Cresta Mahalapye now open!
The latest addition to the Cresta family

Celebrating African traditions and heritage
Traditional African foods corner

Mahalapye – The Place of Lights
3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS
Mowana Safari Resort & Spa
GETAWAY PACKAGE

For ZAR 8,050.00 per person sharing, you will be indulged and pampered in the luxurious, tranquil and natural surroundings of the Mowana Spa in Botswana.

The package includes:
- Two nights accommodation at Cresta Mowana Safari Resort & Spa on full board basis
- 2 Game Activities
- Mowana Signature Spa Treatment
- Return flights from Johannesburg
- Excludes laundry, telephone calls and other items of a personal nature

Valid from 1st March 2013 – 30th June 2013

Terms and conditions apply.

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Exciting Times at Cresta Hotels

Cresta Hotels have been very busy in the last few months, and we can now start to see the fruits of our efforts as we opened the doors at Cresta Mahalapye in Botswana on 25th February. This is an exciting opportunity for us to introduce this world class hotel in this town, which has such a rich history, to the business and leisure traveller.

Cresta Mahalapye will provide the ideal stopover between Gaborone and Francistown. Cresta Mahalapye’s 64 rooms will be fully equipped with all the latest amenities and will be able to offer conferencing facilities for up to 200 people, a gym, a pool, two Presidential suites and a cocktail bar and restaurant.

Another exciting new era begins with Cresta Lodge, Harare; we opened our first new block of fully refurbished rooms on 20th February. These new, sleek, modern rooms offer the Cresta customer all the comforts of home. The second block will be open in the next six weeks, and the entire hotel will be completed by August 2013. Sango Conference Centre continues to grow in demand in Harare as the conferencing business in the region steadily increases.

On our resort front, the Cresta Mowana Safari Resort & Spa is booming in popularity as we make our footprint in the leisure world with international travellers across the globe eager to experience the majestic Chobe River. Our new Zimbabwean resort has caused much excitement and anticipation in the prime tourist destination of Victoria Falls with the new Cresta Sprayview. We are currently open to the public, but a complete refurbishment programme began in February and we look forward to its completion in July in time to host the UNWTO General Assembly in August 2013.

In this issue, you will see a feature on the Traditional African Foods Corner that will be appearing on every Cresta buffet. We feel strongly that we must celebrate and honour our African traditions and heritage, and what better way to do this than with the delicious fare of our culture? Executive Chef Brian Ndlovu has been hard at work to create a unique component of the daily spread. I encourage you to explore this interesting section of the buffet when you next visit a Cresta hotel.

Cresta Hotels are enthusiastic about all our exciting projects for 2013 and we look forward to seeing you at a Cresta Hotel soon!

Glenn Stutchbury
Chief Executive Officer, Cresta Hotel Group
Cresta Hotels CEO, Glenn Stutchbury and the Gardini family are pleased to announce that they have entered into a lease agreement for the operation of Sprayview Hotel in Victoria Falls. The hotel will be rebranded as Cresta Sprayview and Cresta shall immediately start work on the refurbishment and branding of the hotel.

This agreement allows Cresta to enter into the popular resort town of Victoria Falls, an area previously not covered by their portfolio of hotels in Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With the General Assembly of the UNWTO being hosted jointly by Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Livingstone, Zambia in August 2013, Cresta will be working towards re-opening the hotel by that date.

Opened in the 1970’s, Sprayview is very much part of the Victoria Falls hospitality history and this agreement creates a win-win for both parties. The Cresta Sprayview will fall into the three star market segment after the refurbishment, an area where the visitor to Victoria Falls needs additional room stock with facilities and service to match. The end product will be 64 rooms, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, 3 conference rooms and all within 1.4km of the mighty Victoria Falls.

New addition to the Cresta Family

Cresta Thapama Management

Getaway and Team Building

On Saturday, 2nd February the management team from Cresta Thapama finally celebrated 2012 Xmas at a management getaway which took place at Tantebane, a game ranch 45kms north of Francistown. The event also served as a team building exercise for the management team.

Staff brought food and pots for cooking at the campsite inside the ranch. The mood at the campsite was very festive; everyone cooked, danced, ate and drank together.

All HODs were encouraged to say few words on their accomplishments over the past year and how they wish to achieve their new targets for 2013. All made a commitment to deliver in the year ahead and make sure that they stay ahead of their targets.

This was followed by a celebratory toast and a wonderful game safari. Overall, the team experienced a fun-filled day and returned charged up and ready to tackle 2013 head-on.

Traditional Food Corner at Cresta Hotels

Group CEO Glenn Stutchbury recently announced the group’s focus on recognising their heritage and making sure that in addition to western food all Cresta Hotel buffets also have a focus on Traditional Cuisine. “Cresta Hotels are excited to see the new Group Executive Chef Brian Ndlovu has started rolling out the Traditional Cuisine Corner concept as can be seen at Cresta Lodge, Harare,” said Stutchbury.

Some of the traditional dishes and their Shona names served at Cresta Hotels include: (Clockwise from left) Sweet potatoes – Mazhanje, Mopani worms – Madhora, groundnuts – Nzungu, roundnuts – Nyimo, roasted peanuts – Mutetenerwa, pumpkin – Manhanga and mealies – Chibage

Traditional Food Corner at Cresta Hotels

G}

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Kids Only Xmas Party at Cresta Thapama

Cresta Thapama hosted a “Kids Only” Xmas party on 1st December 2012. It was a bright sunny Saturday morning and the children who attended enjoyed a day of fun in the sun; swimming in the pool, having a great time on the jumping castle and running around on the lush green lawns of the hotel.

