CCNNECT



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FORTUNER EPIC

SA's best-selling SUV gets a stylish new model

LIVING PODS

Small in size, big in appeal: low-impact living spaces

FUTURE FORWARD

The new tech that will shape our lives



dynamic styling as well as decades of quality, all under one name. Corolla. Has it all.









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OUR DNA

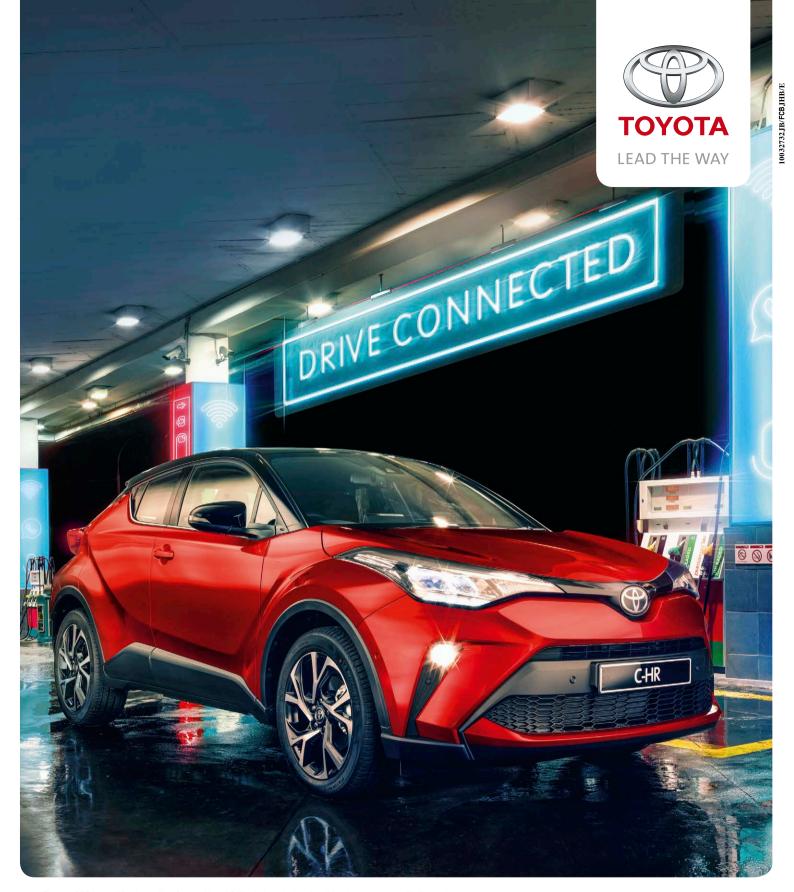
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The new C-HR exemplifies innovation. Powered by a 1.2-litre turbo petrol engine, this urban crossover with diamondlike styling combines the practical agility of a hatch with the unapologetic power of a full-size SUV. Connected and cutting edge, car and phone become one with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. What are you waiting for? The connected journey awaits you.

MODEL LINE-UP: 1.2T | 1.2T Plus | 1.2T Plus CVT | 1.2T Luxury CVT

BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY AT WWW.TOYOTA.CO.ZA







STAYING IN TOUCH

Toyota's Manager: Corporate PR MZO WITBOOI on embracing change and remaining positive during this challenging time.

he last time I wrote to you, I was perched on a chair in a busy, airconditioned office. Today, I'm all alone in a secluded home office. I miss feeding off the energy of

my colleagues and the banter between meetings. The sad part is that even when we see each other again, there will be no hugs or handshakes as we all need to observe COVID-19 etiquette. Our lives have been turned upside down - and we don't know for how long.

The scourge of coronavirus has brought fear, anxiety and uncertainty to societies and businesses alike. In some countries, schools have closed, reopened and closed again. Some businesses have closed, reopened and closed again while others have closed never again to be

opened. Yet we live in hope as we've seen new businesses springing up at the height of the pandemic.

In the words of Toyota South Africa Motors' President and CEO Andrew Kirby: "History has shown us that when a global or even national crisis impacts on a country, there is always a quantum or stepchange in the market and in the business environment.

'What we do know is that business will never be the same again. Manufacturing will change, remote working will change, digitisation will accelerate, and customers' buying patterns will never be the same again. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to change the way we do business and make the step-changes that are needed."

While we continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of all customers and staff at our dealerships, we can confirm that our facilities are safe.

Prior to reopening their doors, TSAM dealers initiated preparatory operations to provide their workforce and customers with a safe working environment. This was all part of a multi-phase plan to get the wheels of business turning as quickly as possible – but without cutting corners.

All facilities were fumigated and disinfected thoroughly before being set up for the "new normal". Customers have their hands sanitised

> when entering dealerships - and cash transaction are discouraged.

> These past few months have certainly been anything but business as usual, and inevitably, the way you receive your Toyota Connect / Life by Lexus magazine has also had to change.

> For the foreseeable future, you'll receive only a digital version of Connect/Life - but I recommend that you visit toyotaconnect.co.za and lexuslife.co.za for an enhanced reading experience.



H E

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COVID-19 RESPONSE



RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

TOYOTA SOUTH AFRICA MOTORS' proactive approach to the COVID-19 disruption ranges from humanitarian interventions to support for the taxi industry.



he Toyota Motor Corporation is committed to doing whatever it can to help limit the further spread of COVID-19 – which has now become society's biggest priority, according to Leon Theron, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM)

More than 165 Toyota and Hino dealers across the country are supporting the operation of essential services during the lockdown period. These include food delivery, medical support, and selected municipal and emergency services.

Taxi-industry suppliers responsible for transporting essential-services providers, such as bank personnel, supermarket or hospital staff, are also receiving support. Toyota South Africa has also produced 20 000 face shields a week for use at Prospecton Plant in Durban, Toyota dealerships, Toyota suppliers and local hospitals.

Andrew Kirby, President and CEO of TSAM, says Toyota is also supporting disadvantaged communities by distributing food parcels in informal settlements around Prospecton Plant, Sandton and the Atlas Road Warehouse.

In addition, the Taxi Industry Support plan has made 40 vehicles available to the taxi organisations post-lockdown, supplying bulk hygiene products and providing educational material. TSAM has spent more than R10 million to assist the local taxi industry in the fight against the spread of COVID-19. Assistance includes more than 65 000 litres of sanitisers, 2 000 face masks, as well as COVID-19-related marketing initiatives.

In line with the government's Risk-Adjusted Strategy, TSAM is in the process of gradually resuming operational activity, while taking a careful and considered approach to ensure the risk of COVID-19 infections across its entire value chain is reduced.



IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RISK-ADJUSTED STRATEGY, TSAM IS IN THE PROCESS OF GRADUALLY RESUMING OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY, WHILE TAKING A CAREFUL AND CONSIDERED APPROACH TO ENSURE THE RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN IS REDUCED.











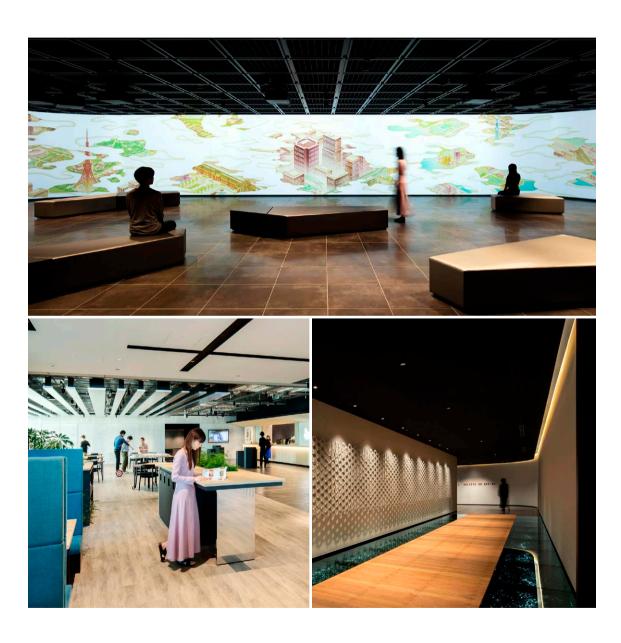






WINDOW ON THE WORLD

TOKYO boasts a new facility for high-technology research.



