CCNNECT



ISSUE 18 • APRIL/MAY 2020

WWW.TOYOTA.CO.ZA



COROLLA GEN 12

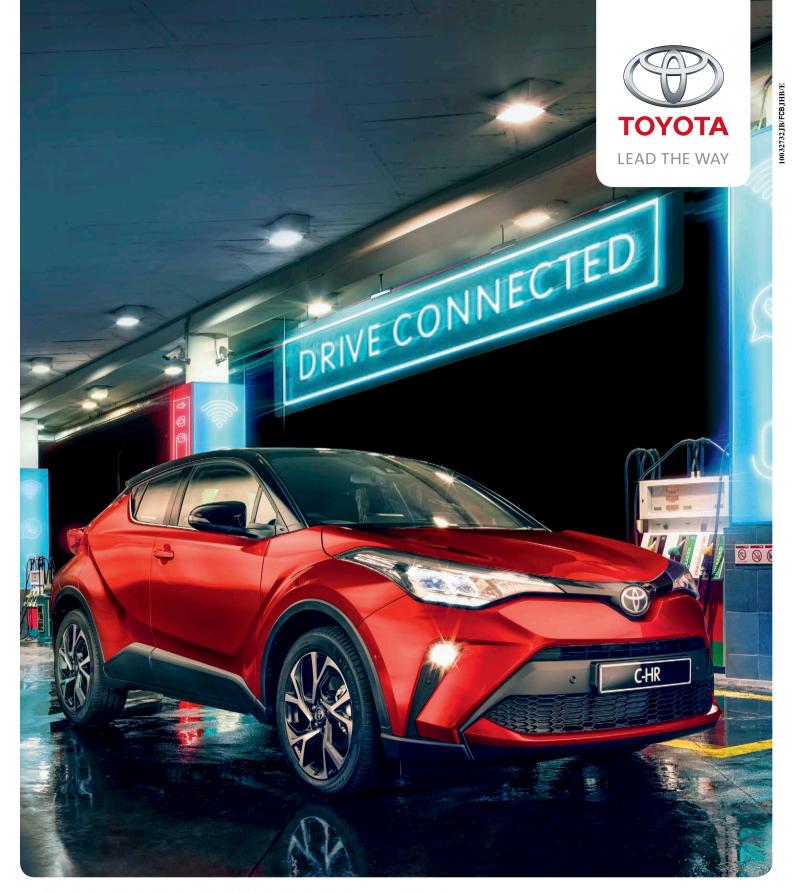
New sedan makes its debut

JOZI STYLE GURUS

And their unique take on fashion

LOCAL TRAVEL

Bucket-list hikes to explore



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







CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE

3 / The Insider

Mzo Witbooi, Toyota South Africa Motors' Manager: PR

NEWS

4 / What's new in the world of Toyota

HOME GROWN

8 / Trend Watch Primary colours and terrazzo bring a touch of nostalgia to fashion and design

12 / Fashion Three Jozi style gurus on what fashion means to them

18 / Food Chef Claire Sharryn Roberto creates vegan alchemy in the kitchen

20 / Food Four fireside seafood recipes you can wow with at your next braai

24 / Drink The artisanal rum revolution

WAITING FOR YOU

26 / Toyota Corolla The 12th-generation Corolla Sedan arrives in South Africa

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY

34 / Epic Hikes Jacques Marais explores some of South Africa's most iconic trails

40 / Photography Masterclass

Pro tips on getting the most dramatic action shots at night

ENJOY YOUR CITY

42 / Pieter Badenhorst on Tshwane

...and on being Toyota's Paralympics brand ambassador for next year's Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games

OUR DNA

48 / World Rally Championship

Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT looks to dominate the rally circuit in 2020

52 / Meet Sergio Bergstedt

A father of two shows off his beloved - and heavily modified - Corolla KE70

54 / Green Initiatives

How Toyota's global Environmental Challenge 2050 is driving sustainability at SA's dealerships









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

BOOK A TEST DRIVE TODAY AT TOYOTA.CO.ZA







STAYING IN TOUCH

Toyota's Manager: Corporate PR **MZO WITBOOI** on remaining positive, keeping in contact, and looking out for each other during this challenging time

t's a global catastrophe hellbent on shattering dreams, dismantling our communities and obliterating world economies. COVID-19 – also referred to as coronavirus disease

– is wreaking havoc across the globe. Those who underestimate it do so at their own peril. It might have originated in China, but it is currently every nation's concern – and almost every individual's nightmare.

This may not be the tone you're accustomed to in these pages, but I hope you understand that it is not business as usual for any sector – including the automotive industry. Our business is about selling cars, but we are first and foremost a corporate

citizen. We don't operate in a vacuum, and the ramifications of COVID-19 are affecting us all.

It is a time of crisis. The entire country has been placed under lockdown in a brave attempt to curb the spread of COVID-19, and I hope that there will be a silver lining by the time you get your copy of *Toyota Connect/Life by Lexus*.

We at Toyota South Africa Motors would like to remind you that there will still be life after COVID-19. There have been pandemics that threatened to destroy humanity in the past – yet the nations of the world rose up, and we will rise up again. The resilience of the human spirit is a curious thing that cannot be suppressed; however, in order to come out even stronger from this, we need to work together.

Never before have I seen nations, governments, organisations and leaders – religious and secular – so uncertain about what tomorrow holds. But it is the uncanny contradiction of opposites happening simultaneously that makes the current situation a phenomenological experience. The current wave of globalisation has been about promoting a hegemonic community characterised by free trade and open markets – yet we see ourselves having to practise the opposite in order to be able to "flatten the curve". Countries are shutting borders to protect their citizens.

Similarly, we see ourselves sharing knowledge, laughter, tears, work and entertainment through various media technologies, while we remain in

isolation from the world as we know it. We are alone in our homes, but we cannot bear to be lonely. Our brothers, sisters, daughters, sons, parents, aunts, uncles and cousins are across the borders – but we are with them in spirit. Do whatever you can to keep their spirits high too: phone them, Skype them, text them, email them.

Let us also look well after those who are around us and make the best of the time we have in a meaningful way. If you are working from home, please use your time wisely. These are indeed trying times, but eventually this too shall pass. In the meantime, take care of one another.

As a current or potential Toyota/Lexus customer, I hope you enjoy this issue.



TOYOTA ADVISORY TEAM

Senior Manager: Corporate Communications Clynton Yon / Manager: Corporate PR Mzo Witbooi

NEW MEDIA EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor Steve Smith / Group Creative Director Mark Serra / Art Director Marcus Viljoen / Deputy Editor Biddi Rorke / Group Managing Editor Chantel Kleinsmidt
Group Account Director Cat Anderson / Copy Editor Ania Rokita Taylor / Designer Melandri van der Merwe / Proofreader Katherine Farrell / Production Manager Shirley Quinlan
Contributors Calvin Fisher, Christina Pitt, Iga Motylska, Jacques Marais, Leah van Deventer, Lynette Botha, Michaela Stehr, Theana Breugem, Ufrieda Ho, Thomas Falkiner, Karin Orzol, Toby Murphy,
Hannah Lewry, Kate Ferreira, Tim Cohen & Jan Ras

ADVERTISING

Key Account Manager Elna Coetzer 021 417 5151

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Managing Director Aileen Lamb / Commercial Director Maria Tiganis / Brand Strategy Director Andrew Nunneley
Chief Financial Officer Venette Malone
CEO: Media 24 Ishmet Davidson

Images Getty Images / Reproduction New Media / Printing CTP Printers Cape Town
Published by New Media, a division of Media24 (Pty) Ltd, New Media House, 19 Bree Street, Cape Town 8001
Published on behalf of Toyota South Africa www.toyota.co.za / www.lexus.co.za

Copyright © New Media, a division of Media24 (Pty) Ltd. All rights reserved. While all precautions have been taken to ensure accuracy of information, neither the editor nor New Media can be held liable for any inaccuracies, injury or damage that may arise.