The children were entertained with games and dancing, and were also served a delicious lunch. Father Christmas handed out small gifts, Cresta Thapama t-shirts and treats to everyone. Great fun was had by all who attended.

According to General Manager, Mr Dass, “We are greatly encouraged by the turnout and compliments received from parents, and are thinking of doing a similar event in the middle of the year as well.”

Cresta wins Super Brand award

Cresta once again won the 1st runner up award for the second year in a row in the annual Super Brand competition ahead of other big players in the industry such as African Sun. The Super Brand competition is in its third year running and is organised by the Marketer’s Association of Zimbabwe, a local marketing professional body.

The Super Brands Survey, just like its predecessors, 2010 and 2011, is modelled to provide an indication of marketing and advertising success, brand popularity, growth and consumer trust. It is also meant to indirectly provide business investors and the public with a brand health measurement.

Cresta promises to continue to be a leading hospitality brand and with the exciting and new developments that are set to take place this year around the brand, the Group is very positive about this success.

Cresta Hotels at the Cape Getaway Show

The Cape Getaway Show returns to Lourensford Wine Estate in Somerset West from 15 to 17 March, 2013.

The show has firmly established itself as the leading travel and outdoor show in the Western Cape region, offering visitors an incredible day out with more than 250 exhibits, a deli market, kids’ activities, Ride mountain-biking, Hi-Tec hikes, SAcamera.co.za photo workshops, Castle Lager beer tent, Best Value Wine tastings, the Ride Cycle Lab and the exhilarating Mercedes-Benz 4x4 track.

Visitors can discover authentic travel experiences, win trips, snap up great deals and buy the latest travel and outdoor gear.

Cresta Hotels will be exhibiting at this year’s show, which takes place at the Lourensford Wine Estate from the 15th – 17th of March 2013. It is the first time Cresta Hotels will be exhibiting at the show in Cape Town. Cresta Hotels did exhibit at the Johannesburg Getaway Show last year, and this proved to be a great success. Expectations for the Cape Town show are high and everyone involved is looking to make the show an even bigger success than before.

Cresta Hotels will be one of the exhibitors at the Maplanga stand. Do come and visit us at our stand for a chance to learn more about the developments at Cresta Hotels and to win fantastic prizes and giveaways!

Tickets available at the gates or online at www.getawayshow.co.za.
Cresta Hotels exhibiting at **INDABA 2013**

The Cresta Hotel Group will be exhibiting again at INDABA 2013, a four day travel trade event held from 11 – 14 May 2013 at the Durban ICC that showcases a wide variety of Southern Africa’s best travel and tourism products.

INDABA is one of the largest tourism marketing events in Africa and one of the top three ‘must visit’ events of its kind on the global calendar. The event attracts well over 13,000 delegates from the travel tourism and related industries, as well as international visitors and media from around the world.

Cresta Hotels will be exhibiting in the SADC arena with a Mowana Safari Resort and Spa and a Sprayview Hotel stand, and will also have a presence at the Botswana Tourism and Zimbabwe Tourism stands.

The Cresta team look forward to introducing Cresta Hotel’s newest additions, Sprayview Hotel in Vic Falls and Mahalapye Hotel in Mahalapye Botswana which opened on the 25th of February to the market.

INDABA serves as a highly effective platform to build successful business and client relationships, to update the industry with new additions and changes at Cresta Hotels and to cement the Cresta brand as a key player in the tourism sector, offering luxury accommodation in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Readers are welcome to set up an appointment to meet the team at INDABA. To make an appointment please contact Michelle Hinrichsen on michelle@crestahotels.com.

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**Air access to Cresta Hotels**

A list of airlines that fly to destinations of Cresta Hotels

**Botswana**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Airlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francistown</td>
<td>SAA, Air Botswana, British Airways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaborone</td>
<td>SAA, Air Botswana, British Airways, Air Namibia, SA Airlink, Kenya Airways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasane</td>
<td>SAA, Air Botswana, British Airways, Air Namibia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maun</td>
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**Zambia**

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<tbody>
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<td>SAA, Air Botswana, British Airways, Air Namibia, SA Airlink, Kenya Airways, LAM, Ethiopian Airlines, Emirates</td>
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**Zimbabwe**

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<th>City</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Bulawayo</td>
<td>SAA, SA Airlink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harare</td>
<td>SAA, Air Botswana, British Airways, Air Namibia, SA Airlink, Kenya Airways, LAM, Ethiopian Airlines, Air Malawi, Emirates, KLM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Falls</td>
<td>SAA, British Airways, Air Namibia, SA Airlink, Kulula.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Ride On, Speak Out’ campaign at Cresta President Hotel Piazza, Botswana

On Saturday 24th November 2012, Cresta President Hotel played host to and welcomed 18 Harley Davidson, Johannesburg-based motorbike riders. The event took place under the facilitation and invitation of the Botswana Bikers Association, United Nations Women, South Africa and United Nations, Botswana.

The ‘Ride on, Speak out’ function part of the roll out of a national initiative pledging to create awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and children as well as other social ills.

The idea behind the campaign was to get a group of ‘hardcore, rough’ bikers (whom people already have misconceptions about) together on their bikes to tour through 9 countries over 15 days promoting this awareness to demonstrate that even the ‘tough guys’ are against gender violence.

It is no coincidence that the event took place on the day marking the beginning of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

His Excellency the Minister of Environment, Tourism and Wildlife, Honourable Tshekedi Khama officiated at the event both in his personal and official capacity. The Minister endorsed the “Ride on, Speak Out” campaign, in the hope that it will inspire others and play a much more significant role in Botswana to see more men take the lead in the fight against gender-based violence.

