

LIFE

DESIGN &
CRAFTSMANSHIP



ISSUE 15 | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

LEXUS.CO.ZA



MARITIME LUXURY

Lexus unveils its first production yacht: meet the LY 650

APEX METALLICA

10 objects you will want – all made of perfectly polished metal

THE FIRST 30 YEARS

Celebrating three decades of Lexus with some of the brand's key milestones

WINE'S NEW WAVE

Local expert David Cope on why the world wants South African wines

A RANGE OF SELF-CHARGING POSSIBILITIES

Lexus offers the widest range of luxury self-charging hybrids. Whether you're looking for a striking SUV or a dynamic sedan, Lexus holds the keys to an out of this world experience.



ECO-FRIENDLY



Our self-charging hybrid systems are eco-friendly and produce zero emissions when in Electric Vehicle Mode.

COST-EFFECTIVE



Every time a Lexus Hybrid uses the electric motor it limits petrol usage, which lessens petrol costs. Additionally, the cost of replacing parts is reduced as Lexus Hybrids produce less wear and tear of brake pads and tyres, resulting in further savings.



CONVENIENT

Our self-charging system means that you'll never have to connect a Lexus Hybrid to a power socket. They are always ready to drive - no plugs, no diesel, no compromise.



COMFORTABLE

Auto-transmissions between the electric motor and the petrol engine ensure an easier and smoother driving experience.



CONTENTS

THOUGHT LEADER

4

David Cope: Why South African wines are the most exciting in the world



DIRECTIONS

6

Latest news from the world of Lexus



THE ART OF LIVING

14

Travel: The lively, offbeat M Social hotel in the heart of Singapore

20

Gear: Ten of the finest pieces of perfectly polished design



THE ART OF DRIVING

24

The First 30 Years: Celebrating three decades of Lexus milestones

30

The Athletes: A look at the five F-Sport models in the Lexus range



THE CURATOR

34

Mandla Sibeko: Owner and director of FNB Art Joburg



THE INNOVATOR

38

Beverly-Anne Joseph: Planting the next generation of hops



THEY SAY HYBRIDS LACK POWER

NOT IN OUR WORLD



Lexus Hybrids are dual-energy powerhouses that get your pulse racing straight off the line. With two sources of energy, these cars exhibit incredible performance, responsiveness and efficiency. Lexus Hybrid Drive is an innovative system that adds to the overall performance of our cars. During initial take off from a stop, the high-output battery provides power to the electric drive. As speed increases, the potent petrol engine is engaged. And, when extra acceleration is desired, power output from both sources is optimised to deliver an even greater boost. The result is powerful acceleration without the jarring shift points experienced in a conventional vehicle.

lexus.co.za

h | **LEXUS**
EXPERIENCE AMAZING

Thought Leader

THE NEW WAVE OF WINE

Local wine connoisseur and entrepreneur **DAVID COPE** on why South African wines are the most exciting in the world right now

Several weeks ago, I spent an entire day in the basement of a London vinyl store. I wasn't on a quest for some rare Prince LP, although I had to pass through the store itself to get to the large subterranean space. I imagine the store's carefully hip customers are after the authenticity of music played from a turntable – just as the crowds of people in the basement were there to experience the authenticity of the South African wine on show. Because this wasn't just another tasting: it was the biennial New Wave South Africa event, a gathering of about 50 top artisan producers, there to show their latest releases to the trade.

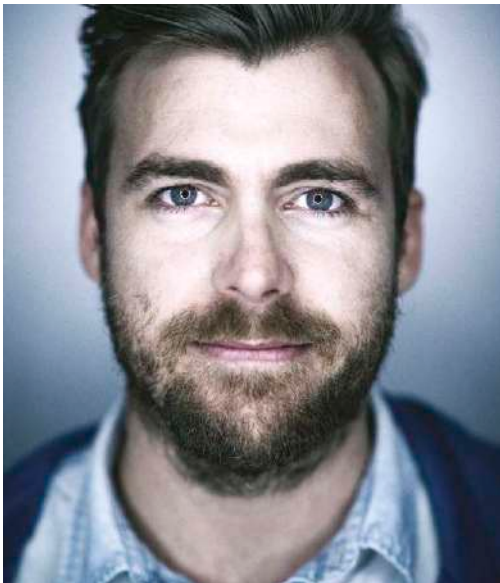
More than 850 guests registered to attend; these were mainly buyers from UK restaurants and retailers, some key media figures, and a scattering of trade from nearby countries who'd made the trip to London for the event. Within two hours of opening, the place was so full it had reached maximum capacity. There we were, in a packed basement, with some of the major UK wine figures upstairs, standing in line on the pavement, waiting for someone to leave so they would be allowed in. A South African wine tasting. In London. And this much excitement. Why?

