

the insider

DECEMBER ISSUE 2025



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LOMBARDY
ESTATE & HEALTH SPA

Disclaimer: This e-Magazine is produced especially for residents/owners of Lombardy Estate & Health spa to provide updates and useful information. It is produced by K-Studio on behalf of Lombardy Estate & Health spa HOA. Although every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of content, The Lombardy Estate & Health spa HOA and/or the Publisher, cannot be held liable for any inaccurate information, and may not agree with all opinions expressed in this publication.



05 IMPORTANT CONTACTS

07 LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

08 FESTIVE SEASON UPDATE

14 WEYLANDTS HORIZON
OUTDOOR COLLECTION

18 FOLIAGE FLAIR

22 FESTIVE & FABULOUS

28 WHERE TIME SLOWS DOWN:
A JOURNEY TO ROYAL JOZINI

30 IT'S SILLY SEASON AGAIN - A VET'S ADVICE
REGARDING NOISE PHOBIA IN DOGS AND
CATS

34 TIME TO PAUSE AND REPLENISH

38 WHERE EQUESTRIAN TRADITION &
ELEGANCE CONVERGE

44 CLASSIFIEDS



WEYLANDTS

HORIZON

Outdoor Collection

In the hurried scurrying of a dung beetle,
in the trailing call of a crane – our collection
shows our reverence for the earth.



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Letter from the MANAGER

Dear Lombardians

As we approach the end of another busy and productive year, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support, cooperation, and engagement throughout 2025. Together, we have made meaningful progress across the Estate, and your continued commitment to our community is truly appreciated.

A special thank you to everyone who joined us for the Christmas Event on 27 November. It was wonderful seeing the children enjoy the festivities, and we are grateful to the residents who contributed their time and energy to help make the afternoon such a success.

As the festive season begins, we kindly ask all residents to remain mindful of general safety and security. December and January are busy months across Gauteng, and heightened vigilance helps keep our community safe. Please also be considerate of your neighbours when hosting gatherings or celebrations — sound carries easily in certain areas of the Estate, and we appreciate your cooperation in keeping noise levels respectful.

Kindly note the annual Builder's Holiday dates:

- Last working day for building contractors: Monday, 15 December 2025
- First working day of the new year: Monday, 12 January 2026

All construction sites must be compliant ahead of shutdown, and site inspections will take place in the week leading up to the 15th. More information will be shared with affected owners shortly.

As we prepare for the new year, the HOA will continue to focus on several key projects, including:

- Ongoing enhancements to our security infrastructure
- Further improvements to landscaping, roads, and estate aesthetics
- Continued work with the developer on outstanding service and completion matters
- Strengthening our governance processes and communication systems
- Advancing priority maintenance projects scheduled for early 2026
- We look forward to sharing detailed updates in

On behalf of the Board and the management team, I wish you and your families a safe, peaceful, and joyful festive season. May this time bring rest, connection, and celebration.

Carli Steenberg
HOA Manager
Lombardy Estate

Festive Season Update:

Safety, Notices, Community Info and More

Festive Season Emergency Contacts

As we move into the holiday period, we encourage all residents to keep these essential numbers close at hand. Whether you're at home or on the move, quick access can make all the difference.

Emergency Numbers:

- **LHOA Security Control Room:** 087 654 4822
- **LHOA Supervisor:** 082 462 2977
- **Emergency Electrical and Plumbing 24/7:** 079 508 2736
- **Alternative Electrician:** 076 814 0539
- **Alternative Plumber:** 078 378 4630
- **Ambulance, Police and Fire:** 107

A little preparation goes a long way. Save these contacts on your phone and share them with your household to ensure a safe and peaceful festive season.

Reminder: Responsible Pet Care Over the Festive Season

Dear Residents,

With the festive season upon us and many families preparing to travel, we kindly remind all pet owners to make responsible arrangements for their animals during periods when they will not be home. Pets cannot fend for themselves, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure their wellbeing and safety.

If you will be away, please consider the following options:

Book your pets into reputable kennels or pet hotels in the area. Many local facilities offer safe, monitored environments over the holiday period.

- <https://bergendalkennels.co.za> or <https://hondekatehotel.co.za>

Make use of trusted pet and home sitters who service Lombardy Estate and are familiar with our community environment.

These sitters can be contacted through the following channels:

- **LFKK Pet sitters:** 071 121 8717 or 083 570 8773
- **4WBW Pet & House Sitting:** 083 303 5653

To help us reunite lost pets with their owners more efficiently, please ensure that all animals:

- Wear identifiable collars and tags, and/or
- Are microchipped with updated owner information on file.

Please note that uncollected pets found wandering the Estate will be taken to the SPCA after 48 hours, as we unfortunately do not have the facilities to house animals for extended periods.

Thank you for helping us keep all animals in the Estate safe, comfortable, and well cared for during the holidays.

A Fireworks Strictly Prohibited in Lombardy Estate

As we approach the festive season, residents are reminded that fireworks of any kind are strictly prohibited within Lombardy Estate.

This rule exists to protect:

- The wellbeing of our pets and wildlife
- The safety of residents and their homes
- The peace and comfort of the community

Fireworks pose a significant fire hazard, can cause serious distress to animals, and may result in injury or property damage. For this reason, no fireworks, crackers, or pyrotechnic devices may be used, stored, or ignited anywhere within the Estate, including parks, lakes, streets, or private gardens.

We trust that all residents will uphold this rule and help ensure a calm, safe festive period for everyone.

Holiday Reminder: Keeping Our Children Safe This Festive Season

With schools closing soon and our younger Lombardians excited for their December break, we remind all parents and guardians to prioritize children's safety throughout the festive period.