Spotlight Travel workshop at Cresta Lodge, Gaborone

The first in a series of Spotlight Travel workshops was recently held on 7th February at the Cresta Lodge, Gaborone and was a great success.

The Spotlight Travel workshops invite a diverse range of tourism organisations from all over Africa and take them on a week-long road show around South Africa to meet travel agents, tour operators, incentive travel companies, Professional Conference Organisers and corporate travel buyers in each centre. The event promotes travel from Botswana to Southern Africa countries and the rest of Africa, as well as domestic leisure and conference tourism within Botswana.

During the two sessions, over 150 trade, government and corporate visitors attended. There were 20 exhibitors, who were pleasantly surprised at the turn out. Exhibitors got to network with a number of new travel agencies that have opened up in the last few months, and many new business enquiries for conferences and incentives in Africa were initiated.

Competition winner!

Congratulations to Chantelle Kriek of Thompsons Holidays who has won a fantastic all-inclusive weekend away for two to Cresta Golfview in Lusaka. The prize includes two return tickets on Air Namibia from Cape Town to Lusaka, Zambia, hotel transfers and all meals. Enjoy your prize!
Easter Specials at Cresta Hotels

The Cresta team have put together some fantastic Easter specials just for you. Plan early for your holiday and take advantage! Cresta Hotels wishes you, your family and friends, a wonderful Easter.

Cresta Churchill, Bulawayo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
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<th>Double</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$85.00 Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
<td>$100.00 Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
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Cresta Lodge, Harare

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<td>$170.00 Bed &amp; Breakfast</td>
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Cresta Oasis, Harare

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<th>Double bed only</th>
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<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highgate</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
<td>$135.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Air Botswana and Cresta Hotels

Take advantage of Air Botswana and Cresta Hotels’ special package to Kasane. Enjoy the tranquil Chobe setting while enjoying a relaxing spa treatment.

**PACKAGE 1**
Return flights to Kasane
Hotel accommodation (room) for 3 nights per person sharing at Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge
Breakfast
Either a game drive or a boat cruise
Mowana Signature spa treatment
Government sales and departure taxes
(National Park entry fees not included)
Total Package Cost – BWP5212.00

**PACKAGE 2**
Return flight to Kasane
Hotel accommodation (Single) per person for 3 nights at Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge
Breakfast
Dinner
Either a game drive or a boat cruise
Mowana Signature spa treatment
Government sales and departure taxes
National Park entry fees not included
Total Package Cost – BWP5901.60

Book now by calling the Air Botswana Sales Office on +267 3951921/3680900
Mahalapye - The Place of Lights

by Lauri Kubuitsale

Mahalapye Deputy Kgosi Frank Tshipe, remembers being a child in Mahalapye and going to the then Rhodesian Railway Station to stand under the only electric lights in the village to see his shirt change colour. Something about the bulbs of the lights caused colours to appear differently then they actually were and for the young Tshipe and his cohorts, this was a cause for fascination. Those very lights, the only ones outside of Lobatse in the whole of the then Bechuanaland, gave the village the nickname, “Ko Diponeng”, the place of lights.

Looking at the many tarred roads lined with endless streets lights and every sort of shop from clothes stores to well stocked supermarkets to the robots and roundabouts of the now very modern Mahalapye, it is difficult to remember a time when a single light might be a topic of fascination for a young boy, but indeed that time was not that long ago since Mahalapye has only been a settlement since the 1920’s.

Mahalapye was also, unfortunately, well known for thugs, among them the notorious Brickston and Spur, who operated during the 1970’s. “They used to disconnect the head of the train, so they could rob the people in the cars,” Kgosi Tshipe remembers. Tales ran rife of the exploits of the duo. One story has it that Spur, the smaller one, used to be put in a basket and “delivered” to a shop. Once the shop was closed and the owners went home, he’d pop out and let Brickston in so they could be free to do what they like until opening time. “They were good at pick pocketing,” Kgosi Tshipe said. “They spent most of their time in jail.” A relatively reformed Brickston can still be found roaming Mahalapye, but Spur passed away in 2006.

The Beginnings

Mahalapye’s origins are intricately linked to the passing railway. In the 1800’s when Cecil John Rhodes decided to build a railway line from Cape to Cairo, the seeds for Mahalapye were being sown. According to the 2002 commemorative programme for the 20th anniversary of Xhosa Primary School in Mahalapye written by the school head, Ms L.S. Moloi, when the British South African Company was recruiting staff for the railway, they primarily chose from the Xhosa tribe in Cape Colony in South Africa. As the railway stretched northward into Bechuanaland and Rhodesia, the Xhosa people were carried north with it.

Mahalapye was initially a siding and a place for the train to restock its coal supplies. When it stopped, Batswana from surrounding areas came to the train to sell cattle and milk. Over time, some set up temporary and then permanent homes to do business with the train. The Baka and Bapaleng from Shoshong were some of the first settlers of the area. The Batalaote, the tribe from which Kgosi Tshipe is from, and Bakhonyana - both tribes who had followed Khama III
from Old Palapye to Serowe decided to move back to the Mahalapye area primarily because they had cattle posts east of the village.

Meanwhile, the now Rhodesian Railways decided that they needed someone to take care of the various property that they had at Mahalapye Siding. They chose a responsible Xhosa man, Mr. Samuel Giddie, the grandfather of the late BNF activist Mareledi Giddie. Giddie soon grew to like the area and travelled to Serowe to ask permission from Kgosi Khama III to be issued a residence permit and some land. Over time other prominent Xhosa families also moved into the area including Qose Sexaka, Blom Nyoka, and Mr. Jongman. They eventually set up Xhosa I Ward in Mahalapye.