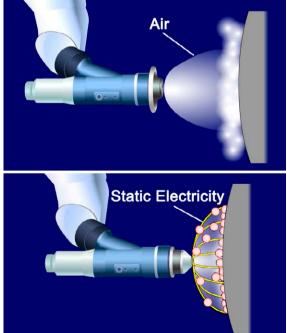
oyota Research Institute Advanced Development Inc. (TRIAD) is a pioneer in developing software for automated driving. It's only fitting that its new Tokyo head office provides a state-of-the-art facility for high-technology research and developing engineering, as well as a fun and innovative environment for employees. From the plaza, where workers can relax in hammocks and soak up breathtaking views of Tokyo, to the numerous breakaway meeting rooms and spacious dining area with its choice of four restaurants, designed to inspire.

FUTURE TECH

COLOUR WAYS

Paint innovation contributes to the reduction of **CO² EMISSIONS**, one of the goals for Toyota's Environmental Challenge 2050.





oyota has developed a new type of paint atomiser that uses static electricity instead of air, to replace the conventional air paint

atomisers used in the vehicle body painting process. The new airless painter, the first of its kind in the world, achieves over 95% coating efficiency (the amount of paint sprayed versus the amount that actually adheres to the vehicle body), the highest in the world, from conventional efficiency of around 60-70%. By deploying the airless paint atomiser, it is expected that the Group can reduce its CO² emissions by about 7%.

This high coating efficiency is achieved because the tip of the airless paint atomiser features a rotating cylindrical head that optimises the amount of paint sprayed. In addition, highly accurate current control makes close-range painting possible.

KING OF THE ROAD

Two motoring powerhouses are jointly developing a **HEAVY-DUTY FUEL-CELL TRUCK** to reduce carbon emissions.



P art of the ambitious Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 is the New Vehicle Zero CO² Emissions Challenge. This will see Toyota cutting its average carbon dioxide emissions from new vehicles by 90%, compared to 2010 levels.

In order to achieve this goal, major improvements are required in the environmental performance of heavy-duty trucks. These trucks are typically used for inter-city transportation and need to have sufficient cruising range, load capacity and fast refuelling capability. Fuel-cell vehicles that run on hydrogen (with its high-energy density) are the answer.

Toyota and Hino Motors Ltd see hydrogen as an important energy source for the future and have worked together on development and proliferation of fuel-cell technologies since conducting joint trials of a fuel-cell bus in 2003.

The chassis of the new fuel-cell truck is specially designed and steps are being taken, through comprehensive weight reduction, to ensure a sufficient load capacity. The powertrain, equipped with two Toyota fuel-cell stacks newly developed for Toyota's next generation Mirai, includes elements of vehicle driving control applied through heavy-duty hybrid vehicle technologies developed by Hino.

GOOD SPORT

CUE4 is an **AI ROBOT** that plays basketball – almost faultlessly.



eveloped by a team of nine Toyota Engineering Society volunteers in their spare time, CUE4 is the fourth incarnation of the basketballplaying robot that first hit the court in 2017.

Not only can this 209cm-tall mechanical hunk slam dunk like a pro, it recently competed in an historical three-point shootout (this is when players attempt five shots from five positions on the three-point arc within one minute). As CUE4's inventors say, the reason behind creating this sports-loving robot was to bring waku-doki (excitement and exhilaration) to Japan. Toyota is committed to the concept of creating artificial

intelligence (AI) that co-exists with humans. From lifestyle support robots and humanoid robots to rehabilitation robots that support the early recovery of people with lower-limb disabilities, Toyota Partner Robots are active in a wide range of fields and support the mobility of all.

ROBOT DETAILS

NAME CUE4 SHIRT NUMBER 94 POSITION Shooting guard HEIGHT 209cm WEIGHT 91kg FROM Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture





NEWS



COOL CRUISER

A rerun of the popular **LAND CRUISER NAMIB**, with an added single-cab derivative, will soon be on the roads.

The Land Cruiser Namib edition arrived in South Africa towards the end of 2019. Featuring a bespoke overlanding accessory package and aesthetic enhancements, the Namib was exceptionally well received – and all 60 units sold out by January 2020. With this positive market response in mind, Toyota is reintroducing the Land Cruiser Namib with the option of a single cab. The Namib edition retains all of the standard Land Cruiser 79 D-Cab V8 specification and boasts a 1VD-FTV 4.5-litre turbodiesel engine, churning out 151 kW and 430 Nm from a low 1200 rpm (up to 3200 rpm).

NEWS

FROM WORLD FIRST - TO WORLD'S BEST

Global sales of the **TOYOTA RAV4** are off the charts.

Toyota's groundbreaking SUV has reached the extraordinary 10 million sales landmark, achieved over 26 years and five model generations. RAV4 founded the market for compact, urban SUVs and has remained an international bestseller. More good news! Toyota is preparing for another new chapter in this crowd-pleaser's history – behold the RAV4 Plug-in Hybrid scheduled for the second half of 2020.



IMAGES and WORDS Supplied

HONOURED BY GLOBAL ACCOLADES

Toyota has scooped a range of awards and trophies for exceptional performance and products.

1. It's the number one motor vehicle company for the sixth consecutive year on *Fortune* magazine's 2020 World's Most Admired Companies annual ranking. It also features in the Top 50 All-Star companies surveyed, which includes companies from various industries. *Fortune*'s prestigious World's Most Admired Companies list is based on company surveys and industry peer ratings from senior executives, directors and industry analysts from around the world. The survey measures nine attributes considered critical to each company's global success, including quality of products and services, social and environmental responsibility, global competitiveness, and value as an investment, among others.



NEWS



CAR MAGAZINE'S COVETED 2020 COMPANY OF THE YEAR.

- **2.** The 2020 Auto Trader Car of the Year (SA COTY) winners were announced in a virtual awards ceremony. Toyota received the following three accolades:
- Family category winner: Corolla Hatch 1.2T XR CVT
- Sports/Performance category winner: GR Supra 3.0T
- 3rd place overall: GR Supra 3.0T



3. Toyota South Africa Motors (TSAM) won *CAR* magazine's coveted 2020 Company of the Year while Corolla Quest clinched the title for Best Midsize Car in the publication's 12 Best Buys Competition. The Company of the Year award was in recognition of TSAM's cumulative investment of R4.28 billion (between 2019 and 2021) in the local automotive industry as well as its 40-year sales leadership in South Africa. The Toyota Corolla Quest is recognised for its combination of incredible value for money, peerless reliability and

comfort in the midsize vehicle category. As the *CAR* magazine team says, Toyota is a worthy victor based on a number of crucial factors: "Approximately every fourth new vehicle – of the 536 626 registered locally in 2019 – wore a Toyota, Lexus or Hino badge. Toyota launched in-car Wi-Fi for all new models, opened a state-of-the-art centre of technical excellence to support its 264 dealers, commenced the restoration of a very special 2000GT and finally started rolling out Apple CarPlay and Android Auto to its vehicles."

MOD

Small in size, big in appeal: **TINY LIVING** is all about eco-conscious design and low-impact manufacturing.

Ready to try one for size?





ion many description and the creation

HOME GROWN



he trend towards downsizing and decluttering has triggered a global paradigm shift when it comes to creating homes. Today, it's all about living small. Compact, modular

spaces offer the possibility of living debt-free, enjoying flexibility to travel or changing careers. Small homes also mean less maintenance, allowing you to cultivate work-life balance and focus on accruing experiences instead of stuff.

Coupled with the appeal of being off the grid, the freedom of moving your mobile tiny home to a new postal zone whenever the mood takes you means that tiny living is gaining traction worldwide.

More than 15 years ago, a homegrown modular housing concept was launched at Decorex Joburg. Architect Eric Bigot had created something special: a structure that could function as a holiday home, a studio, an office or a guest room. Combining "zen" for enlightenment and "kaya" to suggest its orientation outwards towards the African landscape, the idea behind the Zenkaya was that you could order a home that arrived on site fully constructed - and in some iterations fully furnished too - for quick and easy installation. A few years later, Peet van Straaten of Raw Studios and Lourens Maritz of creative agency Mighty Fine purchased the unit, refurbished it and moved it to its new home at a forested glade at the Greenhouse Café on the Rosemary Hill property east of Johannesburg.

thegreenhousecafe.co.za/accommodation

As Johannesburg product designer David Krynauw says, a home doesn't have to be big to be beautiful. "Carefully considered and well-crafted design can add value to a small space," he says. "This permeates

into the mind of the occupant, which in turn creates a sense of wellbeing."

Sitting lightly on the earth was top of mind when David set about designing his Living Pods. The task involved careful planning and conceptualising, in order to create something eco-conscious, mobile and aesthetically pleasing. "Coming from a product design background, I like to think of the pods as large-scale furniture pieces," David says. "Each piece is made for a specific application to suit its environment, space and requirements. It considers and interacts with its environment."

