefully placed alongside one another to create a cornucopia of jewel colours and rusted tones. Beyond the oven, further details in the main dining room show just how entwined the story of the Khoisan and ROOI are. Not only were they hunter-gatherers but the Khoisan were also master herders, keeping a number of cattle, sheep and goat as part of their livestock. Cattle were, and still are, seen as a symbol of wealth for many African cultures and in the case of the Khoisan, they were never eaten unless they died of natural causes or were stolen from other tribes.

As a symbolic nod to the Ankole cattle, who whilst not linked to the Khoisan, best represent African bovine with their majestic horns, is seen in the custom, horned wooden seating stationed around the circular jade green velvet banquets and surrounding the Tasting Table, creating the illusion of a cattle herd in the dining space.

As the seasons dictated, the Khoisan wandered for grazing lands and drinking water; providing the motivation for ROOI's cocktail menu. Inspired by South Africa's nine provinces, guests are invited to 'wander the country' without ever leaving their seat, tasting flavour combinations and concoctions that each reflect the province the cocktail is named after.

For example, the Western Cape cocktail features Pinotage Gin, referring to the province's rich wine and gin production, both of which the country is renowned for. The Kwa-Zulu-Natal cocktail is infused with masala-spiced pineapple, a reference to the province's Indian culture (as well as local snack) and the Free State cocktail centres around brandy, a staple drink of this agricultural region.

Not to be outdone, the wine industry also has its place in the grillroom, with an extensive wine list awaiting patrons, as well as a spectacular roaming Cap Classique trolley and a wine stewarding team standing at the ready. All wine, beers and spirits on offer are not only amongst the best on the market but they too boast a local heritage.

"We chose the wines and beverages for ROOI based on the beautiful stories, heritage and celebration of the diversity of the South African landscape," explains Luvo, Resort Head Sommelier. "This selection stretches from the furthest coast of the East to the furthest of the West, right through to the drylands of the Karoo, like Calitzdorp where they are famous for ports, and everywhere in between. From all the wine farms we considered, the most dominant theme was celebrating boutique, family-owned wine farms."

Every drink tells a story, each meal a swansong to the culinary arts all coming together as an immersive experience of South African community, heritage and cooking. And whilst ROOI can boast a private dining room for large groups, an intimate wine loft for two, a tasting table for wine experiences, custom cocktails or bespoke menus, at its core, ROOI is a hearth; a home and a haven where meals can be shared, stories can be told and fire can serve as a guide and protector to your night – a place the modern Khoisan would feel at home.



## GAUTENG

45ml Stone Fruit & Thyme Syrup  
2.5ml Buchu Honey  
25ml Lemon Juice  
100ml Soda (Non-alcoholic)

### STONE FRUIT & THYME SYRUP

250g Canned Peach Juice  
250g Canned Apricot Juice  
12g Thyme  
500g Sugar

Add all ingredients to a pot and simmer for five minutes at 80C.

### PREPARATION

Add each ingredient into a shaker with ice cubes and shake vigorously.  
Pour over crushed ice in wine glass touched by gold and serve.

*To make it a little...naughty, add a single or double (as you prefer) shot of Amarula Gin to enhance the freshness and complement the stone fruits of the cocktail.*

## NORTHERN CAPE

50ml Copenland Rum Gold  
20ml Fig Preserve  
10ml Balsamic Vinegar  
6 drops of Chocolate Bitters

### PREPARATION

Add all your ingredients into your glass, stirring as you go. And, voila!

*To add a little...twist: Dip a dehydrated fig into melted dark chocolate and let it set. Add as a garnish and enjoy!*



KwaZulu-Natal: Sweet pineapple and spicy masala

Western Cape: Pinotage gin and poached pear

Eastern Cape: Local agave and wild apricot

Limpopo: Amarula gin and juicy mango

Northern Cape: Rum and fig-based with balsamic

North West: Light litchi and tantalising elderflower

Gauteng: Stone fruit with natural buchu honey

Mpumalanga: Classic Bains, sage and sour grapefruit

Free State: Brandy-focused with cherry and spiced apple

## COCKTAILS

Quench your thirst with this uniquely South African experience, each cocktail a sensory journey of the country's provinces.

