

# Meetings

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## GUIDE TO GAUTRAIN

Why you should host your next event along the Gautrain route



## THE BEST OF 2016

Openings, refurbishments and innovative solutions

**5 IDEAS FOR** planning on a tight budget



## BIG INTERVIEW

“ Rand Club is an experience. We position ourselves as a destination venue, steeped in history, where we tell the story of what Joburg was and how it has developed into a world-class African city.”

Judy Goddard and Brandon Clifford, Rand Club

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# IN THIS ISSUE



## ON THE COVER

**Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road** One of the most sought-after conference hotels in Gauteng, Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road is an extremely stylish venue for events.

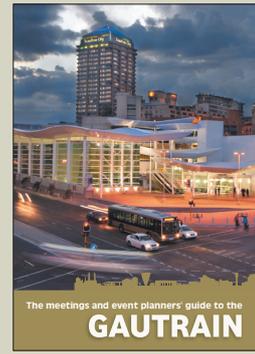
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## THE BEST OF 2016

2016 has seen new venue openings, refurbishments completed and service providers offering innovative solutions. Meetings shares its outstanding finds.

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## GUIDE TO GAUTRAIN

Gauteng is a gold mine for event planners. In this issue of Meetings, we explore venues along the Gautrain and its bus routes, as well as showcase attractions that delegates can visit before or after an event.



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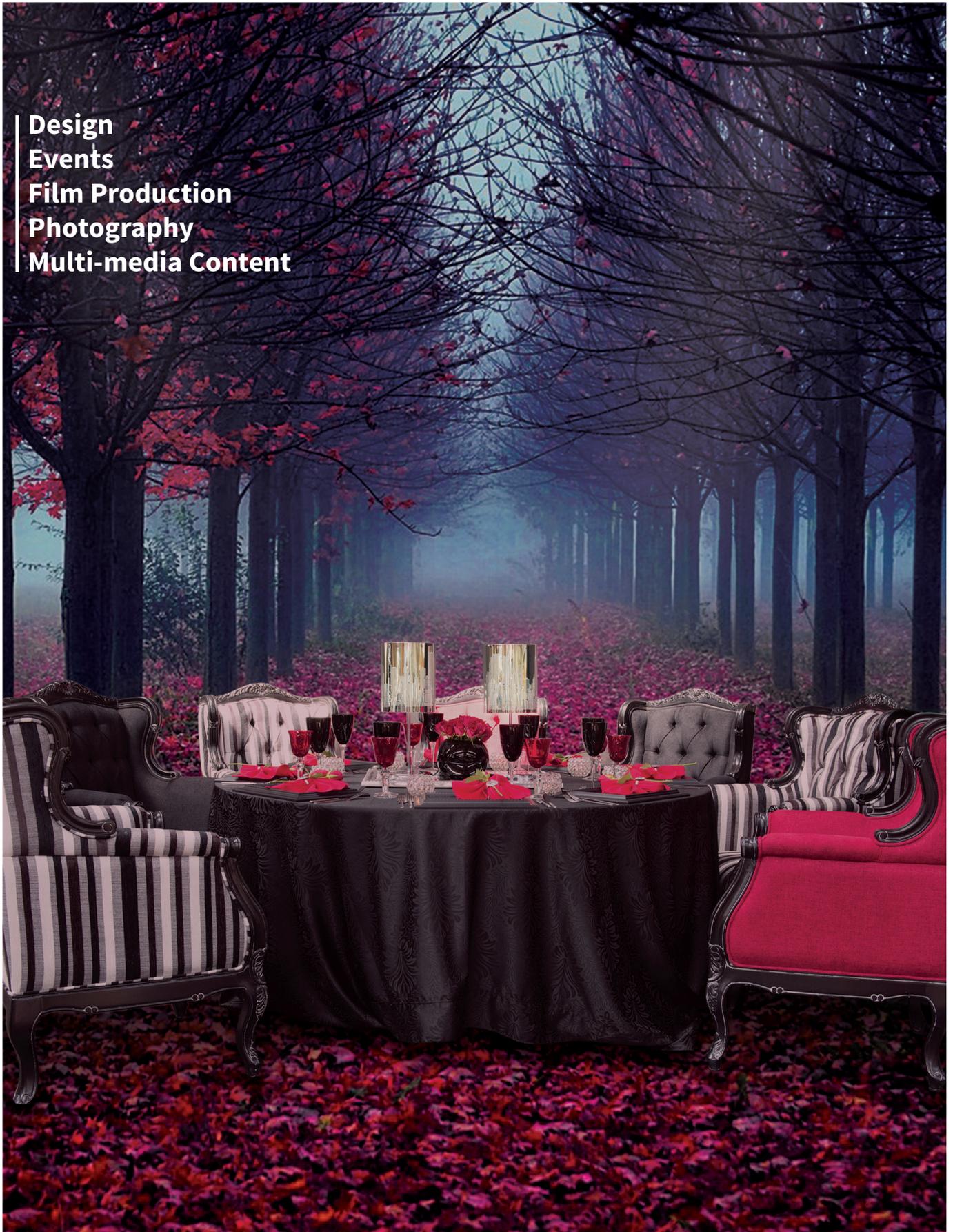
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**Meetings** November/December 2016 © Copyright.

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## SUBSCRIPTION

R300.00 per annum (incl. VAT) | subs@3smedia.co.za  
ISSN 1684-9264

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## ED'S LETTER

# A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS

**A**ROUND THIS TIME of year, I always like to take stock of what has made an impact on my life. 2016 has been a whirlwind of a year, with many ups and downs. But, not being one to throw a pity party, I want to take a look at what made this year a great one to be an event planner.

## VENUE OFFERINGS

We truly are spoilt for choice when it comes to the various types of venues South Africa has to offer – from bush, beach and mountain venues to boutique and international convention centres – there is something for everyone. 2016 saw many new venues opening, and firm favourites being refurbished. A few venues changed ownership and there was a reopening of an iconic Joburg venue.

## ONE-STOP SHOPS

More and more suppliers are expanding their product offerings. The convenience of having your multiple needs (AV, decor, infrastructure and so on) met by one supplier minimises numerous potential headaches. Having one point of contact helps you focus on your client and their needs. A well-looked-after client means repeat business.

## DIVINE DESIGN

With budgets becoming smaller, it is important to become creative with decor. That is why I am a huge fan of out-of-the-box thinking. You will be amazed with what innovative decor ideas you can come up with. I have been to functions where event planners and decor companies have done amazing things by combining beauty with functionality. One of my key take-outs for this year is that draping hides a lot!

## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Venues and caterers have heeded the call to provide delegates with better food and beverage offerings. Gone are the days of boring buffets and dry biscuits during tea breaks. This year, I have been treated to food stations focusing on flavours and themes, and during tea breaks, I snacked on flavoured popcorn and ice cream. And for the health conscious, there has also been a focus on Banting and unprocessed foods. I am a firm believer that all happiness depends on a good meal. And who doesn't love a happy delegate?

Until next year,

*Martin*

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# #tidbits

Meetings' must-know minutia



## FANCOURT'S NEW CONFERENCE CENTRE

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## THE GRAND OLD DAME TURNS 90

After three marriages, a few flings and a divorce or two, BON Hotel Riviera on Vaal celebrates her 90th birthday this year. The banks of the Vaal River became a hub of leisure activity, with holiday homes and hotels popping up as early as the 1920s. The site where the Riviera on Vaal Country Club is situated today was initially built as a kiosk to service revellers to the river who were popping down for a swim, boat ride or picnic on the banks. So popular was the site that the old farmhouse was converted into a hotel in 1926. An American film maker, entrepreneur and developer, Isadore William Schlesinger fell in love with the area and built the "ultramodern" Riviera Hotel – ultramodern because it featured a bathroom in each room, which was a luxury unheard of in those years. Isadore opened the doors to the hotel on 29 August 1936 and the rest, as they say, is history. The hotel was a popular leisure destination in the years before and after the Second World War. But from the 1960s, the hotel's popularity declined and it was left neglected. Thankfully, the decrepit hotel was taken over by the Behr family and, in 1970, a completely renovated version was opened. People once again started flocking to the hotel over the weekends, to enjoy the river, golf course and the spectacular food. As a river ebbs and flows, the hotel's popularity decreased dramatically in the 1990s and it was placed on auction in 2003 and bought by businessman Mac van der Merwe, who saw its potential. The entire grounds were completely renovated and reopened in 2004. BON Hotels took over in 2013 and has raised the venue to new levels of popularity.

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## CULINARY SUCCESS

Henrico Grobbelaar, executive chef, Southern Sun The Cullinan, has been awarded the Unilever Food Solutions Senior Chef of the Year 2016. Started over 40 years ago, the UFS Chef of the Year is one of the oldest culinary competitions in the country and is a key event on the culinary calendar. Henrico is one of South Africa's most creative and celebrated young chefs, with a long list of accolades and an enviable resume, which includes: Sunday Times Chef of the Year 2009, San Pellegrino International Young Chef of the World 2009, executive chef to the World Economic Forum in Switzerland 2010, 2010 FIFA World Cup, Winner of Chopped South Africa 2013 and, most recently, selection as captain of the National Culinary Olympic Team who represented South Africa in the IKA Culinary Olympics in Germany in October 2016. His rise to fame hasn't been meteoric, but rather steady and consistent. After more than a decade in the industry, Henrico joined Tsogo Sun's iconic Cape Town-based Southern Sun The Cullinan hotel in February this year as the executive chef. This luxurious hotel is no stranger to awards and accolades, which made this partnership a perfect fit.

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# MAINTAINING AN INNER-CITY VISION

Judy Goddard and Brandon Clifford are setting their sights on not only utilising a historical Joburg treasure, but taking it to the next level in the South African events spectrum.

**I**N OCTOBER LAST YEAR, Rand Club went into hibernation – the club’s committee needed time to identify viable ways in which they could keep the club open.

It was at this point that Masiwela Events and Marketing put forward a proposal to run Rand Club as both a destination venue and members club. This pitch was met with great approval. Not only did it solve the issue of sustainability, but it allows for both business units to operate in synergy towards the same objective – maintaining an inner-city vision. A joint venture was subsequently born between Rand Club and Masiwela.

## BEHIND THE STEERING WHEEL

Judy Goddard, founder and director, Masiwela, completed her honours degree in hospitality management in Switzerland, where she excelled. With 10 years of management experience, Judy has enjoyed a successful career. She has worked with world-class brands internationally,

such as the Marriott and Hyatt groups, as well as regional corporations – African Sun and the Multichoice Group. Judy is versed in human resource management, sales, marketing and project management, making her well equipped to drive the success of Rand Club in partnership with Brandon Clifford.

Brandon is a business events professional with extensive experience in leading the strategic and operational planning and management of business events and conferences. With a career founded on more than 10 years of experience in senior corporate sales management positions, and an honours degree in hospitality and events management, obtained from the SEG Swiss Education Group in Switzerland, Brandon has accumulated expertise and proficiency through leading the conferencing and events planning strategies of high-capacity organisations. After 10 years in the corporate environment, Brandon’s entrepreneurial acumen took preference and he ventured into realising his

ultimate goal to become a business owner, launching Evenza and now partnering on Rand Club.

With a history as rich as Joburg itself, Rand Club has withstood the test of time. With its old-school charm, a grand façade and unique decor, the club encapsulates the feeling of a bygone era. So, when the opportunity to partner on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity came around, Brandon and Judy eagerly jumped at the chance.

## A STEP ABOVE THE REST

Joburg plays host to a multitude of venues and it is safe to say that all of them have something unique to offer, but when asked what sets Rand Club apart from its competitors, Judy states it perfectly: “Rand Club truly is an inner-city vision; we are not just another conference or event venue, Rand Club is an experience. We position ourselves as a destination venue, steeped in history, where we tell the story of what Joburg was and how it has developed into a melting pot and a world-class African city in whose heart Rand Club proudly sits.”

Rest assured, if you have been lucky enough to tread through the venue’s front door, you’d understand how true her words are. The



## ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

**AS AN EVENT PLANNER**, there really is no limit to what kind of event you can host at the club.

"Rand Club is a multipurpose venue that offers 12 versatile event spaces suitable for various event sizes, ranging from small, intimate functions of 10 pax up to larger events of 500 pax. Each event space has its own unique look and feel. The venue also has access to over 150 secure parking bays for events, which is of the utmost importance in the Joburg CBD," says Brandon.

An added advantage of hosting your event at Rand Club is that the venue has its own in-house food and beverage teams, led by Johan Harley from JEM Catering. In addition to this, they have a range of suppliers that they work with for specialty bars, audiovisual and decor. However, many event organisers already have their own preferred suppliers, but even that is catered for at Rand Club. In fact, organisers can bring in their own decor and audiovisual companies at no additional charge – a rarity in exclusive event venues. **RM**



**RAND CLUB**

JOHANNESBURG

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marbled entrance greets guests upon arrival, where a grand, sweeping staircase (seldom seen in this day and age) ushers visitors up to the first floor. Plush carpeting, delicate chandeliers and works of art grace the walls, creating an ambience of the highest level of sophistication.

### PART OF THE MOVEMENT

The prejudice surrounding central Joburg in terms of safety and security is losing ground by the day. "The city is really making progress in this regard. We are located between the Maboneng and Newtown precincts – areas experiencing major rejuvenation in the city. Rand Club is ideally situated within a private security area, monitored by CCTV cameras and private security companies. We are well positioned, security is good and we offer easy access," says Judy.

Joburg is experiencing a sense of rejuvenation. By simply glancing through the social calendars, you will realise how much the city has to offer. There are countless activities and events being hosted within the city centre over weekends and even during the week. "We strongly feel that we all need to start looking at the city through different eyes. We're a part of the movement

rejuvenating Johannesburg city, where Rand Club is an inner-city vision," adds Brandon with great pride.

