

# Condé Nast Traveller

**PORTLAND**  
STILL THE HIPPEST  
CITY IN THE USA?

JANUARY 2014 £3.99

## THE BEST OF THE CARIBBEAN

BRILLIANT BEACHES, GREAT RUM SHACKS, NEW PLACES TO STAY

### URUGUAY

WHERE TO FIND THE  
PARTY CROWD – AND  
HOW TO LOSE THEM

### HIPPO CHIC

ZAMBIA'S AWESOME  
NEW SAFARI LODGE

### LIFT OFF!

IS VERBIER NOW  
THE GREATEST  
SKI RESORT  
IN EUROPE?

TREND WATCH

### BUNK UP

STAY AHEAD WITH  
THE COOL KIDS





**Splurge**

THE SAXON HOTEL, VILLAS & SPA  
www.thesaxon.com



**Business**

54 ON BATH  
www.tsogosunhotels.com

## Location

In the ritzy northern suburb of **Sandhurst**, surrounded by sprawling gated compounds with high walls and security guards; the domain of business magnates and international consulates

In the walkable, tree-lined Rosebank suburb, a mix of private homes, offices and shops. The enormous **Rosebank Mall** is right next door, connected to the hotel by a pedestrian tunnel

## Look

Sophisticated African chic set against an earthy palette, carefully picked out and repeated in everything from the cushions to the **tribal-inspired figurines** guarding the bathrooms

An imposing 10-storey brick façade and **fresh interiors** in black, white, grey and mint, with works from locals artists William Kentridge and Tinus de Jongh and photographer Ryan Hitchcock

## Crowd

Nelson Mandela decamped here to finish his autobiography; world leaders including **the Clintons** continue to flow through its doors



Savvy business travellers and well-known faces looking to keep a low profile (**Desmond Tutu** was spotted here recently)

## Rooms

All 53 airy rooms and suites are done up in creams and browns, each with **contemporary sculptures**, latticed wooden windows and massive baths

75 rooms, including 12 executive suites and three luxury suites with **private terraces**; vibrant photography adds a punch of colour

## Eating & drinking

At Five Hundred restaurant even the butter dishes are works of art and the eight tables are the hardest to book in town. The six-course Ruinart Experience pairs **Champagne with foie gras** and caviar

Level Four serves creative dishes such as **terrine with pickled pears and rooibos gel**; the super-glamorous Veuve Clicquot Champagne Bar is wonderfully over-the-top

## Best thing

The **smart technology**: the in-room laptops are a treat and the hotel must have South Africa's fastest internet access

**High tea**, served in the gardens or the lobby with its white grand piano, attracts a stylish crowd

## Worst thing

The **full-length mirrors** in the rooms are badly positioned and not very flattering

The Rosebank Mall is being extended, which means for now most rooms will have views of a **mammoth construction site**

## Price

Doubles from about **£310**

Doubles from about **£180**

## One to watch

The city's rose-coloured **Westcliff Hotel** has closed for renovations and will open sometime in late 2014 as a Four Seasons property, the Canadian group's first foray into South Africa



confidence in South Africa's teeming hub, with an edgy art scene and plush, top-rate haunts. By **Sarah Khan**



### Classic

**THE MUNRO BOUTIQUE HOTEL**  
www.themunrohotel.com

Cocooned in the old-money suburb of **Houghton**, amidst stately Arts and Crafts houses dating back to the 1930s and up the road from two of Johannesburg's most elite schools

The opulent **French château** of your eccentric, globetrotting aunt: the dining room, where you can feast on millionaire's pie, has an elaborate ceiling mural with a portrait of the owner's face secreted in it

A sophisticated, older set after a cossetting oasis in the city. Apple co-founder **Steve Wozniak** has stayed

There are just five sumptuous suites. The Presidential Suite has a large sun terrace, sauna and **walk-in wardrobe big enough to make Lady Gaga blush**

**On-demand dining** is the order of the day. In the mood for poached eggs at 11pm in the conservatory? The chef will serve you what you want, where and when you want it

The **view from the infinity pool** over the city's surprisingly lush landscape is perhaps the finest in Johannesburg

There are **no lotions, hair dryers, irons or phones** in the bedrooms. If you need anything, you have to go downstairs to ask

Doubles from about **£230**



### Good value

**12 DECADES ART HOTEL**  
www.12decadeshotel.co.za

In the hip **Maboneng Precinct**, a once-gritty enclave (it's still fringed by dodgy neighbourhoods) now transformed into a district of galleries, restaurants and shops

Like a **modern-art museum**, with a simple check-in desk at the end of an art-filled corridor and abstract paintings as you get out of the lift to the seventh-floor rooms (there are private apartments on the floors in between)

Creative locals and **international musicians, photographers and painters**: asymmetrically shaved haircuts and neon sneakers are par for the course

Each of the 12 Decades Rooms is **designed by a different artist** to reflect 10 years in the city's history. In the one titled 1946–1956 (A part love, A part hate) apartheid laws line the loo bowl

There's no restaurant, but every room has a kitchenette and the local area is home to **innovative restaurants**; try the Afro-Asian fusion sushi at The Blackanese

The **attention to detail**: everything from the lamps to the coat hooks conforms to the

There's **no one on the front desk** after 10pm, which might make some guests feel uneasy

Doubles from about **£55**



### Contemporary

**THE PEECH**  
www.thepeech.co.za

Opposite a park in the leafy neighbourhood of **Melrose** in the northern suburbs, not far from the Melrose Arch complex where throngs of suited workers and stroller-pushing moms eat and shop

In the style of a **trendy mountain chalet**, with logs stacked up around an art installation featuring edgy photography of inner-city Johannesburg and cowhide rugs laid on polished-concrete floors

It's popular with a **young crowd of media folk**, so don't be surprised if you stumble into a fashion shoot taking place in the lobby

The 16 **eco-friendly rooms** have rain showers, African masks, scarlet accents and bold, black, patterned wallpaper. The two suites have indoor swings

The Bistro and small Champagne bar serve some of the best food and cocktails in town (**lamb cutlets with minted pea risotto**; the apple-sour-flavoured Faithfull Russian)

The **hammock** overlooking the Japanese-style gardens. But you might have to share it with resident cat Peeches

Teetering up the **narrow metal staircases** to the higher-level rooms can be a mission, especially in heels

Doubles from about **£140**