ECO **DREAM**

When it comes to **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**, Toyota has six ambitious goals and challenges for 2050



1. NEW VEHICLE ZERO CO₂ EMISSIONS CHALLENGE

By 2050, Toyota vehicles will generate 90% lower emission levels than those produced in 2010. If fact, we're aiming for models that produce zero emissions.



2. LIFE CYCLE ZERO CO2 EMISSIONS CHALLENGE

Toyota aims to eliminate and reduce emissions generated during the life cycle of its vehicles. This includes emissions generated to procure, transport and obtain the parts needed to build vehicles, as well as post-life disposal of older models.



3. PLANT ZERO CO2 EMISSIONS CHALLENGE

Toyota hopes to change its manufacturing processes so that, by 2050, its production plants are generating zero CO_2 emissions while building vehicles.



4. CHALLENGE OF MINIMISING AND OPTIMISING WATER USAGE

Toyota is already optimising and minimising its water usage at facilities around the world. It will continue to implement new filtering technologies to increase water recycling, purification and re-use.



5. CHALLENGE OF ESTABLISHING A RECYCLING-BASED SOCIETY AND SYSTEMS

Part of this challenge includes producing parts from eco-friendly materials, as well as designing the parts to last much longer.



6. CHALLENGE OF ESTABLISHING A FUTURE SOCIETY IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

This entails educating communities about their impact on the environment and what they can do, with help from Toyota, to develop a future society that lives in harmony with nature.



GIVE US A "J"

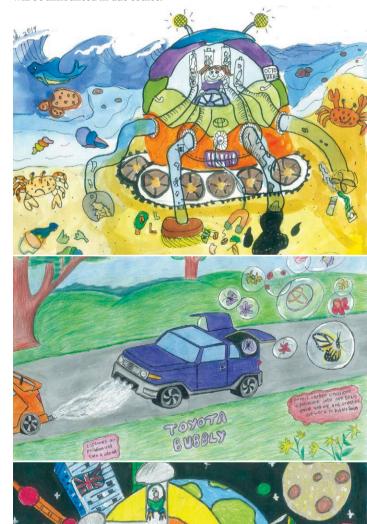
The elusive "J-FACTOR" underpins all Toyota design

Did you know Toyota's basic design concept is called the J-factor? Through unique Japanese values and aesthetics, we aim to create new value by allowing supposedly contradictory elements to exist in harmony. For example, the hybrid vehicle was born by synergising the powers of the engine and the electric motor. Rather than conflicting or compromising, we believe that fusing the good points of two opposing elements symbolises dynamism.

DREAM **BIG**

The global **TOYOTA DREAM CAR ART CONTEST** encourages kids under 15 to imagine mobility solutions of the future

Move over *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*: submissions for the 14th instalment of this important competition promise to be as wild and wonderful as ever. Aimed at encouraging children around the world to explore their creativity and to understand the power of their imagination, this contest is said to nurture the next generation of great inventors, thinkers and dreamers. Visualised by Toyota Motor Corporation president and CEO Akio Toyoda, the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest is held in 76 participating countries. Winners will be announced in due course.











NAME OF THE GAMES

A closer look at the TOKYO OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY CONVOY

When the torch relay begins its journey from the J-Village National Training Centre in the Fukushima metro, the Olympic flame is set to travel through all 47 metros of Japan over 121 days, blazing a trail of hope on its way to its final destination – the new Olympics Stadium in Tokyo. Above is a closer look at the vehicles that will accompany the torchbearers comprising the official Tokyo Olympic Torch Relay Convoy. The vehicle markings were designed to embody the Torch Relay concept "Hope Lights Our Way".



TWICE IS **NICE!**

Toyota scooped the two main "fun" categories — Adventure SUV and Performance Car — at the **5TH CARS.CO.ZA CONSUMER AWARDS** earlier this year

The revered Toyota Fortuner was awarded favourite Adventure SUV for the third year running, beating out the Ford Everest and Haval H9, and proving that its blend of good looks, off-road competence, luxury and versatility really resonates with customers.

The Performance Car category featured three heavy hitters in the shape of the BMW M2 Competition, Ford Mustang GT and Toyota Supra 3.0T. With the highest overall score of any vehicle in the competition – both judges and consumers gave the Supra an aggregate score of more than 85% – the Mk5 Supra rekindles one of the most emotive nameplates, with a turbocharged 3.0-litre straight-six engine and superresponsive 8-speed automatic transmission.



PRIMARY COOL

Reminiscent of children's building blocks and quirky nostalgia, **PRIMARY COLOURS** work together as a perfect trio — and are just as striking on their own. Here are a few of *Toyota Connect*'s favourites to raise your style quotient

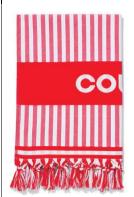




PAUL SMITH EDITION THREE TYPE 75 LAMP BY ANGLEPOISE

Paying delightful homage to Dutch painter Piet Mondrian's work, Anglepoise uses the artist's signature combination of primary colours in a stylish interpretation that adds a talking point to any room.

R8 300 | newport.co.za



COOLUM TRAVEL BEACH TOWEL BY COUNTRY ROAD

Made from 100% cotton, this elevated take on the beach towel is perfect for the pool, the sea or a picnic. Its lightweight material makes for super-quick drying after a dip.

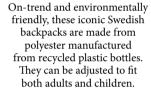
R349 | woolworths.co.za



BERLIN CHAIR IN OCHRE

This retro-cool chair works beautifully as a piece of standalone occasional seating, as well as in friendly pairs for lounging and reading. It's available in several colours and upholstery finishes.

R2 700 | mrphome.com



FJÄLLRÄVEN RE-KÅNKEN BACKPACK

R1 999 | fjallraven-shop.co.za





METRO LIGHT BY DOKTER AND MISSES

A statement double-pendant light with a frosted glass shade brings an element of contemporary chic to any space.

R4 620 | dokterandmisses.com



Compact and lightweight, this versatile storage solution by a new South African brand is a perfect fit for bedrooms and common areas in the home as well as for offices. A smooth, powder-coated finish ensures easy cleaning and durability.

R1 249 | popstrukt.co.za



LA CAFETIÈRE 3-CUP CLASSIC ESPRESSO MOKA POT

A coffee lover's staple, this sleek espresso pot conjures up images of having a cuppa on a Parisian balcony – and it's stylish enough to display on open kitchen shelves.

