

glam getaways

AtholPlace

French-Belgian architect Pierre Lombard and interior designer Adele van der Merwe teamed up with former owner, Sumari Krige, to create the contemporary-classic glamour and understated elegance of AtholPlace, and what started out as a simple home renovation, ultimately resulted in a luxury boutique hotel situated in the heart of bustling Sandton. Nearby attractions include world-class shopping destinations, an abundance of restaurants and the soon-to-be-completed Sandton Gautrain station.

CHECK IN: There are only 10 suites: five superior, four deluxe and one mini deluxe. None are smaller than 50m² and each has been individually decorated and stocked with all the latest mod cons, like a 42" LCD TV with DStv, wireless ADSL and an iPod docking station – and each room has large double doors that open onto a private balcony. Guests are treated to complimentary pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the library by the fireplace and, on request, you can arrange to dine outside under the trees in the tranquil seclusion of the landscaped garden.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R2 500 per room.

FIND OUT MORE: atholplace.co.za

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR: The hotel is known for its beds, which are made up in crisp, white percale Frette bedlinen imported from Italy.



Grand Dédale Country House, Wellington

Wellington's first five-star Country House reflects all the elegance of Cape Dutch architecture with 21st-century comfort. Formerly Doolhof Manor House on Doolhof Wine Estate, the Country House is set at the foot of the Bainskloof Pass on 380 hectares of vineyards, forest and fynbos and is surrounded by three dramatic mountain ranges – Groenberg, Limietberge and Hawekwa – and the Kromme River flows through the estate.

CHECK IN: Enter the estate via a driveway lined with manicured horse paddocks and rows of white roses, and choose to spend the night in one of the six individually designed rooms and suites in the historic Manor House or in the free-standing stone cottage. Start your day with a sumptuous "Cap Classique" breakfast with a range of homemade treats like freshly squeezed juices, homemade jams and freshly baked rolls and croissants. If you'd like to spend the day outdoors, request a picnic basket or stay near the main house and sample

the tasty delicacies of the high tea buffet. There's plenty to do so a two-night – or longer – stay is recommended. Go for a leisurely stroll along the river bank or opt for the 10-kilometre vineyard walk, which will lead you past the vineyards and will beautifully showcase the surrounding mountain ranges.

WHAT IT COSTS: From R1 800 per room, which includes breakfast and afternoon tea, as well as all soft drinks, beers and house wines from the self-service resident bar

FIND OUT MORE: granddedale.com

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR: The sunsets in the Winelands are magical, and to celebrate the passing of each day, Grand Dédale organises sundown pre-dinner drinks.

SPECIAL OFFER Spend two nights from R1 800pp and receive breakfast daily, a three-course dinner for two, all beverages from the self-service bar, complimentary wine tasting and 15% discount on all spa treatments. Valid until 31 August 2010, excluding SWC period. T&C apply.