The Estate becomes busier during the holidays, and for everyone's wellbeing, we ask that children:

- Are always supervised by a



responsible adult, especially when outdoors.

- Make use of the designated park areas and internal jogging/walking paths rather than playing in the roads.
- Understand and follow basic rules of the road, including being cautious when crossing streets, navigating intersections, and approaching concealed or shared driveways.
- Use bicycles, scooters, and skateboards safely and with awareness of other residents.

Security will continue with regular patrols. For safety reasons, young children found playing unsupervised in the streets will be noted, and the HOA office will be informed so that parents can be contacted directly.

We also encourage all drivers to slow down and remain vigilant, as children may cross the roads unexpectedly.

Let's work together to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and peaceful festive season for all families in our community.

Festive Season Update:

Safety, Notices, Community Info and More

A Important Update: Installation of Speed Monitoring Cameras in Lombardy Estate

The Lombardy Homeowners Association (LHOA) is pleased to announce that we are partnering with Ambrosys Speed Sentry Systems to enhance road safety across the Estate. As part of this initiative, speed monitoring cameras will be installed throughout Lombardy, including Lakes and Fountains.

Although our roads are privately owned, all members and visitors remain legally obligated to comply with the general laws and regulations governing road use, as set out in the Road Ordinance Act. Ensuring safe and responsible driving is a shared responsibility that directly impacts the wellbeing of our residents, children, cyclists, pedestrians, and pets.

To support this project, the LHOA is currently in the process of updating our Estate Rules to formally incorporate:

- The use of speed monitoring technology
- The issuing and management of speed infringement penalties
- Clear guidelines and processes aligned with best practice for private estates

We are confident that this initiative will significantly strengthen road safety and promote a more responsible driving environment within our community.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards a safer, calmer, and more secure Lombardy for all.

Seasonal Snake Activity: Important Safety Notice for Residents

With the warmer weather and recent increase in rainfall, snake activity naturally rises across Gauteng — and Lombardy Estate is no exception. As our wetlands continue to flourish and biodiversity improves, we are seeing more small mammals, frogs, and birdlife, which in turn attract snakes seeking food and shelter.

Over the past seasons, the most common species encountered within the Estate include:

- Red-lipped Heralds
- Garden Snakes
- Brown House Snakes

These species are non-venomous and generally harmless, but they may still startle residents when they seek refuge in gardens, storage areas, or shaded spaces.

However, due to our proximity to surrounding veld, it is important to remain mindful that we do occasionally encounter venomous species, such as:

- Mozambican Spitting Cobras
- Snouted Cobras
- Rinkhals

For this reason, caution must always be exercised, especially during the summer months.

How to Reduce Snake Encounters on Your Property?

To make your home less attractive to snakes seeking refuge or hunting prey, please consider the following:

- Avoid stacking firewood, building materials, or unused items directly against walls or in dense piles, as these create ideal hiding spots for snakes.
- Keep gardens tidy by trimming shrubs and clearing dense vegetation.
- Reduce food sources by addressing rodents, frogs, and insects, which attract snakes.
- Ensure garage doors, store rooms, and outside buildings are securely closed.
- Educate children and domestic staff on how to behave calmly and safely if a snake is spotted.

Never attempt to catch, kill, or corner a snake, as this significantly increases the risk of a defensive bite.

Snake Removal Contacts

For safe and professional removal of snakes, please contact one of the following experienced handlers who service Pretoria East:

- **Hendrik Botha:** 083 288 7820
Areas: Pretoria, Pretoria East
- **Mark Wentzel:** 082 351 0001
Areas: Pretoria, Pretoria East

Festive Season Donations for Our Gardening & Security Staff

As we come to the end of another productive year, we invite those who are able to contribute towards a festive season appreciation fund for our dedicated gardening and security teams. These staff members work tirelessly throughout the year to keep Lombardy safe, clean, and beautifully maintained. Your generosity will go a long way in thanking them for their commitment and service to our community.

If you wish to make a contribution, please use the same banking details you use for levy payments:

Account Name: MIDCITY PROPERTY SERVICES (PTY) LTD T/A TRUST OBO LOMBARDY HOA

Account Type: TRUST ACCOUNT

Account Number: 63080436538

Branch Code: 210554

Reference: XMASDONATION

Even the smallest contribution makes a meaningful difference. Thank you in advance for your kindness and for helping us show appreciation to those who take care of our Estate every day.





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NAVIGATING THE ENERGY CHALLENGE

The relationship between South Africans and their power supply has fundamentally changed. Reliability is now a concern for every homeowner and business owner, and the financial pressure of utility costs continues to rise. The shift is clear: taking control of your energy is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity for maintaining comfort, productivity, and the long-term value of your property. This proactive approach secures your lifestyle against external volatility and transforms a running cost into a tangible asset.

FINDING YOUR SEAMLESS POWER SOLUTION

When evaluating backup or alternative power, the focus should be on longevity, efficiency, and expert support. It's essential to look beyond the initial cost and consider the quality of the components and the service backing your investment. A true power solution should feel seamless, giving you unwavering confidence regardless of what the grid is doing. A well-chosen system should integrate discreetly into your home, operating silently while delivering dependable performance 24/7.



KEY COMPONENTS OF A RELIABLE SYSTEM

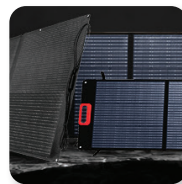
Modern energy solutions combine several key elements to deliver genuine independence:



Look for high-performance panels paired with robust hybrid inverters and high-capacity lithium-ion batteries. These systems are the core of reducing your grid reliance and significantly cutting monthly energy expenses. The correct selection ensures maximum energy harvest and optimal storage for continuous usage.