R499 | superbalist.com



OFF THE **FLOOR**

A 16th-century Venetian flooring favourite, **TERRAZZO** has re-emerged as a massive trend. This composite flooring technique comprises a medley of marble chips, and has now been reinvented and reimagined beyond traditional tiling





STRAPPY SKATER DRESS BY GOOD CLOTHING

Cape Town clothing brand Good was started in 2008 by Marian Park-Ross. Good's easy-to-wear, well-designed pieces are known for their on-trend simplicity, and they've reinterpreted terrazzo into a fabric used for a range of pink-hued womenswear – including this summery button-through dress. It reminds us of nougat. We love nougat.

R1 200 | goodclothing.co.za



BLACK TERRAZZO DESK LAMP BY WEYLANDTS

Add an element of terrazzo to your work desk or side table with a stone-black terrazzo desk lamp. A round Edison bulb creates a dramatic and contrasting effect.

R595 | weylandts.co.za



TERRAZZO DOOR STOP

It may have been a while since you've seen a doorstop, but this terrazzo version brings a trendy element and a retro throwback to your space. The cylindrical cement base is heavy enough to keep your door steady and the rope handle means it's easily moveable to where you need it to be.

R129 | home.co.za

CORE COLLECTION BY OLIVER WHYTE

Cape Town-based multidisciplinary design studio Oliver Whyte, aka Ross Robertson (right), has released a Core collection of tables made from discarded construction concrete. Each piece goes through a meticulous process, and is polished for a granite-smooth terrazzo-like finish in shades of wet-look grey.





STUDIO AN & CANNATA'S MORPH

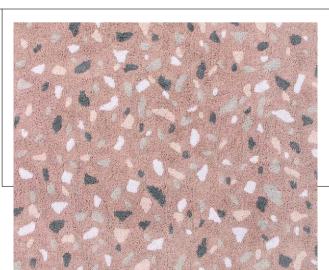
Cannata's Dialogue Room is an interactive space featuring works by local designers, architects and creatives. Recently, it housed the terrazzo-inspired Morph range by local architecture and interior design brand Studio AN. The range was conceptualised by Jan de Wet and Jeanne Scholtz around the connection between terrazzo stone and jelly sweets; it includes a light, a stool, a bench, a cabinet and a mirror.

POA | cannatagranite.co.za | studio-an.co.za

For more, read an interview with Studio AN's Jan de Wet and Jeanne Scholtz on visi.co.za.







ROSE QUARTZ TERRAZZO RUG BY LORENA CANALS

This 100%-cotton washable rug by Lorena Canals keeps the terrazzo trend underfoot while paying tribute to that '70s style. With mosaic accents in light grey, charcoal and white on a dusty rose hue, the eco-friendly rug is a perfect addition to a living room, kids' bedroom or a play area.

R3 690 | cleverlittlemonkey.co.za











THE V-WORD

Innovative vegan chef **CLAIRE SHARRYN ROBERTO** is changing mind-sets and transforming taste buds, one herbivorous café at a time



W

hether you're a fan of the plantbased movement or not, there's no denying its dramatic rise – something private vegan chef and consultant Claire Sharryn Roberto, 34, thrives on. Her

passion for vegan food and her dexterous cooking skills have seen her expertise in high demand, everywhere from Doha to Denpasar.

As a young child, Claire says she would pick culinary shows like *Floyd On France* over *Tom And Jerry* any day. "My love for food and fascination with cooking began very early on in my life," she says. "In particular, I remember spending every Christmas holiday with my Ouma on her smallholding just outside of Port Elizabeth; she cooked like no-one else I know. I would watch her in awe every day, perched atop my special stepladder seat in the kitchen. I wasn't a kid who enjoyed playing with dolls or toys. By the age of nine, I was cooking dinner for my mom when I got home from school; by 13, I was working for a private caterer, making wedding tarts and cakes; and by 16 I knew that I wanted to pursue a career as a professional chef."

Becoming vegan five years ago naturally led her food philosophy to follow suit, and it's been a turning point in her career too. "People have become more aware of what veganism and vegan food are all about now, thanks to more accessible information and the lifestyle's rise in popular culture," she says.



One of her biggest gastronomical successes to date is the creation of a vegan croissant for Vterra in Kuwait. "It has become one of the most popular food items in the region!"

Apart from creating flavourful masterpieces from plants, Claire's caveat is that these meals need to be nourishing - and healing too. "In the kitchen, I am always experimenting and challenging myself to create alchemical wonders," she says. "Many of my recipes harness the healing properties of adaptogenic herbs, traditional Chinese medicine herbs, tinctures, raw food and alkalising ingredients to create potent drinks, snacks, sweet treats and meals that deliver a multitude of health benefits. I focus on organic, seasonal produce, and draw much of my inspiration from Ayurveda, cultured and fermented food, and macrobiotics. Everything I create is natural, with no artificial ingredients, preservatives or additives. And because I believe that we eat with our eyes first, everything I craft must appeal to all senses, and be as aesthetically pleasing as it is tasty."

This year is set to be Claire's busiest yet. "The next few months are packed with exciting projects," she says. "I am currently in Doha, setting up a new plant-based café at the National Museum of Qatar, called Thalatheen. Then, my partner and I will head to Bali to begin our healing and wellness retreats. Following that, I'll be creating, curating, setting up and working on other vegan cafés around the Gulf — Terra's Table in Saudi Arabia, Mylk in Qatar, a new concept in Kuwait and another in Dubai.

"I'm also in the process of launching my new recipe app (Claire Sharryn Roberto Recipe App), which I'm super-excited about. It will include 50 of my plant-based recipes, complete with beautifully shot recipe tutorial videos, nutritional videos, a podcast, and tons of healing information on how to heal from and thrive after autoimmune illnesses. This is inspired by my own recovery from Hashimoto's disease."

Her words to live by? "Rise above mediocrity." By the sound of it, she's living up to that manifesto.



clairesharrynroberto







BRAAIED MACKEREL WITH HORSERADISH AND BEETROOT

"If you don't want to braai whole mackerel, use Woolies' skin-on mackerel fillets instead. Prepare them in the same way as below, but braai them for 1 to 2 minutes on the skin side, then quickly on the flesh side for 10 seconds max."

Serves 4
Preparation 20 minutes
Cooking 45 minutes

16 baby beetroot, cleaned
2T balsamic vinegar
4 cloves garlic
5g fresh thyme
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1-2T Woolworths horseradish
½ tub crème fraîche
lemon, for serving
4 Woolworths fresh whole mackerel, cleaned
4T olive oil
fresh dill, torn, for serving
watercress, for serving

Instructions

- 1. Make 2 separate tinfoil parcels and fill each parcel with the beetroot, some halved and others left whole. Drizzle with the balsamic vinegar, add the garlic and thyme, then season. Seal the parcels.
- 2. Place over medium coals for 40 minutes, or until tender and caramelised. Fold the horseradish into the crème fraîche, season and add a squeeze of lemon juice. Set aside for serving.
- 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. Remove from the heat and drizzle with olive oil, sprinkle with the dill and season. Serve with the beetroot, horseradish crème fraîche and watercress.

Cook's note

Serve with thick slices of braai-grilled, buttered sourdough toast.

FIRESIDE MUSSELS IN FENNEL-AND-COCONUT BROTH

"I find making my own chilli paste really satisfying, especially because it only takes about five minutes from start to finish. It's fragrant and soft, and it complements the mussels beautifully."

