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MESSAGE FROM THE MOUNTAINS

From the desk of our General Manager Charles Preece

It takes a brave person to predict the end of winter in the Berg. But the general consensus seems to be that spring is upon us, even if we do get the odd cold snap to keep us on our toes. One sign of spring is the number of transient hikers passing through our property, somehow people who have slept in a cave for a couple of nights have a different look to our usual guests, a somewhat less well groomed look, to say the least. Our guides have already been busy retrieving lost rucksacks and other missing items! (Can anyone tell me how you lose a rucksack?)

Our building programme is drawing to an end, the last upgrades will be completed before the season starts and the property is now truly looking at its best. We are quite sure that you will agree that our product now matches our wonderful location and traditional warm hospitality. We look forward to welcoming you back to Cathedral Peak this summer. Take advantage of the wonderful specials that are currently on offer and take that well deserved break now!

See you soon.

Charles



4-STAR
Tourism Grading Council of South Africa

It is with absolute pleasure and pride that Cathedral Peak Hotel announces it has been awarded a 4th Star from the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa.

The 4-Star definition as defined in the TGSA's Accommodation Guide is:

*Superior (excellent) quality in the overall standard
of the furnishings, service and guest care.*

Cathedral Peak Hotel spent 4 years and more than R20-million refurbishing public areas and guest accommodation with the aim of achieving this new grading:

- in 2006 the hotel's kitchen was completely gutted and re-designed;
 - in 2007 the main dining-room was completely renovated;
- in 2008 renovations to Harry's Action Bar, Albert's Cocktail Bar, the hotel lounge, the custom children's dining-room and various bathrooms and the complete re-building and

re-design of the 200s wing;

- in 2009 refurbishments and upgrades to the family thatched rooms, executive/honeymoon rooms and the conversion of two rooms into fully disabled-friendly facilities.

We thank all of our guests who completed comment forms with hints and suggestions, and the many many guests who voiced their support of our efforts and encouraged us every step of the way.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS

Cathedral Peak Hotel turns 70 years old at the end of this year. Still family owned and run, the hotel buildings and grounds are full of history – and recently when a veld fire swept past the southern and western boundaries of the estate, an old sandstone cattle dip was uncovered.

This dip was constructed by a previous owner of the property, Izak Buys, who only used the land for winter grazing. Albert van der Riet and his father Philip purchased the land, about 1500 acres, in 1935 for £1288. Together father and son constructed the hotel and the road from Emmaus Hospital. Much of the sandstone used in the original building was quarried from rocks near the cattle dip below what is now called Lake Byron. The bay windows of the dining-room are part of the original hotel building.

Albert's son, William, still owns the hotel, and family names pepper the area: Doreen Falls is named after William's mother, and Albert has his own cascade a little higher up the valley. Belinda Falls is named after William's wife, Lakes Byron and Jarred for their sons, and Ashlea's Amble for their daughter.

Within the hotel itself the Mafifiyela conference and reception room is named after the Zulu nickname staff used for Albert (the lizard that sees everything from underneath hooded eyelids). The larger Umlambonja conference and reception hall is named after the main river running through the property.

As we near our birthday, we invite our guests to share their memories with us ... please post us a letter (P.O. Box 208, Winterton, 3340) or send us an e-mail at marketing@cathedralpeak.co.za. Please visit our website (www.cathedralpeak.co.za) for a pictorial history of the hotel, and to view selected shared stories.



The old cattle dip.



Sandstone in the dining-room's bay window.



CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS

Christmas comes but once a year ... and when it does people tend to celebrate to the fullest. Bookings for the peak holiday period are already filling up. With a traditional programme of special holiday activities, from the formal Christmas Dinner and New Year's Eve parties to the fabulous theme evening, Cathedral Peak Hotel promises a most memorable holiday.

Guests who visit again and again will attest to the vibrant atmosphere, and the excitement of celebrating with family and friends in an exquisitely beautiful setting.

Children's entertainment programmes will be run, including a pageant and Carols by Candlelight evening, Santa will hand out gifts, and EVERYONE gets festive for the theme evening. This year the phrase "Paupers, Princesses & Punks" will offer outrageous opportunities for the creative spirit in every guest. Family quiz evenings, a staff vs guests football match, karaoke and more will be on offer.

Limited family rooms are still available, and guests are asked to reserve their accommodation as early as possible. The hotel's on-line bookings system is live and working well, so guests can check availability and make their reservation at the click of a mouse!

[CHRISTMAS QUERY] | [BOOKINGS ON-LINE]



WORK, PLAY, STAY

Cathedral Peak Hotel offers the ideal venue for perfect conferences of up to 200 delegates. With a fully equipped modern conference venue and a variety of entertainment and activity opportunities, the possibilities are almost endless.