For flexible, guaranteed continuity, portable and fixed home backup power stations offer reliable power for essential appliances. They ensure your routine remains uninterrupted during load-shedding or unexpected outages.



The best equipment is useless without professional guidance. Seek out providers who offer comprehensive support; from an initial consultation and compliant installation to full, long-term maintenance. The installer's reputation and commitment to after-sales service is the most critical factor in the long-term success of your system.



YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Choosing an alternative energy system is a significant decision. You are not just buying hardware; you are investing in peace of mind, financial stability, and the future efficiency of your home. By focusing on premium components and dedicated local support, you can reclaim control over your energy and your lifestyle.

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WEYLANDTS

HORIZON

Outdoor Collection



Founded in contrast, the materials and textures in our latest outdoor collection are a metaphor for harmony and balance. Through this opposition, beauty is created. The tension of the sun disappearing behind the horizon line, the jagged mountain's edge that frames a valley, the refreshing dusk air that cools the soil after a sweltering day – that is where beauty rests. Rare South African terrains, speckled with fynbos and perennial plants define a unique landscape. One that contains multitudes. Unlike any other, this land finds itself defined by a symbiotic relationship between predator and prey, drought and rain, dawn and dusk. Their dialogue carrying over valleys, ancient rock carvings,

and rivers that lead to open oceans. Through hardship and dry spells, a new kind of landscape is born – one we can call home. Smoke finishes on hand-selected pieces of teak, rich in oil and confident in grain, mimic the mountain curves through rigid frames. These elemental pieces are designed to age with the land – weathering and wearing to show the markings of their journeys.

This season also introduces new modular sofa ranges – the Paloma and Havana – designed for both outdoors and in. Generously proportioned and deeply inviting, these pieces embody the collection's spirit of natural ease and adaptability.

The modular design allows for fluid configurations that shift with the rhythm of daily life, whether for moments of solitude or shared gatherings beneath open skies.

Upholstered in weather-resistant fabrics with a soft, tactile feel, each element invites rest and conversation, offering comfort that endures through the seasons. Complementing these are our loungers, sculpted in shape and scale, designed for languid afternoons and sun-drenched pauses. Their generous proportions and gentle curves echo the undulating lines of the horizon itself – relaxed, grounded, and timeless.

In between harsh sun rays that penetrate the surface of the earth and rough sands that erode mountain faces, the quiet power of nature is revealed. In the hurried scurrying of a dung beetle, in the trailing call of a crane – our collection this year shows our reverence for natural forces. It is a recognition that life continues in subtle gestures and small moments, where patience and observation reveal the true story of a place. The interplay of light and shadow, the changing colour of the sky, and the gentle shifting of grasses in the wind are all captured in the spirit of this collection, reminding us that outdoor spaces are alive, breathing, and ever-changing.



Woven rope details evoke unreplicable patterns of veining leaves and indigenous thicket. Crafted to withstand and hold, these pieces carry the stories of their craft in between intertwined strands. Each rope, carefully selected and handwoven, creates a network of texture and strength, recalling the delicate complexity of the ecosystems that inspired them. The craftsmanship embedded in every twist and knot is a dialogue between human hands and the natural world, bridging tradition and contemporary design. Rope, river, sand, wood. Constantly moving. Evolving through this generation and the next. Statues that remain long after they have been witnessed. This season, explore the wild, raw, and bold metamorphosis of design through the lens of tension. It is a celebration of resilience and endurance, of the quiet beauty found in natural forms, and of the dialogue between strength and fragility.

"I've seen many horizons in my life. From Indonesia to Namibia, they inspire me to think bigger. That's how I wanted this collection to feel. Like a beautiful moment in time."
– Chris Weylandt

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good energy



Foliage Flair

Foliage brings soul, structure and personality to a garden in a way no bloom can replicate. Leaves hold the visual story together by smoothing transitions, adding drama where needed and creating calm where the eye wants to rest. Whether your style leans lush and tropical or clean and architectural, foliage is the foundation that gives every garden its character. When you design with leaves instead of relying only on flowers, you unlock a new layer of creativity and year-round interest.

Foliage has a magic all its own. It shapes beds with colour, texture and form long after blooms have faded. With the right leaf combinations, any space can become a lush, layered masterpiece that feels alive in every season.

Contrast creates energy. Mix broad and dramatic leaves with fine and airy textures to build depth. A bold delicious monster next to flowing grasses adds balance and personality.

- **Colour carries mood.** Silvery leaves brighten darker areas. Burgundy adds instant drama. Lime tones create freshness. Light and dark foliage together give effortless dimension.
- **Repetition builds flow.** Choose one or two hero plants and repeat them to create harmony. This prevents the garden from looking cluttered.
- **Shape defines style.** Upright agaves or aloes bring sculptural presence. Mounded heucheras and cascading ferns soften edges and add movement.
- **Layer with intention.** Place taller foliage at the back, mid-height fillers in the centre and compact groundcovers in the front for beautifully balanced beds.
- **Keep the palette tight.** A small selection of standout foliage plants creates more impact

than too many competing shapes.

- **Texture tells the story.** Velvet, smooth, crinkled and feathery leaves add richness, even when viewed from a distance.

“Design with foliage first and every bed becomes a masterpiece before the first bloom appears.”