Serves 4
Preparation 10 minutes
Cooking 25 minutes

Ingredients For the paste

1 large fennel bulb, chopped 3 cloves garlic 2 green chillies 30g fresh coriander



FIRESIDE MUSSELS IN FENNEL-AND-COCONUT BROTH

100g spring onions 3T olive oil 1t sea salt

2T olive oil 2 x 400g tins coconut milk 1.5kg fresh mussels, cleaned lime, for serving

Instructions

- 1. Roughly blend all the ingredients for the paste.
- **2.** Transfer to a large wok or potjie over smouldering coals and add the olive oil.
- **3.** Gently fry for 5 minutes, stirring continually, until fragrant and softened. Pour in the coconut milk and simmer for 10 minutes, then add the mussels. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 to 7 minutes, until all the mussels have opened. Discard any mussels that don't open after 10 minutes.
- **4.** Serve with a squeeze of lime juice and bread, braaied sweet-potato wedges or bowls of rice. Garnish with spring onions, coriander and chilli.

Cook's note

While cleaning the mussels, keep them in a bucket of salted cold water to help them close again prior to cooking.

CHARGRILLED SQUID WITH MINT-AND-CORIANDER SALSA

"This is great as a quick little starter. Take advantage of the coals while they're hot enough to sear the squid. I sometimes toss it through a mango- or citrus-studded salad."

Serves 4
Preparation 15 minutes
Cooking 5 minutes

FROM Woolworths Taste magazine IMAGES Toby Murphy RECIPES AND PRODUCTION Hannah Lewry FOOD ASSISTANT Kate Ferreira

Ingredients

700g frozen squid tubes and heads, thawed 2T olive oil 3 cloves garlic, chopped

For the mint-and-coriander salsa, mix:

30g mint, finely chopped 30g coriander, finely chopped 4T olive oil 2T red wine vinegar sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste 1 lemon or lime, zested and juiced

Instructions

- Rinse, drain and pat the squid dry using kitchen paper. Place in a bowl with the olive oil and garlic, and toss to coat.
- 2. Place a fine wire grid over hot coals you need a high heat for fast cooking to ensure smoky, tender squid. If it takes too long to cook, it may become rubbery. Grill in batches for 45 seconds to 1 minute on each side until chargrilled.
- Transfer to a large bowl or tray so that the squid doesn't steam after being cooked. Toss in the salsa and serve immediately.

Cook's note

Make the salsa just before serving to prevent the herbs from discolouring.

SWEET-AND-STICKY TUNA WITH CHARGRILLED BROAD BEANS

"Woolworths' new yellowfin tuna steaks in sweetand-sticky marinade are delicious. I love them with Woolies' sweet-potato wedges, dressed in a fresh herb oil."

Serves 4
Preparation 5 minutes
Cooking 3 to 5 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 x 150g Woolworths sweet-and-sticky tuna steaks
- 2 x 300g packs Woolworths broad beans in the pod

½ lemon, juiced

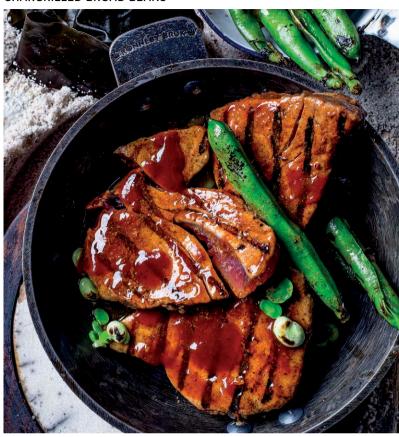
1T extra virgin olive oil

sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Instructions

- **1.** Remove the tuna steaks from the fridge 10 minutes before cooking.
- Place on a braai grid 10cm above moderately hot coals. Cook for 1 to 2 minutes on each side for medium-rare.
- Chargrill the broad beans in the pod while you're searing the tuna, until they're slightly blackened and tender.
- **4.** Pod the beans and toss in the lemon juice, olive oil and seasoning. Serve with the tuna.

SWEET-AND-STICKY TUNA WITH CHARGRILLED BROAD BEANS



CHARGRILLED SQUID WITH MINT-AND-CORIANDER SALSA



THE RUM **REVOLUTION**



Why **ARTISANAL RUM** is the new best thing – plus local labels to try

W

hile the gin tornado has been sweeping across South Africa, a tropical squall has been brewing offshore – and it's about to make landfall. Rum is emerging from the realm of mermaids and sea

monsters, briefly shaking itself off and sauntering into your local cocktail bar, still dripping.

You might think rum has no business among civilised landlubbers, being far more suited to hornswoggling pirates and wife-wooing sailors – and once, you may have been right. However, rum has

mellowed and matured, and today it makes a rather fascinating dinner companion, with oodles of charm and just the right amount of danger. In short, rum has cleaned up a lot since the mid-1600s.

While sugar-growing locales around the world were fairly quick off the mark with rum production, South Africa took a little longer. Sugar cane was only introduced to the tropical KwaZulu-Natal region in 1848, and cane-spirit production only diversified into rum proper in 2008. No problem: local rum may have arrived a little late to the party, but it is a very interesting guest.



HERE ARE SEVEN TOP CRAFT RUMS YOU NEED TO EXPERIENCE.

1. COPELAND RUM

Distilled in Kommetjie by James Copeland, this small-batch rum has a Michelangelo Silver Medal under its belt. The blackstrap molasses combined with tropical yeast allow for a delicious blend of spun sugar, caramel, liquorice, cacao, pineapple, litchi and jammy fruit flavours.

R395 | copelandrum.com

2. FLOATING DUTCHMAN CAPE RUM

Dirk Prinsloo sets this rum apart with an unusual maturation method, which includes finishing the spirit in red-wine barrels. It has smooth caramel, dark chocolate and dried stone-fruit flavours, and boasts a Michelangelo Silver Medal and a South African Spirits Trophy Gold Medal.

R269 | floatingdutchmanrum.com

3. INNOCENT SPIRITS RUM62 OVERPROOF RUM

If you're not afraid of a kick, this one is for you: made by Andrew Wheeler and John Hardie, the surprisingly smooth 62% rum took gold at the 2020 Spirits Trophy and was voted best spirit at the awards.

R315 | innocentspirits.com

IMAGES Supplied WORDS Leah van Deventer

HOME GROWN



4. CAPE OF STORMS FYN BOTANICAL RUM

Dylan Meiring takes his brand's white rum to the next level by infusing it with spices and botanicals in a copper pot still. You'll recognise honeybush and naartjie on both the nose and the palate, as well as splashes of cinnamon, allspice and coriander, and lingering hints of caramel and butterscotch.

R290 | capeofstormsdistillery.com

5. GERTIE'S 100% GOLD RUM

The brainchild of foodie Emma Wilson, this rum is made using wine yeast, and matured for at least six months. Aromas of honey liqueur, caramelised sugar and nuts lead to warm spice, nutmeg, toasted oak and dried-apricot flavours.

R400 | instagram.com/gerties_liquor

6. NIHILO AFRIKAN GOLD RUM

This molasses-based rum is produced via the process of cold distillation, then aged in American oak for a minimum of three months. It reveals soft, caramelised molasses notes, with cinnamon and citrus clove on the palate and a winter-spice aftertaste.