### EVERYONE'S WELCOME

While still being a members club, Rand Club has no limitation on who can host their event there. "Our clientele consists of members, local and international corporates, event management companies and professional conference organisers, to name a few," says Brandon. Rand Club's only request is that attendees respect the venue's culture, including its code of conduct, dress code and the general club rules and regulations, but this is true for any events venue worth a dime and should be standard practice in our industry.

### TAKING IT UP A NOTCH

Rand Club is an old-world, destination venue in the heart of the city. Recently reopened, it forms a key ingredient in the rejuvenation of old Johannesburg.

The young duo's mission is clear: they want to build a network of like-minded people, across all demographics, who want to move forward and make history in South Africa. Exclusivity should not imply snobbery, it should encapsulate the idea that individuals are working in harmony towards a common goal – breathing new life into the city and embracing a better tomorrow.

With over 10 years of experience within the business events industry, the Swiss-trained duo has the competitive edge and energy to achieve this goal and grow Rand Club to its full potential.

**For more information about Rand Club, turn to page 16.**



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The meetings and event planner's guide to the

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Gauteng (Sesotho for "place of gold") is South Africa's smallest province (17 000 square kilometres) and it includes most of the towns strung east to west along the gold reef, from Springs in the far East Rand to Randfontein in the west. It runs down to the Vaal River in the South, and just beyond South Africa's capital, Pretoria, in the north.

For more information visit Gauteng Tourism Authority [www.gauteng.net](http://www.gauteng.net) or South Africa Tourism [www.southafrica.net](http://www.southafrica.net)



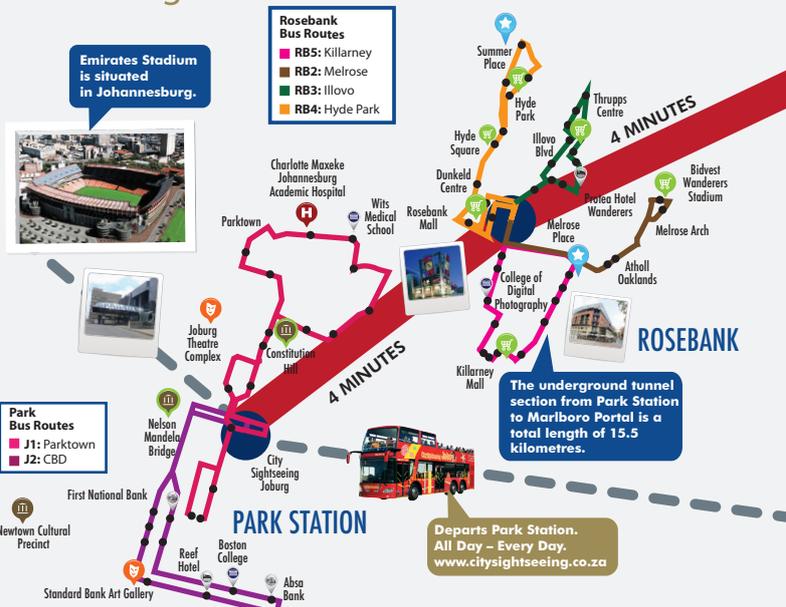
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# Tshwane



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The Freedom Park and the Voortrekker Monument

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- Hatfield Bus Routes**
- H1: Brooklyn
  - H2: Lynnwood
  - H3: Arcadia
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- Wedge
- Meadowfields
- Morningside Shopping Centre
- Garden Court Morningside
- Southern Sun
- Mushroom Farm Park
- A&G Theatre On The Square
- Sandton Hilton
- Protea Hotel
- Atholl Square
- Radisson Blu Gautrain Hotel
- Grayston Ridge Office Park
- Innisfree Park

## MARLBORO

## RHODESFIELD

## OR TAMBO

## Ekurhuleni

- Rhodesfield Bus Routes**
- RF1: Kempton Park
  - RF2: Emperors Palace



Modderfontein Nature Reserve



Joburg Water Tower



Emperors Palace



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**Disclaimer:** Please note that some of the attractions indicated along the illustrated route map may not be along the route of the Gautrain services. Certain attractions can be seen from the Gautrain but may need other public transport modes to get there. Direct enquiries for more information about places and attractions may be obtained from Gauteng Tourism Authority. The illustrated route map is not to scale. The illustrated information published was last updated on 28 April 2016.

# For delegates on the *move*



Gauteng is a gold mine for event planners. **Annette Beyers** shares her top gems along the Gautrain route that delegates should explore while in town for an event.

**IF YOU'RE A RESIDENT** of Gauteng, you are most definitely familiar with the Gautrain. You might even be one of the hundreds of commuters who use it daily to get to work and back. What people rarely consider, though, is how convenient the Gautrain is when exploring Gauteng. In fact, on a journey from Park Station to Rhodesfield, there are no less than 50 attractions en route.

There is literally something for everyone on the journey. And keep in mind, the train passes at least once every half hour, so if you don't want to spend hours in one place, you can move on to your next stop in next to no time. Even if you've seen some of these places, they might just be worth another look.

## FOR MORE

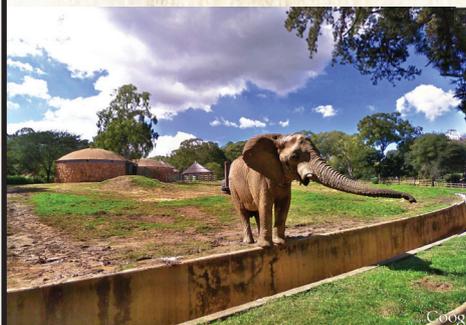
If you would like a list of other places you can potentially see on your Gautrain journey, have a quick look at [gautrain.co.za](http://gautrain.co.za) and pick a few pit stops. Exploring Gauteng has never been this easy or convenient. You've got your own designated driver from one point of the map to the other. Just remember to mind the gap!



### FROM PARK STATION

If you're the artsy type, then **Newtown** is a definite a must-see. It offers everything from art galleries and craft markets to dance clubs, and there is always something going on. Heard of Joy of Jazz, Joburg Carnival or SA Fashion Week? Newtown has hosted all of these and many more. It is also home to some great foodie hangouts. For a #bestnightever, **The Potato Shed** is the place to be. Newtown is really worth experiencing and you might not even want to leave.

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### FROM ROSEBANK STATION

Granted, the **Johannesburg Zoo** might not sound like the most exciting outing, but be prepared to be amazed. Whether you prefer a guided tour or walking around on your own, the zoo offers very affordable rates. For those of you who, like me, frown upon the ideas of animals held in captivity, the Zoo is internationally accredited and its husbandry practices and standards are highly respected. With 320 animal species, there's nearly nothing you won't see.

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[jhbzoo.org.za](http://jhbzoo.org.za)

### FROM SANDTON STATION

There may be many malls and shopping centres on the Gautrain route, but **Sandton City** is, by far, my favourite. With nearly 300 retail stores, there is no need that cannot be fulfilled at this shopping centre. On its website, the experience is described quite accurately – "Imagine a place where the likes of Jenni Button and Louis Vuitton, or Carrol Boyes and Apple showcase their very best ranges; a place where you can sip on the world's finest coffee or enjoy a French croissant or a slice of local milk tart – all under one roof. If you can imagine it, then you've pictured Sandton City." Oh, and while you're there, swing by **Nelson Mandela Square** and take a selfie with our former president. Your mantlepiece is not complete without it.

[sandtoncity.co.za](http://sandtoncity.co.za)  
[nelsonmandelasquare.co.za](http://nelsonmandelasquare.co.za)



## FROM PRETORIA STATION

As a child, my mom used to tell me two romantic stories about her and my dad in their early years as a couple. The one had to do with some Jacaranda tree close to her university residence and the other was about their romantic walks around the **Union Buildings**. The fact that, to this day, the gardens act as a popular backdrop for many wedding pictures should tell you that they're not just your average terraced gardens. It's a popular spot for family picnics, festivals and major concerts. It is also home to an 11 m statute of former president Nelson Mandela – another great selfie moment. Just be aware that you can only view the beautiful architecture from outside, since this building still acts as the office of the presidency.

+27 (0)12 300 5200  
thepresidency.gov.za



## FROM O.R. TAMBO STATION

The most expensive trip you can take on the Gautrain ends here; but since it also acts as the gateway to the rest of the world, it's to be expected. The airport sees more than 500 airplanes take off and land on a daily basis and, on average, 50 000 people from all over the world walk through there every day. **O.R. Tambo International Airport** offers a range of shops and restaurants, as well as curio shops for the patriotic visitor who would like to take something "proudly South African" home. Whether you're on your way to a far-off destination or would simply like to wave to strangers getting on a plane, this is a great place to meet people from all over the globe and maybe even walk into the love of your life. You never know. Keep in mind that eloping and spontaneously going to Europe will require a passport and visa.

+27 (0)11 921 6262  
customer@airports.co.za  
johannesburg-airport.co.za

# 5 REASONS TO USE THE GAUTRAIN

### AVOID THE TRAFFIC

No one likes traffic, least of all busy professionals. Get from Pretoria to Johannesburg in 28 minutes. No more sitting in standstill traffic, exercising the hooter, or having to explain why you are two hours late for a meeting due to an accident on the highway. Time saving is also stress saving.

### GET YOUR WORK DONE

Whip out your laptop or iPad and catch up on emails or put the final touches on your morning presentation during your trip. Also, the Gautrain is really safe – sitting on your laptop is quite a normal sight on the train – so there is no fear of having your technology stolen

out of your hands, as can happen on other methods of public transport. Catch up on the latest news or enjoy a few more chapters of your favourite book.

### INCREASE YOUR HEART RATE

Pop on your tekkies and take a good, brisk walk to the station, or your workplace. Getting your heart rate up will get you ready for the day ahead, or help you let off some steam after work. Europeans have been getting their exercise in for years, in-between their commute, and now South Africans are too. Not to mention the quick sprint up the stairs when you can see the train coming in the distance.

**AIRPORT ACCESS** Way more user-friendly and much cheaper than parking at the airport when you travel, the Gautrain allows you to arrive at the airport and walk straight in to the departures terminal. No more parking hassles, or having to catch a shuttle from what feels like Mpumalanga, even though it's just the long-term shade parking area.

**SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT** Reducing your carbon footprint is kind of cool. Rail transport is the most eco-friendly transport system and, let's be honest, the planet needs all the help it can get. Get green and get on the Gautrain.

SEE & DO

# IDEAS

to use Gautrain as part of your next event

## 1

### INCLUDE A PRELOADED GOLD CARD

Have a member of your team meet delegates at their preferred station to give them their card. This will be the first contact you have with delegates, so use this opportunity to set the tone of your event.

## 2

### MARKET YOUR EVENT AROUND A STATION

Use the distance from your chosen venue as a marketing tool. Delegates may want to attend your event knowing that they can use the Gautrain to get there.

## 3

### SECRET DESTINATION LAUNCHES

Keep delegates guessing about where they are going by including a bus trip as well as a ride on the Gautrain.

## 4

**DIFFERENT VENUES** Have the conference in Pretoria and let delegates see the sun set over Joburg's iconic skyline as part of your cocktail party. Just ensure that delegates are on the last train back. 



# Adding value

One of the most sought-after conference hotels in Sandton, Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road is an extremely stylish venue for events.

**ELEGANT FURNISHING**, world-class conferencing facilities, and unsurpassed service all converge at Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road to provide the ideal location for a variety of successful meetings and events.

## MEETING AND EVENT SPACES

The hotel offers event organisers two complete floors dedicated to conferences and events. Providing unsurpassed views of the Joburg skyline, the Cullinan meeting rooms are housed on the ninth floor. All naturally lit, the meeting rooms are characterised by modern and professional furnishings. With a fully functioning kitchen also located on the ninth floor, all your catering requirements are taken care of.

The first floor is dedicated to six conference venues, three conference rooms – which can accommodate up to 70 people in cinema style – as well as three boardrooms, which make doing business a pleasure. Two levels of ample parking are provided underground.

## CATERING

Event organisers can choose from an array of mouth-watering cuisine, specially prepared for every event at Holiday Inn Sandton. In addition to various menu options, tailor-made menus are available on request. The hotel invites guests to tantalise their taste buds at the Lettuce & Lime restaurant. This relaxed eatery features a sumptuous buffet breakfast and a tempting à la carte lunch and dinner offering. The hotel is also home to the Chairman's Bar for cafe-style relaxing and laid-back drinks.

## ACCOMMODATION

Holiday Inn Sandton's 301 spacious and classically decorated rooms provide the ultimate in comfort and style. Each soundproofed room (with blackout curtains) is furnished with carefully chosen and locally sourced furniture of the highest quality. Wood-panelled storage spaces and granite-topped surfaces in the bathrooms add to the classic elegance and international standards of quality that set this Sandton hotel accommodation apart.



## IHG® Business Rewards

IHG® rewards is an incentive programme for corporate travellers and professional conference bookers. Appreciation for loyalty at IHG hotels

can be rewarded in the form of free stays, late checkout, free car rentals, free flights with over 400 airlines to any destination worldwide and many, many more options.