FOLIAGE PICKS

Shady Bed Favourites

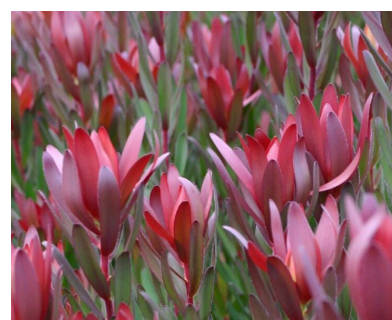
- Cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*)
- Delicious monster (*Monstera deliciosa*)
- Philodendron Xanadu
- Clivias (*Clivia miniata*)
- Rex begonias (*Begonia rex*)
- Coleus hybrids
- Maidenhair or Boston ferns
- Leopard plant (*Farfugium japonicum*)
- Fatsia japonica
- Asparagus fern (*Asparagus densiflorus*)

Sun-Loving Showstoppers

- Spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*)
- Artemisia Powis Castle
- Lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
- Lavender varieties
- Feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*)
- Blue chalk sticks (*Senecio serpens*)
- Heuchera cultivars
- Agave species
- Delosperma ice plants
- Croton varieties (*Codiaeum variegatum*)

A well designed foliage garden invites you to slow down and really see the details. The shimmer of silver leaves, the sway of grasses, the bold confidence of architectural plants and the gentle texture of ferns all work together to create a space

that feels grounded and alive. When you start experimenting with foliage pairings, you discover how effortlessly a garden can transform. With a few thoughtful choices and a little creativity, any corner of your outdoor space can become a leafy sanctuary that looks beautiful in every season.



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FESTIVE & Fabulous

Simple ideas to make your festive season beautiful

Walk into any shopping centre this year and the magic is already there. Christmas décor has arrived earlier than usual, with trees, lights and ornaments filling shelves long before the summer holidays begin. Many families are choosing to plan ahead so they can spread out their festive spending, avoid the December rush and enjoy a calmer build-up to the season. Online shopping also makes it easier to prepare early and stay organised.

But if you have not had time to plan yet, do not worry for a second. You are not behind. There is still more than enough time to turn your home into a warm and festive space. Christmas does not require a full-house makeover. A few thoughtful touches can create a beautiful atmosphere without stress.

Focus on One Space

When life is busy, less can feel like more. Instead of decorating every room, choose one area where your family naturally gathers. This could be the dining table, the lounge, the entryway or even a cozy reading nook. A wreath on the wall, a handful of candles or a sprig of greenery can make a room feel instantly festive.

This simple approach is perfect for households who want Christmas to feel calm, meaningful and welcoming.

“A few thoughtful touches are all you need to create a magical Christmas.”

The Christmas Table: Where Everyone Comes Together

One of the easiest places to add festive charm is the dining table. It is the heart of Christmas Day, where people gather, talk, laugh and share memories. A beautifully styled table sets the tone for the entire home and does not require much effort.

1

Start with a neutral base. A linen cloth or table runner in cream, stone or natural tones creates a peaceful foundation. These light, soft colours fit perfectly with the warm festive weather and allow the rest of your décor to shine.

2

Add personal touches. Vintage cutlery, old side plates, your favourite jug or even mismatched pieces can bring personality and comfort to the table. Items with history instantly create a feeling of home.

3

Choose earthy colours. Olive green, soft brown, warm white and light wood textures are the stars this season. They pair beautifully with greenery and give your table a relaxed, elegant feel.

4

Use natural greenery. Instead of heavy floral arrangements, keep things simple. Eucalyptus sprigs, olive branches or a single protea placed in small vases create a fresh and effortless look. Greenery lasts longer, costs less and suits the simplicity of modern festive décor.

5

Finish with gentle lighting. A collection of candles or a strand of fairy lights can transform your table with a soft, welcoming glow. Lighting adds warmth, atmosphere and a sense of celebration that guests feel immediately.



A Season Filled With Connection

Christmas in 2025 is all about simplicity and intention. Early planners choose calmness over chaos. Others start later and rely on thoughtful touches that still make the season sparkle. No matter when you begin, the focus remains the same. Create a space that feels like home and fills the day with joy, comfort and connection.

A single decorated area. A beautiful table. Good food. Laughter. Sunlight. These are the moments that make Christmas unforgettable.



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Where time slows down

A Journey To Royal Jozini

The moment we turned off the main road and began the drive through the reserve, something shifted. The air grew softer, fresher... the kind that makes you take a deeper breath without even realising it. As the Lebombo Mountains rose up in the distance and Lake Jozini shimmered under the late afternoon sun, we knew we'd arrived somewhere special.

By the time we reached our bush home, a gentle stillness had settled over everything. We stepped onto the wide

veranda and were greeted by the sounds of nature — birds calling, leaves rustling, and somewhere in the distance, the soft snort of a nyala moving through the bush.

“It felt as though time had slowed to the rhythm of the wild”

That first evening, we lit a small fire in the boma and watched the stars emerge one by one. There's something magical about an African night sky — a vast, velvety darkness alive with the sounds of the bush. Conversations flowed easily, laughter came freely, and the worries we'd carried from the city simply melted away. The days that



followed were a gentle blend of peace and adventure. Mornings were spent sipping coffee. Some of us went tiger fishing, chasing the thrill of the catch; others took quiet walks, binoculars in hand, spotting giraffe and kudu along the way. Afternoons invited lazy swims, reading in shady spots, or dozing to the soundtrack of cicadas.

In the evenings, as the sun set over the lake, painting the mountains gold — we gathered around the braai, beneath that endless sky. We celebrated a birthday while we were there, surrounded by close friends, with laughter echoing into the night. But honestly, Royal Jozini doesn't need a special occasion. Being here is reason enough.

Staying in a private bush home gave us the freedom to truly unwind.

With self-catering lodges tucked discreetly into the landscape, it felt like our own little corner of the wilderness — with all the comforts of home, but none of the rush.

Royal Jozini is 600kms from Pretoria and Johannesburg, yet it feels worlds away. Whether it's a weekend escape, a family holiday, a romantic retreat, or a special celebration, this is a place that soothes the soul and leaves you longing to return.