R350 | nihilo.africa

7. GOLDSMITH OAK AGED RUM

Craig Hunter makes this molasses-based rum in a column still, before ageing it for two to three years in dinky, 50-litre ex-bourbon casks. Limited in quantity to 200 bottles per month, the resulting spirit is sweet, with undertones of vanilla and darker molasses, drytoasted wood on the palate, and a lingering, citrusspice finish.

R1 000 | stillman.co.za







G

iven the badge's iconic history, the arrival of a new-generation Corolla Sedan will always be a red-letter day on the automotive calendar. And this year, with more than 40 million Corollas sold since the first model was unveiled in 1966, the 12th generation of the world's most popular vehicle is making its local debut.

Following the successful strategy of evolving and improving with every generation, the latest Corolla Sedan offers enhanced driving dynamics and ride comfort, a comprehensive suite of driver-assistance and safety features, as well as the latestgeneration multimedia system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility.

POWERTRAIN

The Corolla Sedan comes in two grades, with the top-of-therange XR getting a new TNGA 2.0-litre petrol engine that comes with a choice of a six-speed manual gearbox or "10-speed" continuously variable transmission (CVT). The mid-range XS is equipped with the 104kW 1.8-litre powertrain, exclusively mated to the CVT transmission.

The new 2.0-litre petrol engine delivers a substantial 22kW and 27Nm increase in power and torque compared to its predecessor, with maximum outputs of 125kW and 200Nm. At the same time, its high level of efficiency and advanced technology offer a lower fuel consumption than the previous petrol engine, returning combined cycle figures of 6.0L/100km for the CVT versions and 6.5L/100km for the manual variant.

Like its recently launched sibling, the Toyota Corolla Hatch, this latest Corolla Sedan is built on the latest TNGA platform - and that means substantially improved comfort, convenience and safety features across the board, delivering a premium, refined small sedan. A major contributor to the enhanced ride and handling is the new double-wishbone rear suspension setup, which is now standard across the Corolla Sedan range.

The Corolla Sedan 1.8 XS CVT comes with a host of "niceto-haves", including LED headlights, push-start, cruise control, automatic climate control, reverse camera with state-of-the-art Toyota Display Audio, Multi-information Display, steering switches with voice command, as well as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto functionality. On the safety front, this model still provides its occupants with seven airbags (including a driver's kneebag), an electronic parking brake, Hill Assist Control and VSC as standard.

Flagship 2.0-litre XR grades go the whole hog, with every conceivable luxury and safety mod-con. The standard menu is topped up with items such as Smart Entry, Bi-LED headlights with Auto High-Beam, decadent laser-cut two-tone 18-inch alloys, electrochromatic rear-view mirror, combination leather upholstery, steering wheel with paddle shifters (CVT), as well as Toyota's Safety System, which includes pre-crash activation, Blind Spot Monitor, Adaptive All-Speed Cruise Control and Lane Departure Alert.

"Corolla" is becoming a brand in its own right, with three distinct model ranges to cater to every taste: Quest is the valuefor-money offering with a heavy bias towards practicality and versatility; Hatch is all about image and performance; and the new-generation Sedan rounds off the Corolla trinity with design and technology as its calling card.





THE TOP-OF-THE-RANGE XR GETS A NEW 2.0-LITRE PETROL ENGINE THAT COMES WITH A CHOICE OF A SIX-SPEED MANUAL GEARBOX OR "10-SPEED" CVT.









1 2 3

5

4

6 7 8

1. Rear fog lights are standard across the board. 2. The Prestige models boast a leather steering wheel. 3. The Exclusive grade features push-start as a "nice-to-have". 4 & 5. Vehicle Stability Control with Hill Assist Control, ABS, EBD, Isofix and LED daytime running lights come standard. 6. The honeycomb grille announces a sportier exterior design. 7. Locking and mirror controls. 8. The Prestige models receive an upgrade to a touchscreen DVD audio system with six speakers.





LOST

AND

Your boots are made for walking, and there's no better place than South Africa to tramp onto a back-country trail. **JACQUES MARAIS** sets off to explore a range of rollicking routes with the express purpose of getting lost...







iking or hill walking. Trekking or tramping. Ambling or rambling. Potentially, maybe even a spurt of trail running on the side... Whatever your favourite form of perambulation may be, there is nothing quite like escaping on foot into the great outdoors.

Aristotle, one of the earliest "rambling academics", believed strongly that movement stimulated thinking – and fervent hikers reading this are no doubt nodding their heads in agreement. Writer Henry David Thoreau seemed to agree too: "Methinks the moment my legs begin to move, my thoughts begin to flow."

Well, hold that thought right there if you live in South Africa, because we're slap-bang in the centre of prime hiking country. We have dozens of breathtaking multi-day trails to choose from (in both the figurative and literal sense of the word), including everything from easy grassland meanders to seriously technical coastal crushers.

Step onto these trails and you will overdose on a botanical treasure trove, with the full gamut of wilderness wetlands, indigenous forest and fragrant fynbos fields just waiting to be explored. You can tick off a dozen or more ecosystems along the way, and fall head over heels in love with nature.

Where do you start, though, when you have literally hundreds of trail options vying for your attention? The outdoor crowd have very differing views as to what is doable or beautiful or satisfying – but the following list of trails should tick most of these boxes.



2

1

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park boasts some exhilarating coastal trails.
 Trail runners can run the legendary Otter Hiking Trail once a year.
 Exploring a vertiginous route in the high peaks of the Blouberg massif.

OPENING SPREAD
A hiker tackles the rugged Cape
Fold trails on Table Mountain.

FOLLOWING PAGE The Cedar Falls route is a favourite excursion along the Leopard Trail.



BOOT UP!

CLIMB ONE OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL WONDERS

Skeleton Gorge & Nursery Ravine Circuit, Table Mountain (Western Cape)

Table Mountain tops the list for a multitude of hikers from around the globe. The steep ascent along Skeleton Gorge will test you, and the upper reaches will see you face the occasional scramble along rickety ladders and over giant boulders. Once you summit, keep left around Castle Rock before descending via Nursery Ravine towards Kirstenbosch.



FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Think of it as Mother Nature's stair-machine, with the added bonus of fresh air and shade within the ravines. The Cape fynbos biome boasts towering stands of red alder, yellowwood and other indigenous trees amid a profusion of heather, protea and restios.

sanparks.org/parks/table_mountain

SPOT A MOUNTAIN LEOPARD IN A MEGA-RESERVE

Leopard Trail, Baviaanskloof (Eastern Cape)

This 200km-long "Valley of Baboons" is hemmed in by mountain ranges to the north and south. The lower altitude results in intensified rainfall, creating a lush landscape with diverse fauna and flora. Slack-pack onto the four-day/three-night Leopard Trail for a testing mix of single- and jeep-track, with loads of shale and rock. The longest day is 22km.

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

End-of-days views, rucked-up ridgelines, agoraphobic wilderness space, a chance to spot a spotted cat... This is an A-lister trek. A protected microclimate means you can hike the Leopard Trail for much of the year, but expect midsummer to clock into the high 30s, while winter serves up severe cold fronts. Book at **gobaviaans.co.za** – or trail-run it if you dare: **leopardrun.co.za**.