David's lifelong experience with wood and its potential to be sustainable made it an obvious material choice. "To my mind, it's the best building material in the world," he says. "I'm interested in the encapsulation of the entire value chain, so we take the timber from seedling to end product. The idea is to use the entire tree, and the associated waste, to keep it as close as possible to the original material."

As David says, Europeans have perfected this, but it's not really being done to its full potential in South Africa. "My aim is to change that. In theory, you could create a self-sustaining cycle with limited external input in terms of materials and energy."

Completely modular, collapsible and lightweight, each Living Pod is easy to assemble, making it the perfect option for remote and secluded locations out in nature. The first Living Pods have been erected at the Kleine Rijke wedding destination in Hartbeespoort.

kleinerijke.com

In 2014, design duo Dokter and Misses, along with architect Clara da Cruz Almeida, created a tiny house called the POD-iDladla. This modular, prefabricated nano-home was introduced to a fascinated public at the Nirox Sculpture Park just outside Joburg.

pod-idladla.com

Another local team on a mission to show that tiny home living is for everyone – not only for the nomads – is Matt Bower and Kendal McGlashan, directors and owners of tiny home manufacturing company Wanderlust Co. They offer four variations of mini pods, from the 6.5m x 2.5m J Bay to the roomier 8m x 2.5m Sheffield. "It's the no-restraints lifestyle that appeals to us," Kendal says.

wanderlustco.co.za

1 2

3

- 1. Koepeldak 1.
- 2. With its boldly graphic shape and wooden cladding and deck, the Zenkaya both stands out from and blends into its new home in a forested hideaway just outside Pretoria.
- 3. Skuinsdak 1.



MORE THAN 15 YEARS AGO, A HOMEGROWN MODULAR HOUSING CONCEPT WAS LAUNCHED AT DECOREX JOBURG. ARCHITECT ERIC BIGOT HAD CREATED SOMETHING SPECIAL.





THE POD SQUAD

While moving into an 18m² space might seem simple and blissfully stress-free, downscaling so radically might not be as romantic in the long run. When space is at a premium, there's no room for frivolous purchases, long lunches with friends or leaving the laundry till later. If you aren't convinced about living tiny full-time, consider a weekend pod hideaway.

BOTRIVIER

Copia Luxury Eco Cabins offers off-thegrid farm getaways designed around converted shipping containers. Complete with fireplaces, braai areas and woodfired hot tubs overlooking the Botrivier mountains, these eco-friendly cabins are solar-powered.

copiaecocabins.co.za

CAPE TOWN

Tucked into the indigenous greenery of the four-acre private nature reserve at Camps Bay Retreat, you can soak up the sounds of silence in one of the self-contained Village & Life pods built as an alternative to traditional holiday lodgings. At only 18m², they're about a quarter of the size of a standard hotel room. The units are completely self-contained; each features a bedroom, kitchenette, shower, toilet and balcony seating area.

villagenlife.com

TULBAGH

While not strictly a tiny home, the Geodome in Tulbagh offers an understated way of embracing nature without unnecessary frills. Complete with a riverside hot tub, outdoor shower, fully functional kitchen, shaded deck area and simple decor inside a unique dome structure, the Geodome is all about disconnecting in style. Designed by Thor Normann of La Bruyere guest farm, the structure is galvanised steel covered by PVC material.

airbnb.co.za





- 1 3
- 2
- 1. Old shipping containers become eco-friendly selfcatering accommodation at Copia Eco Cabins in Botrivier.
- 2. Tiny home manufacturing company Wanderlust Co. offers four variations of mini pods.
- 3. The Pod-Idladla is a modular, prefabricated nano-home designed and made in South Africa.
- 4. A-raam 1.



RISING TALENT

Design Indaba and the Department of Arts and Culture just celebrated 16 years of **THE EMERGING CREATIVES PROGRAMME**, which gives 50 talented young designers a chance to show their work at the event. We caught up with four of them.



ROBYN AGULHAS Streetwear designer, Cape Town

© @robyn_agulhas @sinchui_

What do you love most about being a designer?

It has taken me a long time to discover my creativity and to find what I'm truly passionate about. I had doubts about my ability for so many years, even though I've always known that I loved fashion. Every time I design, I do it with my whole heart. To me, it's not just clothes; it's the story of the collection. I'm grateful that I have the ability to create from what inspires me, and to see my ideas come to life.





Describe your designs in three words. Tech-wear, detailed, different.

What do you want to convey through your designs?

My graduate collection conveys a message of how attached we are to our devices, and what the future of fashion could possibly look like if we had technology fitted into our everyday wear. Through my designs, I also want to convey the quality and attention to detail found in locally made clothing.

Biggest inspiration?

My friends and family. I love to see them grow and do what they love. From really creative friends in music, art, design, modelling and film to those who are in the corporate environment and absolutely own what they do they all inspire me to keep pushing and keep doing what I love. My mom is also a huge inspiration – thanks to her, I've seen what determination and hard work look like.

Plans for 2020?

I'm currently freelancing in the film industry as an assistant stylist, but I would love to push my brand, sinCHUI, and collaborate with people in the worlds of art and music. I'm not too sure what the future holds for me, but I'm ready for anything that is meant to be. I'll continue to create and put in the hard work.



You launched your own furniture design brand while you were still at university. When did you know you wanted to be a furniture designer?

@magaba_designs

The idea to start Africular came about in 2019. I started it not just as a furniture design brand, but as an interior design brand, with space planning, conceptual design and installation services attached. I completed my first interior project for fashion brand LSL, which encouraged further interest in learning and exploring practical skills. I have always been a "do it" type of person, and I see my company as a tool to educate myself in every aspect of the design industry.

Biggest inspiration?

My grandfather, who taught me about hard work and determination. He inspired me to be who I am today through his knowledge and wisdom. I am also heavily inspired by the philosophies and craftsmanship of [Bauhaus school founder] Walter Gropius.

Plans for 2020?

My plan for 2020 is to expand on the knowledge and skills I've obtained through my varsity years and while running my design business. The Africular project is meaningful to me – the mission is to break the boundaries of inaccessibility to African-inspired designer furniture. I plan to evolve the Africular collection to create more functional and aesthetically pleasing furniture, and create more opportunities for accessibility.



PHUMELELA MALINGA Fashion designer and mechanical engineer, Joburg



@by_phume

From mechanical engineering to fashion: what made you decide to make the jump?

Fashion was always embedded in me. When I was growing up, my mother wouldn't let me leave the house without properly coordinated outfits. I studied mechanical engineering, so fashion took a back seat – but I like to believe I was the coolest engineering student in my class! What really catalysed the jump from engineering to fashion was the lack of variety of prints, cuts and colours in men's retail departments. Walking through the women's section always left me asking, "Why is there so much variety?" I noticed this gap and set my sights on filling it.

What do you love most about creating?

It's empowering. There's just something about starting the day with nothing and ending it with something tangible that excites me. What I love most about it is the journey of constantly surprising myself with my increasing ability and interest in a topic.

What does your brand BY PHUME stand for?

In addition to creating high-quality customer experiences, the BY PHUME brand is a youth-driven movement. It focuses on empowering the youth by creating a network that stems from a common place of interest. We believe in the talent and potential of the youth, and we nurture that through collaborations and engaging content.

Biggest inspiration?

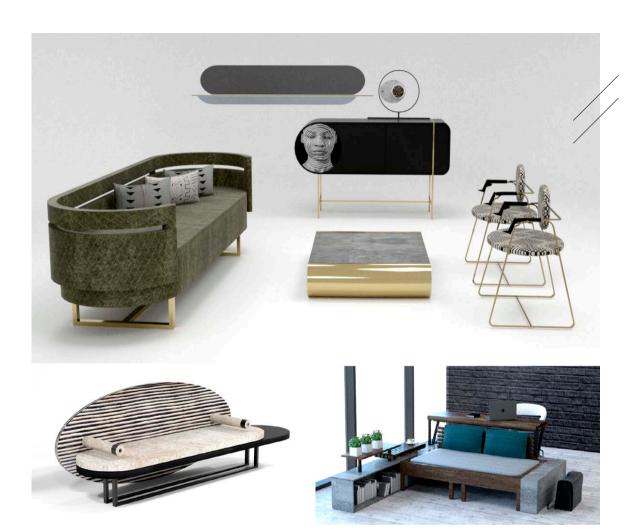
When local talent Thebe Magugu recently won the prestigious LVMH Prize, it was massively inspiring. He was the first African designer to achieve this kind of global recognition. That gives young designers such as myself great confidence, because the world is finally acknowledging the talent that we know we have always had. I'm inspired and motivated to add a chapter to African fashion history.