The other early settlers of the Mahalapye area were the Baherero, who were refugees from the brutality of the Germans in Namibia. The late deputy Kgosi Johannes Maherero was a direct descendent of these settlers. The first chief of Mahalapye was Kgosi Mphati Segotsi, grandfather to Mahalapye’s current chief, Kgosi Duncan Segotsi.

Early Trading In Mahalapye
The first businesses in the area were almost exclusively owned by foreigners. When the first traders of Asian descent arrived in the village in 1964, it was little more than a handful of brick houses and shops located near to the railway station; the rest of the village was made up of only traditional Setswana compounds. “By that time there were about five shops,” said Aneesa Bhamjee, the daughter of Mohammed and Hadjina Bhamjee who owned Mahalapye Stores, a shop that stocked everything from “pins to ploughs”. “If you couldn’t get it at Mahalapye Stores,” Mrs. Bhamjee remembers, “you wouldn’t get it anywhere.”

The Bhamjees originated in Johannesburg. Mrs. Bhamjee’s father heard that a certain man named Milan had a shop in a village in Bechuanaland that he wanted to sell. Much to the surprise of their family, her father decided that he would move to Bechuanaland and take up ownership of the shop. So he packed up his wife, leaving the children behind with their grandmother so that they could attend school, and he moved to Mahalapye in the middle of one of the most severe droughts in the history of the country lasting almost seven years. “Until 1970, when the drought broke, they had it very tough,” remembers the late Bhamjee’s daughter.

Aneesa remembers how they used to have to be at the railway station at midnight to collect bread when the train passed. Those same lights that fascinated Kgosi Tshiphe so long ago, managed to hide the mould on the bread the Rhodesian bakery tried to pawn off to the Mahalapye residents only to be found in the bright light of morning. Later Mr. E. Moolah set up a bakery near where Cashbuild now stands which solved the problem for a short time.

Some of those early shops included Hennings Butchery (the family now owns Payless in Gaborone), BB Bazaar, Van Wyngaarat Scrap Yard and K & A Trading run by the Desais. Later Brian Frolich had a wholesaler called Cedcom located along the railway line south of the railway station. Mr. Tarr and Mr. Turk had the only petrol station in the village located along the A1 Highway where Engen is now. It had an old style hand pump and a parking lot with dif-breaking potholes. They also ran a workshop and a spares store. Kgosi Tshiphe remembers Mr. Tarr owning a clay brick making factory in Boseja. People claim those very bricks were exported to South Africa and were used to build Soweto.
The businesses initially got electricity from the railway station but later massive Rolls Royce generators were set up by the Council. They were located where Cashbuild now stands and provided electricity for houses and businesses that were wired. Transport from Mahalapye to Gaborone was provided by Joe’s Transport run by Joe Nwako. The road was treacherous and even on a good day the trip took more than four hours. If you were heading north by bus, your only option was Wright’s Transport that ran a bus from Mahalapye to Francistown.

Though most Batswana still made their living at the cattle post and the lands, some were recruited by the Rustenberg Platinum Mines Recruitment Office, located next to Mahalapye Stores on the mall and run by a Mr. Hall. People from Tswapong, Shoshong, Kalamare, Mahalapye and other surrounding areas would sign up for three month stints to work in the mines in South Africa.

**Entertainment**

Chase Me Inn, now Mahalapye Hotel, was a great place for entertainment for the people who could afford it. It was run by Mr. Chase whose wife was a nurse for the railways. The hotel provided excellent meals and on the odd night outdoor movies in the parking lot, where people pitched up with their lawn chairs to watch the film. For a short time, there were gravel tennis courts behind Mahalapye Hospital, which was the site of the Mahalapye Tennis Club, started by Mohammed Bhamjee. The team would compete with clubs from Gaborone and Selebi Phikwe. Later, tennis shifted to the Mahalapye Railway Club. For others there was Dido, a hall located where B & G Hardware is currently operating, that opened in the late 1960’s. The hall was owned by Kgalemang Motsete, author of the national anthem, and hosted shows from the likes of Mahothela Queens and the Soul Brothers.

There was the Rhodesian Railway Club, which offered bingo where you might win a slab of chocolate if you were lucky or you could take a swim if you were a member. Families liked to go for picnics along the picturesque Mahalapye Rive or out to the big Mowana tree on a Sunday afternoon. Football enthusiasts were not left behind in those early days of Mahalapye. In the 1950’s, Theo Tamocha started the Queens Park Rangers Football Club, followed in the 1960’s by Mahalapye Hotspurs started by former Councillor Ntsosa and businessman, Joe Nwako. In the 1970’s, Kgosi Kakabale, deputy kgosi to the late Kgosi Senai and father to the current deputy chief Frank Tshippe, started Leeds United Football Club.

**Education**

Mr. Tsiamo Tamocha is a person much respected in Mahalapye history. He was an educated man who wanted to pass that education on to others, but there were no schools in the early days of the village. To solve the problem, he opened a school in his home. “In 1938, my father attended school there. They were four in the class,” Kgosi Tshippe said. In 1963, Mahalapye African School was opened. A
school dedicated to the man so committed to educating the youth, Tamocha Primary School, opened later in the 1970’s. Meanwhile, Madiba Brigades was started by Patrick Van Rensburg and friends in the first years of the 1970’s. Dr. Kenneth Koma started Mahalapye Junior Secondary School around the same time with teachers mostly drawn from among his followers including Lenyeletse Koma.