HIKE AN AFRICAN ICON

Otter Trail, Garden Route (Southern Cape)

This mythical meander bangs you onto a rugged, clifftop path via one of South Africa's most diverse botanical kingdoms. The Otter Trail draws hikers from around the world to hike "one of the finest wilderness walks on Planet Earth". Start from Storms River to follow the pristine coastline for 38km westwards until you reach the seaside village of Nature's Valley. Hikers have to book years in advance, and are limited to groups of 12 people.

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

The Otter Trail is iconic, and traverses a spectacular section of the Garden Route National Park. It's known for its lush green forests, deep gorges and steep cliffs overlooking the Indian Ocean, with breathtaking views across Africa's oldest and biggest marine reserve. Do it in one go during the Otter African Trail Run (otter.run) – or go for the full five-day schedule: sanparks.org/parks/garden_route.

EXPERIENCE AN ADVENTURE IN CULTURE

Blouberg Reserve (Limpopo)

This is about as far off the beaten track as you will get anywhere on the southern African subcontinent. Just reaching Blouberg Reserve is an adventure – especially during the rainy season, when you will most definitely need a 4x4. The Cultural Camp in the reserve is part of the excellent "African Ivory Route", drawing its architectural inspiration from the local Bahananwa – a remnant splinter group who settled in this area centuries ago.

STEP ONTO THESE TRAILS AND YOU WILL OVERDOSE ON A BOTANICAL TREASURE TROVE, WITH THE FULL GAMUT OF WILDERNESS WETLANDS, INDIGENOUS FOREST AND FRAGRANT FYNBOS FIELDS JUST WAITING TO BE EXPLORED.

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Keep it easy on the Pools Hike (3km) or try extreme exposure on the 12km Cliffs Hike. There is also the option of summiting Blouberg Peak (16km) and visiting the vulture colony – but this is a full-day outing.

africanivoryroute.co.za

WALK IN A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

iSimangaliso Wetland Park (KwaZulu-Natal)

Biodiverse and globally relevant, this is just the place to visit if you're in the mood for a dose of "endless summer". Northern KZN's sunny season lasts for a good 11 months, and it scores top marks as a hiking paradise. Trails abound where beach blends perfectly with safari, with verdant sand forest, ancient grassland dunes, shimmering lake systems and vast wetlands unfolding onto picture-perfect coastal glory.

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Walk 25 000-year-old vegetated dunes with armed rangers, experiencing an incredibly rich and varied grassland ecosystem up close; hike to the Bat Cave near Mission Rocks; or go birding on the extensive estuary with crocodiles and hippos in attendance.

isimangaliso.com

HIKE, CLIMB AND RIDE IN THE PLACE OF THE CROCODILE

Waterval Boven (Mpumalanga)

Life is way too short for just one sport. Tranquilitas Adventure Farm is situated among the hills directly above Emgwenya, overlooking Waterval Onder and the Elands River Valley. There are more waterfalls here than anywhere else in South Africa, and the weather is excellent for most of the year. It's a world-famous rock-climbing and bouldering destination, but the hiking is off the charts as well.

FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Most of the trails here were originally tramped by climbing crews making their way to rock faces and belay points, which means the views are to die for. Over the years, half a dozen mountain-biking trails have been added to the mix; they are consistently changed and diverted to create new permutations. Check out Rooibaard (12.5km), Secret Forest (4.5km) or the Rim Trail (8km), and look out for local and visiting trail runners who come here because of the relatively high training altitude (about 1 750m).

tranquilitas.com

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTRY





THE IMAGE: "EXPEDITION AFRICA, RODRIGUES ISLAND"

Multiday outdoor expedition racing is an intense sporting discipline to shoot. It includes running, riding, paddling, mountain biking, trekking, kayaking and orienteering, which adds a dynamic energy. Add to this remote destinations (such as Rodrigues Island, where this image of Expedition Africa was captured), and you're guaranteed wall-to-wall action unfolding in front of your lens.

THE TECHNIQUE

"Sleep monsters" are what you want to capture while shooting an adventure race. These mythical beasts start swarming to the surface of a racer's subconscious after two or three days of nonstop racing; without any sleep, it's as if they start crossing over into a transcendental, surreal space.

Thousand-yard stares and hallucinogenic motion come into play – and when you shoot at night, you can capture this psychedelic flow by using a slow shutter speed. One sure way to retain some sharpness in the image is to use on-camera flash to freeze the motion, as I did with this team on one of the dark-zone legs on the extremely remote Rodrigues Island.

Another part of the technique is to pan with your subject in order to track the movement. Think of their lights as brushes "painting" luminous lines within your photographic frame, and set your shutter speed to ensure the image is properly exposed. Think how long the subject will take to move across the frame – it could be anything from 1/50th of a second to 30 seconds (if it is extremely low light).

One final tip: underexpose your ambient light by one stop, as this will allow on-camera flash to override darker sections of the photo, and freeze movement there. This helps to ensure that parts of your photo are perfectly sharp, creating a balance between motion and focus.

GETTING THE SHOT

When you're shooting at night, use a lens that lets in as much light as possible. This specific shot was captured about half an hour before dawn, with the sun just starting to tint the sky deep purple.

Teams were coming in off an ocean boating leg, and had to offload their bikes at the final transition. I used a very low angle to capture the drama, shooting on a 24mm f1.8 lens to maximise light. I metered off the sky and underexposed by one stop, then used light from the flash to fill in the subject and foreground.

TECH SPECS

EQUIPMENT

CAMERA Sony Alpha A7R III Mirrorless LENS Sony 24mm f1.8 SHUTTER SPEED 1/20th sec APERTURE f1.8 LIGHTING Underexposure by 1x stop, fill-in flash

POST PRODUCTION

Final post-production done in Adobe Lightroom.

sony.co.za | jacquesmarais.co.za

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Welcome to paradise: these words will ring 100% true once you set foot on Rodrigues, a tiny, remote Indian Ocean island 560km east of Mauritius. This autonomous republic – just 18km long by 8km wide – epitomises a laid-back tropical adventure vibe, with terrain varying from rocky coastal cliffs and emerald-green jungles to hideaway beaches and craggy canyons. **tourism-rodrigues.mu**

ENJOY YOUR CITY



START

YOUR IMPOSSIBLE

Toyota South Africa's Olympics and Paralympics brand ambassador

PIETER BADENHORST

offers a preview of the mobility solutions that will be on display during the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games



Δ

Ithough he no longer competes professionally, former Paralympic gold medallist Pieter Badenhorst is one of the key driving forces behind #StartYourImpossible – a movement that suggests anything

is possible when you have the right mind-set.

He should know: a freak accident when he was five years old changed his life irrevocably, but the determined youngster continued to participate in sports. "I was at my parents' farm in Limpopo, playing with what I thought was a piece of rope," he says of the incident. "It turned out to be a live electric cable, which shot 22 000 volts of electricity through my body.

Doctors eventually had to amputate my left arm at shoulder level, and my right at the elbow."

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and Pieter has competed in three Paralympic Games, starting with 1992, and continuing through the 1996 and 2000 events. In the 1992 Games, he won gold in the 400 metres and silver in the 200 metres. He also competed in the long jump.