Plans for 2020?

The brand's focus for 2020 is ready-to-wear apparel. In many ways, first impressions last, and since we are a new brand, we want to set up a strong foundation for the future. We will also be working on expanding our footprint locally and internationally.









MMAMOTSATSI MASIKE Interior/furniture designer, Joburg



@designmuse_88

How has working as a space planner informed your own practice?

Having worked as an interior designer who didn't design furniture, I felt some spaces lacked character. Of course I could add wall, floor or ceiling finishes, but it wouldn't add enough character to the space, and it left me with a feeling that something was missing from the design. I saw an opportunity to create statement, accent furniture pieces that could be used in spaces as an added "twist" – to bring the spaces to life and give them soul.

What do you love most about creating?

I love that creating is abundant and how the process has infinite possibilities and solutions – not just one correct answer, but an intuitive one. It is the act of mindfulness that I enjoy the most because it requires me to be my most authentic self. It's like prayer or worship. It's me being in an active state of listening to the silent space within; being able to feel the passion, love and grace that is in and around us; and being able to transfer and translate that energy/feeling into creating something deeper and bigger than myself.

Biggest inspiration?

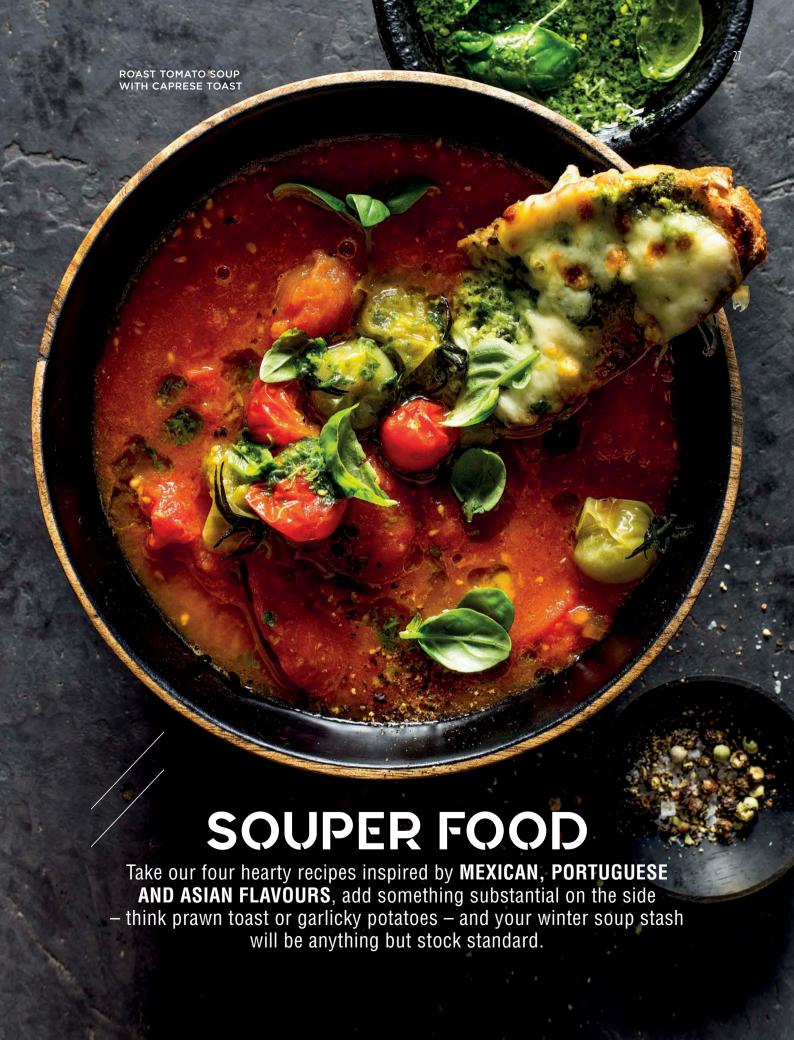
The richness of the African continent's culture and heritage.

Plans for 2020?

For my work to get into art, design and cultural spaces. For some of my pieces to be on display in museums or galleries. For my company to be recognised. To get a range of clients, local and international. To showcase my work at the Milan Furniture Fair and London Design Week. I'd also like to collaborate with other creatives, such as Rich Mnisi, Trevor Stuurman and Laduma Ngxokolo.

Masike won the first annual Ravi Naidoo Residency for Emerging Creatives, and will spend an all-expensespaid residency abroad courtesy of sponsors Clout, the Nando's Design Programme.





CALDO VERDE WITH RICOTTA AND GARLIC BAKED POTATOES

Serves 4

Preparation: 30 minutes **Cooking:** 45 minutes

olive oil 5 T large onion 1, diced garlic 2 cloves, crushed Woolworths organic chicken or vegetable stock 1 litre potatoes 500 g, peeled and diced kale 180 g, shredded cannellini beans 1 x 400 g can, rinsed and drained sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste chorizo 150 g, sliced

For the garlic baked potatoes:

garlic ½ head large potatoes 4 butter 2 T Maldon salt, to taste Woolworths smooth ricotta 1 x 250 g tub lemon 1, zested paprika a large pinch

Instructions

- 1. Heat 2 T oil in a large saucepan over a low heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 5–8 minutes, or until soft and sweet. Add the stock and bring to a boil.
- **2.** Add the potatoes and cook until just soft. Add the kale and beans cook for a further 5 minutes, then season to taste.
- **3.** In a separate pan, heat the remaining olive oil and sauté the chorizo until crispy
- **4.** Divide the soup between 4 bowls, top with the crispy chorizo and oil and serve with a baked potato on the side.
- 5. To make the baked potatoes, preheat the oven to 200°C. Wrap the garlic in foil. Rub the potatoes with butter and salt and wrap in foil. Place the garlic and potatoes in a baking dish and roast for 40 minutes, or until the potatoes are soft.
- 6. Squeeze out the garlic and mix with the ricotta, lemon zest and paprika. Squash or cut the potatoes and serve dolloped with the ricotta.

ROAST TOMATO SOUP WITH CAPRESE TOAST

 ${\bf Serves}\ 4$

Preparation: 10 minutes **Cooking:** 50 minutes

shallot 1, sliced assorted very ripe tomatoes 2 kg olive oil 2 T sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste sugar ½ t garlic 1 head, wrapped in foil



good-quality chicken or vegetable stock 2 cups, warmed red wine or sherry vinegar 1 t

For the Caprese toast:

olive ciabatta 4–8 slices basil pesto 125 g fior di latte mozzarella 150 g

Instructions

- 1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Place the shallot and tomatoes in a roasting pan and drizzle with olive oil. Season lightly and add the sugar.
- **2.** Tuck in the garlic and roast for 30–40 minutes. Allow the tomatoes to cool slightly, then peel.
- **3.** Tip the tomatoes, onion and all the juices into a large saucepan. Unwrap the garlic and squeeze into the pan. Add the hot stock and vinegar and simmer for 10 minutes.
- **4.** Blend using a stick blender and serve with the Caprese toast.
- **5.** To make the Caprese toast, lightly toast the ciabatta. Spread with the basil pesto and top with the cheese. Grill until hot and bubbling.

SOURCE Woolworths Taste magazine IMAGES Toby Murphy RECIPES AND PRODUCTION Brita du Plessis FOOD ASSISTANT Jarryd Thesen

ASIAN BUTTERNUT-AND-CHICKEN SOUP WITH PRAWN TOAST

Serves 4-6
Preparation 1 hour
Cooking 50 minutes

olive oil 1 T lemongrass 1 stalk fresh ginger 2 T grated garlic 2 cloves, crushed red chilli 1, finely sliced butternut 1 kg, peeled and cubed coconut milk 1 x 400 g can Woolworths organic chicken stock 2 cups limes 2, juiced Woolworths chicken frikkadels 1 x 600 g punnet spring onions 4, finely chopped sova sauce 2 t canola oil, for frying basil, for serving coriander, for serving mint, for serving

For the prawn toast:

prawn meat 200 g garlic 1 clove, crushed fresh ginger 1 T grated free-range egg white 1 soya sauce 1 t white bread 3 slices, crusts removed and cut into quarters free-range egg 1, lightly beaten sesame seeds 50 g

Instructions

- 1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Bruise the lemongrass with the back of a knife
- **2.** Add the lemongrass, 1 T ginger, garlic and chilli to the pan. Cook for 2–4 minutes, or until fragrant.
- 3. Brush the mackerel with olive oil and grill skin side down over hot coals or on a gas braai for 1 to 2 minutes, until slightly crispy and browned. Turn over to cook the other side.
- **4.** Add the butternut, coconut milk and stock and simmer for 25–30 minutes or until the butternut is soft. Season with lime juice and blend using a stick blender.
- **5.** Divide the hot soup between bowls, top with the fresh herbs, chicken frikkadels and serve with the prawn toast on the side.
- **6.** To make the prawn toast, blend the prawn meat, garlic, ginger, egg white and soya sauce in a food processor. Chill for 30 minutes.
- 7. Spread the prawn mixture onto one side of the bread, right to the edges. Brush all over with beaten egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Shallow fry until golden brown, then drain on kitchen paper.

