

CONDÉ NAST

House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA

AUGUST 2008 R32,95 (incl.VAT)
OTHER COUNTRIES R28,90

COMFORT ZONE

HOMES WITH

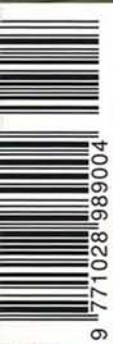
- RELAXED CHARM
- LAYERED PATTERNS
- BEST-DRESSED BEDROOMS

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WINTER VEGETABLES



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SMART TRAVEL

Great Escapes

Ruth Duke rounds up the best in country retreats from this year's Travel Indaba



SHOWCASING THE BEST that South African tourism has to offer, this year's Travel Indaba was a reminder of just how many first-class rural retreats – old as well as new – are out there to be enjoyed. Offering unsurpassed luxury and comfort, these holiday hideaways enable the visitor to convene with nature in style. In this selection of the best, the lodges chosen not only complement and exist in harmony with their stand-out surroundings but offer that something out of the ordinary. Whether it's their signature foodie aspects, spa facilities, drop-dead chic decor, eco-friendliness or pamper quotient, each promises to provide the backdrop for an unforgettable break.



SKY SAFARI **BILL HARROP'S 'ORIGINAL' BALLOON SAFARIS**

Looking for something a bit different? As one of the oldest and most romantic forms of aviation, hot-air balloon safaris are an inspiring way to view the world. Taking off in the light of dawn, you will slowly float forth surrounded by panoramic views of the Magaliesriver Valley and Hartbeespoort Dam. The experience is completed on landing at base where a Champagne breakfast is served. With special packages now available, it's a good idea to overnight close to the take-off field to avoid an early morning scurry.

■ R2 285 per person for a one-hour flight.

☎ 011 705 3201; 🌐 www.balloon.co.za



BEST OLD-SCHOOL SAFARI

MAKWETI SAFARI LODGE Set deep in the Waterberg Mountains, Makweti Safari Lodge is a secluded retreat wrapped in old-world African appeal. With no fences or internal boundaries and the subsequent free flow of game – including the Big Five – guests can experience nature as it was intended to be. Located in the Welgevonden Private Reserve, Makweti is an intimate and luxurious camp with five elegant thatch-and-stone suites, each individually decorated with antique treasures. Outdoor showers and private decks allow guests to fully appreciate the sweeping bushveld vistas.

■ From R2 100 per person per night.

☎ 011 837 6776; 🌐 www.makweti.com



BEST FOR COMFORT AND JOY **HARTFORD HOUSE**

Nestled in the foothills of the Drakensberg near Giant's Castle, Hartford House is one of South Africa's finest lodges. Superbly restored, this historic homestead and stud farm epitomises elegant style with a modicum of colonial romance. The 14 luxury suites offer comfort with their colourful fusion of styles and textures. Proclaimed as having one of KwaZulu-Natal's finest menus, many guests flock here to indulge in executive chef Jackie Cameron's cuisine. Also noted as having one of the country's best cellar collections, guests have the opportunity to sample rare wines while enjoying good food and the splendour of the views. ■ From R620 to R1 050 per person sharing per night. ☎ 033 263 2713; 🌐 www.hartford.co.za ▶