As a global sponsor for this monumental event, Toyota is focusing on mobility solutions that will be on display as people move through the host city. Most notably, it will supply up to 20 specially designed "Tokyo 2020 Version" e-Palette vehicles, providing automated, loop-line transportation in the Olympic



and Paralympic villages for athletes and staff.

"The battery-electric automated vehicles have been adapted to meet the unique needs of the Olympic and Paralympic villages," Pieter explains. "They feature wide doors and electric ramps to allow groups of athletes, including Paralympians, to board quickly and easily."

Each vehicle will be controlled by an automated driving system capable of operating up to 20km/h, and supported by an on-board safety operator.

"WOLWESPRUIT MTB AND TRAIL PARK HAS A NICE RESTAURANT ON THE PREMISES, FOR SOMETHING COLD AFTER A RUN..."







'

2 3

The Atterbury Theatre.
 PLTFRM restaurant at Wolwespruit
 MTB and Trail Park.
 LC de Villiers Sports Grounds at the University of Pretoria.

ENJOY YOUR CITY

PIETER HAS COMPETED IN THREE PARALYMPIC GAMES, STARTING WITH 1992, AND CONTINUING THROUGH THE 1996 AND 2000 EVENTS



 Culture Club at The Village in Hazelwood.
 OPENING IMAGE Paralympic gold medallist Pieter Badenhorst.



ENJOY YOUR CITY

CLOSER TO HOME

In the buildup to visiting Tokyo as an ambassador for the largest and most complex sporting event in the world, Pieter Badenhorst describes his favourite spots in his home city of Tshwane.

BEST PLACE TO TRAIN

"When I still competed in track and field, my favourite place to train was at the University of Pretoria's LC de Villiers Sports Grounds. Now the best place for me is Wolwespruit MTB and Trail Park – a great cycling and trail-running park in the east of Tshwane. It offers a break from pounding the pavement, like I usually do, with various routes for people of all abilities and fitness levels. There's also a nice restaurant on the premises, for something cold after a run..."

wolwespruit.co.za | pltfrmwolwespruit.co.za

BEST PLACE TO WATCH SPORT

"Loftus Versfeld. When the Blue Bulls performed well in their golden era (between 2007 and 2010), this was an intimidating fortress for visiting teams."





IMAGES Theana Breugem, Supplied WORDS Biddi Rorke

ENJOY YOUR CITY

BEST PLACE TO WATCH THE SUNSET

"I recently discovered a World War II memorial on Cornwall Hill in Irene that has the best view between Pretoria and Johannesburg. Apparently it's also the highest point between the two cities. Unfortunately, it's not freely accessible to the public."

BEST FOR ENTERTAINMENT

"The Sun Arena at Time Square has hosted some good international and local artists. The Atterbury Theatre in Lynnwood is fantastic for smaller, more intimate events."

suninternational.com/time-square | atterburyteater.co.za

BEST RESTAURANT

"The Village in Hazelwood is Pretoria's answer to Melville or Parkhurst, and has a nice street-café vibe. My favourites at the moment are Culture Club, with its extensive tapas menu, and Pachas, which remains consistently excellent for special occasions."

cultureclubtapas.co.za | pachas.co.za

BEST MARKET

"The Pretoria Farmers' Market, held every Saturday in Silverton. We go early, start with a coffee – with condensed milk – and some pancakes, then browse the fresh produce."

pretoriaboeremark.co.za

BEST WEEKEND GETAWAY

"There are many bushveld campsites less than two hours' drive from Pretoria, and places like Sondela and Mabalingwe are easy to reach on a Friday afternoon. In winter, the Dullstroom area is lovely to visit for a fireplace-and-red-wine weekend."

sondela.com | mabalingwe.co.za | dullstroom.co.za



2 4

The WWII memorial on Cornwall Hill in Irene.
 The Village in Hazelwood is Pretoria's street-culture answer to Melville and Parkhurst.
 Wolwespruit MTB and Trail Park.

4. Pieter is Toyota South Africa's Olympics and Paralympics brand ambassador.







CHAMPS

After winning the manufacturer's championship in 2018 and the driver's title in 2019,

TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT

is once again looking to dominate world rallying







f you grew up in the 1990s, you probably first learnt of Toyota's involvement in the World Rally Championship (WRC) by playing *Sega Rally Championship*: a classic arcade game in which you could

fling Didier Auriol's iconic white, green and red Toyota Celica GT-Four rally car around a selection of global stages at breakneck speed. But Toyota's history with this famed rally series can actually be traced all the way back to 1973, when it was initiated to unify the various rally events held independently around the world into a single series and thus create a world championship. Although part of the action from the get-go, the official Toyota works team would only celebrate the spoils of victory in August 1975, when Hannu Mikkola at the wheel of a Corolla took an overall win at Finland's infamous 1 000 Lakes Rally – coincidentally also a first for any Japanese marque.

The humble Corolla may have started things off, but it was in 1976 with the debut of the Celica that Toyota really started to turn up the wick on progress. A model that would later become the mainstay of the team's armoury, this rear-wheel-drive sports coupé recorded a memorable one-two finish at the 1982 Rally New Zealand as well as notching up no fewer than three gruelling Safari Rally wins before the end of the 1980s. Attracting esteemed driving talent such as Sweden's Björn Waldegård and Finland's Juha Kankkunen,

THIS YEAR USHERS IN A NEW DECADE AND A NEW DYNAMIC AT TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WRT.

Toyota was at last proving to be a force to be reckoned with on the world rallying stage.

In the 1990s - the decade that brought us grunge, the internet and the dotcom boom - Toyota blossomed into true winners, with Carlos Sainz clinching the WRC driver's championship in both 1990 and 1992 despite fierce competition from rivals Lancia. In 1993 and 1994, Toyota claimed both the driver's championship (Juha Kankkunen and Didier Auriol respectively) and (for the first time) the much-coveted manufacturer's championship. Facing increased pressure from the likes of Mitsubishi and Subaru, Toyota would only win its third manufacturer's title in 1999 with, ironically, an all-wheel-drive Corolla powered by a turbocharged 3S-GTE motor. At the end of that season (and after 26 years), Toyota bid farewell to the WRC to concentrate its efforts on Formula 1 - a sport it would contest from 2002.

Of course they say that once you've competed in rallying it's darn hard to ever work it out of your system - which explains why, 18 years later, Toyota would once again join the mud-busting, snow-slinging goodness that only the WRC can offer. With the Celica now resigned to the history books and regulations greatly evolved since the 1990s, the Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team (WRT) took up position in the service park at the 2017 season opener, the familiar Monte Carlo Rally, with its all-new Yaris WRC. Thanks to some strong finishes and two victories (Sweden and Finland), they were able to finish third overall at the end of their comeback season. The following year was even more eventful, with its threecar lineup managing to accrue enough points to earn Toyota its fourth WRC manufacturer's championship. Then, in 2019, young Estonian driver Ott Tänak claimed the WRC driver's championship in a Toyota Yaris, finishing 36 points clear of his nearest rival.

EIGHTEEN YEARS LATER, TOYOTA WOULD ONCE AGAIN JOIN THE MUD-BUSTING, SNOW-SLINGING GOODNESS THAT ONLY THE WRC CAN OFFER.