ILLUSTRATION: PATRICK LATIMER  
COCKTAILS: ELLEN DUPREEZ, HEAD MIXOLOGIST,  
ONE&ONLY CAPE TOWN

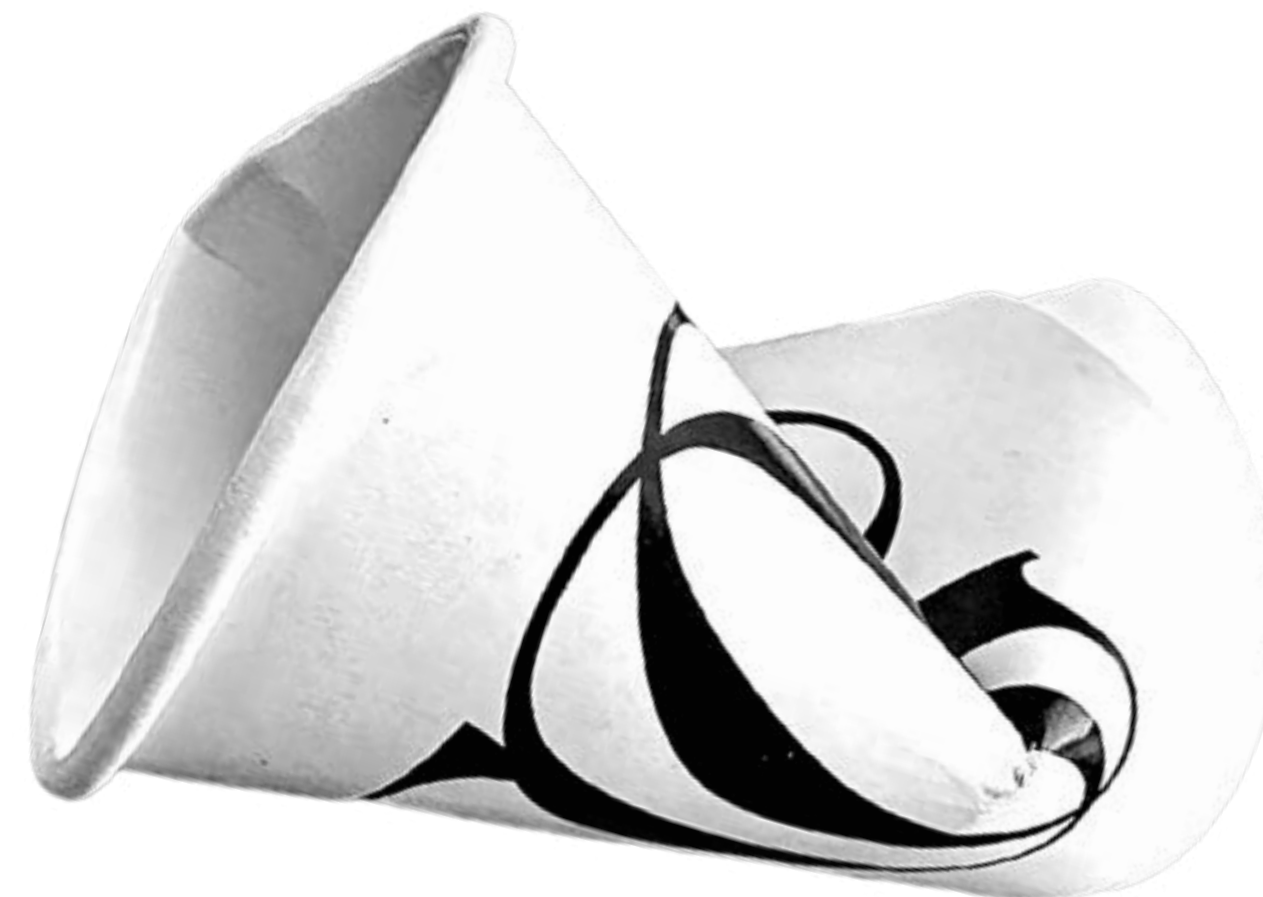




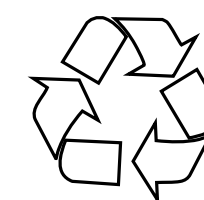
# CONSCIOUS

## LUXURY

At One&Only Cape Town, sustainability isn't just a buzzword—it's a way of living. The topic of sustainability draws significant focus and dedication from the resort and is guided by EarthCheck's rigorous and renowned standards, earning them the prestigious Silver Status for four consecutive years, as of 2024. The kitchen leads the charge, serving seasonal menus with fresh ingredients, sourced only from ethical and local farmers and producers and thereby reducing their carbon footprint whilst simultaneously supporting the local economy. Any leftovers or food wastage is repurposed into compost or donated, exemplifying the zero-waste philosophy across the resort. The resort also actively supports regional artisans and creatives, utilising projects such as upcycled décor and live performances to bring Cape Town's culture to the guest's front door. Resource-saving is key, with water, electricity and waste initiatives keeping consumption low and reducing each year. Ocean preservation efforts are also at the forefront of the sustainability efforts, partnering with the likes of Two Oceans Aquarium to ensure protection of the local marine life as well as ensuring bold strides to eliminate single-use plastics.