Definitely worth the trip!

***Royal Jozini –
Where nature
welcomes you home.***





IT'S THE SILLY SEASON AGAIN – A VET'S ADVICE REGARDING NOISE PHOBIA IN DOGS AND CATS

BY DR VICKY LOUW (BVSC)

As veterinarians, we see a sharp increase in anxiety-related cases over the festive season – especially in pets with noise phobias. Fireworks, parties, loud music, and gatherings can be terrifying for many dogs and cats, and what feels like “fun” to us may feel like a real threat to them.

What is noise phobia?

Noise phobia is an intense fear response to loud or unpredictable sounds such as fireworks, thunder, or gunshots. This isn't “naughtiness” or attention-seeking – it's a genuine panic reaction caused by how pets perceive sound and vibration.

What it looks like:

For dogs, fear of loud noises (such as fireworks, thunder or sudden bangs) often triggers visible active reactions: barking, pacing, panting, hiding, shaking, trying to escape or even injuring themselves.

For cats, the responses may be more subtle – hiding, freezing, avoiding interaction, or trying to escape into small dark places.



Why holidays make it worse:

The noises are unpredictable: fireworks or loud celebrations often come without warning, at strange times, from different directions. That unpredictability makes them harder for an animal to cope with.

- The sounds are intense: Loud booms, flashes, smells (smoke) – all can add to the sensory overload.
- The environment changes: More visitors, more activity, less routine. For pets that thrive on stability, this adds to anxiety.
- Potential for danger: Pets may bolt, try to escape, injure themselves, or run away when frightened.



What you can do to help:

Here are some practical tips to help your pet navigate the holiday noise with less stress:

- Plan ahead: If you know fireworks or loud celebrations are likely, keep your pet inside and secure. Close windows, draw curtains to muffle sounds and block flashes of light.
- Create a safe zone: Make a quiet, comfortable space for them — a crate or room where they feel secure, with their blanket or favourite toy, away from the commotion. Encourage them to use it when things are calm so it becomes a safe “go-to” place.
- You can also add a [pheromone diffuser](#) to this space which will enhance your pet’s sense of safety.
- Use soothing ambient noise: playing soft music, leaving the TV on, or using a white noise machine can help mask sudden external sounds.
- Stay calm yourself: Pets pick up on our cues. If you’re stressed or reacting strongly to the bangs, your pet may sense “something is wrong.” Try to maintain normal behaviour and reassure them through your calm presence.
- Routine matters: Keep their feeding, walking, play, and rest times as consistent as possible even during the busy season. Routine builds a sense of safety.
- Seek professional help: If your pet’s reaction is extreme (self-injury, escape attempts, ongoing fear after the event) then a vet or [animal behaviour specialist](#) can advise on additional strategies and medications.



Early preparation makes a huge difference — once the fireworks start, it’s often too late to help a panicking pet effectively.

Our message this holiday season:

Noise phobia is a medical and behavioural condition — not a behavioural flaw. With planning and veterinary support, we can help your pets feel safe and prevent unnecessary stress or injury. If you know your dog or cat struggles with loud noises, please contact us for advice or medication well before the celebrations begin.



Conclusion

Early preparation makes a huge difference — once the fireworks start, it’s often too late to help a panicking pet effectively.





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A FAMILY SAFARI ESCAPE AT LETAMO LODGE

Just over 2.5 hours (183,5 km) from Lombardy Estate, LETAMO at QWABI Private Game Reserve offers an unforgettable family safari that brings the wild closer to home—without compromising on comfort, luxury, or connection. Nestled within the UNESCO-declared Waterberg Biosphere, it's a place where adventures unfold against sweeping views and soulful hospitality.

For South African residents, there's a new reason to escape: special local rates and kids under 12 stay free. Gather your pride and set out on a journey that blends Big Five encounters with family-friendly ease.

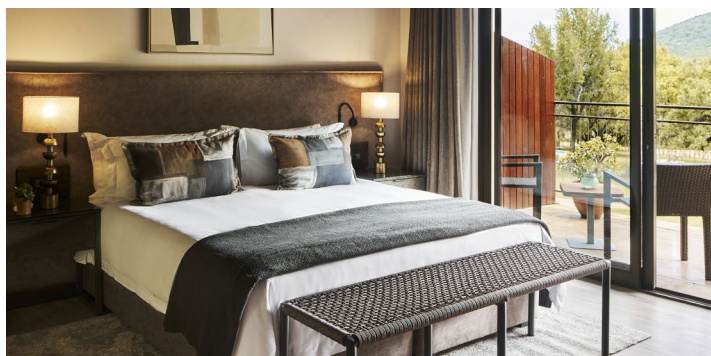
The lodge's 58 rooms and suites feature spacious interiors and private patios, with interleading options available for families.

Days begin with the calls of the bushveld and end beside the fire in the boma, where African-inspired dishes are paired with award-winning wines, and a special kids' menu ensures even the littlest travellers are catered to.

For children, LETAMO is a place of discovery. The Junior Conservationists Kids' Club introduces young explorers to the wonders of the wild through games, crafts, and guided outdoor adventures. Families can share in the fun too, with a friendly match on the padel court—a favourite among guests of all ages.

Parents can unwind at the wellness spa, the gym, or the main pool overlooking the bush. Twice-daily game drives reveal lions, elephants, rhinos, and the rest of the Big Five, with private vehicles available for families wanting a more personal experience.

Set within one of Africa's most biodiverse reserves, LETAMO captures the spirit of safari for every generation.