## VENUES AND CAPACITIES

Room name	Theatre	Schoolroom	Banquet	Boardroom	U-shape
Emerald	-	-	-	12	-
Opal	-	-	-	16	-
Sapphire	-	-	-	12	-
Diamond	40	36	30	12	20
Ruby	50	36	30	16	12
Tanzanite	70	50	50	12	30
Cullinan 1	90	60	48	20	25
Cullinan 2	90	65	48	20	25
Cullinan 3	115	65	60	20	25
Cullinan Suite	260	115	108	-	-
Cullinan Suite (Extended)	300	240	160	-	75



**Holiday Inn**

Sandton, Rivonia Road

+27 (0)11 282 0000  
 reservations@hisandton.co.za  
 conferencing@hisandton.co.za  
 hisandton.co.za



**QUICK CHAT**



**SOMETHING SPECIAL** Located on the ninth floor, the opulent Skye Bar affords guests dazzling, panoramic views of Joburg and surrounds, as well as inspiring cocktails. The decor highlights the incredible attention to detail and luxury. The bar is serviced by an external lift with running lights, which has become a Sandton icon.

Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road's general manager, **Anthony Batistich**, and his team are working hard in order to create a slick, warm and welcoming environment at the hotel that caters for all their guests' needs. He shares his thoughts on...

**STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE** In order to be the best, your team has to have passion and belief in what the hotel offers its guests. This can be done by not only adopting and maintaining a customer-centric approach but also by focusing on great staff relationships. You also need to stay relevant in terms of food and beverage offerings. Holiday Inn Sandton does just this. We also boast some of the best meeting spaces in the Sandton node – all with natural light and views of the Sandton skyline from our ninth floor. This makes for great parties and functions.

**SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR THE HOTEL** We aim to maintain our levels of attention, energy and passion while focusing on delivering the basics extremely well, on a daily basis. We also have plans to revive and realign our food and beverage delivery in line with what our guests want to see. The Holiday Inn brand promises great comfort and quality for all travellers and conference delegates, and that is what we strive for daily.

**THE HOTEL'S SUCCESS IN THE MICE SECTOR** MICE remains crucial to the success of the hotel and our ability to maximise revenues and occupancies in our venues. We have revitalised our daily conference packages offering to enhance our conferencing experience at the hotel. We have dynamic pricing and packages in place and aim to be the premium four-star conferencing venue in the heart of Sandton. Product changes, like putting permanent coffee machines in all our boardrooms and a gourmet tea selection, are but some of the new features we have included for our clients. **M**

**DISTANCE**



O.R. TAMBO	SANDTON GAUTRAIN STATION	SANDTON CITY	NELSON MANDELA SQUARE	WANDERERS CRICKET GROUNDS AND COUNTRY CLUB	JOBURG CBD
22 km 30 mins	650 m	900 m	850 m	4 km	13 km
10 km 14 mins	[Progress bar showing distance to Gautrain station]				8 mins

**WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**



**129 RIVONIA** is located on the prominent corner of Maude Street and Rivonia Road, in the heart of the commercial node of Sandton, next to Holiday Inn Sandton, Rivonia Road. The R3 billion mixed-use development is centred on a multistorey retail atrium that spills out towards Maude Street, with two office towers situated on top of the retail podium. 129 Rivonia promises to deliver a new shopping, dining, business and leisure destination to Sandton. Holiday Inn Sandton looks forward to welcoming this upmarket development next to the hotel to add additional value for all its guests and conference delegates.





## PARK STATION

### THE FORUM TURBINE HALL

Restored in 2005, the forum turbine hall is an integral part of Joburg's architectural history. This iconic venue is the city's most coveted wedding and party venue and plays host to a range of events and conferences.

**LOCATION** Rising up from an awakening Joburg skyline in the heart of Newtown (2 km from Gautrain Park Station), this refurbished power station is an architectural masterpiece.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** the forum turbine hall has been designed to accommodate a wide range of requirements and offers five-star service, state-of-the-art technology, exceptional food, decor and style. Facilities comprise conference rooms and function venues with a capacity to host exhibitions or conferences varying from 10 to 500 people, dinners for up to 320 and cocktail parties for up to 800. The Chef's Table is ideal for intimate dinner parties and business lunches, while the trendy Underground Bar accommodates cocktail parties for up to 100 guests.

**CATERING** All catering is offered in-house by an expert team of chefs. Halal and kosher options are available.

**ACCOMMODATION** There are numerous hotels and guest houses nearby.



the forum turbine hall  
*newtown*

+27 (0)11 492 1804  
info@theforum.co.za  
theforum.co.za

### FOX JUNCTION

Fox Junction's charm and iconic character make it one of the most unique event spaces in Joburg.

**LOCATION** Situated between towering skyscrapers in Joburg's inner city, Fox Junction comprises a set of historic warehouses that date

back to the city's gold mining roots and is rumoured to be the original site of one of the first gold rush bars.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The venue can be subdivided into smaller venues, making it ideal for any function size – cocktail parties for 1 200 guests to cinema-style seating for 500 delegates and banquets for 400 guests.

**CATERING** From sophisticated menus to finger foods, fast foods and snacks, menus are designed to impress. The team is always aware of the latest food trends and prides itself on presenting food in a fresh and appealing way. A selection of food trucks and pop-up restaurants can be arranged for your event.

**ACCOMMODATION** There are a number of reputable hotels in the area.



+27 (0)10 020 3440  
events@foxjunction.co.za  
foxjunction.co.za



### THE RAND CLUB

Filled with old-school charm, a grand façade and unique decor, Rand Club encapsulates a feeling of a bygone era and now plays host to high-end, memorable events set in Joburg's most exquisite club.

**LOCATION** Situated in central Joburg, a few blocks from the M2 highway and only 2 km from Gautrain Park Station, Rand Club offers you a unique urban experience.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** With 12 versatile event spaces available for hire – suitable for various event sizes, from small, intimate functions of 10 persons to large delegations of over 300 guests in a single event space, at any one time – Rand Club is the ideal setting for high-profile functions such as conferences, weddings, workshops and meetings. The marbled entrance greets guests upon arrival, where a sweeping, grand staircase, seldom seen in this day and age, ushers visitors up to the second floor where the Main Ballroom is situated. Plush carpeting, delicate chandeliers and impressive works of art grace the walls, creating an ambience of the highest level of sophistication.

**CATERING** In order to ensure market competitiveness, the venue has an extensive range of supporting services on offer to meet and exceed all client requirements – from in-house catering and beverage management to entertainment services.



**RAND CLUB**  
JOHANNESBURG

**ACCOMMODATION** There are a number of reputable hotels in the area.

+27 (0)11 870 4276  
events@randclub.co.za  
randclub.co.za



## MONARCH HOTEL

Once the iconic 1930s Saxonwold Post Office, the Monarch Hotel, located in Rosebank, is a sophisticated, lavishly styled hotel.

**LOCATION** A prominent heritage landmark on Oxford Road, the Monarch Hotel is within walking distance from the Gautrain Rosebank Station and Rosebank Mall.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The Monarch specialises in tailor-made events, dinners and cocktails, and can accommodate 90 guests in the main dining room. Delegates will delight in the hotel's glamorous yet eclectic setting of wrought-iron entrances, rich fabrics, muted marble, brass banisters, panelled walls, and ceilings perfectly balanced by bespoke contemporary finishes.

**CATERING** A variety of culinary offerings are available.

**ACCOMMODATION** No stone was left unturned to ensure that the 12 exquisite suites are masterpieces of comfort and opulence.



MONARCH

+27 (0)11 341 2000  
reservations@monarchhotel.co.za  
monarchhotel.co.za



## 54 ON BATH

54 on Bath is a contemporary, boutique hotel offering a blend of luxury and style in a sought-after location.

**LOCATION** The hotel is set in the heart of the cosmopolitan suburb of Rosebank in Johannesburg, adjacent to Rosebank Mall and only 300 m from the Gautrain Rosebank Station – linking you to O.R. Tambo International Airport within minutes.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The hotel offers six well-appointed and flexible conference venues, the biggest being able to accommodate up to 120 guests.

**CATERING** The intimate Level Four restaurant offers a distinctive dining experience, while the elegant Champagne Bar is the perfect meeting spot for business get-togethers. The executive chef is on hand to design menus for your specific type of event and dietary requirements.

**ACCOMMODATION** Guests are offered a choice of luxury accommodation in one of Johannesburg's most beautiful suburbs. Choose from 75 elegantly decorated rooms, comprising 60 deluxe standard rooms, 12 executive rooms and three luxury suites.



+27 (0)11 344 8500  
54onBath.meetings@tsogosun.com  
tsogosun.com



## HYATT REGENCY JOHANNESBURG

Take advantage of conference rooms and the professional planning and catering expertise for which the Hyatt is world-renowned.

**LOCATION** The Gautrain Rosebank Station is only 100 m from the hotel.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** From top-level meetings to private events or dinners, the hotel's 13 meeting and event rooms offer an unsurpassed

range of event space to suit every type of occasion for up to 400 guests.

**CATERING** The dedicated catering staff and culinary team will design a delightful menu to match the setting.

**ACCOMMODATION** Within the 244 luxury rooms and suites, you'll encounter gracious service and tech-savvy amenities.



HYATT  
REGENCY  
JOHANNESBURG

+27 (0)11 280 1234  
johph.rfp@hyatt.com  
johannesburg.regency.hyatt.com



# Rosebank's jewel

Looking to add a touch of pizzazz to your next event? Crowne Plaza Johannesburg – The Rosebank has the perfect venues to do just that.

**WHEN IT COMES** to choosing the perfect venue, event organisers are required to find a venue that encompasses all the elements needed for a successful event.

The ideal venue prides itself on excellent service, boasts appealing and sophisticated interiors, can provide planners with a choice of several flexible meeting spaces, delivers delectable cuisine, and ties all of the necessary elements in to one seamless package.

Event organisers seeking a venue of this stature in Gauteng do not have to look very far, because Crowne Plaza Johannesburg – The Rosebank strictly upholds the highest of standards to ensure that you are fully satisfied at the end of your event.

## MEETING AND EVENT SPACES

A country's currency is usually a good reflection of the nation's financial and economic success. That's why the seven dedicated meeting and conference rooms at Crowne Plaza Johannesburg – The Rosebank have been named after Africa's top performing currencies.

The largest of the seven meeting rooms, Dalasi/Pula, provides comfortable theatre-style seating for up to 300 guests and serves as an elegant cocktail venue.

The four smaller meeting rooms boast the latest conference technology: digital signage, ceiling-mounted projectors and screens, teleconferencing facilities, and flexible, personally controlled light and temperature settings – all within a tranquil environment. The



## EARN IHG POINTS

## VENUES AND CAPACITIES

Room Name	Theatre	Schoolroom	Banquet	Cocktail	Boardroom	Double U-shape	U-shape
Dalasi Room (Gambia)	180	96	80	150	-	57	40
Pula Room (Botswana)	120	72	60	100	-	63	30
Dalasi & Pula Combined	300	156	140	300	-	80	60
Kwacha Room (Malawi)	48	30	32	40	18	-	24
Dinar Room (Algeria)	70	42	40	40	30	-	30
Cedi Room (Ghana)	40	24	30	30	18	-	18
Nakfa Room (Eritrea)	21	12	-	25	12	-	15
Executive Boardroom	-	-	-	-	14	-	-

Executive Boardroom, emphasised by natural lighting, boasts audiovisual connectivity, a large LCD screen and video conferencing capabilities. Complimentary Wi-Fi is offered to all hotel guests and conference delegates. Whether it's a sales meeting, a conference, or a party with friends, the conference staff at the hotel are committed to the success of your event. The variety of meeting rooms allows you to customise your event to suit the theme, regardless of the kind of function.

### DISTANCE



	O.R. TAMBO	ROSEBANK GAUTRAIN STATION	ROSEBANK MALL	SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE	WANDERERS CRICKET GROUNDS AND COUNTRY CLUB	JOBURG CBD
	26 km	1.3 km	650 m	6 km	2 km	8 km
	20 mins			5 mins		8 mins

### LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

But, don't limit Crowne Plaza Johannesburg – The Rosebank to only conferencing. The hotel is capable of hosting various functions and events, all under one roof. For delegates that are looking for a relaxing space within the hotel's walls, the Zen garden is just the spot. Bordered by Fresh restaurant and the Nakfa and Cedi conference rooms, the garden boasts carefully selected plants and rocks with a water feature, which create a soothing refreshing space. The Zen garden is also available for cocktail functions, afternoon braais and is the perfect spot for tea breaks when conferencing at Nakfa and Cedi.

The swimming pool's deck can be used for cocktail parties under the Joburg sky. One can also opt to use one of the chic restaurants as a venue.

### EXCLUSIVE SERVICE

For guests staying in club rooms and IHG Rewards members, the Crowne Plaza Club Lounge provides a luxurious extension to your room. Open day and night, the lounge offers express meals and room service at night. This is the ideal place for one-on-one meetings, private relaxation or enjoying sundowners in the Zen garden.

### CATERING

Guests are spoiled for choice at Crowne Plaza Johannesburg – The Rosebank. Indulge at Fresh restaurant, which uses only the freshest ingredients to capture the art of good food; the Butcher Block Steakhouse, renowned for its lazy-aged steaks and fabulous seafood; or at Crowne Cafe, where you can delight in the chocolate and sweet bar or light deli-style meals and fine coffee on the go.

### ACCOMMODATION

This sleek, luxury four-star hotel has 318 elegantly furnished rooms, providing beautiful views of upmarket Rosebank, complemented by sophisticated furnishings and contemporary design. Guests who prefer a little more space can take their pick of 24 suites, each with their own separate lounge areas and large workspaces. Serving complimentary express breakfast and refreshments, the lounge is open day and night for your convenience.



**CROWNE PLAZA®**

JOHANNESBURG - THE ROSEBANK

+27 (0)11 448 3600  
reservations@therosebank.co.za  
therosebank.co.za



### SOMETHING DIFFERENT

When the evening arrives, there is nowhere quite like Circle Bar for cocktails and sundowners while you mingle with Johannesburg A-listers. Arguably the city's most stylish hangout, the Circle Bar is ideal for pre-dinner drinks, client entertaining or just a great night out.