MEXICAN BLACK BEAN SOUP WITH CHIPOTLE CHARRED CORN

Serves 4
Preparation: 10 minutes
Cooking: 30 minutes

olive oil 2 T

onion 1, diced
Woolworths chicken fajita spice mix 2 T
chicken stock 1 litre
quinoa 40 g
black beans 2 x 400 g cans, rinsed
and drained
limes 2, cut into wedges
feta 100 g, cubed
avocado 1, peeled and cubed
sour cream ½ cup
fresh coriander a handful, chopped

For the chipotle charred corn:

Woolworths chipotle seasoning 1 t butter 100 g sweetcorn 2–4 cobs

Instructions

- 1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and spice mix and sauté for 8 minutes, or until the onion is soft and translucent.
- 2. Add the chicken stock and bring to the boil, then add the quinoa and simmer for 8–10 minutes. Add the beans and heat through.
- **3.** Season with lime juice and ladle into bowls. Top with the feta, avocado, sour cream and fresh coriander. Serve with the charred corn.
- **4.** To make the charred corn, mix the chipotle seasoning and butter. Grill or char the corn until cooked. Cut into thirds and slather with the butter.



HOW TO BREW YOUR OWN CRAFT BEER

The recent lockdown may have inspired a variety of homebrew potions, but rarely do they result in anything too tasty. We chatted to homebrewing guru **FRANK HOPMAN** for some tips on how to brew your own craft batch of delicious IPA or lager.







t really isn't difficult to make hooch; it basically makes itself. Leave fruit or grain to go slightly vrot and the sugar inside will ferment itself into something that would make you fail a breathalyser

test. Yeast converts sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide. That's it; science lesson over.

But making the tipple taste like you want it to ... ah, there's the art.

Adding a particular type of yeast to the concoction gives you some control over the process to ensure you end up with something that gives you a head buzz without a belly ache.

Leaving your brew to ferment with free-roaming yeast or bacteria is hit and miss: it might well end up producing prime-quality *puza* but it could also end up tasting like drain water.

Beer, as anyone who's ever heard of the reinheitsgebot will know, consists of four things: barley, yeast, hops and water. But how to make those simple ingredients taste like an ale, a stout, a pilsner, or a lager – that's where the alchemy lies. And the fun, if you're brewing it at home.

With the booze ban imposed during Level 4 of the COVID-19 lockdown, many people turned to making homemade cider. It may well have inspired some budding homebrewing enthusiasts to take it a step further and start craft beer brewing as a hobby.

It can be a very gratifying experience and it's relatively inexpensive to get started, but like most hobbies you can burrow a lot deeper based on your level of enthusiasm and budget. Ingredient prices vary depending on the type of beer you're

making, but as a basic guideline a litre can cost as little as R15 to produce. Homebrewing is legal in South Africa, but you aren't allowed to sell it without a liquor licence.

My own homebrewing journey started around three years ago with a basic kit. Since then I've certainly burrowed somewhat down the rabbit hole and today I have a kegerator (a fridge with carbonated kegs and dispensing taps), beer labels, and branded T-shirts, and I've entered my brew in a competition or two.

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED:

THE EQUIPMENT

There are a number of homebrewing shops around the country selling all the equipment and ingredients you'll need. A basic starter kit comprises a 30-litre bucket, a thermometer, and a hydrometer for testing alcohol content.

Then you need something to boil it with, either a kitchen pot or, if you want to make a larger batch, a 30-litre coffee urn.

You'll also need some bottles and caps along with a bottle capper, but if you can afford it, rather invest in a kegerator. Dispensing your ready-made brew into one or two large kegs is much less labour-intensive than individually filling 40 to 50 bottles, and having draught beer on tap just adds to the authenticity of the craft beer vibe even if it doesn't necessarily taste different.





THE BREWING

There are as many different types of barley, yeast and hops as there are Donald Trump memes, and mixing and matching them are what gives each type of beer its unique flavour.

If you're not too worried about the reinheitsgebot, there are numerous other trace ingredients that can be added to come up with a distinctive flavour; anything from Weet-Bix to liquorice if you let your imagination run wild. Brew day takes about three to five hours, and after boiling the ingredients the mixture you're left with is called wort. Add the yeast and leave it for between one and two weeks to ferment, and you're done.

The rudiments are fairly simple but it's a good idea to get some basic beer-brewing lessons. There are plenty of helpful how-to books (Homebrewing For Dummies was my alma mater) and YouTube videos, and your local brewing shop will be happy to give advice. There are also homebrewing clubs that arrange get-togethers for tastings and swapping of wort stories, and you may be lucky to find one in your area.

If you want to get semi-professional about your hobby, the tricky part is to get a particular type of beer to taste the same every time. That takes attention to detail and making sure every step of the process, from the ingredients to the boiling time to the ambient temperature, is consistent. It's

essential to make notes, then make some more notes and record everything.

THE BOTTLING/KEGGING

Once the fermentation is finished it's time to package the product. Bottling is fine if you have the patience, but you need to wait at least another week or two for the beer to carbonate after you've added some sugar to each bottle. Seriously, no one wants to drink it flat.

With a kegerator you're able to carbonate the beer a lot faster and have it ready to drink in a day or two.

THE DRINKING

Invite a few friends around to taste the tipple and give their expert opinions – but be careful to ration it carefully. With my first brew, my friends ended up being somewhat over-enthusiastic and drank the whole lot in one evening!

LEARN MORE

If you'd like to start homebrewing and be able to tell some wort stories of your own, here are some helpful links:

brewcraft.co.za; craftbru.com; bevplus.com; brewmart.co.za; brewforafrica.co.za; brewmistress.co.za

POWER **UP**

Drilling, cutting, fixing, fastening... Whatever your **DIY** job, this is what our expert says should be in your toolbox.

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ou're hanging a picture frame. Or maybe you're tightening a cupboard door hinge, fixing the gutters or restoring your bookshelves. There are so many DIY projects to do around the house, and so very many tools to choose from at your local hardware store. What are the best tools for the job? And, if you're just starting out, what are the must-haves foryour toolbox?

Rob Reid, National Buyer for Builders Warehouse, is a big believer in convenient, cordless power tools. They're versatile, easy to use – and, as Reid points out, "if there's a power cut, having cordless power tools means you can still get the job done". He's right: lithium-ion batteries have brought cellphone-style portability to power tools, while the new wave of brushless technology is keeping power tools lighter and powered up for longer than ever before.

Faced with all that tech and all those choices, which power tools do you need in your DIY arsenal?





CORDLESS JIGSAW

LEFT: "What makes a cordless jigsaw so great?" asks Reid. "You can't cut the cord when you're working!" That, and the fact that it's the only portable power tool that can cut curves. A jigsaw will cut pretty much any shape in almost any material, from wood to steel or drywall. Cordless jigsaws are agile and compact, and the battery packs are getting lighter every year.

SINGLE-BATTERY PLATFORM

BELOW: Some power tool manufacturers now offer an all-in-one power platform, which lets you charge a range of tools on a single battery. That's good news for DIYers. "Your drill driver, impact drill, grinder, sander, jigsaw, and so forth, are all linked to one battery platform, so you only have to buy your powerpack once," says Reid. "Battery platforms for cordless tools are getting cheaper and more competent. When lithium-ion launched, most batteries gave you 1.5 amp hours. Now you're talking about seven or nine amp hours in the professional trade arena, and the DIY/hobby sector is moving in that direction."