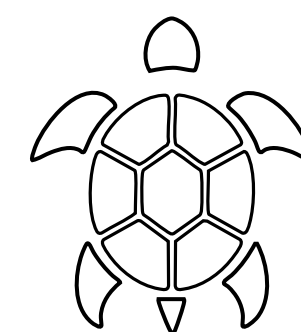


**11+tons** of recyclables were saved from landfills in 2024 due to the resort's eco-centric initiatives



 **Water consumption is reduced by 12.1%**

*as a result of request-only towel and sheet replenishment*



A donation to the Two Oceans Turtle Conservation Centre for every stay in the Presidential Suite

Don Julio, Tina and Luis were amongst the first turtle hatchlings adopted by the resort and successfully released back into the wild in 2024

**78.9%**

of waste was diverted from landfills through recycling and composting

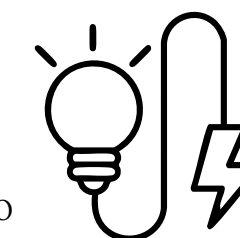
**Decreasing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 1 335 816kg CO2-e**

91% reduction of single-use plastic usage across the resort



**\$300** donation to the Endangered Wildlife Trust for every stay in the Table Mountain Suite

**Energy consumption** decreased by 217481 MJ – equivalent to 9 (4 person) households a year for 2023



# ESCAPE

Nestled between towering Mountains and the vast Atlantic and Indian Ocean, Cape Town, affectionately known as the Mother City, is recognised across the world for its intoxicating blend of natural beauty, rich history and vibrant culinary experiences.

# TOWN



For many, Cape Town is a dream destination. For others, Cape Town serves as a rest stop on the way to another exotic adventure and for most in the province, Cape Town is home. It's a place where every street corner tells a story, every bite becomes a journey and every view evokes feelings of wonder. On the very doorstep of the Mother City, lies One&Only Cape Town. Situated in the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, the resort offers a blend of island-style relaxation and urban sophistication whilst simultaneously serving as the ultimate getaway, your stage for escapism.

One cannot speak of Cape Town without immediately referencing its incredible food scene and exciting nightlife. Having recently been crowned the World's Best Food City in the World (Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards, 2024), the province holds boundless culinary experiences to enjoy and a never-ending restaurant population to explore. No matter the cuisine, style of dining or location, there is a place for the most discerning traveller, as local heritage intertwines with modern innovation, creating a gastronomic landscape that satisfies both the heart and the palate.

A day in the life of a Capetonian (or even a visitor) should begin and possibly end, on Bree Street. This lively stretch of road has a fascinating history, having evolved over the years from a seedy city centre street to one of the most revered spots for foodies the world over. The epitome of the city's modern energy, relaxed charm, trendy restaurants and artisanal coffee shops, all come together with ease, allowing for Bree Street to become a "perfect spot for leisurely exploration."

Indeed, One&Only Cape Town's Head Concierge, Tashwin Kalie lists the street as a "must try" for all guests giving note to its dynamic atmosphere and stunning vistas of Table Mountain. Keeping on topic with trendy destinations, for any guest wishing to enjoy a truly unique bar experience, Tashwin goes on to recommend The House of Machines. "Tucked away on the corner of Shortmarket and Bree Streets, this stylish bar offers a unique blend of craft cocktails and a curated selection of artisanal spirits," explains Tashwin. He goes on to describe how the bar is a favourite amongst locals, its grunge-like appearance in juxtaposition to its laid-back yet sophisticated atmosphere and is favoured due to being more 'off the beaten track' than other tourist-heavy bars.