**Mahalapye Today**

Today, Mahalapye is a massive village of over 44,000 people stretching in all directions from the initial settlement around the railway station. It is now the headquarters of Botswana Railways. There are six junior secondary schools, twelve primary schools and one senior secondary school.

Visitors to Mahalapye will want to stop and see the southern most naturally occurring baobab tree in Africa, the tree where long ago families used to picnic, now declared as a national monument, located at the southern edge of the village just off of the A1 Highway. If you’re travelling north you turn left at the first tarred road and then left again at the first gravel road. The towering tree can be seen from the road and easily found. The tree is magnificent, the broken bottles and rubbish blowing all around it not so lovely.

Spending the day among the massive granite boulders in the almost always dry Mahalapye River can be a nice way to occupy your time. A hike up the river with a picnic lunch can make the day memorable.

For eating, the best place for Setswana chicken and fish and chips, if you are not a stickler about grease and the health of your arteries, is Kaytee’s, along the A1. There are the chain restaurants Barcelo’s, Hungry Lion (opposite the bus rank) and Whistle Stop at Ultra City just as you leave the village. There are also numerous takeaways offering various degrees of cleanliness and taste, among them Botoka and Ja Monate at the bus rank, Southern Fried Chicken and Tsswana Take Away located at the Caltex Filling Station.

Modern Mahalapye, though not yet a tourist attraction, can offer a nice rest stop to destinations northward. From its humble beginnings as a stop for the train to re-coal, it is now a modern, bustling village.

Experience the true warmth of African hospitality in Mahalapye

Mahalapye historically used to be a water stop along the rail road that Cecil John Rhodes used in his attempt to extend the influence of the British colonial Empire from Cape to Cairo. Botswana (or Bechuanaland as it was called then) was considered more a great thirst-land, useful for political rather than commercial interests. The single rail road track running through Botswana linked modern-day South Africa with Zimbabwe (or Rhodesia as the country was then called after the ambitious Rhodes).

Mahalapye was a water stop for the coal burning steam engines that ran along the rail line. After independence Mahalapye became the town where the Botswana Rail was headquartered, in a nod to Mahalapye’s semi-central point along the North-South rail line as well as its history as a vital steam train stop. Mahalapye is a truly unique location, as it encapsulates the traditional village life of Botswana, all the while still closely situated to the more modern business hub of the country.

Cresta Mahalapye is well-positioned to assume that same historical mantle of being the ‘water stop’ between Gaborone in the South and Francistown in the North. Hotels in Mahalapye are few in number, hence the need and reasoning behind the venture. Cresta Mahalapye, the latest addition to the Group’s portfolio of hotels in Botswana, is conveniently located just 180 kilometres from Gaborone. The hotel is perfect for both business and pleasure and an ideal stopover between Gaborone and Palapye.

The hotel has 64 rooms in total, including; 2 presidential suites, 4 junior suites, 2 paraplegic rooms and 56 standard rooms, all fully equipped with the latest technology and equipment facilities. The hotel also caters for the business needs with conference facilities that can accommodate up to 200 people.

In addition, the hotel has a 140-seater restaurant, a cocktail bar, a fully equipped gym, a business centre, free Wi-Fi access, swimming pool, gardens and 24-hours secure parking.

Cresta Mahalapye looks forward to welcoming you!
Deep Fried Kapenta

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup sun-dried Kapenta
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup fresh milk
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon chopped dill
- Salt and pepper for seasoning
- 1 cups fresh cooking oil
- Juice of ¼ lemon

METHOD
1. Wash the Kapenta and soak in lemon-scented water for about 1 hour.
2. Remove from water and dry the Kapenta using a clean cloth.
3. Whisk the eggs, chopped dill and milk together to form a frying batter.
4. Pass the Kapenta through seasoned flour and frying batter and then back to seasoned flour and deep fry in hot oil at about 185 degrees Celsius.
5. Place on grease proof paper to remove the excess oil.
6. Serve cold as a light snack with a spicy dipping sauce.

Slow-cooked Deboned Oxtail with Tomato and Onion “Umngqushu” Casserole

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS
For the oxtail
- 1kg oxtail
- 100g onions, roughly chopped
- 100g tomatoes, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 100ml cooking oil

For the “Umngqushu” casserole
- 400g stamped chopped dried mealies (samp)
- 50g tomatoes, chopped
- 50g onions, chopped
- 45ml cooking oil

METHOD
For the oxtail
1. Portion the oxtail cutting through its natural joints.
2. Wash the oxtail under running water.
3. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Seal the oxtail in a thick bottomed pan until golden brown.
5. Add in the roughly chopped onions and sweat.
6. Add in the finely chopped tomatoes and stir until tomatoes are soft and a smooth paste is formed around the oxtail.
7. Add in brown stock or water, stir the dish and bring to a boil.
8. Skim excess oil or fat that accumulates on the surface.
9. Reduce heat and simmer for at least 4 to 5 hours or until the meat can be pulled off the bone.
10. When cooked use a fork to remove the meat from the bone.
11. Reduce the cooking liquid until thickened and return the oxtail to the sauce.
12. Correct the seasoning.

For the “Umngqushu” casserole
1. Wash the samp in clear running water.
2. Sweat the chopped onions and chopped tomatoes in thick bottomed saucepan.
3. Stir in the samp and season with salt and pepper.
4. Add in some water and bring to the boil.
5. Reduce heat and simmer until the samp is soft.
6. Loosen with a fork and serve.