SCH SCH

ANGLE GRINDER

ABOVE: "Drills and grinders make up about 75% of global power tool sales," says Reid, "and right now there's a significant shift towards home renovation products. If you're doing metalwork or paving then you'd want a baby grinder". And yes, it feels like overkill if you're just using your angle grinder for cutting work... but when you start using it for jobs like sanding, polishing, sharpening and routing, you'll quickly discover how useful – and versatile – it really is.

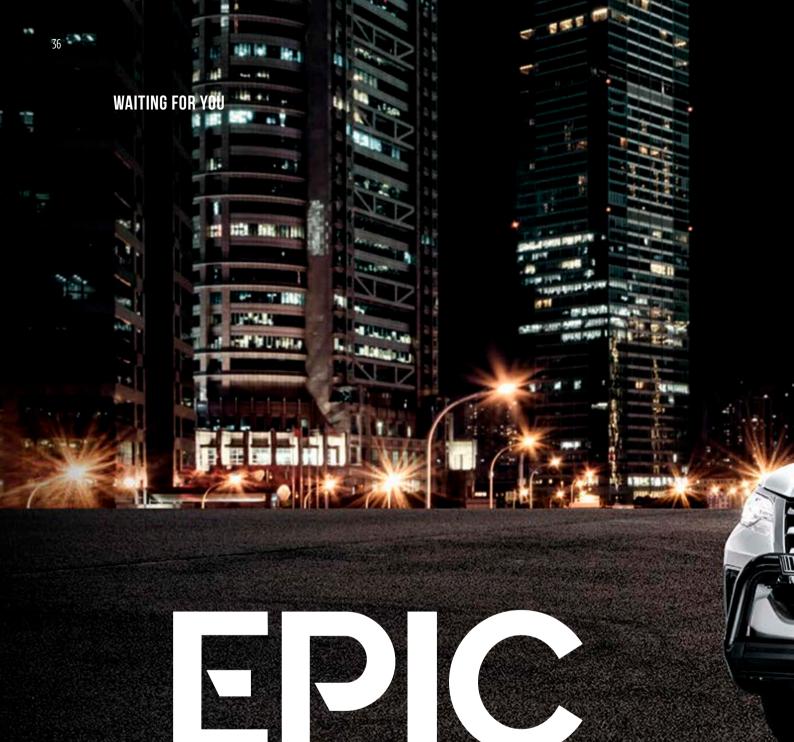
THE BASICS

Round out your DIY toolkit with these old-school tools.

SCREWDRIVER SET: If you just want to loosen or tighten a small screw without bringing out the big guns, a basic screwdriver set (including cross, slot and Phillips head) will do the trick.

HAMMER: An oldie but a goodie, a claw hammer is an essential basic tool. For tight workspaces, try a shorter stubby hammer.

TAPE MEASURE: Measure twice, cut once, as Grampa used to say. For extra precision, add in a spirit level. **PLIERS:** Whether you're bending wire or holding something small and fiddly in place, you'll need a set of pliers. If it's part of a Leatherman-like multitool, even better.



Since its launch in 2006, the best-selling **TOYOTA FORTUNER SUV** has offered an attractive blend of everyday comfort and rugged, dependable performance. Now there are two new editions.





STARTING FROM A STRONG BASE

The Epic and Epic Black models are both based on the formidable Fortuner 2.8-litre GD-6. This means you get a proven four-cylinder diesel turbodiesel engine that delivers strong performance and fine fuel economy. Power is delivered to the ground through a smooth-shifting six-speed automatic transmission. While city dwellers are most likely to be satisfied with the 4x2 model, the more adventurous among us can opt for 4x4 versions that ensure unshakeable grip and poise across rugged rural terrains. Toyota's "on-the-fly" selectable 2WD/4WD/4WD-Lo modes further add to the off-roading convenience of these models.

deliver extra style and substance: the Fortuner Epic and Epic Black.

STYLE THAT GOES THE DISTANCE

To stand out from the pack, all Fortuner Epic derivatives come fitted with a branded nudge bar and towbar. The Epic can be had in Glacier White, Chromium Silver, Graphite Grey or Avant-Garde Bronze. The Epic Black ups the ante with an exterior of striking visual contrast. Glacier White paintwork combines with a black roof, black roof rails and black side-view mirrors to create something that will attract attention wherever your travels may take you. Finishing things off in style is a set of black 18-inch alloy wheels.



WAITING FOR YOU

THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE

Climb inside and you'll notice that bespoke metal scuff plates and a unique carpet set help give the Fortuner Epic models a personality all their own. Again, being based on the Fortuner 2.8-litre GD-6, both the Epic and Epic Black come loaded with all the features you'd expect to see in a vehicle of this stature. Some of the highlights include: leather seats, dual-zone climate control, smart entry and push start, a touchscreen infotainment system with navigation, reverse camera, TFT Multi-Information Display (MID), cruise control, steering switches, power-adjustable driver seat as well as a power-operated back door.



Whether you choose the Epic or Epic Black, it's good to know that both come equipped with a generous suite of active safety features to help keep you safe while you explore. ABS, TRC, VSC, BAS, EBD and Hill Start Assist (HAC) are standard on all models while 4x4 variants get Toyota's proven A-TRAC off-road traction control logic and Downhill Assist Control (DAC) for improved prowess across the rough stuff.







INTRODUCING THE FORTUNER EPIC AND EPIC BLACK.

MODEL RANGE

Fortuner 2.8 RB Epic 6AT Fortuner 2.8 Epic Black 6AT Fortuner 2.8 4X4 Epic 6AT Fortuner 2.8 4X4 Epic Black 6AT

The 2.4 GD-6 and 2.7 VVTi Fortuner models continue unaltered.

The 4.0 V6 model has been discontinued and the manual transmission Fortuner models have been deleted from the lineup.

WAITING FOR YOU

HOW TO SANITISE YOUR CAR

DOMESTIC HYGIENE has never been higher on the agenda. But it's not just your house that needs scrupulous cleaning — your car is one of the most tactile items you own.



uring an average trip, you and your passengers touch many surfaces that attract dirt and germs, whether it's opening the door, changing gear, adjusting the aircon or switching the

lights on. Ben Murphy, Toyota's professional car detailer, is responsible for keeping Toyota Great Britain's fleet of press vehicles cleaned and professionally maintained.

As well as ensuring high standards of vehicle hygiene, Murphy has to bear in mind that meticulous car reviewers expect every vehicle they assess to look and feel as good as new.

"I try to be as efficient as possible," he explains. "Our cars return to our press fleet garage from all over the country and I have to think – 'where have people

touched?' For example, a driver will probably approach the car with the key in their hand and pull on the door handle. Then there's the steering wheel and hooter, the gearstick and the rear-view mirror. The interior of the driver's door is a common touch point, especially on our press fleet cars, which are driven by many different people. Think about all the people who get in the car and use the controls to put the window down a bit."

Murphy also considers the dust caps, the bonnet and the head rests.

"The seatbelt is a key area. Everyone has to wear one when they get into the car, and the number of times you adjust that seatbelt depends on the size of the person in the car, so there could be two to three touch points just on the seatbelt itself. Also, the belt sits





"MAKE SURE YOU WIPE EACH POINT AT LEAST TWICE IN A FORWARDS AND BACKWARDS MOTION."

across you, so if you were to cough or sneeze there's a very good chance germs get on the seatbelt or the steering wheel."

WHICH PRODUCTS TO USE?

Although Murphy uses commercial products made specifically to clean cars without damaging leather or interior materials, bleach-free antibacterial wipes are the next best thing. "They're inexpensive and kill 99.9% of germs, so they're as safe and cost-effective as you can get without going out and buying a really strong cleaner.

"With a pack of wipes, a pair of gloves and a dry microfibre cloth, you can give most of the touch points a clean. Don't just give each area a quick wipe; make sure you wipe it at least twice in a forwards and backwards motion so you've cleaned it completely.

NOW WASH YOUR HANDS!

"I wear gloves during my working day and advise people to wear gloves if they are in a vehicle such as a rental car or a taxi. You don't know which areas of the car the previous occupants have touched and germs can stay on a spot for 72 hours. If kids are travelling in your car, there's every chance they've been wiping their hands on windows. Every time I remove my gloves I always give my hands a good wash."

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY



Head up to the **NORTHERN DRAKENSBERG** for a kick-ass mountain adventure. Bring your boots, your bike, and your big-boy pants, because things are bound to get proper in those hills.





he Drakensberg (literally "Dragon Mountains") are unmatched in natural grandeur in South Africa, and the extensive ranges span the Eastern Cape, Kwazulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, as well as neigh-

bouring Lesotho and Swaziland. Many of the peaks surpass 3 000m in altitude and it is no wonder its Zulu name, *uKhahlamba*, means "Barrier of Spears".