The setting is hip, cocktails impeccable and the staff professional; combining all the right ingredients for the perfect occasion. The atmosphere of the bar is created by the mood lighting, colour-changing pods and groovy music. **M**

**IHG® Business Rewards** IHG® rewards is the lucrative incentive programme for corporate travellers, and professional conference organisers. Every time you spend on conferences and residential conferences, you earn reward points that are redeemable at participating hotels, restaurants and South African retailers.



## SANDTON

### SLOW IN THE CITY

21st century businesspeople are no longer office bound but few places outside the office allow people to work effectively, SLOW in the City is designed to address this need, offering guests a chic and proficient out-of-office environment, suitable for work and play.

**LOCATION** SLOW in the City is conveniently located opposite the Gautrain Sandton Station.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** SLOW in the City is geared to provide you with every feature necessary to conduct business in a professional, high-tech and comfortable venue. There are a variety of private spaces the largest room can comfortably accommodate 60 guests.

**CATERING** SLOW in the City also offers food and drink from its resident chef who keeps things fresh and healthy so you have less to worry about. You can enjoy an early business breakfast, some freshly brewed tea or coffee for a wake-up, a working lunch with associates, or a light evening meal. And if you want to celebrate a deal gone well, a great way to do so is with wine and cheese.

**ACCOMMODATION** There are numerous hotels and guesthouses in the area.

S L O W  
IN THE CITY

Time and space for extremely busy people

+27 (0)84 777 SLOW (7569)  
sandton@slowinthecity.co.za  
slow.co.za



### THE MASLOW

With modern conference facilities and meeting rooms, The Maslow is Sandton's premium business hotel.

**LOCATION** The Maslow is located in Sandton's financial district, only a few minutes away from the

Gautrain Sandton Station, Sandton City mall and Nelson Mandela Square.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The Maslow's business meeting rooms provide the perfect business retreat for seminars, management meetings, training events and workshops. The hotel won Best Small Conference Venue in the 2016 Business Traveller Awards, and is second in size only to the Sandton Convention Centre.

**CATERING** From client dinners to afternoon teas, and every dining experience in-between, The Maslow has a menu to suit any palate.

**ACCOMMODATION** The 281 rooms provide accommodation that is modern, functional and comfortable.



+27 (0)10 226 4600  
maslow.conference@suninternational.com  
suninternational.com/maslow



### SANDTON SUN

Sandton Sun has become synonymous with style and timeless hospitality. It is regarded by local and international guests as one of the finest luxury hotels in Johannesburg.

**LOCATION** Conveniently located in Sandton, the hotel is close to the world-renowned Sandton Convention Centre and has direct access to Sandton City. It is 300 m from the Gautrain Sandton Station and a complimentary Gautrain shuttle service is available.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The hotel offers corporate guests the use of seven separate Business Suite meeting rooms. The conference facilities cater for groups of up to 200 delegates and are suitable for business functions, special events and meetings of every description. These venues are perfect for smaller meetings and conferences in Sandton. The meeting rooms offer privacy and a full range of services, ensuring that every requirement is met.

**CATERING** Sandton Sun offers an exclusive section of in-house restaurants that encompass the essence and spirit of the hotel. A marriage of style, exceptional service, sustainability and local flavour, the culinary fare caters to every palate.

**ACCOMMODATION** Sandton Sun offers 326 newly refurbished en-suite rooms. With attention to detail, each room has been styled with luxury as a priority and boasts incredible views of Sandton.

SANDTON SUN

+27 (0)11 780 5000  
sandtonsunbanqueting@tsogosun.com  
tsogosun.com



*Maslow*

IT'S BUSINESS  
UNUSUAL.

*Sun*

The Maslow



The most comfortable, most productive  
business hotel on the market welcomes you.

The Maslow, not only provides you with what you should expect from accommodation for professionals, it promises to blur the line between business life and living the high life. An environment in which ideas can be both conceptualised and realised, while enjoying accommodation that offers phenomenal garden-spaces and world-class dining in the form of the Lacuna Urban Bistro.

It's just one more way you can experience getting all you need, as well as what you want when visiting this state-of-the-art business oasis in the heart of Sandton.

Discover The Maslow, because the mind's preoccupation relies on the body's location.



*Sun* International

THE MASLOW HOTEL

Corner Grayston Drive & Rivonia Road, Sandton, 2146  
maslow.conference@suninternational.com  
suninternational.com/maslow  
+27 10 226 4600



VOTED BEST **BUSINESS HOTEL** IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR 2014, 2015 & 2016.

## MIDRAND



### PREMIER HOTEL MIDRAND

Its excellent location makes Premier Hotel Midrand the perfect destination for the busy conference delegate and an ideal base for the incentive traveller wanting to explore Gauteng.

**LOCATION** The diverse range and attractions available to guests of Premier Hotel Midrand can be attributed to its location in the heart of Gauteng. Midrand offers shoppers a unique blend of local and international shopping experiences and is a diverse and uniquely South African destination.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** Premier Hotel Midrand provides impeccable facilities to host conferences, product launches, corporate functions, weddings, banquet, and cocktail parties. The fully equipped conference venues can cater for events of up to 280 delegates cinema style.

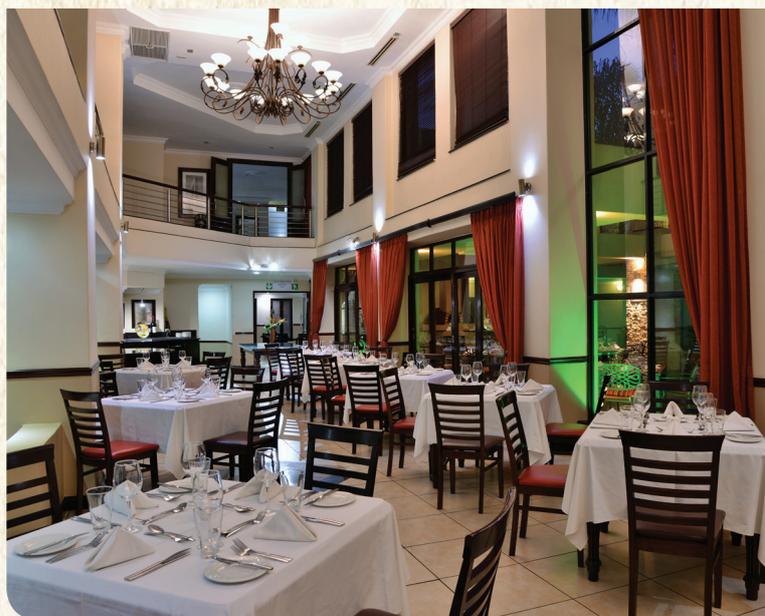
**CATERING** The luxurious Premier Hotel Midrand offers guests a restaurant located on the ground floor of the hotel. This 80-seater venue provides the ideal setting in which to unwind and relax. Meals are served either buffet style or as set menus and embrace the freshest ingredients available.

**ACCOMMODATION** This pristine hotel offers 111 standard deluxe bedrooms and two luxury suites.



+27 (0)10 161 0000  
Central Res. 086 111 5555  
midrand@premierhotels.co.za  
premierhotels.co.za

## PRETORIA



### PREMIER HOTEL PRETORIA

Not only is Premier Hotel Pretoria ideally located, but the impeccable service, excellent food standards, and luxurious rooms will ensure that your conference is a memorable one.

**LOCATION** Situated in Stanza Bopape (Church) Street, in the suburb of Arcadia, and diagonally opposite the Union Buildings, Premier Hotel Pretoria offers spectacular and breathtaking views of the Jacaranda City from its open-air deck on the eighth floor. The hotel is a mere 48 km from O.R. Tambo International Airport, in close proximity to government departments, embassies, consulates, the University of Pretoria, and major shopping centres.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The hotel prides itself on its ability to partner with event organisers in creating perfect outcomes. The tailor-made packages include event design, themes, decor, banqueting, entertainment, dance floors, and lighting and sound – anything to make your event memorable and unique. Premier Hotel Pretoria has become one of the most sought-after venues for a variety of events in Pretoria and has a successful track record for hosting gala dinners, weddings, cocktail functions, year-end functions, birthdays, corporate product launches, matric farewells, baby showers, and breakfast, lunch or dinner meetings.

**CATERING** With a culinary philosophy that is 'fresh, fast and fun', and a wine list that contains many an award-winning estate, your journey is bound to be an explosion of visual and taste sensations. The luxurious Premier Hotel Pretoria offers guests the Ambassador Restaurant and the Embassy Cocktail Bar. Located on the ground floor of the hotel, both venues have direct access to the outdoor patio, which leads to the pool and manicured gardens. These venues provide the ideal setting in which to unwind and relax.

**ACCOMMODATION** Premier Hotel Pretoria offers 118 rooms that cater to every accommodation need.



+27 (0)12 441 1400  
Central Res. 086 111 5555  
pretoria@premierhotels.co.za  
premierhotels.co.za



## CASA TOSCANA

Casa Toscana has become a jewel in the crown of Tshwane hospitality, with breathtakingly beautiful function venues.

**LOCATION** Casa Toscana is ideally located 500 m from the N1 Lynnwood Road off-ramp, right next door to the CSIR and is on a Gautrain bus route.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** Casa Toscana has six fully equipped conference venues that can cater for anything from one-on-one meetings to presentations for 150 delegates. The conference packages were masterfully crafted to offer maximum flexibility while also focusing on convenience, quality and economic viability. The venue's gardens are picturesque and can set the scene for any special occasion, from birthday parties to anniversaries or engagement parties. If you would like to try something unique and more intimate, Casa Toscana has an underground wine cellar that can be set for any dining experience.

**CATERING** Casa Toscana offers a wide selection of menus from light meals to hearty dinners.

**ACCOMMODATION** There are 20 spacious rooms, each equipped with all the comforts you need for a luxurious stay.



CASA TOSCANA  
STYLE IS BORN NOT CREATED

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## SOUTHERN SUN PRETORIA

Exceptional service, location and style are what event planners and delegates can expect from Southern Sun Pretoria. From themed events and specialised menus to detailed event planning, the hotel prides itself on offering uncompromised conferencing solutions and facilities.

**LOCATION** Located in the heart of Pretoria, Southern Sun Pretoria is a popular business and conference hotel for politicians, diplomats and local embassies. For delegates who want to experience the city during their stay, a host of attractions are only a short drive away.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The venues can be configured to host a range of events, from an intimate boardroom meeting for 12 to a cocktail function for 520 guests. A team of professional banqueting managers is available to assist in planning the perfect meeting, conference, convention or private function, including themed events with specialised menus and detailed event planning. The conference centre has a large and impressive lobby area for registrations and tea breaks.

**CATERING** The hotel is known for its creative conference tea breaks – delegates will be treated to flavoured popcorn, and waffles and ice-cream. Tailor-made menus that can accommodate dietary requirements are available on request. The Oasis restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**ACCOMMODATION** With 240 spacious en-suite rooms, with a selection of standard, superior or executive suites, including a luxurious presidential suite, guests will be spoiled for choice.

 **Southern Sun**  
PRETORIA

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## RHODESFIELD | O.R. TAMBO



### GARDEN COURT O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Whether you are planning a seminar, team-building weekend, office function or even a private function, there are venue options ideally suited to a variety of event types at Garden Court O.R. Tambo International Airport.

**LOCATION** The hotel is 3 km from O.R. Tambo International Airport and within easy access from the Rhodesfield Gautrain station. A complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport is available and there is ample parking at the hotel.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The hotel offers a choice of nine venues, each providing varying seating layouts to meet your conferencing requirements. The biggest venue can comfortably accommodate up to 350 delegates. All venues have natural light and open on to an idyllic landscape garden. There is a fully equipped business centre for the convenience of guests who need a suitable workspace. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel.

**CATERING** Banqueting and tailor-made menus to accommodate dietary requirements are available.

**ACCOMMODATION** The hotel has 253 en-suite rooms and there is also a new, fully equipped gym.



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### SOUTHERN SUN O.R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HOTEL

Ideally located and renowned for its exceptional conference facilities, Southern Sun O.R. Tambo International Airport can cater to a variety of events and functions seamlessly. The professional banqueting team provides superior service to ensure all events, whether a conference, product launch or exhibition, are a resounding success.

**LOCATION** This stylish and comfortable hotel is adjacent to O.R. Tambo International Airport. Guests can make use of the complimentary return shuttle service from the airport to the hotel, as well as a bus service to the nearby Rhodesfield Gautrain station.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** The conference centre includes a total of seven flexible venues and meeting spaces. The venues have various adaptable layouts available depending on your requirements. These event spaces can accommodate between 10 and 380 delegates with ease.

**CATERING** Exceptional service and quality meals can be expected. Whether it's for a cocktail party or an indulgent gala dinner, you can be sure that your delegates' tastes and preferences are catered to. Bernoulli's restaurant offers a choice of Mediterranean-themed dishes — grills, pastas, line fish and fresh produce.

**ACCOMMODATION** The hotel boasts a total of 366 en-suite rooms, which are tastefully furnished.



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## RHODESFIELD | O.R. TAMBO



### PREMIER HOTEL O.R. TAMBO AIRPORT

Vibrant and dynamic, Joburg has a throbbing pulse, an awesome sense of rhythm, and invites you to indulge in the extravagant comfort of the Premier Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport.