CHEF’S CORNER

The new Group Executive Chef Brian Ndlovu has shared some of his original recipes for traditional foods that he will be rolling out into all the buffets in Cresta Hotels in order to celebrate African heritage.

Chef’s Corner
Heart-Shaped Soap

Stamped soaps, inspired by candy conversation hearts, are great gifts for friends. Put in cellophane bags tied with tags; adorn with glitter.

WHAT YOU NEED
- Non-stick 23cm square pan
- Heart-shape cookie cutter
- Glass measuring cup
- Glycerine soap
- Bench scraper
- Soap colorant or food colouring
- Spray bottle filled with rubbing alcohol
- Cutting board
- Needle nose pliers
- 1/8-inch metal letter stamps
- Masking tape

DIRECTIONS
We used a 5cm cookie cutter (2.5cm high) and 1.1kg of glycerine soap—sold at crafts stores—to make 16 hearts.

1. Depending on your equipment, yields may vary. To determine how much glycerine you’ll need, fill pan with water to 1/4 inch below height of cookie cutter; pour water into measuring cup. Record amount; discard water.

2. Cut soap into small pieces with bench scraper; fill measuring cup. Microwave on medium heat until melted; stir. Add soap and heat until you’ve reached the water amount. Add colorant; stir. Pour liquid into pan. Spray with alcohol to eliminate bubbles.

3. Let harden at room temperature, 2 hours. Freeze 10 minutes.

4. Turn upside down onto cutting board. Create soaps with cookie cutter; pull cutter out with pliers if it sticks. Tape stamps together to form words, and imprint on soap, applying light, even pressure.

Homemade Body Scrub

Slough off dry winter skin with an invigorating homemade body scrub. It’s easy, all-natural, and so inexpensive, you’ll want to make enough for gifts.

WHAT YOU NEED
- Body oil
- Epsom salt, sea salt, or organic cane sugar
- 340g jar with cap
- Lemon zest

DIRECTIONS
Combine 1 cup of body oil with 2 cups of Epsom or sea salts or organic cane sugar (depending on how fine a grain you like). We added lemon zest for colour and fragrance. Package in pretty jars and decorate with a ribbon.

Source: Martha Stewart Living, www.marthastewart.com

Make your own Easter chocolates

Follow these steps to make chocolate eggs and let the children join in too.

1. Chop the chocolate into pieces or use chocolate disks (available from baking stores). Put into a glass bowl. Bring a saucepan of water to a gentle simmer and put the glass bowl on top. Don’t let the glass touch the water. Leave the chocolate pieces to soften for a few minutes.

2. Stir the chocolate and leave it to melt further, stirring occasionally until the chocolate is completely melted and smooth. Be careful not to get any steam or water into the chocolate as this will cause the chocolate to seize (become thick and grainy).

3. Brush an even layer of chocolate over the surface of the moulds with a clean, dry brush. Leave to harden. You can put the moulds in the fridge to help the chocolate set faster, but not for longer than three minutes at a time. Repeat with three more layers of chocolate.

4. Gently loosen the edges of the chocolate from the mould and carefully push the moulded chocolate out. Try not to touch the outside of the egg too much as this will leave fingerprints.

5. Heat a metal palette knife in boiling water, then wipe it dry. Hold it against the rim of the half egg so the chocolate starts to melt slightly. Hold the egg in a lint-free cloth or paper towel so that it doesn’t melt from the heat of your hand. Do the same with the other half egg.

6. Put something into the egg if you prefer, such as a small, lightweight toy, sweets or a special note, then press the two halves together. Hold for a few seconds, then set aside and leave to harden. Wrap in coloured foil or cellophane. Decorate with a ribbon, if you prefer.

Source: Ideas magazine
Award-winning wines available at Cresta Hotels

LEOPARD’S LEAP

Leopard's Leap Wines was conceptualized at the turn of the century by winemaker and businessman, Hein Koegelenberg, with guidance from his late father-in-law, internationally-renowned business leader, Dr Anton Rupert. Initially created for the export market in the United Kingdom, Leopard's Leap has since rapidly gained an international reputation for providing excellent quality wines at affordable prices. The popularity of the brand has seen its market expand to more than 40 countries worldwide.

They are a proud sponsor of the Cape Leopard Trust, a NGO aiming to optimally facilitate conservation of the Cape region’s predators, in particular the endangered Cape mountain leopard. By simultaneously implementing conservation strategies, research projects and tourism initiatives, the trust works tirelessly to conserve these beautiful animals.

As a passionate supporter of South African literature, we are involved in events big and small, and are extremely proud of local authors who are increasingly being lauded overseas, and translated into a multitude of languages.

WATERFORD ESTATE

Waterford Estate is situated in one of the world’s most visually arresting pockets of paradise. Nestled in the picturesque Blaauwklippen Valley, in the world-renowned Stellenbosch region, Waterford Estate was created through a very special partnership between two families who had a shared dream to create a wine farm where life is cherished. Waterford Wines (Pty) Ltd was founded in 1998 when Jeremy and Leigh Ord purchased this prime Stellenbosch vineyard land.

The Waterford Way

The Waterford Way is a philosophy that celebrates prosperity, life, food, wine, family and friends, and guides all that we do here at Waterford. Every guest to the farm is made to feel a part of the Waterford Way, and those who have visited are drawn back often not only to the sumptuous wines, but to the heart and soul of Waterford.

DELHEIM

Delheim wine farm has been home to the Sperling family and their tribe of Jack Russells for over 60 years. In the cellar itself, a fresh approach was adopted with the introduction of new techniques, such as the use of hand-picking, reductive winemaking and American oak in the maturation process. These improvements will mean that Delheim’s wines will remain of the best in the country.