Today, I'm tackling the legendary Sentinel Hike in the Northern Drakensberg mountains. It's brassmonkey-bollocks cold here below the imposing loom of Beacon Buttress. All around, subalpine ridges bristle with bleak, frost-burnt grass, and the air bites champagne-sparkle clear.

In the distance, the Amphitheatre skyline – overshadowed by the burgeoning hulk of Sentinel

Peak – goes all iconic before levelling out towards Sterkfontein and the Free State flatlands. I have no doubt I'm in Thin Air Country as I walk along a craggy footpath descending towards the "Three Witches".

It's been a special day – epic, even – on what undoubtedly rates as one of South Africa's premier hiking routes. There are no easy gains on the Sentinel Hike – it's a steep and craggy 3km slog just to reach the base of this gargantuan basalt monolith.

From here, the path flattens out for a while as you traverse along the foot of Beacon Buttress on your approach to The Gulley. Get ready for some heavy breathing and hard scrambling as you follow this mini-ravine upwards, with craggy rock faces looming up on either side.

The rewards kick in as you crest onto a grassland plateau to stand on top of The Amphitheatre at



2

Superb hiking, mountain biking and trail running options abound along the Witsieshoek Trails.
 Petrus Sekwadi, a self-proclaimed mountain prophet, collects healing crystals in the high peaks.

3. Breathtaking Amphitheatre panoramas.



an altitude of more than 3 050m. It truly feels as if you have the whole of the world at your feet. Take in the magnificent vista towards Sentinel Peak, start your descent to Thukela Falls and then follow the eponymous river course.

You're not quite done yet, as Mont-Aux-Sources spikes on your left at 3 482m, the highest point in both the Drakensberg and South Africa. However, the defining moment for me on this incredible hike is encountering the chain ladders adjacent to the Elands River Falls, on the opposite side of The Amphitheatre.

They have a dwarfish feel to them, as if Gimli and his bearded Middle-Earth fellows fashioned them from pig iron deep within the Mines of Moria. You have no choice but to commit yourself to these rusted, yet rugged, metal structures, clinging like ancient mechanical caterpillars to

the precipitous cliffs as you make your way downwards.

One thing, though: while you descend, remember to sneak an over-the-shoulder peek to take in the 270° panoramas – they are breathtaking in every sense of the word. Your circuit is nearing completion now as you traverse the buttress trail before returning to the car park.

And what a pleasure it will be to eventually head back to the spacious chalets of Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, where you can grab a refreshing beer and reminisce about your fresh-air adventure – or if you prefer, get stuck into planning the next outing!

All in all, you can expect this exhilarating hike to take up to 10 hours – depending on your personal level of fitness – but the memories are sure to last a lifetime.



STAY HERE

Witsieshoek Mountain Lodge, at 2 220m above sea level, is the highest accommodation in the Northern Berg and makes for a perfect gateway to exploring the wonders of these incredible ranges. Local adventure operators offer a range of activities, including trail running, superb mountain biking, horse riding, bigwall climbing and fly-fishing. It is just the proverbial hop, skip and jump into the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho, where you can experience a diverse slice of Basotho culture in a part of Africa where life seems unchanged from a century ago.

GO MOUNTAIN BIKING

The cranking here is off the scale, with anything going from grinding gravel road climbs to proper technical singletrack. If road riding is your thing, the 9km route from the lodge will bomb you down more than 1 000m before you dog-leg left and into a steep ascent.

A couple of quickie drops will give some respite, but this ride is 90% grunt. Sections of the road are being paved, but this could well take another decade. The return route reverses out the ascent and descent, making for 18km of impressive high-speed road surfing.

An excellent, technical single-track route has been created along the Metsi Matsho Hiking Trail from Witsieshoek Lodge. Point your front wheel downhill and speed into a combo of bermed trails and gnarly cattle track, with more than enough natural obstacles, stiles and wilderness thrown in to keep you coming back for more. Colour-coded trail options are wideranging, starting from the Green "Puff the Magic Dragon" Trail (2km) for the kiddies; an intermediate Blue "Sky Dragon Trail" 9.7km); and a Red "Dragon's Tooth Trail" (15.4km). The Black Trail has been subjected to loads of erosion, but would be a great challenge to more advanced riders. These make for top altitude-training trail runs.

GO HIKING OR RUNNING

The Sentinel Hike is legendary, but if you fear you may not have the requisite mountain goat genes in place, there are numerous other trails to explore. You could opt for the Metsi Matsho MTB Trail as it offers a range of easy loops from 6–16km. Remarkable views and a relatively easy gradient along the contours make it a great afternoon trail run.

GO BIRDING

Should you need one final excuse to visit Witsieshoek, make it the Vulture Restaurant. Every morning, a fresh bone is delivered to a small outcrop near the lodge – on a silver platter, no less. If you're in luck, a bearded vulture may just spiral down for a breakfast snack. These endangered birds (*Gypaetus barbatus*) are a key species to spot here, while avid birders can tick off many LBJ "lifers" in these high-altitude grasslands. Keep an eye out for the Sentinel rock thrush (*Monticola explorator*), Drakensberg prinia (*Prinia hypoxantha*), Drakensberg rockjumper (*Chaetops aurantius*), yellow-breasted pipit (*Anthus chloris*) or the Drakensberg siskin (*Serinus symonsi*), to name but a few.

1 2

1. The exposed descent along the vertical 'Chain Ladders' makes for an epic adventure.

2. Sunrise on the mountain biking trails.



GO DRIVING

From high up in the mountains, you will see a large body of water glinting in the valley adjacent to Witsieshoek. This is the Fika Patso Dam and the drive here takes you along a stunning mountain road. There is also a hiking trail around the dam, but you need to plan for at least five to seven hours out on foot.

GETTING THERE

Take the N5 from Harrismith towards Bethlehem and turn left onto the R74 for 8.6km, carrying on straight when it turns into the R712 towards Phuthaditjhaba. Keep left after 29km onto R57 Mota Road. Follow the road for 30km through town and rural villages, but do not turn off. After another 29.8km keep left and follow the sign to Witsieshoek.

ACCESS Last stretch brick/gravel, sedan okay.
CELL RECEPTION Yes
GPS COORDINATES
28°41'09.12" S / 28°53'57.76" E
WEBSITE www.witsieshoek.co.za

BUCKET LIST

Add the Northern Drakensberg to your list of local destinations to explore once lockdown regulations allow.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY





THE IMAGE: STAR TRAILING

The Richtersveld Mountain Desert National Park is undoubtedly one of the finest places on the planet – rampant with runaway mountain ranges, shifting seas of sand and bizarre tracts of euphorbias. It is home to nomadic Nama shepherds and undeniably alluring to those in tune with their minimalist side.

THE TECHNIQUE

Night skies ... There is something primal in being out under a star-studded firmament, with the whole of Planet Earth fading into nothingness while exposing the largesse of the universe within which we float.

Capturing those billions of stars is a dream for many amateur photographers – and a nightmare for some. Astrophotography – the official name for the genre – can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be, though.

At its most simple, you set up a camera on a tripod (or a handy rock), open the aperture as wide as possible, set it on self-timer and you're good to go. There are a few things you have to keep in mind, though.

Night photography is by its very nature low on light, so you will have to boost ISO (this refers to the sensitivity of your camera sensor). Also, the faster your lens – or the wider the aperture is able to open – the easier it will be to capture a good image.

In addition, if you want the stars to be pin-sharp, keep exposure to under 20 seconds, or the rotation of the planet will start to deform them. And once you've got the hang of all of this, start playing with multi-exposure, image stacking, and some of the more advanced techniques. There are loads of tutorials to go and check out on the net.

GETTING THE SHOT

Wandering on the alluvial Richtersveld Mountain Desert plains at night guarantees kick-ass star shots, plus you have great trees to use as foreground subjects. This image was set up near De Hoop Camp, shooting from a low-level tripod to ensure a big expanse of sky.

In order to capture the actual movement of the stars, use an off-camera timer to shoot multiple images, and then automatically overlay these to show actual movement of stars. Using a small laser torch adds a dash of blue colour to the tree for further impact.