**LOCATION** The hotel is a mere 1.2 km from the O.R. Tambo International Airport and 500 m from the Rhodesfield Gautrain station – both easily accessed through a free shuttle service to and from the hotel.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** Premier Hotel O.R. Tambo Airport assures conference delegates excellent service standards, flawless events, and tailor-made packages to suit their specific needs. The largest venue can seat up to 2 720 delegates in cinema-style seating. Conference organisers can expect excellent service standards, flawless event coordination and tailor-made packages to suit every need. Extramural activities can be arranged by the hotel.

**CATERING** With a culinary philosophy that is fresh, flavoursome, and that embraces local, truly South African cuisine and a wine list that contains many an award-winning estate, the delegate's journey is bound to be an explosion of visual and taste sensations. The hotel is serviced by Kubutana Restaurant, which seats 180 guests.

**ACCOMMODATION** The hotel offers 275 en-suite rooms.



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### EMPERORS PALACE

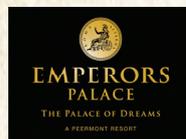
Emperors Palace Conference Centre is the embodiment of the perfect event venue. No matter how large or small the event, Emperors Palace events excel in the three essential ingredients of successful conferences and entertaining – superb cuisine, impeccable service, and an elegant atmosphere.

**LOCATION** The complex is conveniently situated next to O.R. Tambo International Airport and offers staying guests a complimentary shuttle service operating every 20 minutes between 06:00 and 23:00, daily. Private VIP transfers can be arranged at an additional cost through Unicab, and Gautrain busses operate daily from 05:30 to 20:00 en route directly to Emperors Palace.

**MEETING AND EVENT SPACES** Catering for groups of 8 to 3 000 in a diverse range of multipurpose venues and small executive breakaway rooms, Emperors Palace has extensive technical resources and is equipped to host any type of event. Having recently completed a R30 million investment in a new conference and meeting facility, Emperors Palace Conference Centre now offers 29 well-appointed venues with superior technology – including Wi-Fi access. The talented team at the conference centre works tirelessly to ensure that your event is a success, and that you and your guests feel the personal touch that epitomises events at Emperors Palace. Emperors Palace events also offer convention facilities that include theatrical venues such as the Theatre of Marcellus and the Barnyard Theatre. The Theatre of Marcellus is the ideal venue for presentations, stage productions, and award ceremonies, while the Barnyard Theatre remains the favourite venue for group buy-outs and corporate events. Both venues offer the very best in sound and lighting gadgetry, a big screen, and a built-in stage.

**CATERING** There are numerous mouth-watering menus and dining options available.

**ACCOMMODATION** The complex offers both business and leisure travellers a stylish and elegant experience, with a choice of three- and five-star hotels.



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# MEETINGS AFRICA

## Advancing Africa Together

### EXHIBITOR STATISTICS

- Main Exhibitors - 142
- Sharers - 129
- Development Zone - 10
- First-Time Exhibitors (Main Stands) - 13



**271**

Exhibitors at Meetings Africa 2016

Final-year Tourism and Hospitality students took part in the IMEX-MP-MCI Future Leaders Forum Africa

**55**



### MEETINGS AFRICA APP



### DEVICE BREAKDOWN



### EXHIBITION BREAKDOWN

#### Top 5 exhibitors with the most meetings conducted

- AFRICAN PRIDE MOUNT GRACE COUNTRY HOUSE & SPA
- STARWOOD HOTELS AND RESORTS WORLDWIDE
- CARLSON REZIDOR HOTEL GROUP
- LAGOON BEACH HOTEL & SPA
- LIMO NETWORKING

### FINAL ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

- 207** International and African Association Hosted Buyers
- 137** Media
- 55** IMEX-MPI-MCI Future Leaders Forum
- 271** Exhibitors
- 1308** Visitors and Corporates

### AFRICAN CONTINENT REPRESENTATION

Meetings Africa is a Pan-African business events trade show, where the following 15 African destinations were exhibited in 2016 (excluding SA):

- Angola
- Botswana
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



- 58 African Products
- 8 African Tourism Boards

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- 5 717 Mentions
- 32 029 994 Opportunities to see
- R7 720 036 Advert Value Equivalent
- 3 912 Engagements
- 3 620 Reshares/Retweets

Best Performing Day: 24/02/2016  
On that day there were 31 069 094 opportunities to see and R7 497 433 advert value equivalent.

### EXSA BEST GREEN SHOW AWARD:

- 2013
- 2014
- 2015



Finalist in the 2016 UFI Sustainability Development Award



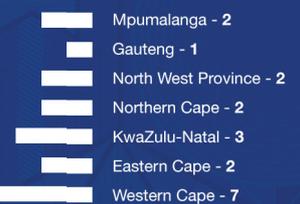
73% of qualified hosted buyers had never been to South Africa

### EUROPEAN CITIES MARKETING ACADEMY

#### Inaugural European Cities Marketing Academy

- Participants - 75
- Global Facilitators - 6

### PRE AND POST TOURS (19 TOTAL)



### MATCHMAKING PROGRAM

**15 943** scheduled meetings between 844 profiles in the matchmaking program

**537** participants actively used the program to schedule their meetings

27 FEBRUARY 2017: BONDAY  
28 FEB-01 MAR 2017: EXHIBITION  
SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE  
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

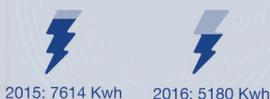
Go to [www.meetingsafrica.co.za](http://www.meetingsafrica.co.za)

### MEETINGS AFRICA GREENING

Social Investment: number of trees planted in various communities around Johannesburg and Tshwane (290% increase)



Energy Consumption (32% decrease)



NATIONAL CONVENTION BUREAU

# Creating magic



The Event Wizards staff are literally that – wizards creating magic with every event that they touch. **George Sutherland** explains what it means to be an event wizard.

**W**IZARDRY PLAYS A massive role when it comes to creating an event on the available budgets of our times. You still want to give your client that look and feel of an unlimited budget event, even if that is not the case.

## CREATE EXCITEMENT

Every event should be as magical as possible, and creating that on any budget is doable, if you have the know-how.

It is important to keep in mind that an event is only as successful as the happiness of your clients and their guests at the end of the day; but one should also try to push the boundaries as much as possible by thinking out of the box or coming up with something totally unique and creative, otherwise you will end up with a happy but unexcited client. Excited clients cannot believe what their eyes are seeing, and the compliments from guests make a client return again and again to the team that creates the magic for them.

## FINDING INSPIRATION

Inspiration for concepts can come from just about anything and everything – art, architecture, new industrial designs and even seemingly mundane things like graffiti walls, skylines and urban industrial landscapes. Natural elements, wild gardenscapes, rock formations, or even objects that have been discovered, be it an old machine component or pretty pebble, can all inspire great ideas.

## STAY ON TREND

To stay ahead of the trends in the industry, you must stay connected with what happens around you globally. Be it new directions in architecture, fashion, movies, food and drinks, trending colours, flowers or even short-lived fads, if the item or idea cannot be updated and refreshed, get rid of it. Try to take current ideas and evolve them into fresh, new concepts that have a unique spin.

## GO GREEN

For me, greening is of great interest and more clients want their events to be green. I draw inspiration from David Brenner's living walls, which give a unique look and feel to any event. Makoto Azuma's botanical installations are also a great source of inspiration. One can also borrow from and adapt the past – the Bauhaus architect Walter Gropius and artists Paul Klee and Josef Albers are wonderful examples. 



**GEORGE SUTHERLAND** is the managing director of Event Wizards. He is passionate about event design and is assisted by a super-efficient team with talent that knows no boundaries.

# 4 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CREATING AN EVENT CONCEPT

- 1 YOUR CLIENT AND THEIR GUESTS** Always look at who the client is and what they do, as well as who the guests are. By knowing if they are your client's staff or clients, who will be attending with or without partners, who is male or female and what their ages are, you will get an idea of how to create the event.
- 2 THE GOAL OF THE EVENT** Also take into consideration the nature of the event, and the end goal that the client wants to achieve with the event.
- 3 VENUE LIMITATIONS** Look at the venue limitations and regulations - a great concept may not work due to height or other restrictions in a venue.
- 4 THE USUALS** The date, time and duration of the event also have an influence on the decor, lighting, entertainment and so on.



**out of this world events** Event Wizards exists to design wonderful celebrations. We are resourceful enough to deliver delightful results where others thought it was impossible and with an agility that seems almost...like magic!



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# To app or not to app?

A recent survey has shed some light on how event planners are engaging with event apps. **Meetings** takes a look.

**D**ESPITE 81% OF event planners saying they had used engagement technology as part of their work, 39% regarded themselves as beginners or novices when it comes to event apps, according to a recent live poll taken by Lumi. A small but significant 12% said they knew nothing about them.

The poll, taken at the beginning of an event for conference and meetings organisers from Europe, the United States and South Africa, also revealed that only around 15% feel confident or very confident when gathering data to show ROI on engagement technology.

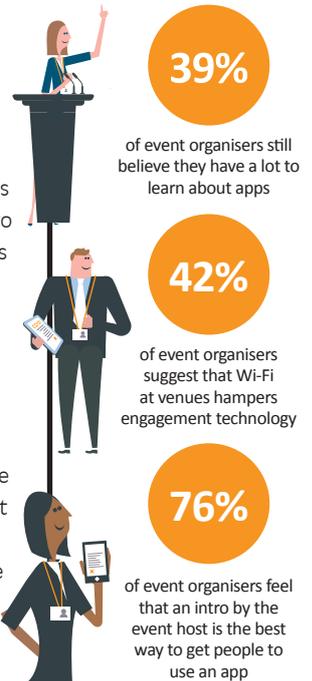
## WHAT THIS MEANS

"These stats back up Lumi's theory that event and engagement apps are now reaching a more sustainable and serious place in the market. The fact that so many event

organisers in our poll have already used engagement apps represents the initial enthusiasm of the market, leading to hype and market crowding. However, now, the market has crystallised and organisers recognise that there is more to know and learn if the apps are going to be around for the long term," says Peter Eyre, managing director, Lumi: United Kingdom.

When asked about the perceived barriers to adopting engagement technology, 42% suggested Wi-Fi at the venue, with 39% citing attendees not knowing how to use the app and 76% saying that an introduction by the event host was the best way to get people to use an app.

"Lumi has extensive experience in helping clients ensure their events – including the Wi-Fi – run smoothly and we have established the best ways to optimise utilisation of technology," says Peter. **M**



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## Transform your events with engagement technologies



# LUMI

Lumi transforms conferences and events, improving the experience for presenters, participants and organisers.

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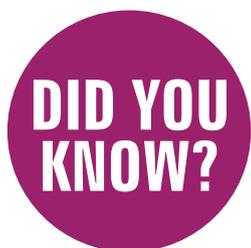
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# BENEFITS of an outside AV provider

Glenn van Eck shares his five top reasons to consider using an outside AV provider for your event needs.



**External suppliers also don't just do AV; many offer solutions that can give an event a premium edge, such as sets, lighting design and advanced video playback options like blended screens or video mapping. The right partner supplies what is required and has the professional insight to make suggestions and offer enhancements for your event.**



**GLENN VAN ECK** is the group director of Magnetic Storm - a multifaceted audiovisual and events company. He is the national treasurer for SAACI, and SAACI EC and is on the SAACI National Board. Glenn is a certified meetings professional.

# 1

## BECAUSE YOU CAN

Using a hotel or conference centre's in-house audiovisual equipment and team may seem like a quick and easy solution. But, by working with an outside provider, event organisers can consistently save on costs and expect excellent service. Some venues make a commission when booking AV services through a contracted provider, and that's why those facilities recommend preferred suppliers. Your venue cannot prevent you from bringing in your AV partner, and negotiating any restrictive clauses out of the contract is easy to do.

# 2

## LATEST TECHNOLOGY

External AV providers consistently purchase new equipment and phase out older or worn-out products. Even if you don't need the newest projector or laptop, an outside AV company will have many options, so you can choose the solution that fits your needs. And if you do need a high-tech solution because your brand necessitates it, venue equipment tends to be designed for plug-and-play presentations. As equipment isn't a venue's core service or focus, if maintenance is not carried out on, for example, projectors, their brightness could be dull due to high lamp hours. Plus, if the projector is mounted on the ceiling, out of reach, and hasn't been correctly lined or bumped, you can't adjust it - meaning your professionalism isn't conveyed because your venue's AV has let you down.

# 3

## THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR YOUR EVENT

Each event has its individual needs, and in-house AV equipment tends to be less flexible. Venues tend to utilise ceiling speakers, which have their advantages, but they tend to be unable to handle the high volume or impactful video audio required for a staged event. Sound is often limited in a venue, only allowing for very basic EQ and volume adjustments - this is suitable for speech but comes with the risk of feedback because proper adjustments can't be made. In a small space, it is often better to project your voice than to use a mic, as the quality can be impaired. When playing music, it sounds tinny and distorted. And how many times have you had a background buzz or noise on the installed system because no-one on-site knows how to troubleshoot the problem?

# 4

## DEDICATED, ON-SITE TECHNICIANS

In-house AV companies are often responsible for multiple events happening at the same venue. By bringing in an outside provider of your choice, you pay for dedicated, on-demand support.

# 5

## LAST-MINUTE ADDITIONS

No matter how carefully planned the event, last-minute additions sometimes become necessary. While in-house providers may have an on-site store, the specific gear you need may not be there or may already be in use at another event at the venue.



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With over 25 years of industry experience Avstage is all set to help you take your year end event or function to the next level.

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# Planning on a tight budget

We have all had to deal with it: a client who has a limited budget but still wants an upmarket event. Here are some tips to make this happen.

# 1

## DAY OF THE WEEK

Planning an event for a weeknight actually presents quite a few advantages. Fridays and Saturdays are usually your most expensive days to host an event at a venue, just because these days are so in demand. Look at the possibility of another day during the week. After all, Thursday are the new Saturdays.



