

LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY GREG COX



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DE HOEK

holiday houses

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We selected four special holiday retreats on home soil that tick all your luxury-vacation boxes

Hide

and seek





**FLAIR FOR
THE DRAMATIC**
*Lemuria,
Betty's Bay*

Lemuria's black façade is crouched behind the scrub beyond the Betty's Bay shoreline — and somehow more at home in the landscape than many a classic whitewashed beach cottage would be. The rugged Overberg coastline is the perfect setting for this striking beach escape, which is as unexpected on the inside as it is on the outside.

The generous, open-plan living spaces are dramatised by ornate Indian doors in different colours. Screed floors and a clean silhouette are counterbalanced by mismatched antique furniture, and vintage and retro objects give it an upbeat and relaxed feel to offset the dramatic effect of the architecture. A combination of African and Indian influences in the textiles, artwork and decorative objects offers an eclectic sensibility, which is kept edgy rather than crafty by the ultra-contemporary shell. The black backdrop also proves the perfect foil for the abundant pops of bright turquoise, blue, pink, and yellow that form an unconventional seaside palette.

Three bedrooms inside the house and a separate loft suite sleep eight comfortably. There's a gym across the courtyard (which is ideal for lunches or lying in the hammock), a wine cellar stocking the owner's own label, and two braai options (gas and wood) for would-be entertainers.

Nothing separates the house from the sand, bar a garden path and gate, giving it front-row access to the beach, as well as amazing views from the raised pool deck. In a nutshell: it's the quintessential beach house, fitted out in such a way that you can settle in for the long haul but with an atypical aesthetic that makes you feel as if you're much further from Cape Town than the 90km drive would suggest.





**THE SLOW
LOUNGE**
No. 37,
**KwaZulu-
Natal**

KwaZulu-Natal's **Dolphin coast** is typically a low-key kind of holiday location. It has a slower pace than the Cape and is much more exotic, with the appeal of a tropical-island locale an easy flight from any city in South Africa. Those who have found their way here have come for the very tranquility that makes it hard to leave.

No 37 on Sheffield Beach is a jungly retreat amid verdant vegetation. Palms, strelitzias, and ferns surround the house, creating a haven of leafy calm. Inside, a palette of earthy tones and natural textures emphasise the down-to-earth nature of the destination.

This holiday home is designed for a laid-back getaway, where the most difficult choice you'll need to make is where to spend a leisurely day sunbathing (you have the choice of loungers on the deck, in a hammock fanned by the sea breeze, or a few steps from the house on the beach). The idea is to relish doing less.

The secluded and sheltered courtyard is also an ideal place to read — the built-in daybeds are shaded and offer respite from the sun. Inside, slow-turning fans will be a soothing soundtrack to your afternoon nap. Fish braais and barefoot beach strolls are the order of the day once you rouse yourself from your reverie.

The house sleeps 10, which makes it supremely versatile — think big-occasion birthdays or bring-everyone family holidays.

As remote as it seems, the villa is only a 26-minute drive from King Shaka International Airport, and there is a plethora of activities for water-sports enthusiasts in close proximity.

And for visitors to South Africa wanting to combine a beach and bush experience, the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe game reserves are only a two-and-a-half-hour drive away.



BIG SKY
COUNTRY

De Hoek,
Barrydale

As holiday homes go, De Hoek in Barrydale is a textbook argument for escaping to the country. It's located on the edge of the Overberg, just as the terrain begins to transition into a rugged Karoo landscape, and its relative isolation is a large part of its charm. The lack of houses and no discernible civilisation for miles, the mountain vistas in every direction, and the incomparable golden light that occurs only in this corner of the country make this the epitome of a true retreat.

Inside, the old farmhouse has been gutted and restored to a layout closer to its origins, and its nostalgic appeal remains very much intact courtesy of a décor scheme that pays homage to the building's history. Its interior-designer owner has imparted an effortless, easygoing elegance to the spaces. The well-chosen pieces have loads of character and beautiful patinated textures (copper urns, terracotta pots, enamel light fittings). The mix of stylistic references — faded English prints, rich Persians rugs and Cape collectibles — offer a snapshot of the eclectic influences typically found in old South African homes, and adds to the beautifully layered feel. Latte ceilings, generous hearths, and natural artefacts reinforce the Karoo location.

As lovely as the interior is, this is a destination where the outdoors beckons. This home has numerous spaces where you can while away the hours, gin and tonic in hand. The beautiful, built-in seating on the veranda looks out over the garden (a loosely planted paradise that the owners lovingly created from scratch) and the veld beyond. Outside the kitchen is an alfresco dining spot, and just beyond is the beautifully situated pool house that looks onto an unbeatable vista.

This is a destination designed for a big pile of books, slow roasts and long walks — it's restoration of the purest form.





**POISED
PIED-À-TERRRE
Pepper Tree,
De Waterkant**



Visitors and residents alike know that in Cape Town location is king. De Waterkant is a charming, cobbled suburb bookended by the City Bowl and Atlantic Seaboard. Terrace houses, heritage cottages and charming cafés predominate, and the area is centrally positioned with easy access to leisure offerings.

Pepper Tree is perched in one of the more stately in De Waterkant. Its elegantly understated interior scheme channels English restraint, effortless Italian chic, and a grounding African earthiness, with just the right ratio of style to comfort. Neutral colours and a less-is-more approach to furniture and accessories give the space a cosmopolitan feel that's hard to pin down, so it seems as if it could be in one of many cities in the world.

Graciously appointed spaces and refined architectural details (wall mouldings, stair railings and shutters) give this three-level, three-bedroom house a sense of grandeur despite its compact size, and offer the perfect proportions for its urban location. A textural palette of glass, wood, and leather contribute equal parts of simplicity and personality.

Once up on the rooftop terrace, though there's no doubting where you are. This vantage point offers sensational views of the city. The lounge area, pool, and covered alfresco dining area allow you the luxury of plenty of outdoor space, even though you're in the centre of the city. If you're inclined, this is an unbeatable spot to entertain while the sun goes down and city lights come up. Equally, it's a perfect place for a sundowner before venturing into the neighbourhood in search of an excellent meal.

Whatever your downtime preference, the excellent location and classic style of this lock-up-and-go make it perfectly suited for the city sophisticate.

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INVERROCHE GIN, R429, YUPPIECHEF



MARATABA BOTTLE BAG, R38 753,
KAT VAN DUINEN



DURALEX GLASSES, R109,
YUPPIECHEF



NAPKINS, R160, PACK OF FOUR, WOOLWORTHS



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R1 399, COUNTRY ROAD



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MANZANILLA OLIVES, R70,
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LOVE MILO PICNIC BLANKET,
R1 199, YUPPIECHEF