The word 'trendy' can be used in conjunction with many a restaurant in Cape Town, with a new concept and restaurant opening every week. For example, the concept of ice cream and oysters as a pairing is not one that springs to mind and yet, Chef Rikku Ó'Donnchú of Shuck & Scoop made this imaginative leap possible. The perceived incompatibility of the two dishes has a surprising synchronicity, drawing crowds from near and far to try a 'scoop' or two. Similarly, Sea Point's newest edition 'The Wes Bistro & Bar' has trendy in a chokehold, with their new eatery being a literal play on Wes Andeson movies and directional style. The bistro boasts a bright, colourful interior and a French-styled menu that will keep fans of the director running back for more, whilst simultaneously providing the perfect backdrop for any social media activity.

Closer to the Resort, the Greenpoint area is home to a variety of beloved dining spots, including native favourite Jason's Bakery (are you even a local if you don't have a weekend pastry at Jason's?), Asian cuisine haven How Bao Now or the institution that is Giovanni's, an Italian corner store that not only has fresh pastries and piping hot coffee on offer at all hours of the day but many unusual and often imported, kitchen staples.

With three of the best wine-producing regions in the world within driving distance (Stellenbosch, Paarl & Franschhoek), Cape Town is heaven on earth for oenophiles, with wine serving as the lifeblood of the Cape. Whether it be for the purposes of a wine tasting, a wine tour or even a simple walk amongst the vineyards, there is both an abundance of opportunity and an abundance of wine to sample.

For guests not wishing to travel too far to enjoy a glass of vino, Resort Head Sommelier Luvo Ntezo advises the following, "Try to visit Klein Constantia and Groot Constantia, both not too far from Cape Town, in the Constantia region, as it is one of the oldest wine growing regions we have in South Africa. At these vineyards, not only will you enjoy great views and splendid food, but there are some really beautiful wines too! If you're willing to drive slightly further, give De Grendel wine farm a try. Located in Durbanville; it boasts beautiful views, an amazing restaurant but most importantly, some great wines."

The wine culture in the Cape is so great that wine bars and stations have popped up all over town, serving glasses of boutique vintages and lesser-known blends. Amongst



these, Tashwin recommends OpenWine, for its 'vibey energy' on a First Thursday and outdoor seating that is perfect for summer or Tamboerskloof Winkel, a store-turned-wineshop along upper Kloof street where the reds, whites and everything inbetween have been known to flow all night long.

#### A MOSAIC OF HISTORY AND ART

Cape Town's cultural landscape is as diverse as its cuisine and its people. From historical landmarks and colourful neighbourhoods to glorious art galleries and astounding theatre productions, the city is a living, breathing testament to its dynamic residents, all of whom create a tapestry of cultures, races and religions that make up this Rainbow Nation. From the aunties in the streets of the BoKaap, adorning colourful doekies as they chat animatedly amongst one another about the events of the day, to the city slicker, earphones in and weaving between the crowds along the busy streets of the city centre, and even the runners of the city, sprinting along the Sea Point promenade, their brows furrowed and heads bent in concentration as they join the masses enjoying the fresh sea breeze and astounding views. The city is alive with the voices of the people, the citizens that make Cape Town who she is. Not one person dresses the same, looks the same or speaks the same but a general aura of merriment, positive energy seeps from each one, latching onto the next. Shouts of recognition and laughter amongst passing friends, create a symphony as unique as the phenomenal cultural sites they're surrounded by. There is a sense of contentment and knowing that they live in the best city and are keen to share it. One of these poignant cultural sites is the District Six Museum. Created as a testimony to those affected by and a reminder of the harsh history of Apartheid, the museum provides visitors insight into the plight of the District Six community, who were forcibly removed during apartheid. "It offers a deeply emotional journey about the lives of those affected", explains Tashwin. "And is a vital stop for anyone seeking to understand Cape Town's complex history."

Art lovers will find solace amongst the paintings and sculptures of the Iziko South African National Gallery, located in the centre of the city at the Company's Garden. Within lies a broad collection of African art, spanning from historical pieces to contemporary works, each a wondrous work of art to enjoy. The exploration of the nation's greatest creatives is not an adventure to be taken lightly, and guests are advised to spend their day wandering around the artworks and marveling at their creative evolution.

In keeping with exploring the history of the city, why not catch dinner and a show at Cape Town's oldest independent movie theatre, the Labia Theatre. An iconic landmark, the cinema once housed the Italian Embassy ballroom and was originally intended to be a theatre for live performances. Opened by Princess Labia in 1948 (the first royal diplomat for the Italian crown in South Africa), the theatre today prides itself on showcasing blockbusters and new releases as well as some carefully selected classics for all to enjoy.