This year ushers in a new decade as well as a new dynamic at Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT. The driver lineup has been refreshed and now consists of sixtime world champion Sébastien Ogier, proven winner Elfyn Evans, rising star Kalle Rovanperä and, of course, their respective co-drivers. Together, they make for a fine blend of speed, experience and youth behind the wheel of the tried-and-tested Yaris WRC. With Evans claiming overall victory at the recent Rally Sweden, Toyota were 10 points ahead of Hyundai in the manufacturer's championship – a lead they extended to 21 in the heat and gravel of one of the toughest events of the year, Rally Guanajuato México, after Ogier claimed his maiden rally win for Toyota.

Now that you know more about its illustrious past, you might find yourself enjoying more of Toyota's present and future as one of the world's greatest and longest-lasting names in rallying.



1. With six victories, the Yaris WRC was the most successful rally car of 2019. 2. Sébastien Ogier in his Toyota debut at the season-opening 2020 Monte Carlo Rally. 3 & 4. Ott Tänak and co-driver Martin Järveoja finished on the podium at the 2019 Monte Carlo Rally.

5. Flying in the snow-dusted Rally Sweden.







KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

SERGIO BERGSTEDT believes his late grandmother would appreciate the way he maintains — and loves — her classic RWD Toyota

his was my grandmother Olive's 1.3L KE70 Toyota Corolla, and I am now its proud owner. It wasn't my gran's first Toyota – it had replaced her lovely and now highly sought-after SR5 coupé, which she sold for financial reasons.

But Olive was determined to keep *this* car in the family, and always told me I would continue her legacy when it became mine.

While it is no longer a 1.3L, I've kept it iconic. There is just something about a classic RWD Toyota – made before front-wheel drive took over for good in this segment – that really appeals to me. Knowing I am driving the last of a certain type of car, the last of a generation, stirs up emotions that I struggle to describe.

Petrolheads applaud these cars on racetracks, stop and stare when they drive past, and make a point of admiring them in parking lots. Many strangers have come up to me, sparking a conversation about the Corolla. These cars of a bygone era help build friendships and form lasting bonds.

Yet my car's biggest fans have to be my sons – Liam, 7 and Jude, 5. Their favourite memory of the Corolla is the same as mine: the day we drove to the lagoon on the West Coast to spend a sandy, sun-kissed day on the water. On the drive back home, they fell asleep on the back seat. It reminded me of my younger days, when I used to nod off during long drives with my parents, only to wake up in a daze the next morning with a hint of sunburn, still sticky from ice cream. I'm now creating wholesome memories for my own kids, which makes a day's adventure in an almost four-decades-old sedan even more special.

Although these cars are now highly sought-after, I will never sell her. I have, however, modified her, swapping her ageing 1.3L four-cylinder 4K engine for a 1600 4AGE Twincam 16V heart. This is the gem of the AE82 and AE86 era of Corollas, and needs no real introduction.

As with most of these cars, parts are plentiful – even more so if you shop online. I decided to import a few parts to give the old girl a real JDM feel – by that I mean bringing it in line with its Japanese Domestic

Market trim and spec levels. As a result, my wife says there are currently more car parts in our garage than food in our fridge.

My list of changes is pretty extensive. My KE70 has four pot brake callipers and AE86 front struts with adjustable Tokico dampers. These 15-inch wheels are particularly precious: they're iconic SSR Longchamp XR-4s, and the kind of attention to detail only a purist will understand. To keep her ticking, I've also installed a Walbro fuel pump, Dictator fuel-management system, an MSD coil and adjustable camshaft gears. Lastly, she received a custom exhaust header with 63mm piping and a single box – which is why she sounds so good.

I'm far from done. My next mission is to restore the body and give it a new coat of paint for some fresh lustre. And there'll be another modification mission after that, and another after that.

My Toyota Corolla will always have a special place in my heart, and garage. Right next to the spare parts.

1. The car's iconic 15-inch SSR Longchamp XR-4 wheels are a detail only a purist will understand. 2 & 3. Owner Sergio Bergstedt loves his Toyota.

 The original engine was replaced with a 1600 4AGE Twincam 16V unit.
 The well-worn steering wheel.
 Making new memories.





"KNOWING I AM DRIVING THE LAST OF A CERTAIN TYPE OF CAR, THE LAST OF A GENERATION, STIRS UP EMOTIONS THAT I STRUGGLE TO DESCRIBE."





he ultimate driver of this programme is the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050, which was launched globally in October 2015. It aims to make

Toyota the most environmentally responsible motor manufacturer in the world. Here in South Africa, the requirements and solutions are very much homegrown to suit local conditions and resources, with the aim of continued positive results.

Many years ago, all dealers signed a commitment to support Toyota South Africa Motors' (TSAM) environmental programme. Over time, this has expanded into a structured, sophisticated, more comprehensive programme, with a set of standards that require compliance.

"We are keen to encourage other automotive vehicle dealerships in South Africa to get involved in environmental projects to show consumers a caring attitude by the local motor industry as a whole," says John Thomson, vice president of service at TSAM. "Driving environmental initiatives is a winwin situation for all involved; this is why we are stepping up our dealer programme."

Two-hundred Toyota and Lexus dealerships have already attained Toyota's ECO-3 standard, which includes several key elements of the international ISO 14001 standard. Now the Toyota benchmark has been raised to ECO-3 Advanced, which brings it in line with recent revisions to the ISO 14001 standard. TSAM uses its own standards, because obtaining ISO 14001 certification would be extremely onerous and expensive for individual dealerships.

"Our objective now is to get the dealers to an ECO-3 Advanced level, which puts even more focus on reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, promotes a recycling culture that minimises waste-to-landfill, and optimises water usage," say Charles Classen and Gregory Molise, who drive the dealer environmental programme for TSAM.

The main tool used to manage progress is the Dealer Environmental Risk Audit Programme, where

"THE GOAL IS TO GET THE DEALERS TO AN ECO-3 ADVANCED LEVEL."

dealers have to undertake self-audits twice a year to monitor compliance. This process sees the dealers evaluate specific assessment points to demonstrate their compliance. The Toyota field staff provide an additional checkpoint at each dealer in order to verify conformance.

Each dealership has a chief environmental officer, with seniority and the correct reporting line. He or she can take any transgressions to the dealer principal, and institute remedial action immediately.

Dealers are encouraged to implement voluntary action plans to reduce pollution and natural resource usage, specifically in terms of energy generation, water consumption and waste-to-landfill generated. Dealers are also urged to measure and evaluate the impact of their activities on the environment, and the outcomes of actions taken to improve the situation.

"We continue to make significant progress in terms of decreasing Toyota's environmental footprint in all aspects of our business," says Thomson. "The latest programme changes will help us retain our reputation as a caring company."

STAR OF THE SHOWROOMS

Following its relocation to new premises, Halfway Toyota in George is leading the way in terms of eco-friendly initiatives. They include:

- 1. Installation of 288 solar panels on the roof that are capable of supplying more than enough power for the dealership;
- 2. Use of LED lights in the workshop, with louvres in the roof letting in natural light, thereby reducing electricity use substantially; and
- **3.** Collection of rainwater in three large tanks, and the use of recycled water for the carwash, which also has a sophisticated filter system that permits more than 50 cars to be washed daily.