



## CAPE ST FRANCIS RESORT - TRAVELIFE AWARD

**'Cape St Francis Resort achieves prestigious and first for South Africa Travelife gold accreditation'**

Adding to their worthy list of travel and tourism accreditations, Cape St Francis Resort has recently become the first accommodation establishment in South Africa to receive a prestigious gold certification from Travelife, an internationally recognised sustainability certification scheme that assists its members around the world to positively impact on their environment in a socially conscious and cost effective way.

The Cape St Francis Resort was bestowed the Travelife for Hotels & Accommodations Gold Certification only after completing a thorough independent audit that assessed the Resort against 163 sustainability criteria. These included environmental issues such as minimising energy and water usage and reducing waste; social criteria such as employee welfare and working with local communities and businesses; as well as the protection of local traditions and wildlife.

Anita Lennox, who received the award on behalf of the Cape St Francis Resort in Berlin last month, was also responsible for overseeing the audit process and says the Resort team is extremely proud to have achieved such a prestigious and sought after accolade.

The Cape St Francis Resort has for many years been a forerunner in the Eastern Cape region with regards to fair practice and environmental sustainability, and while Anita concedes that the audit process was a rigorous one, she says that many criteria were in fact already in place and part of the Resort's daily routine.

For example, guests to the Cape St Francis Resort can easily identify the colour coded recycling bins conveniently placed at strategic locations, while borehole water is used to keep the beautiful indigenous gardens colourful and bright.

On the social front, fair practise and community upliftment are important elements to the Resort, who actively seek to engage the local community when hosting events and though excursions offered to guests.

Betty's Tour is one such day trip taking visitors to a penguin sanctuary and children's haven that educates and cares for disadvantaged youth in the community, before ending at a knitting co-operative assisting in enhancing employment and skills among the local people.

Situated right on the coastline and with direct access to a pristine beach, the Cape St Francis Resort holds a prime location in the Eastern Cape, and is often host to local and international sporting events. These too play a vital role in the Resort's community upliftment programme with sponsors and organisers encouraged to contribute to social upliftment in the area.

As awareness of eco-tourism grows and the Eastern Cape fast becomes the adventure capital of South Africa, The Cape St Francis Resort has also highlighted environmental sustainability by supporting hiking routes and backpacking trails through pristine and protected areas with a strong emphasis on the preservation of indigenous and threatened flora and fauna.

In addition the Cape St Francis Resort advocates green living and to this end all meals include organically grown fresh vegetables and herbs wherever possible, nurtured in natural worm compost that is specially produced by the Resort for their living garden.

The Cape St Francis Resort is located in the Eastern Cape between Port Elizabeth and Plettenberg Bay, flanked by nature reserves housing rich and endemic flora as well as one of the most beautiful and natural beaches in the country.

For more information on the Cape St Francis Resort's sustainability achievements, see our profile page on the Travelife Collection website: <http://travelifecollection.com/hotel/1670>

Travelife independently audits all member properties on a biannual basis to ensure they continue to meet the company's strict sustainability criteria and to assist holiday makers in choosing accommodation establishments that are truly committed to sustainability and responsible tourism.

Cape St Francis Resort