For the traditional theatre lovers amongst us, the Artscape is mere minutes away from the resort and has a fine collection of shows

year-round ranging from Shakespeare plays to stunning ballets, from local choirs to children's delights in the form of classics come to life. Should you wish to include a beautiful view along with your show, Theatre on the Bay is your go-to, located along the Camps Bay strip, showcasing comedy and one man shows alongside extraordinary sunsets.

#### NATURE'S PLAYGROUND

It's no secret that Cape Town's natural beauty is nothing short of breathtaking. The city has some of the most pristine white beaches, grassy green winelands, ongoing oceanic views and unspoiled mountaintops. However, it is also paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a variety of adventures for passionate outdoorsmen, including hiking up majestic mountain ranges further afield or closer to home such as Table Mountain and Lion's head (curated experiences, is that you?) or perhaps trying your hand at kitesurfing along the icy shores of Blouberg. Equestrian-enthusiasts will find excitement along the sandy beaches of Noordhoek with daily horse riding available and animal lovers can enjoy the thrill of the wild up close and personal, as they observe African Penguins waddling along Boulders Beach.

For those who like a little less heart-thumping adventure, simple-to-follow walking trails such as Pipe Track or Newlands Forest allow for ease of exploration around the stunning outdoors. If natural relaxation is what you seek, the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens offer a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city life as these gardens are renowned for their stunning displays of native flora and fauna and are also home to many a summer concert.

Cape Town's beaches are made to be enjoyed and, more importantly, admired. Not only are the sandy white bays and crystal blue waters something of a paradise dream but plenty of refreshments and delicacies await upon the shores. Camps Bay, with its trendy cafés and lively atmosphere, is perfect for people-watching, while the more secluded Llandudno Beach offers a serene retreat, advises Tashwin. Brave the chilly waters, enjoy a granadilla lolly (to make you jolly!) and spend your day under the African sun as you frolic amongst the waves.

One&Only Cape Town is rooted tantalisingly close to all the action – be it culinary, cultural or nature. Whilst the lists of experiences outside the resort's doors is never ending, guests wishing to stay on property and relax will find themselves with opportunities to enjoy curated experiences available nowhere else. Everything from sunrise yoga on Table Mountain to immersive wine-tasting sessions are available, alongside a plethora of resort's culinary offerings, such as the art of sushi being taught in the Nobu master class or learning how to make traditional desserts such as the Koe- and Koeksisters. A behind-the-scenes look at turtle hatchlings and Aquarium tours will keep the kids occupied and happy whilst couples can enjoy some quality time unwinding at the newly relaunched One&Only Spa. Whether you come for the food, the culture, the natural beauty or all of the above, one thing is certain: there is no place in the world quite like Cape Town. So, pack your bags, bring your appetite for adventure (and all the dining to come) and be prepared to fall in love with the Mother City.







# COUTURE BEYOND BORDERS

A dynamic tapestry of cultures, ethnicities and histories, proudly African designers are drawing the eyes of the world.



## Designers are no longer confined to replicating traditional motifs; instead, they are innovating by fusing cultural heritage with modern design techniques.

*Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe is the founder and director of African Fashion International (AFI), and a proud advocate of African fashion. We discuss AFI further, the role African Fashion plays on a global scale and her thoughts on the upcoming 2025 Met Gala.*

**DR MOLOI-MOTSEPE, HOW DO YOU FEEL AFI HAS EVOLVED SINCE ITS INCEPTION?**

When we were founded in 2007, it was to provide a platform for African fashion designers and creatives to showcase their talent and find market opportunities. Since then, AFI has evolved from hosting Fashion Weeks in Johannesburg and Cape Town to becoming a global platform that showcases African fashion talent. We've partnered with international brands and organisations, such as Condé Nast, Mercedes-Benz, and Forbes, to expand our global network and this is only the start!

**HOW DOES AFI ADDRESS REPRESENTATION IN FASHION?**

We were founded during a time when the global fashion industry was lacking diversity. This played a large role in our motivation to create such a platform and we're proud to say, we have driven transformation in the industry by identifying, training, and propelling designers who were previously excluded. Not only are we representing those previously unnoticed or excluded but our AFI Fastrack Prize project has produced globally acclaimed designers who have gone on to become household names.