# 2

## CATERING

Can you prepare and cook some of the food yourself? Do you have a friend that is a great caterer? If you are using a venue that does not allow outside caterers, speak to your event coordinator to see where you can cut costs. Can you scale down on the entrées, or select two dessert options instead of four?



# 3

## FOOD DISPLAYS

Spruce up your buffet station with some great focal points and unique decor – try mirror boards or boxes, varied display dish heights and carry your table and room decor across to the buffet table as well. You can even use edible items on the tables that serve as decor. A tiered display of cupcakes can be your table centrepiece and double up as dessert.



# 4

## CREATIVE SET-UP

Try to think of creative ways to set up your venue. Placing the tables in a different way from the norm can create a different look and feel; try mixing cocktail tables and cafe tables for different heights. Use room fixtures such as pillars or wall mountings to incorporate interesting decor and design elements.



# 5

## DECOR

Think outside the box when it comes to decor. China Mall or the Crazy Store often have a multitude of great decor items such as lanterns, candles, boxes and papers, fairy lights and more that you can use to create interesting and artistic centrepieces. Ambience goes a long way over cost. Place mats and colourful chair ties are also great at livening up the look of a table. Lighting can also add colour at minimal cost. Ask your supplier to scatter a few PAR can lights on the floor against plain walls to add a splash of difference in your colour scheme and transform the room. **M**

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# Meetings

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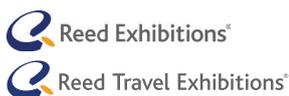


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# Unlock your event's potential



Your entire function's success depends on how well your speaker impacts and connects with the attendees. Unique Speaker Bureau will help you find the perfect speaker.

**D**ETERMINING THE RIGHT SPEAKER for your event is one of the most important tasks you have when putting an event together. After all, your speaker can make or break your event. A speaker's message normally falls into one or more of the following three categories: motivation, entertainment and education. But where do you start to look for the right speaker?

## PREMIER LEAGUE SPEAKERS

USB identifies your audience needs and will discuss the purpose of your event with you to determine what you need the speaker to achieve for you, and what message you wish to have your attendees take away from the speaker's presentation. USB's best loved programme directors, facilitators, business speakers and entertainers are carefully chosen for their presentation content, professionalism, expertise, experience, depth and collaboration. The aim is to give invaluable exchange, in abundance, to every client — resulting in successful events. Often, the entire line-up of speakers is chosen from the USB stable due to the cohesiveness of its team.

## THE REAL DEAL

There are speakers, and then there are speakers. USB works with the ones who have their client's best interests in mind and at heart. They are eager to help you create the best experience for the attendees, they bring value

to the equation and they are proven accessible and responsive.

USB also provides information on what you should expect from a speaker, as well as tips on how to make your speaker a star — it's the little things that can make a big difference in a speaker's presentation.

## SPECIALIST ENTERTAINERS TOO

Primarily a business-to-business management agency, USB also offers a limited but specialised entertainment section aimed at seamlessly complementing the business side. These include creative team-building and team-thinking activities, interactive comedy, South Africa's fastest caricaturist and an international mentalist.

## BECOME PART OF THE USB NETWORK

Anyone can ask to join the USB database and will receive invitations and updates. Over the past several years, USB's collaboration with various expos has resulted in a hosted speakers' corner where visitors have the opportunity to listen and gain invaluable knowledge from the presentations delivered by their speakers. The major advantage of being on the USB database is the educational aspect. Throughout the year, USB hosts not only speaker showcases but also workshops and speaker breakfasts. Its clients have access to the speakers to build a fuller understanding of the value that they can bring to conferences, events and interventions. Being on the database means invitations to these

events and updates on speakers, including visiting international speakers.

## UNLOCK 2017

The largest of USB's showcases happens next year on 16 January in Joburg and gives corporate event planning teams and professional conference organisers an opportunity to experience, first-hand, new talent and new presentations for the 2017 conference circuit. It features a line-up of over 40 of the best locally-based top international professional speaker brands as well as South Africa's very own talented and globe-trotting favourites. Each takes to the stage for five minutes in the one-day event. Planning for events becomes an easier task when you gain first-hand exposure to new speakers and experience the way they ignite their audience.

## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

USB is a collaborative meeting point where borders and geographical boundaries are secondary to the importance of knowledge sharing.

- USB UK has now established offices in the United Kingdom with links to many top international professional speakers, many of whom have presented at USB's annual showcase and breakfasts.
- USB Africa continues to build in the African countries of Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya and Tanzania. 

[www.theplanner.guru](http://www.theplanner.guru)

MEETINGS | NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016 • **37**

## HEAR THEM, SEE THEM, BOOK THEM...

**USB**  
UNIQUE SPEAKER BUREAU

USB the Premier League of Professional Speakers offers just that!

**DIARISE 16 JANUARY 2017**

USB Annual Showcase in Johannesburg  
Contact Paul at USB:

+27(0) 11 465-4410 or [leanne@uniquespeakerbureau.com](mailto:leanne@uniquespeakerbureau.com)  
to discuss your speaker requirements.

## FAB FINDS



**BEST NEW VENUE** Designed as the hub and pivotal point of the precinct, the **Century City Conference Centre's** bold architectural form is matched only by its even bolder unseen features – world-class connectivity, electric creativity and unparalleled choice to make any event truly unforgettable. From corporate conferences and product launches, to international expos and exclusive cocktail parties, the Century City Conference Centre quite simply transcends convention. Up to 1 900 guests can be comfortably accommodated across 20 different venues offering flexible conferencing and eventing tailored to suit your brand, theme or decor requirements. The conference centre is complemented by the 125-bedroom **Century City Hotel**, which offers guests the opportunity to seamlessly connect or seriously disengage. The hotel is an eclectic mix of industrial and chic, leather and linen, open spaces and intimate areas – juxtaposed to create a place that truly inspires.

+27 (0)21 204 8000 | [events@ccconferencecentre.co.za](mailto:events@ccconferencecentre.co.za)  
[ccconferencecentre.co.za](http://ccconferencecentre.co.za)



**BEST REFURBISHMENT** An icon in Sandton's skyline, **Sandton Sun** bustles with personality and is worthy of its reputation as the gateway to Johannesburg's richest and most diverse shopping district. When it comes to world-class accommodation and conferencing in Johannesburg, Sandton Sun remains at the forefront of award-winning cosmopolitan excellence. With every touch marked by quality and character, this hotel aims to excite and enchant guests. Sandton Sun offers 326 newly refurbished en-suite rooms and brand-new meeting spaces. For more, turn to page 20.

+27 (0)11 780 5000  
[sandtonsunbanqueting@tsogosun.com](mailto:sandtonsunbanqueting@tsogosun.com) | [tsogosun.com](http://tsogosun.com)

# FAVOURITES & SURPRISES

2016 has seen new venues open, refurbishments completed and service providers offer innovative solutions. **Meetings** shares its outstanding finds.



**BEST VIEW** One of the most centrally situated event, meeting and conference venues in Joburg, **On Pointe** is located on the 4th Floor of the Longpoint Building, corner of Witkoppen and Montecasino Boulevard. As such, this stunning, versatile venue acts as the ideal meeting point for guests from across the region. With a total of 360 m<sup>2</sup> indoor event space and 240 m<sup>2</sup> outdoor event space, the venue provides the perfect landscape for tailor-made experiences, where inspiration, innovation and collaboration have the opportunity to truly come to life. Set against a suburban skyline, the backdrop is quintessentially urban South Africa, while the architecture and use of natural light allow the venue to run an environmentally conscious operation. The venue can cater for a range of event sizes – from small intimate functions of 20 pax, to seated banquets of 140 pax and cocktail events of over 250 pax. The skilled management staff at On Pointe boast a wealth of experience within the industry, and they pride themselves on delivering only the highest level of customer service, a personalised attention to detail, leading to the delivery of a seamless experience.

+27 (0)10 500 2421 | [info@onpointe.co.za](mailto:info@onpointe.co.za) | [onpointe.co.za](http://onpointe.co.za)

**BEST CATERING SOLUTION** When planning your next event, product launch or exhibition stand, spice things up with one of **Barmotion's** unique mobile bars. This vibrant company provides professional bar solutions with an array of different refreshments and food bars such as cappuccino, raw juice, smoothie, gelato, sushi and many more. Being mobile and on the move, they will travel to any destination in South Africa, with branches in Cape Town, Joburg and Durban – they provide all the necessary equipment and quality trained staff to ensure your event is a success. Barmotion strongly believes in maximising your exposure at every event and each bar can be customised to suite your needs and the needs of your guests! In trying to do their part for the environment, they also offer a greening service, converting their standard bar into an eco-friendlier option. Barmotion understands the importance of branding and you are able to brand everything from the bars and cup sleeves to coffee stencils, promotional bites and more. The company strives to become an extension of your brand and to promote your business through its services. Their delightful bars will have people talking about your event for weeks.

0861 WE ROCK (93 7625) | [info@barmotion.co.za](mailto:info@barmotion.co.za) | [barmotion.co.za](http://barmotion.co.za)

## WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2017



Take a tour of the SAB World of Beer and you'll quickly discover why it has twice been named the number one tourist attraction in South Africa.



**BEST ADD-ON** Event planners who value personal service will find that the **World of Beer** is the ideal destination. Here, delegates can enjoy an educational and entertaining tribute to all things beer-related. The World of Beer includes a tour that has been developed and perfected to give visitors insight into the history and culture of beer: from its ancient origins, to its African heritage, its European ancestry, and its role in South Africa's story – past, present and future. Detailed information on the brewing process is also provided, and visitors are encouraged to sample raw barley and hops and to ask questions along the way. The World of Beer is also a unique venue for conferences and events. The conferencing venues can accommodate any manner of functions, from product launches and press conferences to unique team-building activities, private exclusive breakaways, sophisticated black-tie events and informal festive occasions. Delegates have the rare opportunity of mixing business in a top-class venue with one-of-a-kind entertainment and relaxation – all in an award-winning venue.

+27 (0)11 836 4900  
events.co-ordinator@za.sabmiller.com  
worldofbeer.co.za



OPENS  
MARCH  
2017

**BOUTIQUE LUXURY** The Silo is a magical space, towering above the V&A Waterfront, surrounded by the natural wonder of South Africa's Mother City. The Silo is being built in the grain elevator portion of the historic grain silo complex, occupying six floors above what will become the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA). Zeitz MOCAA will be a contemporary art museum to rival the likes of the Tate Modern in London, MoMA in New York and Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid. The venue's location makes it an ideal base from which to explore all that Cape Town has to offer. At the hotel itself, guests can relax at the spa, take afternoon tea overlooking Table Mountain, sip champagne on the roof, swim in the glass pool, work off the city's fine dining in the gym, or enjoy a private tour of the museum.

**MEETING ROOMS:** The three meeting rooms are on Level 6M, where two superior suites are located and can be booked as breakaway rooms should this be required. Two rooms, which seat 8 pax, are ideal for intimate business meetings, while the larger meeting rooms, which can accommodate 22 pax, can be used for boardroom meetings or small functions.

**BEDROOMS:** The Silo has 28 rooms, including a spectacular penthouse. Colourful and eclectic pieces juxtapose the modern, industrial architecture. The seven room categories are based on the room size and the views. The rooms are more spacious vertically than horizontally due to the unique architecture of The Silo and, in particular, the ingenious design of the pillowed window bays, which are one of the key architectural features.

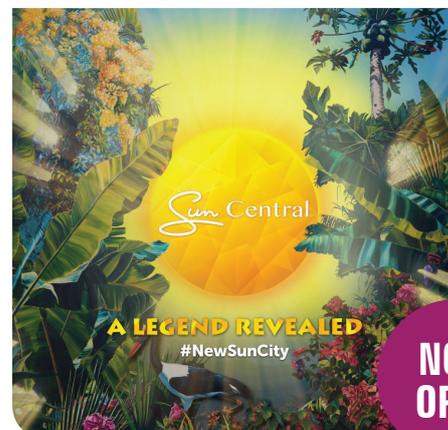
+27 (0)21 761 8292 | reservations@trp.travel | theroyalportfolio.com/the-silo



OPENS  
MARCH  
2017

**IT'S BIGGER** CTICC East will add another 10 000 m<sup>2</sup> of multipurpose space to its existing trade show and exhibition capacity. The exhibition venue will be subdivisible into six halls on two levels, which are 5 000 m<sup>2</sup> each. In addition, the facility will boast 3 000 m<sup>2</sup> of formal and informal meeting space, a sky bridge connecting CTICC East with CTICC West and a tunnel underneath one of Cape Town's iconic thoroughfares to connect the two buildings' service areas. "The expansion will enable us to meet growing demand from clients wanting to expand their events into exciting new venues and to secure even larger, upcoming events. The expansion will also allow us to run multiple, large-scale events concurrently," says Julie-May Ellingson, CEO, CTICC.

+27 (0)21 410 5000 | sales@cticc.co.za  
cticc.co.za



NOW  
OPEN

**#NEWSUNCITY** Sun City's R1 billion refurbishment offers visitors even more to see and do at the iconic leisure resort. In addition to the new, contemporary-styled rooms and refreshed decor at the Cabanas, visitors will find:

- **Sun Central**, boasting a suite of new family experiences, including a Hall of Fame honouring South Africa's outstanding sportspeople and performing artists
- **Sun City Convention Centre**
- **Sun Park**, which offers an indoor events area and outdoor space, capable of hosting a range of lifestyle events, music festivals and launches
- **Adrenaline Extreme** and **Waterworld**
- a new microbrewery-themed gastro pub, **The Brew Monkey**, and the **Food Factory**, a fresh food eatery.