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Time to Pause & Replenish

Natural Self-Care Rituals for a Warm Summer Season

Summer carries a special kind of energy. The days feel brighter, the evenings stretch longer and life takes on a lighter rhythm. Yet with the excitement of the festive season often comes a sense of being pulled in many directions at once. It becomes easy to lose touch with your own needs. This is why creating moments of quiet care for your whole body becomes so important. True wellness is not only about your skin. It is everything that helps you feel grounded, clear and fully present.

“Choose to fill your own cup first so you can move through the season feeling grounded, glowing and renewed.”

Your body speaks quietly. A tight shoulder. A restless mind. A tired breath that wants to deepen. When you take

a moment to pause, you begin to hear what your body has been trying to tell you. A warm stretch in the morning can release the tension you’ve been carrying. A mindful walk outdoors can soften the mood of a busy day. Even a long drink of cold water can bring a refreshing sense of presence back into your body.

Movement becomes one of the most intuitive ways to reconnect. Not a workout that drains you, but slow, intentional motion that supports your natural rhythm. A gentle stretch in the shade. A few slow steps barefoot on cool tiles. A light dance in the kitchen to your favourite song. When movement feels kind, your whole body responds.

Breathing is another quiet form of nourishment. A few unhurried breaths can instantly shift the body from tension to ease. In warm weather, deep breathing also helps calm the nervous system,

regulate temperature and steady the mind. When you breathe with intention, your whole body softens, from the shoulders to the heartbeat.

Natural comforts help guide this slower way of living. A cup of herbal tea to soothe the afternoon heat. A cooling mist made with mint or cucumber to refresh the senses. A light massage with a nourishing body oil to ease tired muscles and bring a moment of peace. These are not elaborate rituals. They are simple acts that remind your body it is cared for.

Wellness also comes from how you nourish yourself. Hydrating fruits and crisp greens help you feel lighter in warm weather. Water infused with fresh ingredients keeps the body balanced and energised. Eating slowly encourages better digestion and gives the whole body a chance to unwind.

Rest is just as important. The body restores itself when you give it time to settle. A short afternoon pause in a cool room. A calming evening routine with dim lights. A relaxing soak with salts or gentle essential oils that invite the muscles to release. When rest becomes part of your rhythm, the body begins to rejuvenate naturally.

The mind also needs spaciousness. Writing down a few thoughts at the end of the day can help release mental noise. Sitting outside and noticing the colour of the sky can bring clarity. Gentle music, soft fabrics, warm showers and quiet moments of gratitude all support a more peaceful inner world.

As the festive season unfolds, caring for your whole body becomes one of the most meaningful gifts you can give yourself. When your muscles feel relaxed, your breath feels deep and your mind feels clear, every moment becomes easier to enjoy. You move through the season with softness, confidence and a renewed connection to yourself.

This summer, let your wellbeing be a full-body experience. A gentle combination of rest, movement, hydration and natural comfort. When you honour the whole body, you create a season that feels more spacious, more joyful and beautifully your own.

SOOTHING EVENING RITUAL

Add a handful of Epsom salts and a few drops of lavender or jasmine to your evening bath. The warm water helps relax the body while the subtle scent encourages a deeper, more restful sleep. It's a quiet way to end the day feeling lighter, softer and fully unwound.

Mint and Cucumber Cooling Water

For those days when everything feels chaotic and you just need to cool down, this simple infusion brings instant refreshment.

Ingredients:

A few slices of cucumber
Two or three mint leaves
Cold water

How to make it:

Combine all ingredients, let it sit for a few minutes, then strain.

Use:

Apply with a cotton pad or splash lightly onto the skin for a cool, calming boost.

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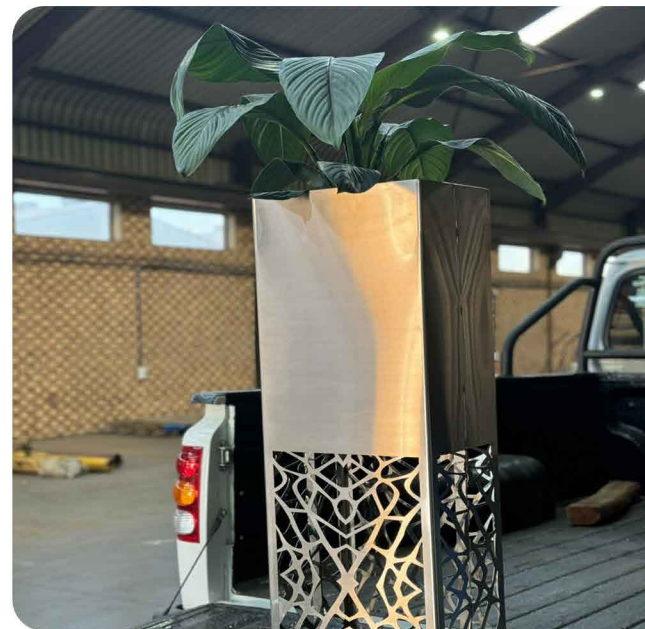
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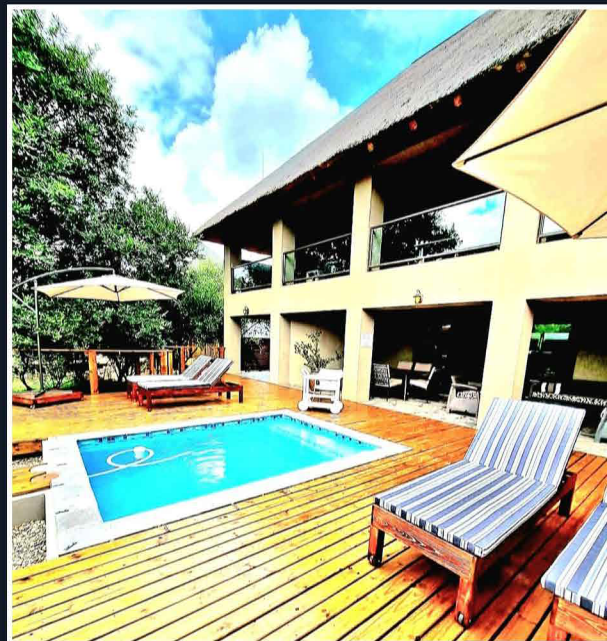
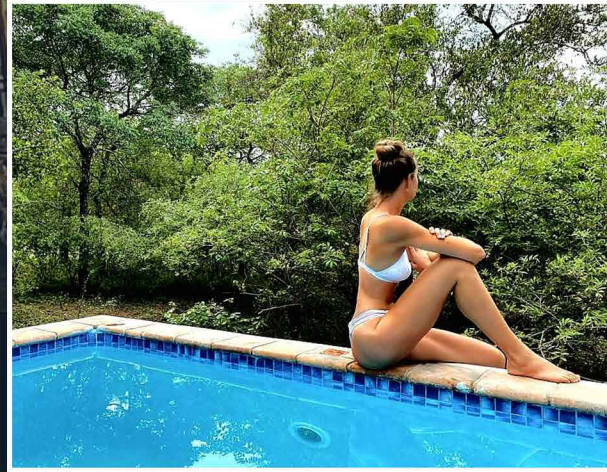
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WHERE EQUESTRIAN TRADITION & ELEGANCE CONVERGE