Awards

Delheim was awarded the Five-Star Laureates in the 2013 Platter’s guide to wine; and for the first time in a little over a decade; the Vera Cruz Shiraz was counted among their number.

We are giving away a hamper from one of the wine estates mentioned above. Simply answer the following question:

What is the name of the new Cresta Hotel in Victoria Falls?

Send your answer, along with your contact details to: michelle@crestahotels.com

Competition closes: 20 May

Lengau Wine Company has supplied Cresta Botswana for the past four years; their relationship with Cresta has grown through the years. Some of the wines available include Leopards Leap, Waterford and Delheim.
Now Open

Experience the true warmth of African hospitality in Mahalapye.

For reservations please contact us today:
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BlackBerry holding company RIM (Research In Motion) has finally played its hand by which it aims to turn its increasing fading mobile fortunes around. The company formerly known as RIM, now simply known as BlackBerry, recently launched its new mobile platform, BlackBerry 10, as well as the first two smartphones powered by the new operating system (OS).

The two new LTE (4G) enabled smartphones, the all-touch BlackBerry Z10 and the BlackBerry Q10 that, much like the Bold 9900, features a touchscreen and physical QWERTY keyboard.

BlackBerry Z10 and BlackBerry Q10 smartphones

The new BlackBerry 10 smartphones are very elegant and attractively styled devices, especially the Z10 which looks like the mix between an iPhone and HTC One X. At 130 x 65.6 x 9 mm and 135.4g, it fits neatly in your hand and is comfortable to hold. Even though it features an all-plastic design, the smartphone still manages to exude an element of class.

In terms of displays the Z10 boasts a 4.2” (1280 x 768; 356 ppi) IPS LCD touchscreen, whilst the Q10 is fitted with a 3.1” (720 x 720; 330 ppi) Super AMOLED just above its traditional QWERTY keyboard.

Both devices are powered by a 1.5 Ghz dual-core processor (Qualcomm Snapdragon chip in some regions, TI OMAP 4470 CPU in others) along with a multitask-accommodating 2GB of RAM. These smartphones come equipped with 16GB of internal storage, but you do have hot-swappable access to a microSD memory card slot supporting cards up to 32GB in size. Also featured are a micro HDMI out port for showcasing presentations and multimedia content on an HDTV; dual-band Wi-Fi 802.11n; Bluetooth 4.0; and NFC (near field communications).

BlackBerry also have all the snapping basis covered with the Z10 and Q10 sporting an 8 MP autofocus rear-facing camera capable of full-HD (1080p) video recording as well as a 2 MP front-facing snapper for taking self-portraits and recording HD-Ready (720p) videos. This will come in handy since users are now able to make video calls over BBM (BlackBerry Messenger) with voice calling and screen sharing functionality also supported.

Two interesting extras enhance the camera and video functionality of the new devices. When one takes a picture, Time Shift actually records burst shots before the actual image, allowing users to select the scene where, for example, the subject’s eyes are not closed. Story Maker enables users to bring a collection of photos and videos together, along with music and transition effects, culminating in an HD movie that you can instantly share.
Highlights of BlackBerry 10
Just like Nokia, BlackBerry has seen its smartphone market share gobbled up by iOS and Android, but unlike Nokia who adopted Microsoft’s Windows Phone OS, the firm is gambling on its proprietary BlackBerry 10 platform to boost device sales.

After a bit of hands-on time with this innovative new OS, we can report that it is smooth, really responsive, and incredibly intuitive once you get to learn its ins and outs. The platform is entirely based around gestures with the star of the show being BlackBerry Hub (check the video posted below), which is a central location to manage all your conversations, social networking updates and notifications, email, and BBM messages.

The fact that you can check your messages without having to close applications is a treat, since the Hub is accessible from anywhere in the OS. When your LED indicator starts blinking for instance, you simply swipe up from within any app to reveal the type of message or notification received (peek) and then swipe right to get more detail on the message.

It’s very quick, works well, and much less intrusive than having jumping from the one app to the next.

Superb typing experience & balancing work and play
We simply love the new onscreen keyboard that learns what words you use and how you use them. It offers suggestions above the letters on the keyboard so that users can just flick them onto the message, helping to drastically speed up typing.

Corporate users will appreciate BlackBerry Balance technology, which elegantly separates and secures work applications and data from personal content on BlackBerry devices. You simply swipe down, which reveals two onscreen buttons to quickly switch in between the two profiles.

BlackBerry stated that its BlackBerry World storefront now boasts 70 000 BlackBerry 10 apps, which might be a far cry from the 800 000 apps available in Apple’s App Store but remains a very robust selection for a totally new platform. A lot will depend on BlackBerry’s ability to draw in app developers to enhance and expand the new ecosystem.

Worldwide, several key markets have revealed pricing and availability for the Z10, but unfortunately this does not include South Africa. All the local operators will be offering the new BlackBerry 10 devices; pricing info should be available soon. BlackBerry expects the first global carriers to launch the Q10 in April, with pricing and availability info to follow around that timeframe.

To the point
BlackBerry 10 and the new phones have us excited about the Canadian firm’s devices once more. At the very least, it appears that BlackBerry fan boys will have a device able to compete with the iPhone and Galaxy S3 once again. But, with the next generation of smartphones, the likes of the Galaxy S4 and Sony Xperia Z, hitting the market soon, BlackBerry needs to come up with even better devices sooner rather than later.