+27 (0)14 557 1000 | suninternational.com/sun-city



# FASHIONABLE DESIGN

The passion of Johann Els, owner of ELS Event Architects, has given him the ability to turn the drab into fab.

**How do you see the industry at the moment?** It is like a mushroom garden after the first rain. There are event companies popping up everywhere. People seem to think that all aspects of eventing make quick money and don't realise that our industry is not a pop-up career choice. It is a great industry to be in once you make it.

**What are the biggest changes you've seen in the industry?** Service delivery from venues, especially banquet staff that no longer seem to be

properly trained. The selection of venues has become very restricted, especially in Pretoria, and there are some awesome, new companies that have emerged.

**What drew you to the business?** My mentor, Robbie Blake, who started ShowGroup.

## ABOUT JOHANN

ABBA wrote and performed a song with lyrics where they sing about a dancer that could sing before she could talk; dance before she could walk. Well, that song has so many synergies with Johann Els in his life. He has over 16 years' experience in the event industry, where he has learnt so much from the best in the business. Before he got a taste of events, Johann had a career in fashion. Johann's list of event achievements has made him one of the country's most experienced event decor specialists.

### What have been your career highlights so far?

Teaching people and seeing how my staff, who have been with me for more than 15 years, have grown into empowered individuals.

### Why should one use ELS Event Architects?

I would just say it is a matter of choice. Some people like Chanel, some Dior, and then there are clients who like Walmart. ELS Event Architects is flexible with budgets – we can take Walmart and make it look like Dior.

### What have been the most memorable events you have been involved with?

There have been many, but the standout ones: working on projects with the British and Japanese royal families, launching the 2010 FIFA World Cup mascot and the emblem launch for Brazil 2014, as well as working on the 46664 Concert and the celebrity dinner.

### What has been your best and worst advice you have received?

The worst: not to trust my instinct when bad clients knock on my door. The best: do it for myself.

### Who is your celebrity lookalike?

Some say Michael Stipe from REM, others say Daniel Craig. Maybe it's because of the ears and eyes.

### What quote best describes you?

"All men dream but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the

day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes to make it possible."  
– TE Lawrence

### What superpower would you like to possess?

The power to turn some tight budgets into an endless vault of money!

### What are you addicted to?

That is a long list, but highlights include shopping, collectables and travel.

### Tell us something about yourself that few people are aware of.

I am dyslexic.

### If you could speak any language, what would it be and why?

Mandarin and Cantonese, as I believe that they are the business languages of the future.

### Who would be your ultimate dinner guest and why?

Alexander the Great, because he turned his dreams into reality.

### What is the weirdest food you have ever eaten?

While on a business trip, I ate snake with a client at the Peninsula Hotel Hong Kong.

### Where is your favourite holiday spot and why?

Prague – it is the Paris that not a lot of people are aware of.

### What do you do in your spare time?

When I do get spare time, I do nothing.

### What three things would you want with you if you were stranded on a deserted island?

My other half, Netflix and my Tom Ford sunglasses

### Are you a dog person or cat person?

Cat.

### What would your obituary say?

No regrets.

# BOLD FLAVOURS

Executive chef Gareth Jordaan invites guests at the Southern Sun Hyde Park to experience the very best of authentic Italian and Japanese cuisine in one unique Sandton destination.

**How has the food and beverage industry changed over the past five years?** It has become more competitive. There is also a lot more awareness – people are taking more time to go out and enjoy meals; they are also more clued up and expectations are high.

**What are some of the current trends in the food and beverage industry?** For me, food has become more relaxed – not so uptight. We are going for more of a rustic look and feel. This needs to come through in the dishes that we are offering.

**What is the primary mistake people make when catering for conferencing?** Underestimating the number of guests (always cater for that little bit extra), or trying to be too adventurous with the food. Keep the ingredients simple, clean and of good quality.

**How can one present “plain” food to make it look appealing to delegates?** Don’t overthink it. Let your ingredients do the work for you. Try presenting your food in different ways. For example, take a carrot and serve a whole roasted one as well as a carrot puree. Get more out of the carrot!

**What is your favourite dish to make?** I love pasta – a nice meaty one with lots of butter and cheese.

**What is your number one catering tip?** Always plan – be prepared. There are many people out there with different requirements.

**What is your favourite kitchen equipment or gadget?** I love my thermomixer – it’s like the Ferrari of blenders.

**What dish are you asked to make most often?** It all comes down to chicken.

**What is your favourite food and why?** I love Italian. I was brought up on it.

**Are there any food you just don’t like?** Chicken liver.

**Did you eat your veggies as a child?** I did. My mom would always lie to me and tell me “last bite”.

**What is your favourite food memory?** My mom made a pot gammon for Christmas the one year – it was full of cherries. I could smell it cooking the whole night.

**What is one ingredient you cannot cook without?** Onions.



## ABOUT CHEF GARETH

Passionate foodie **Gareth Jordaan** launched his career with an internship at the Ritz-Carlton resort in Naples, Florida, in the USA, which led to his employment as a chef de parti at the property’s five-star fine-dining restaurant. He returned to South Africa in 2010 to take up a position as sous chef at the FNB Soccer City Stadium for the FIFA World Cup, where he was responsible for catering and ensuring food delivery for up to 90 000 spectators. Prior to joining Tsogo Sun in 2013, he worked at the Cipriani restaurant and Yacht Club on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi where he mastered Italian cuisine and had the privilege of cooking for presidents, sheikhs, and celebrities on their private yachts. He is currently the executive chef at Southern Sun Hyde Park.

**When did you know you wanted to be a chef?** I used to cook a lot for my family, and when I was about 14, I knew that I wanted to make this my career.

**What is the proudest moment in your career as a chef?** Being promoted to executive chef. It takes a long time, hard work, perseverance and commitment.

**What are your favourite foods to cook with?** Good cheese, exotic mushrooms and heirloom vegetables.

**What do you think is the most challenging ingredient to work with?** I enjoy a challenge, so I can’t say I have one.

**Who in the food world do you most admire?** Marco Pierre White. For me, he put the spotlight on good food from around the globe. Fine dining was no longer considered a French thing!

**What’s your “Death Row” meal, as Anthony Bourdain puts it?** I love pasta, and oxtail pappardelle. It’s on my menu – come and try it. 

# WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED

From Heidelberg to Meyerton, and Sharpeville to Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging, the Sedibeng district covers the entire southern part of Gauteng. The area is home to a number of fantastic conference venues.

**Meetings** shares its top finds.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

## HISTORICAL HEIDELBERG

Steeped in history and nestled in the Suikerbosrand hills, with the Blesbokspruit River flowing through it, Heidelberg offers visitors a taste of a picturesque country lifestyle. It's also among the attractions in Gauteng that pay tribute to the past, with its well-preserved Victorian architecture. Visit the AG Visser House where the renowned Afrikaans poet, Dr AG Visser, lived and practised as the local doctor. It was built in 1890 and Visser wrote all his poems in the house. Another must-see place is the Diepkloof Farm Museum, established in the 1850s. The farmhouse is one of the buildings that still remained after the war, and has been restored to its original state – with period furniture and crockery. The farm buildings include the original home, the wagon barn and a school consisting of a classroom, storage and quarters for a teacher.



**COUNTRY ESCAPE** **Riverside Sun**, located on the banks of the Vaal River, is just a 45-minute drive from Joburg. The hotel provides a country setting in Vanderbijlpark that is ideal for corporate getaways, team-building days and planning sessions. Versatility, combined with professional conference facilities, ensures that the requirements of business guests are not only met, but exceeded. Riverside Sun can accommodate up to 500 guests for conferences and events, and offers a wide range of equipment and extras that go into making your event memorable. For a country hotel escape on the Vaal River that is equipped to meet your MICE needs, Riverside Sun offers it all.

+27 (0)16 982 7300 | [riversidesun.reservations@tsogosun.com](mailto:riversidesun.reservations@tsogosun.com) | [tsogosun.com](http://tsogosun.com)



**ADVENTURE AWAITS** **Emerald Resort & Casino** is situated on the picturesque and lush banks of the Vaal River, and is only an hour's drive from O.R. Tambo International Airport. The extensive property, along 7 km of river frontage, is the ideal location for a business breakaway, corporate or private event, team-building conference, or a fun-filled family getaway. The resort offers an array of accommodation options, restaurants, entertainment — like the all-year-round-heated Aquadome water park, Animal World Zoo, game drives and ten-pin bowling — outdoor activities as well as the Emerald African Spa.

+27 (0)16 982 8000 | [info@emeraldcasino.co.za](mailto:info@emeraldcasino.co.za) | [www.emeraldcasino.co.za](http://www.emeraldcasino.co.za)

**RELAX AND UNWIND** **Bordeaux Haven** allows you to embrace the pleasure of a country lifestyle close to an urban environment with all its shopping amenities. Come and enjoy the consummate hospitality of the guest house amid a tranquil woodland-like garden, with spacious and elegant accommodation. Bordeaux Haven is the ideal place for business executives to stay — they can have their business breakfast or meetings in the garden or the boardroom, which seats up to 12 people. Being conveniently located for the industrial and commercial centres of Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark, Sasolburg and Meyerton, as well as being only five minutes from two superb golf courses, one could not ask for a better location from which to both conduct business and relax and unwind.

+27 (0)16 423 3831 | [info@bordeauxhaven.co.za](mailto:info@bordeauxhaven.co.za) | [www.bordeauxhaven.co.za](http://www.bordeauxhaven.co.za)

# THINGS TO DO IN SEDIBENG



**BEST-KEPT SECRET** **Three Rivers Lodge and Villa Anna Sophia** offer the perfect balance between tranquillity and close proximity to the thriving business centre of Vereeniging. Professional and caring staff welcome all guests personally, creating a relaxed atmosphere with a can-do attitude. Three Rivers Lodge boasts 20 well-appointed rooms and Villa Anna Sophia offers an additional 22 rooms, each individually crafted to the highest standards. Offering a world-class dining experience prepared by two award-winning chefs, even the most discerning palate will be satisfied. The full range of services available include a fine-dining restaurant, four state-of-the-art conference venues seating 10 to 200 delegates, a gym and comfortable lounges, as well as the Bethel Chapel seating 90 guests. The property is within close proximity to three golf courses, River Square Shopping Centre, Barnyard Theatre and Emerald Casino.  
**+27 (0)16 423 6046 | info@threeriverslodge.co.za**  
**www.threeriverslodge.co.za**



**A PLACE TO STAY** **Rami's B&B** is located in Zone 10, Sebokeng, which is a township near Vanderbijlpark. It is easily accessible to all major tourist attractions as well as business hubs within the Sedibeng area. Rami's boasts three rooms, two of which are twin rooms, and one room is a double room, with shared bathroom facilities. Breakfast is served daily either in the dining room or the picturesque gardens of the house. Rami's is currently expanding and will soon include a swimming pool and Wi-Fi.  
**+27 (0)73 663 2904 | Maserame.selela@gmail.com**



## TAKE FLIGHT

For a one-of-a-kind extreme water adventure, try **flyboarding at The Boathouse**, located on the premises of the Riverside Sun Resort in Vanderbijlpark. A flyboard is a wakeboard-based water jet that uses propulsion to thrust you into the air. An 18 metre flexible rope is connected between the flyboard and a jet-ski turbine, allowing an operator to control the pump and hand-guided nozzles to stabilise your flight. Visitors can also partake in waterskiing, tube rides and speedboat rides and rent a boat for a cruise on the Vaal River. The Boathouse offers barefoot waterskiing, wakeboarding, kneeboarding and slalom waterskiing.  
**+27 (0)82 783 5326**  
**watersportunlimited.co.za**



## STEP BACK IN TIME

The **Sharpeville Struggle Route** takes you through one of South Africa's most historic townships. The precinct includes a memorial and exhibition centre created in honour of the victims of the 21 March 1960 Sharpeville Massacre. Here, 69 people were shot dead by police during a march against pass laws. Another noteworthy site is the **George Thabe Stadium in the Human Rights Precinct** where, on 10 December 1996, as tribute to those who lost their lives during the course of the liberation struggle and quest for freedom in South Africa, former president Nelson Mandela signed South Africa's Constitution.  
**sedibeng.gov.za/tourism\_townships.html**



## CRUISE CONTROL

**Stonehaven on Vaal** is the Vaal River's social centre, and boasts a beautiful al fresco garden restaurant on the banks of the river. Meander along the cobbled pathways that lead you past herb gardens and rose bushes, all the while listening to the lapping waters. Select a cruiser from the many options available, from 2 to 200 people with a full bar and catering services on board, be it a buffet, spit-braai, cocktails or even a seafood extravaganza. Boat cruises can either be booked in advance for large groups, or you can join a group of others for a magical sunset cruise along the river.  
**+27 (0)16 982 2951**  
**info@stonehaven.co.za**  
**stonehaven.co.za**

## TAKE A HIKE

An hour's drive from Joburg, near the town of Heidelberg, lies the 11 595 hectare **Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve**. The flora and fauna in the reserve are extensive, which makes it a popular spot for hiking, cycling and picnicking. The 200 different species of birds that have made the reserve their home have made Suikerbosrand a firm favourite with birdwatchers, earmarking this area as a prime birdwatching spot on the Gauteng map. It is also home to several mammal species.  
**+27 (0)11 439 6300 | facebook.com/suikerbosrand.friends**



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# UNLOCK 2017



## USB SPEAKER SHOWCASE EVENT OF THE YEAR

If you want to take your corporate event team or your career as a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) to the next level in 2017, Unique Speaker Bureau (USB) has a special event designed just for you.