Just outside the vibrant heart of Pretoria East lies a sanctuary that has been captivating horse lovers and outdoor enthusiasts for over three decades. Terrouges Equestre, a family-run estate since 1988, is a harmonious blend of tradition, excellence, and modern experiences. From immersive horse-riding lessons to vintage carriage rides that evoke a bygone era, this exceptional venue offers something truly unique for anyone who appreciates the majesty of horses.

A Place to Connect with Horses and Nature

At its core, Terrouges Equestre is a haven for equestrian enthusiasts of all levels. Here, riding is more than just a skill to master—it's a way to connect deeply with these magnificent creatures and the peaceful countryside they call home. The estate's qualified instructors, trained under the South African National Instructors Program, offer personalized lessons tailored to every rider, from complete beginners to seasoned equestrians.

The riding school boasts a comprehensive selection of ponies and horses suited to all levels, creating an inclusive environment where riders can grow their confidence and skills. With no more than five participants per lesson, instructors ensure a focused and tailored experience that fosters both progress and enjoyment.

State-of-the-Art Facilities for Equestrian Excellence

Every aspect of Terrouges Equestre reflects its commitment to quality. Riders have access to an indoor arena with floodlights, brick stables, and specialized care facilities like a solarium. Regular competitions, shows, and training events foster a thriving equestrian community where riders can challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements.

For those looking to deepen their commitment, Terrouges offers leasing options with a range of high-quality horses and ponies. These opportunities allow riders to explore their potential, whether their goal is competition or personal enrichment.

Beyond Riding: Unforgettable Experiences

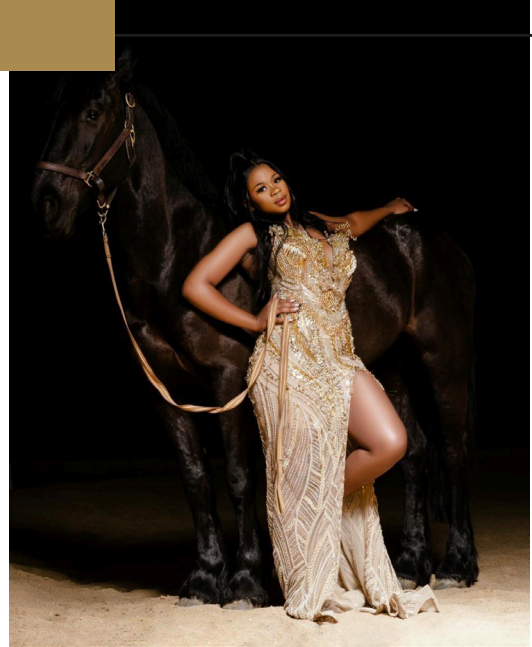
While horse riding is at the heart of Terrouges, the estate offers a host of other unique experiences that have earned its reputation as a destination for extraordinary moments.

Weddings with a Touch of Royalty

There's something timeless about arriving at your wedding in a horse-drawn carriage. At Terrouges, couples can embrace this enchanting tradition, making their grand entrance in one of 25 beautifully restored period carriages. These elegant vehicles, paired with the estate's magnificent horses, bring a sense of romance and sophistication that transforms any wedding into a fairytale.

Matric Dance Memories

Terrouges adds a touch of magic to matric dances, offering students the opportunity to arrive in unparalleled style. With carriages that evoke a sense of royalty, these rides create lasting memories for young adults stepping into one of the most significant nights of their lives.



Picturesque Photoshoots

The rolling hills and serene landscapes of Terrouges provide the perfect backdrop for photoshoots. Whether posing alongside their majestic horses or simply enjoying the natural beauty of the estate, visitors can capture moments of breathtaking elegance.

A Legacy of Tradition and Passion

Terrouges Equestre is more than a riding school or event venue—it's a living legacy. Since 1988, this family-run estate has upheld the values of dedication, quality, and tradition. Its collection of carriages, many sourced from Europe and South Africa, is a testament to its rich heritage. These treasures, along with five classic motor cars preserved as family heirlooms, continue to delight visitors and enhance every event hosted on the property.