**HOW DOES AFI EMPOWER LOCAL ARTISANS?**

AFI actively empowers fashion entrepreneurs who in turn, employ many artisans in the industry, including seamstresses, tailors, beaders, jewellery and accessory makers. Through our efforts, we help the wider community of artists in the country. For example, our collaboration with Dr Esther Mahlangu and her Foundation, as well as the Abidjan community, supports the preservation of rural communities' local knowledge and artistic skills and provides livelihoods for those living in rural communities.

**YOU HAVE YOUR OWN BRAND AND STORE, HOUSE OF NALA IN SANDTON AND NOW AS A POP-UP AT ONE&ONLY CAPE TOWN. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT SETS HOUSE OF NALA APART FROM OTHER LUXURY BRANDS?**

The House of Nala is more than a fashion brand. It is a celebration of African culture, creativity and community and is home to plenty of African Luxury Brands. AFI launched this retail platform to further promote and support local fashion, providing more value for our clients and designer partners and thereby allowing a collection of highly curated African designers to share their unique talents with the world. The name NALA means abundance in many

African languages, and it is testament to the richness and diversity of our continent. What sets us apart is our commitment to curating the best African Fashion brands from across the continent as we actively value abundance and rarity, strength and gentleness, pride and humility.

**HOW DOES AFI FOSTER COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL DESIGNERS?**

Collaborations are what make the us tick - our very motto is to take African Fashion mainstream. We have showcased African Fashion designers in Paris and New York, and we continue to promote African fashion globally by finding markets that respond positively to our offerings and driving value back to the country. AFI's mission is to bring African fashion to global platforms and to do so, we work with different designers across the continent and contribute to intra African trade.

**THE MET GALA IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE ANNUALLY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FASHION INDUSTRY. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR AFI TO BE A SPONSOR OF THE META GALA IN 2025?**

Our partnership with the Met Gala, especially with the theme related to Black Style, is a perfect opportunity for AFI to once again put African fashion at the centre of global fashion discourses. This is going to be an incredible event and I am excited for Africa to take a seat at the table of this important cultural moment.

*Meet Gavin Rajah, Creative Director of House of Nala, to discuss African fashion, global trends and the current state of the industry.*

**FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, HOW HAS AFRICAN FASHION EVOLVED OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES?**

African fashion has undergone a remarkable transformation these past few years, moving from being seen as a niche or traditional segment to being recognized globally as a dynamic and influential part of the fashion world. Designers are no longer confined to replicating traditional motifs; instead, they are innovating by fusing cultural heritage with modern design techniques.

**ARE YOU SEEING A FURTHER EMERGENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN DESIGNERS INTO THE GLOBAL FASHION WORLD? WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GLOBAL DESIGNERS?**

Absolutely. South African designers bring a unique perspective rooted in cultural storytelling and sustainability. Unlike many global designers, South Africans often create with purpose, weaving social consciousness and environmental responsibility into their collections. You

see, South African fashion reflects the country's "rain-bow nation" ethos—a unique blend of diverse ethnicities, cultures, and histories. This is evident in its ability to juxtapose traditional craftsmanship, like beadwork and handwoven textiles, with contemporary silhouettes and avant-garde designs.

**WHAT ROLE DO AFRICAN DESIGNERS PLAY IN SHAPING GLOBAL TRENDS?**

African designers are trailblazers in sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation. They're introducing the world to techniques like upcycling and zero-waste design, often using materials others overlook. Furthermore, they are re-defining luxury by placing value on storytelling, heritage, and craftsmanship, which is increasingly resonating with global audiences.

**HOW DOES SUSTAINABILITY PLAY A ROLE IN LOCAL FASHION?**

Sustainability is deeply ingrained in African fashion, not just as a trend but as a necessity. Many designers source materials locally, repurpose existing fabrics, and work with artisans to preserve traditional techniques. Sustainability in Africa goes beyond materials—it's about creating lasting social impact by empowering communities and fostering economic independence.

**HOW IMPORTANT IS STORYTELLING IN AFRICAN FASHION?**

Storytelling is at the heart of African fashion. Every piece carries a narrative, whether it's about cultural heritage, personal journeys, or societal commentary. This connection to storytelling gives African fashion an emotional depth that resonates with both local and international audiences.

**ARE THERE ANY FASHION MOVEMENTS/TRENDS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY THAT ARE UNIQUE TO AFRICAN FASHION?**

Yes, there's a strong movement towards "Afro-minimalism," which simplifies traditional aesthetics into clean, modern designs while retaining cultural authenticity.

**WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FASHION? DO YOU SEE ANY UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE INDUSTRY THAT WILL DEFINE THE NEXT DECADE?**

The next decade will see South African fashion further establishing itself as a global force, with an emphasis on sustainability, digital innovation, and inclusivity. I'm particularly excited about the rise of tech-enabled fashion, where wearable technology meets traditional craftsmanship.





# WEAVING A LEGACY

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.” - Helen Keller.

PHOTOGRAPHER: ADEN ECCLES WEAVER: CARLA THOMAS

Suspended from the ceiling of ROOI's Private Dining Room, hangs a chandelier. Depicting a fallen log and spanning over five metres long, this woven art piece's intricate design and natural textures hide a deeper story beneath – one that pays homage to resilience and transformation. For you see, this beautiful woven structure was crafted - by hand - by artisan Michael Prinsloo, one of the many talented weavers from Cape Town Society for the Blind (CTSB). Michael is a visually impaired craftsman who, along with his CTSB peers, has cemented his place in society through weaving and art. He shows great pride in his work, explaining excitedly how he utilised Palmbang Plit Cane for this project due to its durability and long-lasting nature, as well as giving the chandelier a rustic, natural look. “The journey for this piece was challenging, exciting and yet fulfilling”, says Michael. “The custom frame and design proved to be a bit of a challenge, with the stakes being bent at certain sections, making the weaving process difficult. A blind weaver would normally weave with even spaced stakes, but I eventually mastered the issue.”

A difficult and labourious task, the chandelier took four weeks to construct and over a day to assemble and hang. The design efforts were orchestrated by Muza Lab, the interior designers of ROOI, who early on saw the significance and talent of CTSB. Their support and guidance towards the vision of the contemporary space, provided a framework for the CTSB team to create with the necessary freedom. Spokesperson and Sales Associate for CTSB, Tania Stellmacher enthused about the project, proudly saying “This puts our name out to the world for all to see. It proves to everyone that our disability does not affect our ability to create and be productive.”

For many, impaired vision in any form and the subsequent apparent inability to partake in everyday life would cause despair, desperation and anguish. Not for the brave

team at CTSB though, who have stepped up to assist those with visual impairment beyond the call of duty. The Cape Town Society for the Blind has a significant and long history, with this non-profit organisation having grown from strength to strength over the last 95 years. From their start in 1929 as a small support group of ladies affected by blindness, to present day where their organisation's growth has formed into a hub of activity and a thriving team, providing a supportive base and safe space for those with visual impairment to learn lifelong skills. The society now has a weaving workshop, a re-caning department (who sets about restoring old cane-based furniture), repackaging services for businesses and even a vision clinic that is open to any who may have need. There are also opportunities to learn other societal skills, such as soft skills (including how to do administrative jobs, public speaking, entrepreneurship classes, events management and budgeting), computer and smartphone courses, and of course, braille training – all the skills one may need to navigate their life.

The evaluation of this remarkable group over the last (almost) century has fulfilled a need in the community for a safe space, for a vulnerable group of people to grow and provide for themselves and their families. The very first workshop ever opened by the Society was in 1930, located in vibrant Bree Street and followed not long after by the first coloured workshop in 1932, situated in the historic District Six. It wasn't until 1936 that combined workshops began to appear, taking place at their present location in Salt River, and was not until 1950 that their weaving department came to life. This very same department, in seventy-four years' time, will be weaving the aforementioned magnificent custom chandelier for One&Only Cape Town.

The Weaving Division is amongst the Society's most profitable outlets, having evolved to include a baby, lifestyle, bathroom, child and even a pet range over the course of the last few years. Tania explains how every year, CTSB

takes a limited number of visually impaired students into the weaving division, to upskill them with cane training and basket weaving as well as providing them with production support, marketing, transport, assist with mobility training and life skills. Once the year of training is completed, graduates are employed by the society as Small Business Units that would go on to be utilised for specific projects such as this one.

“People who support our organisation help uplift and upskill the lives of the blind and visually impaired persons”, explains Tania, “Our weavers take pride in their work, providing a quality product and showing that there is a way of giving back to the community, no matter who you are.” Michael agrees, stating, “Finding myself in a world where so many things are unknown, especially when you have a disability, it makes me feel so proud that my work will be showcased for all to see. I have proven to the world that even with a disability, everything is possible, that dreams can come true and that we all matter no matter what your circumstances are.”