TECH SPECS

EQUIPMENT

CAMERA Sony Alpha A7r3 Mirrorless LENS Zeiss 20mm SHUTTER SPEED 30 seconds APERTURE f2 LIGHTING Image stacking of 30x individual photos

POST PRODUCTION

Final post-production done in Adobe Lightroom.

sony.co.za | jacquesmarais.co.za

DO IT YOURSELF

You will need a 4x4 vehicle to truly enjoy what the Richtersveld has to offer, but the roads are generally non-technical. To get there, drive from Springbok along the N7 via Steinkopf to Port Nolloth and then Alexander Bay. Outside Alexander Bay, a gravel road turns right to Sendelingsdrif and the park.

All the information you need is at www.sanparks.org/ +27 (0)27 831 1506



OUR DNA

AFRICA ADVENTURE

Toyota owner TIM HULME took a giant risk, swapping his safe everyday existence for something new and challenging. COVID-19 had other plans.





t the beginning of this year, Tim Hulme, a 35-year-old professional photographer and filmmaker based in Johannesburg, sold his house, furniture and most of his camera equipment to finance an expedition through some of the most beautifully rugged countries the African continent has on offer. All that was left to be done was to convince his girlfriend, Bianca Brombin, to ride shotgun (she graciously agreed) and purchase a vehicle up to the task of traversing a mixture of challenging terrains. This box was also quickly ticked.

"It's always been on my mind, but I was never sure if I could make it happen due to the cost and by all the day-to-day expenses and commitments of everyday life," says Hulme about this trip of a lifetime. "But when everything aligned to make it possible, the actual decision was completely spur of the moment. I bought a Toyota Fortuner at the end of January, took it to Front Runner to be kitted out, and left within two weeks. The biggest hold-up

was the turnaround time to get a carnet from the AA." Hulme explains the duo were meant to be on the road for six to seven months, travelling from South Africa to Botswana to Zimbabwe, to Zambia and then up the western edge of Tanzania, entering Rwanda. Upon arrival in Rwanda, Hulme was going to fly to London for work and then return to the nation's capital of Kigali where he had agreed to shoot a malaria awareness film for a billionaire philanthropist.

"After the film shoot, we planned to head to Uganda to see the gorillas, then into the Maasai Mara in Kenya, before crossing into the Serengeti and Ngorogoro in Tanzania, stopping in Dar es Salaam to join up with our scuba club's trip to Zanzibar, before heading south through Malawi and down along the coast line of Mozambique." It's a gruelling trek that requires a capable vehicle.

"A Toyota is a no brainer if you travel in Africa," Hulme says of his choice of steed. "Not only do they tend to take a lot of the beating you can expect on African roads, but if you have a problem, there









are service centres in almost all major towns." The lensman adds that he settled on a Fortuner as it's a comfortable all-rounder. "She feels at home in city traffic and waist deep in muddy water in the Okavango," he says of his ride.

What about modifications? Surely any vehicle travelling through the continent needs some upgrades?

Hulme says that he's done little to the Fortuner; the single biggest tweak is the fitment of a height-adjustable suspension system. 'We went for this as the car will be heavily loaded for the trip, but I also want to adjust the suspension when I'm using her as a run-around in Cape Town next summer.'

Other modifications are mostly to the exterior and include a Front Runner roof rack with a roof top tent, gas canister mount, and 40-litre tanks for diesel and water. "Inside, we removed the back seats to make room for a 50-litre water tank and 70-litre fridge freezer. In the far back we have the brilliant double-draw system that Front Runner installed for us, as well as a second battery that

runs the fridge and charges off the alternator. Oh, and a mounted high-lift jack for just in case."

Unfortunately, it looks like all this gear won't be put to the test anytime soon as the COVID-19 pandemic shifted into top gear just two weeks into the journey. "At first everyone was telling us to stay put; that we were better off in the bush than being back home," Hulme recalls. "But as the seriousness sunk in I realised we needed to get back into SA before lockdown commenced. We stocked up on everything in Kasane in the very north of Botswana, refilled all the water and fuel tanks, and drove across Zimbabwe in a single day. We reached my friend's farm in the north of Limpopo at 3am the day before lockdown."

So what's next for the intrepid couple? "I think for now we'll head to Cape Town, lick our wounds, restock the bank account and try head out again this time next year. My heart is still on the open road so I am going to do absolutely everything I can for us to continue the trip as soon as the borders reopen."









SWEET VICTORY

NG MORI

SÉBASTIEN OGIER and co-driver JULIEN INGRASSIA secured their first victory for the TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team with a record-equalling sixth Rally Mexico triumph.

//

OUR DNA



all weekend. It was really reliable and fast, and these are good points for the championship."

Team chairman Akio Toyoda was also pleased with the results. "For the first two years in Mexico, we could not [put up a] fight during the rally due to overheating. But our engineers have put a lot of effort into improving the cooling system and we finally reached the top of the podium," he said. "We learned from our mistakes and now have three cars in the top five. Elfyn did a great job first on the road to do a clean run, and Kalle has also done incredibly well on one of the most difficult rallies for a rookie. We are very happy with this result. I'm very pleased that Seb and Julien have taken their first victory with us, and that the team took its first victory in Mexico."

"Although the next rounds – Rally Argentina, Rally de Portugal and Rally Italia – are postponed due to COVID-19, I really hope the day that fans can watch the Yaris WRC back on the stages comes as soon as possible." – **Kaj Lindström, Sporting Director**



n the face of fast-changing travel restrictions due to the global COVID-19 virus outbreak, the finish of the Rally Mexico event was brought forward. This decision was taken to ensure safe

and timely travel home for officials, competitors and team personnel – but it didn't dampen the excitement of the event, which marked the first win on the gruelling gravel event for the Toyota Yaris WRC.

In his third start with Toyota – and first on gravel – Sébastien Ogier dominated proceedings after taking the lead on Friday's second stage. He led by 13.2 seconds coming into Saturday, and immediately extended that advantage with a stunning stage win on SS13 Guanajuatito. His final winning margin was 27.8 seconds.

With his sixth Mexico win in eight years – behind the wheel of four different cars – Ogier moved into the lead of the championship ahead of team-mate Elfyn Evans, who finished a strong fourth with codriver Scott Martin after running first on the loose gravel roads on the Friday.

Kalle Rovanperä continued the impressive start to his top-flight WRC career in fifth place: the 19-year-old's third top-five finish in as many rallies, together with Jonne Halttunen. Rovanperä was within a few seconds of a podium place on the Saturday, but was disadvantaged by running early in the road order.

With its all-new driver lineup having taken two wins in its first three events, Toyota has further increased its lead in the manufacturers' championship to 21 points.

As Ogier said: "It was a good weekend. We had a good feeling straight from the start and took our chance to take the lead on Friday morning. On Saturday we had a better starting position and we pushed straight away and increased the gap, and then tried to control it until the end. The car was faultless



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Kalle Rovanperä: "I was quite happy overall. It was not the best weekend, but we had a few unlucky moments and it was nice to see that when we tried to push, we had a good pace. Today was mostly sweeping the road, and so we went for a safe pace just to keep our position while also learning about the road cleaning. It's been a really good beginning to the season for me: It's nice to have had clean rallies without any big mistakes and some proper pace sometimes."

RALLY MEXICO RESULTS

- 1. Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Toyota Yaris WRC) 2h47m47.6s
- 2. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) +27.8s
- 3. Teemu Suninen/Jarmo Lehtinen (Ford Fiesta WRC) +37.9s
- 4. Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin (Toyota Yaris WRC) +1m13.4s
- 5. Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (Toyota Yaris WRC) +2m20.5s
- 6. Pontus Tidemand/Patrik Barth (Škoda Fabia R5) +10m29.3s
- 7. Nikolay Gryazin/Yaroslav Fedorov (Hyundai i20 R5) +12m27.0s
- 8. Marco Bulacia/Giovanni Bernacchini (Citroën C3 R5) +13m37.5s
- 9. Gus Greensmith/Elliott Edmondson (Ford Fiesta WRC) +13m56.5s
- 10. Ole Christian Veiby/Jonas Andersson (Hyundai i20 R5) +15m32.2s

Elfyn Evans: "It was not an easy weekend for us, but I felt like we drove pretty well. On the Saturday morning I think we maximised everything we could, but with the road positions it didn't work out. That afternoon we made a few little errors and picked up some issues along the way, so we weren't able to challenge. I'm a little bit disappointed in one way, but at the same time, fourth place after opening the road on the first day in Mexico is not so bad. All three Yaris WRCs were at the finish, so it's a testament to the team and the strength of the car."

The next event on the WRC schedule had yet to be confirmed at the time of publication.