Carriage-Driving: A Unique Equestrian Discipline

For those seeking something beyond traditional riding, Terrouges offers carriage-driving lessons. This family-oriented activity welcomes riders of all ages and abilities, including those transitioning from riding to a new way of engaging with horses. Whether competitive or recreational, carriage-driving provides a rewarding and social equestrian experience.

Why Choose Terrouges Equestre?

Terrouges stands out for its personalized approach, where every rider, horse, and visitor is treated with care and respect. Horses are not just animals here—they are members of the Terrouges family, trained with a philosophy of balance, lightness, and calmness. This commitment to excellence has made Terrouges a beloved destination for riders, event planners, and anyone drawn to the world of equestrian tradition.

Plan Your Visit

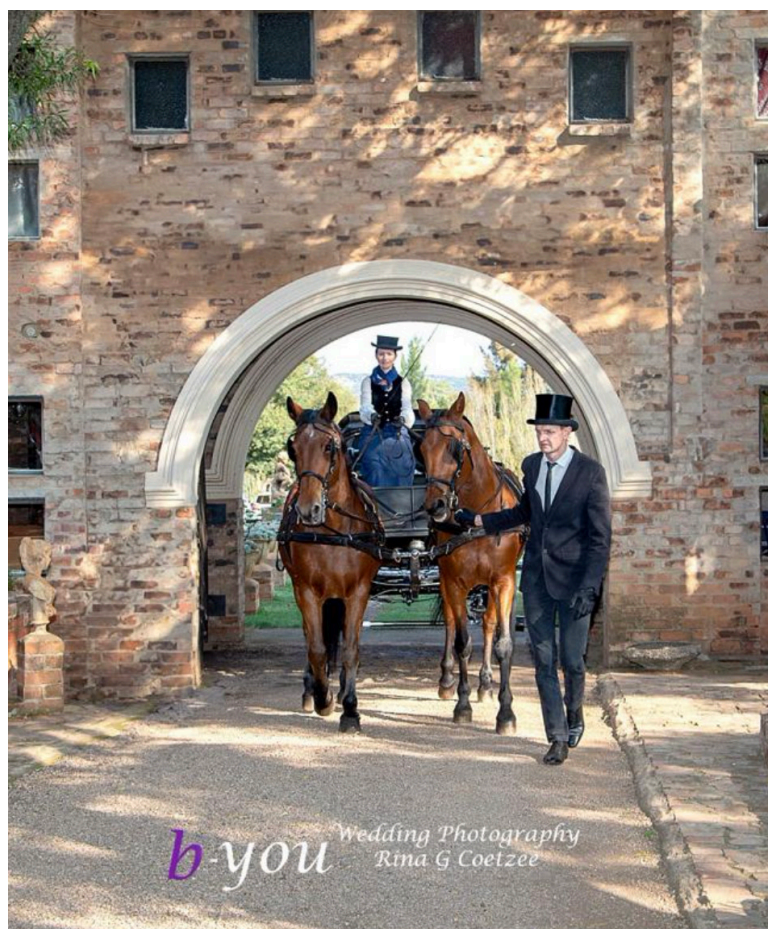
Step into the world of Terrouges Equestre and experience the magic for yourself. Whether you're learning to ride, planning a wedding, or simply seeking an unforgettable day surrounded by natural beauty, this estate offers an unparalleled escape into elegance and tradition.

For more information visit:

www.terrouges.com,

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Let Cheese Make The Magic: A Festive Board for Effortless Hosting



Friends are arriving, the sun is shining, and laughter is already spilling across the verandah. You want to serve something that feels special, but not fussy. Something that looks as good as it tastes. **Enter the cheeseboard:** your wingman for effortless festive hosting.

At Indezi, we believe great food doesn't need overthinking. It just needs honest ingredients, made with care and presented with pride. Here's a simple guide to help you build your festive board:



Start with proudly local cheeses – we rely on uniquely South African recipes, each named by the Zulu women who make them by hand. Add creamy goat's milk cheese (we love a Caprini) for a different texture and flavour. Bring in a buttery Kwaito and a top-quality Maskandi for familiar comfort, and add a wedge of Amabutho or a slice of Kinati for something bold.

Top tip: You're looking to mix up colour, texture, shape, and flavour. Change how you slice each cheese for interest.



Next, add a few tasty treasures that spark joy in your kitchen. Summer berries, crimson watermelon, and grapes add a rich Christmassy colour. A drizzle of honey or fig preserve is glossy and toasted nuts are crunchy. Olives, gherkins or relish bring bold flavour, and a selection of crispy crackers will carry the load. *Top tip: Make it easy for guests: pre-slice pickles, have a bowl for olive pits, provide small spoons for condiments.*



Now comes the fun part: styling. Use what you have: a wooden board, a marble platter, or beautiful plate. Lay out your cheeses, alternating colours and shapes. Tuck in the accompaniments, aiming for abundance as you fill in all the gaps. If you can, have a different knife for each cheese. Now sprinkle with fresh garden herbs or edible flowers for a summery finish.

Top tip: Pomegranate rubies make everything more festive!



Just like that, you've served up joy on a board. This is what festive entertaining should feel like: beautiful, generous, and proudly local. So go ahead, gather your people, pour something sparkling, and let the cheese make the magic happen.



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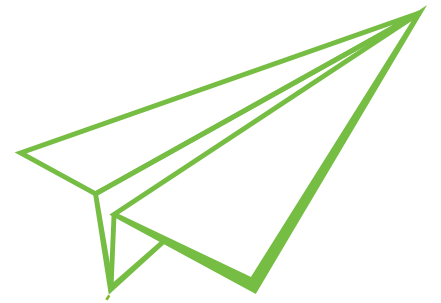
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