In South Africa, over 90% of the visually impaired are unemployed, held hostage by an impairment that leaves them unable to navigate everyday life and unable to take care of themselves. Without the help of family, friends and community, many suffer with mental and physical health issues and fall into a rapidly declining spiral. It is estimated (by 2023) that 0.75% of South African citizens are blind (a whopping 450,000) with only 0.2%-0.6% of children being born blind and over 50% of the remaining blind population being contributed to cataracts, an easily treatable disease. Societies such as CTSB allow for hope to re-enter the lives of those affected; to show them that all is not lost and that they can be a functioning member of society. As Michael clearly and proudly states, “Me being blind will not stop me from showing others I have vision in other ways, and it is all evident in my handwork.”



# HIDDEN ANIMALS

*Cape Town is a treasure trove of natural wonders; pristine, white sandy beaches, sprawling vineyards and plenty of spectacular views. Yet, hidden in the crevices, amongst the treetops or along the untamed natural landscape, lie some of Cape Town's most remarkable and rarest wildlife.*



## THE CAPE LEOPARD

Elegant and incredibly rare, Leopards are the most elusive of the African cats; even more so when speaking of the Cape Leopard. Commonly found along the rocky terrains of the Boland, the Cedarberg Mountains and the Cape Peninsula, fewer than 500 are thought to roam the Western Cape today. Whilst genetically similar to the African Leopard, the Cape Leopard is known to be smaller in size and weight to its savannah-based kin and have adapted to their rugged environment by preying on native species such as dassies and klipspringers. Their rarity and secretive nature make any sightings a truly unforgettable experience.

## THE TABLE MOUNTAIN GHOST FROG

Named after the iconic world wonder, these tiny frogs - measuring around 2-5cm - are found only within a 9-kilometer radius on the mountain, having made a home for themselves in the crevices along swift-flowing streams and enduring the currents with the aid of suction pads on their toes and genetically flattened bodies. However, invasive alien plantation, Cape wildfires and urban encroachment all contribute to the extinction of these amphibians.

## THE DASSIE (ROCK HYRAX)

A Cape Town native, the Dassie is a dearly beloved, small, rodent-like mammal who can be seen scurrying about amongst the rocky mountain terrain of the Cape. Their little bodies are covered in brown and grey fur and their padded feet act as outdoor shoes, enabling them to be swift and able climbers. Sur-

prisingly, the closest relative to the Dassie is not any of the rodent family but that of the mighty elephant. Because of their guinea pig - like appearance, they are revered by locals and internationals alike and can often be found spending their days sunbathing on large rocks amongst the mountains —true experts in relaxation.

## THE CAPE DWARF CHAMELEON

A unique symbol of the Cape's biodiversity, the Cape Dwarf Chameleon is a favourite amongst nature lovers for its charm and adaptability. Whilst equipped with typical chameleon characteristics, such as eyes that can see 360 degrees, a sticky tongue and vibrant colouring to scare off predators (or impress suitors...), this darling chameleon differs in one key aspect - its entire body, from tongue to tail, is only 15cm. Endemic to Cape Town, this reptile is listed as 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN and can commonly be found in urban gardens, amongst the surrounding mountainside fynbos or hidden in the leafy greens of neighbouring forests.

## THE BONTEBOK

Endemic to the Western Cape, the Bontebok are a breed of antelope known for their multicolored coats, unique diet and status as Western Cape's provincial animal. Classified as 'vulnerable', the population has grown from near extinction in the 1930s (with only a herd of 17 at the time) to nearly 3000, with the present population consisting solely of descendants from the original herd. Conservation efforts remain complex however, as in an interesting twist of fate, most of this antelope's diet consists of vegetation which is also endangered, making it challenging to reintroduce them to other parts of the country.

*Left: The Dassie*

*Right: The Cape Dwarf Chameleon*





ALMOST EVERY ELEMENT ON EARTH WAS FORMED AT THE HEART OF A STAR. OUR BODIES ARE MADE FROM THE REMNANTS OF STARS AND EXPLOSIONS OF THE GALAXIES... WE ARE MADE OF STARDUST. SO, WHEN YOU NEXT GAZE UPON THE SOUTHERN CROSS, REMEMBER THAT THE BEAUTY OF THESE STARS AND THE NIGHT SKY IN WHICH THEY LIE, LIES WITHIN YOU TOO. TRUST ONE&ONLY SPA TO RECONNECT YOU WITH THE UNIVERSALLY, UNIQUE BEAUTY OF YOUR BODY, MIND AND SOUL.



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