Unlock 2017 is our Annual Speaker Showcase which takes place on 16 January 2017 in Johannesburg. We have designed it as a one day experience that will give you first hand exposure to over 40 of the best professional speakers and thought leaders - and their new material for the 2017 conference circuit. The line-up includes the industry's most recognised and best loved programme directors, facilitators, business speakers, entertainers, musicians and comedians. Each will take to the stage and deliver a five-minute sample of their inspired genius. By joining the select and exclusive audience you will benefit from the exclusive opportunity to see a line-up of the best locally-based top

international professional speaker brands as well as South Africa's very own talented and globe-trotting favourites.

For the last seven years, we at USB have focused on building a solid reputation as trusted and leading advisors to the African continent's Meetings, Conferences, Incentives and Exhibitions (MICE) industry. Specifically those in the industry who are committed to building even better conferences for their clients and especially those who realise the value delivered by inspirational presentations and interventions that drive company culture and profitability.

**PLEASE DO JOIN US, WE WELCOME YOU AS OUR GUEST. SEATING IS LIMITED (70% ALREADY TAKEN) SO BE SURE TO REGISTER AND REQUEST YOUR SEATS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

GARY BAILEY  
DEREK MILLS  
NADIA BILCHIK  
ANDY PRESTON  
LESLEY EVERETT  
NIGEL RISNER  
GEOFF RAMM  
PA JOOF  
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JUSTICE MALALA  
DANIEL SILKE  
DANNY K  
MICHAEL JACKSON  
SIPHIWE MOYO  
LYNN BAKER



Date: Monday 16 January 2017  
Venue: Montecasino Ballroom, Fourways, Johannesburg  
Time: 09h00 – 14h00  
Cost: Complimentary  
Register: Email your contact details, the name of your table team leader and names of delegates to [brooke@uniquespeakerbureau.com](mailto:brooke@uniquespeakerbureau.com)

INDUSTRY  
VIEWSSAACI's take on  
staying current

## 2016 – the year in review

SAACI is celebrating 30 years of professionalising the business events industry, writes **Adriaan Liebetrau**.



**ADRIAAN LIEBETRAU** is the CEO of SAACI. He has many years of experience within the conference and events industry.



[www.theplanner.guru](http://www.theplanner.guru)

**T**HIS YEAR, SAACI celebrated its 30th congress and is gearing up for its 30-year anniversary celebrations in 2017. As we reflect on 2016, we know that there is still hard work ahead of us but, every day, SAACI and its members are building a sustainable industry.

**COLLABORATION IS KEY**

Collaboration with different stakeholders took precedence over the last few months and SAACI introduced seven new collaboration partners, including: AVIS car rental, British Airways, GreenPop, ICAS, Price Forbes, South African Airways and, most recently, BidVest Bank as a banking partner.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

SAACI hosted the first Business Events Future Focus Conference aimed at final-year university students and members who are under 35 years old and starting out in their career – it was a huge success, with 89 students attending this first event in the Western Cape. Plans are already under way for the 2017 conference to host a hybrid event in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban in September. The SAACI Academy has become the one-stop shop for training needs

for members. Launched as an online platform, we were able to successfully roll out many classroom training sessions in member companies. In order for Southern Africa to remain competitive, we are re-establishing relationships with international associations, such as the Convention Industry Council, to be the local partner for the coveted Certified Meetings Professional course. Talks with other international associations to collaborate locally are also on the cards. SAACI plans to invite members to join a delegation in January 2018 to the PCMA Convening Leaders Conference in Nashville to strengthen ties.

**CONTINUED GROWTH**

Membership has grown year on year, with over 500 new representatives added in the last three years, and just under 600 companies – bringing the total membership to over 1 600 named members. The focus for 2017 is to establish the already launched branches in Kimberley, Mahikeng, Polokwane and Mbombela. Other branches that will receive focus are Ugu South Coast, Drakensberg, Mangaung and Cape Winelands.

SAACI wants to thank all our members and the industry at large for your support over the past year and we look forward to many successful years together. 

MEETINGS | NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016 • 45

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**THE MEETINGS & EVENT  
PLANNER**

**3  
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## INDUSTRY VIEWS

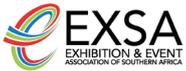
EXSA – giving a voice to the industry

# Memorable exhibitions

**Phumulani Hlatshwayo** shares tips to create an experience that will make your brand memorable.



**PHUMULANI HLATSHWAYO** is the new general manager of EXSA. He brings a wealth of experience in the development and implementation of robust operational processes to the association.



**WHEN IT COMES** to exhibitions, 83% of exhibitors agree that building and expanding their brand's awareness is one of their top priorities, according to a CEIR (Centre for Exhibition Industry Research) Changing Environment Study. To do this, exhibitors need to stand out and connect with visitors. Here's how...

**MAKE IT PERSONAL** While the design and graphics of your stand are important to your brand, what the visitor really takes away is how you make them feel. Begin your visitor's experience with a personalised invitation to visit your stand. The more personal it feels, the more likely it is that the visitor will stop at your stand.

**UTILISE SOCIAL MEDIA** Top marketers are using social media to grow and strengthen an event's reach as well as create hype with giveaways, announcements and competitions. This is a great way of attracting followers, making connections and adding value to a potential customer.

**MAKE IT FUN WITH TECHNOLOGY** According to CEIR's 2015 Index report, 66% of attendees go to exhibitions to learn – they want to see new technology, speak to experts, see the latest products, compare brands and find solutions. Some 59% want to see product demonstrations and 58% want to have hands-on interaction with the products. Digital technology makes it easier for exhibitors to share their company's story through interactive stands where visitors can experience an exhibitor's brand – through touchscreen quizzes, an augmented reality tour of the stand or business, interactive games targeted at customers, as well as live demonstrations and presentations. While visitors are learning about your product, they're also providing you with valuable insights that will help you convert them into customers.

Before any memorable exhibition can materialise, the entire process, from design to build, considers many variables and, therefore, with the right suppliers on your side, immersive experiences are more readily available, so make sure to visit [exsa.co.za](http://exsa.co.za) and use an EXSA-accredited member for all your exhibition needs. 

## INDUSTRY VIEWS

AA XO – for the exhibition organisers

# Growing the industry

For AAXO, 2016 was a particularly eventful year. **Carol Weaving** takes a look back.



**CAROL WEAIVING** is the chairperson of AAXO and also the managing director of Thebe Reed Exhibitions.



**SINCE ITS LAUNCH** in February 2016, AAXO has rapidly gone from strength to strength. The organisation continues to act as the leading custodian of the country's exhibition standards.

## TRAINING

Coinciding with its official launch, AAXO started the year off by initiating research from Grant Thornton, which offered valuable insight into the sheer scale of the contribution the industry makes to South Africa. In line with AAXO's emphasis on knowledge-sharing and further education to drive the formalisation and standardisation of the industry, two training days were held, as well as the Exhibition of Exhibitions.

## PARTNERSHIPS

AAXO also went above and beyond to form partnerships with like-minded organisations for the benefit of its members. Its partnership with the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI), an international organisation with over 700 members, is one such example. Another example is its partnership agreement with IAEE (whose membership is

spread across over 50 countries). Staying true to its values of driving sustainability and leading trends locally, AAXO also formed a partnership with the Event Greening Forum.

## ADDING VALUE

AAXO is consistently on the lookout for new ways to add value to its members. In 2016, this was demonstrated by its attainment of ABC audit accreditation, which is recognised by exhibitors and marketing companies as a credible verification method, for auditing our attendees at shows as well as the creation of the AAXO badge of approval.

The SARS VAT reduction ruling is another significant contribution that AAXO made to its members (and the wider industry) in 2016. Additionally, AAXO's code of conduct has been developed to guide members on acceptable standards, holding them to account for the events that they host, as well as providing an independent third-party mediation facility.

AAXO's overriding mandate is to uphold exceptionally high standards and unlock its full potential. In 2016, we were able to lay the foundation for real growth in our industry and the hard work continues as we look forward to an eventful 2017. 

## INDUSTRY VIEWS

The MICE Academy  
- promoting industry  
best practice

# Planner standards take off

**Helen Brewer** provides a report on how the Professional Planner Standards are going.



**HELEN BREWER** is a director of the MICE Academy. She has been involved in the industry for over 35 years and has immense knowledge and experience to assist with best practice.



**SINCE THE SETTING** Standards in Event Planning Conference 2016 in October, the momentum has built up significantly to ensure the MICE industry is ready to launch the process and procedures in early 2017. The setting of Professional Planner Standards (PPS) milestones is chronicled in order to provide a clear indication of the way forward:

**MILESTONE 1** HR directors called for guidelines as to the tasks and responsibilities of planners, coupled with monitoring and recourse.

**MILESTONE 2** A wide cross section of the event industry debated the pros and cons of PPS in 2015. The outcome was an overwhelming consensus that standards were necessary and should be pursued.

**MILESTONE 3** Extensive investigations and discussions were undertaken from the 2015 outcomes during 2016. The result was the first PPS (to be used as a guide, yardstick and measurement tool), which identified four prime sectors: conceptual planning, logistical planning, financial planning, and post-mortem and next steps.

**MILESTONE 4** The Setting Standards in Event Planning Conference programme investigated the industry's main challenges, which were debated and possible ways forward were discussed. These subjects included: an example of a successful standard, foreign certification programmes as an alternative, the anatomy of a service level agreement, and the simplicity yet importance of a duty of care.

**MILESTONE 5** Industry outcomes were recorded and transcribed into a conference highlights document, which was distributed to all participants, both event buyer/end users, as well as the appropriate trade industry practitioners.

### GOING FORWARD INTO 2017

- Buyer's Circle of end-users to commence for the corporate, association and public sectors.
- HR, marketing and PR communities within the event decision-makers will utilise the PPS not only as a guide to protect their respective brands but also to ensure more successful event outcomes together with the all-important ROI and ROO (return on objectives). 

## INDUSTRY VIEWS

AIPC on  
the role of  
conference centres

# What does it really mean?

Brexit and the meetings industry – a challenge or an opportunity?

**Geoff Donaghy** investigates.



In addition to his role as AIPC president, **GEOFF DONAGHY** is CEO at ICC Sydney and director of Convention Centres AEG Ogden. He also represents AIPC on the Joint Meetings Industry Council.



**CERTAINLY, THE EARLY** overall reactions from the Brexit vote were dramatic. Global markets don't like shocks or uncertainty, resulting in the predictable impacts on currency and market valuations. But just as predictable is the readjustment and recovery already under way. Whatever the final balance turns out to be, it will be years in the making, with a lot of bumps in the process.

### REACTIONS

The meetings industry responds to some very different forces. To begin with, a very large proportion of events are, in fact, local or regional, and these make for a very stable base of activity in any destination. At the same time, many events on rotation are driven by academic and professional needs rather than business ones, and these are unlikely to be largely affected.

Second, decision factors important to most planners and their respective organisations are unlikely to be influenced much by whether or not the UK is part of the EU. These selection criteria are generally based on where events feel they need to go in order to respond to the distribution

of markets and members, potential for new markets and members and, increasingly, linking up with institutions and programmes that respond to the priorities set by the organisations in question – none of which are going to be particularly influenced by a change in EU status.

Another key site consideration is cost structure, and here there may actually be a benefit to consider. To the extent that Brexit has seen UK currency trading at less of a premium than previously, organisers may see an opportunity to get a highly desirable destination at bargain prices – and there is even further potential for more beneficial tax arrangements depending on how this factor plays out in the future.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

So, a looming catastrophe? Not likely. In the end, meetings and conventions will mostly do what they have always done – create forums for people to exchange knowledge and support the advancement of business and the professions. In that regard, their role in Brexit may turn out to be a force for good by helping bridge the gaps created by changing political alignments. 



# DREAM BIG

Every event manager has a list of events that they would like to attend in their lifetime. Here is a sneak preview into **Miss Meet's** event bucket list.

**THE OLYMPIC GAMES** When I was much younger, I dreamed that I would one day attend the Olympic Games. I wanted to take part as an athlete, well #thatdreamwentnowhere. Now, I still dream of going to the Olympic Games, but as a spectator. I am in awe of the games as it showcases so much – amazing organisation, triumph of the human spirit, stories of hope and inspiration, and just some darn good competition.

**NEW YORK FASHION WEEK** NYFW is held in February and September each year, when international fashion collections are shown to buyers, the press and the general public. It lasts about nine days and is made up a number of different events held at various locations around New York. It is one of four major fashion weeks in the world, collectively known as the

Big 4, along with those in Paris, London and Milan. The NYFW takes crazy to the next level. It's over the top in every way – media frenzy, social media and hashtag overload, celebrities everywhere you look, clothes to die for, and champagne overflowing in all corners. Besides the fact that I would probably die of hunger – as protein and nut bars are pretty much the menu – this is a must-attend event for me. #nothingadoggybagcannotfix

**THE MONACO GRAND PRIX** Formula One is, hands down, the most popular form of auto racing in the world. The Monaco GP has been held since 1929, two decades before F1 even existed. The thrill of racing taking place among the royalty of the second smallest country in the world is a really exciting combination, which

I hope I have the chance to experience one day. To be totally honest here, and let's keep this between us, I may have seen one too many *Fast and Furious* movies and this may have influenced my yearning to attend. I mean, only Vin Diesel can make racing look hot to a girl who barely knows where a car's engine is found.

**THE OSCARS** Another #thatdreamwentnowhere. But, if I can't make it to Hollywood as an actress or socialite, I am going to do my best to crack an invitation. OK, so E! channel is a close second. I am glued to that screen during awards season. There is something so exciting about the red carpet, the glitz, the glam, the fame – I just love it. And, secretly, I have always believed I have a slight chance of possibly marrying into Hollywood royalty. #agirlcandream 

Illustration: Nicolene Louw

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