Source: Techsmart
www.techsmart.co.za/features/news/BlackBerry_10_plus_two_smartphones_revealed.html
Volkswagen’s new 21st Century Beetle

Volkswagen’s new Beetle not only has a lower profile; it is also substantially wider, the front bonnet is longer, the front windscreen is shifted further back and has a much more swept-back angle.

It’s available with two engines; a turbocharged 1,2-litre TSI offering 77kW and a turbo- and supercharged 1,4-litre TSI with 118kW, both mated to a 6-speed manual transmission. A more refined auto transmission is available with the optional 7-speed DSG transmission.

The 77kW turbocharged Beetle reaches 100 km/h in just 10,9 seconds and can accelerate to 180 km/h - impressive performance contrasting with its low CO2 emission of 137g/km and fuel consumption of 5,9 l/100 km. Maximum torque is 175Nm from 1 550 rpm.

The supercharged 118kW Beetle reaches maximum torque of 240Nm at a low 1 500 rpm, with a claimed combined fuel consumption of 6,6 l/100km and 153g/km of CO2.

With the 7-speed DSG auto gearbox, fuel consumption drops to 6,2 l/100km and CO2 emissions to 143 g/km. Sprinting from 0-100km/h in just 8,3 seconds, it’s capable of reaching 208 km/h.

Significantly, the 1,4 TSI 118kW comes standard with the XDS electronic differential lock which improves handling and grip during fast cornering, by using active braking of the unloaded inside front wheel to prevent wheel spin on the inside of the curve. Available in two trim and equipment levels, Design and Sport, features include Hill Hold, electric windows and mirrors, adjustable steering wheel, ESP with ABS, Brake Assist, EDS and ASR, daytime running lights, head and side airbags for driver and passenger and ISOFIX anchors.

Available only in 1,4 TSI derivatives are 17-inch alloy wheels and a rear spoiler, R-type black side mirrors sport leather seats, 3-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel, aluminium look pedals, and Climatronic air conditioning. Optional features include Bi-Xenon headlights, LED daytime running lights, Panoramic roof, navigation, Fender sound system, keyless access and Park Pilot.
## SPECIFICATIONS

### ENGINE
- **Type**: four-cylinder, turbocharged
- **Displacement**: 1,197cc
- **Power**: 77kW @ 5,000 revs/min
- **Torque**: 175Nm @ 1,550 - 4,100 revs/min

### TRANSMISSION
- **Type**: 6-speed manual

### DIMENSIONS/CAPACITIES/EMISSIONS
- **Length**: 4,278mm
- **Width**: 1,808mm
- **Height**: 1,486mm
- **Wheelbase**: 2,537mm
- **Wheels**: 6.5J x 16-inch “Whirl” alloy
- **Tyres**: 215/60 R16
- **Fuel tank capacity**: 55 litres
- **Consumption**: 5.9 litres/100km
- **CO₂ emissions**: 137g/km
- **Luggage capacity**: 310 litres

### PRICE
- **R240 100 (1.2 TSI Design)**
- **R302 500 (1.4 TSI Sport)**
- **R317 000 (1.4 DSG Sport)**
Keeping busy - staying sharp!

TRAVEL QUIZ

10 Questions about Zimbabwe

1. In which continent is Zimbabwe?
   a) Africa
   b) Europe
   c) Asia
   d) South America

2. What is the official language of Zimbabwe?
   a) English
   b) Sindebele
   c) Shona
   d) Ndebele

3. Who is the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe?
   a) Morgan Tsvangirai
   b) Jacob Zuma
   c) Robert Mugabe
   d) Arthur Mutambara

4. How many provinces does Zimbabwe consist of (excluding Bulawayo and Harare)?
   a) 14
   b) 8
   c) 12
   d) 6

5. Which is the capital of Zimbabwe?
   a) Mutare
   b) Gweru
   c) Bulawayo
   d) Harare

6. What is the currency unit of Zimbabwe?
   a) Shilling
   b) Dollar
   c) Kwanzas
   d) Ngultrums

7. In which year were the Portuguese defeated by the Rozwi chieftaincy of Changamire?
   a) 1588
   b) 1693
   c) 1715
   d) 1498

8. What does the word ‘Rozwi’ mean?
   a) Destroyers
   b) Demolishers
   c) Slayers
   d) Slaughterers

9. What does the word ‘Zimbabwe’ mean in the Shona language?
   a) House of stone
   b) Under one roof
   c) Unity
   d) People of the Sanyati River

10. What colour is the bird on Zimbabwe’s flag?
    a) Yellow
    b) There is no bird on Zimbabwe’s flag
    c) Tan
    d) Grey

SUDOKO

Answers

1. a) Africa
2. a) English
3. a) Morgan Tsvangirai
4. b) 8
5. d) Harare
6. b) Dollar
7. b) 1693
8. a) Destroyers
9. a) House of stone
10. a) Yellow
Facilities of distinction for discerning delegates.

Zimbabwe’s most advanced conference centre is now open - Sango Conference Centre at Cresta Lodge - Harare.

The name ‘Sango’ was inspired by the Shona word for a ‘grove of trees’. Conveniently located just 10 minutes from the centre of the capital city, Sango Conference Centre is situated in a quiet and tranquil woodland of magnificent indigenous trees.

Sango Conference Centre is a contemporary, state of the art facility offering individuals or corporates a range of leading edge services for any function: Conferences for 50 to 300 delegates, offering the latest electronic technology, broadband for all delegates and video conferencing, cinema style seating for 600, dinner dances and weddings for up to 400 guests, product launches, cocktail parties, and exhibitions for up to 800 people.

For Sango Conference Centre reservations please contact Cresta Lodge - Harare.

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