Fresh air, spring water, and the hotel's award-winning heritage of warm accommodating service ensures that the most demanding guests leave after a productive and satisfying stay.



The flagship Umlambonja Room can seat up to 200 delegates cinema style, and up to 90 delegates for a themed banquet. The multipurpose interleading Cathedral, Ndedema and Nyosi Rooms can each seat between 20 and 40 delegates in various configurations, and together they open to seat more than 150 delegates. Smaller meetings can be hosted in the stylish and elegant Xeni Boardroom, with exquisite bronze Bushman statues, and magnificent reproductions of San rock paintings.

As a practical venue, the hotel offers vehicle access for easy product presentation, controlled air-conditioning or heating, and a large refreshment service area for conference use. Theme dinners and special décor are easily arranged.

Equipment on-site includes projection screens, 2 data projectors, television and various play-back methods (laptop, disc, DVD, memory stick). Laser pointers, lecterns, flip charts and a professional sound system with cordless and lapel mikes are all available to make sure the conference organiser has one less item to organise or cost! All delegates are provided with writing pads and pens. The conference venues have strong wifi signal, and all the rooms have either wifi or cable access to the internet.

The hotel's fully inclusive conference packages can be supplemented with special meals and events from picnics and spit-braais to stately banquets and team-building games as well as activities from races or quizzes and karaoke.

[CONFERENCE QUERY] | [BOOKINGS ON-LINE]



FEATURED WALK ...

... DOREEN FALLS



As summer approaches the lure of fresh spring water calls. The trail to Doreen Falls is possibly the single most popular walk of the 18 available at Cathedral Peak Hotel. Following a relatively easy clear path, the explorer will pass along riversides to a spectacular cascade, perfect as a picnic spot. With a cavernous hollow behind the sheet of water, this exquisite place offers a shady refuge from the summer sun – and for those who aren't afraid to brace the icy spring water, a bracing plunge into the natural pool.

Easily found using the hotel's guided walk pamphlets, Doreen Falls is also regularly offered on the hotel's programme of free guided hikes and walks.



WISH UPON A STAR

Stargazing is a popular pastime – from romantic evenings, to the sheer child-like wonder at the magnificence of the heavens.

October offers a relatively rare occurrence to spot shooting stars as the Earth passes through the remnants of the tail of Halley's Comet! Every year in this month the planet's orbit ensures that stargazers can see the scattered debris that shoots through our atmosphere, creating these exciting phenomena. The name of this meteor shower (Orionids) comes from the nearest constellation, Orion. It is predicted that the greatest concentration of shooting stars will be most visible on the morning of 22 October (at 2:22am) at a rate of about 25 per hour! However, any time between 2 October and 7 November gives you a superb chance of seeing shooting stars. Co-incidentally, while 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy, October is also astronomy month!

With the unpolluted night sky at Cathedral Peak it is not necessary to even bring a telescope to go star-gazing ! As the nights are still relatively cool, all you need is a warm jacket and possibly a blanket, and about 20 minutes for your eyes to fully adjust to the night sky. Take along a companion who can point out the constellations, refer to a guide book, or simply stare up at the heavens in awe ... and if you wish upon a star, we hope your dreams come true!



SUPER SUMMER SPECIAL

As the sun rises earlier and sets later, Cathedral Peak Hotels offers more than 12 hours of daylight for family fun and entertainment (or of course, many hours of relaxation by the pool!)

While our room curtains will block out the light, and allow you to sleep in, you could also opt for an early-morning bird walk with our extensive bird-list, or you could get in an early round of golf. Breakfast is served from 7am until late, and the day's options include horse & pony rides, quad bike rides, helicopter flips, a variety of treatments at our Vitality Centre, or any of the free daily guided walks.

To make your holiday even more special, from 4 October – 10 December 2009 we are offering the most superb offer:

Stay 3 nights midweek & receive 20% discount

Stay 4 nights midweek & receive 25% discount

FREE GIFT ON ARRIVAL

Excludes Friday & Saturday nights

[QUERY] | [BOOKINGS ON-LINE]



HONEYMOON SPECIAL

Start your wedded bliss together in one of Cathedral Peak Hotel's picture perfect honeymoon rooms, or the opulent Mponjwane Presidential Suite. Under-floor heating and spectacular uninterrupted mountain views are only part of the charm in these elegant rooms. King-size beds, a spa bath (jacuzzi in the "Pres") and secluded gardens and bath-robos add to the experience. Our attentive but unobtrusive staff will ensure you have the most memorable honeymoon.

Stay 4 nights midweek & ONLY PAY FOR 3

Sparkling Wine and fresh fruit basket on arrival

Excludes Friday & Saturday nights

[QUERY] | [BOOKINGS ON-LINE]



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