The answer is quite simple: South Africa is producing the most exciting wines in the world right now. Over the past 10 years, the local industry has steadily – consciously or otherwise – become an easier place to produce wine, and a new generation has taken full advantage of it. This “new wave” of winemakers creates wines of quality, diversity, individuality and expression like never before – because now they can.

A decade ago it would've been unheard of for a young winemaker to release their own wine label a year or two after finishing their studies. Now it's commonplace. Most of the winemakers in the room poured wine brands they had started in the last decade. More than half don't even own their own cellar or vineyards. For some, this is still a side hustle – they pay their bills through full-time work at larger commercial producers, though likely not for much longer.

The days of working at an estate for 20 years and then leaving to start your own brand are behind us. Accessibility (to grapes, to winemaking facilities, to the market) and acceptability (by the public, by the trade – both locally and internationally) provide fuel for this movement, and allow young winemakers to enter the market much more quickly with their own goods. Aside from fearless creativity, this accessibility and acceptability will bring faster transformation to an industry that struggles to represent the true demographic of our country.

Adventurous wines made from unusual grape varieties by a generation of young entrepreneurs unhindered by tradition – wines that, just like music from an LP, show how technically better isn't necessarily subjectively better. The next time you're after a good bottle of wine, look out for one of these.



In the wine industry since 2004, David Cope runs Publik, a business that sells artisan wines through its wine bar, distribution and online operations.

He also makes wine under the Alphabetical and Full Moon labels.



TAG Heuer



#DontCrackUnderPressure



TAG Heuer

SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER



PRESENTED BY
GAINBRIDGE



TAG Heuer Boutiques: Sandton City and V&A Waterfront

Also at selected fine jewellers nationwide

For further information please call 011 669 0500. www.picotandmoss.co.za

LEXUS LY 650 LUXURY YACHT

Back in 2017, Lexus unveiled a stunning once-off concept simply called the Lexus Sport Yacht. This year, the concept has been taken a step further to a production yacht - the **LY 650**



SPECIFICATIONS: • Overall length: 19.96m • Beam (width): 5.72m • Power: 597kW x 2 • Fuel capacity: 3 785L

M

asuring 65 feet (just under 20 metres) from stem to stern, and using a pair 597kW IPS engines, the yacht is the result of Lexus International President Yoshihiro Sawa's vision of a brand that "explores new ways to deliver innovative and amazing experiences for our guests".

COMMITMENT TO DESIGN

From bow to stern, several of the most attractive features from the 42-foot concept have made their way onto the LY 650. In its 19-foot beam form, the newest Lexus yacht has a distinguished style, evident in the strong, pronounced bow, curved deck accents and accentuated aft hips. Viewed in profile, the elegant rise and fall of the yacht's distinctly Lexus roofline flows into the rising, broad rear section. The vessel is generously proportioned and represents the epitome of luxury at sea.

CRAFTING THE LY 650

To create the LY 650, Lexus partnered with Marquis Yachts, a US yacht builder based in Pulaski, Wisconsin. Complementing Lexus's renowned heritage of Takumi craftspeople, it was the ideal partner to bring the second chapter of Lexus yacht design to fruition with its blend of artisanal craftsmanship, modern technology and inspired design. Many of Marquis Yachts' master boat builders have been with the company for 30 years.

lexusyachts.com



• **Water capacity: 852L** • **Holding tank capacity: 643L** • **Staterooms: 3** • **Heads: 3** • **Sleeps: 6**

News

TANGENTIAL ART

Lexus sponsors the first major solo exhibition by London-based design engineering studio **TANGENT**

Part of the London Design Festival, the show was a landmark occasion for Tangent, the winner of the inaugural Lexus Design Award Grand Prix in 2013. An interpretation of “Inaho”, the interactive lighting concept that earned the team of Hideki Yoshimoto and Yoshinaka Ono the prestigious international prize, was among the works on display.

Inspired by the subtle motion of golden ears of rice in the wind, “Inaho” casts luminous dots of light through perforated tubes. Motion sensors embedded in the base of the unit cause the light stems to sway as a person passes by. “Inaho” is also commercially available as part of the Crafted for Lexus line of exclusive products, and

forms part of the innovative interior design of the Loft, an award-winning lounge concept presented by Lexus and Brussels Airlines at Brussels Airport.

Other works in Tangent’s festival show included “Here (2019)”, a sculpture of planet Earth measuring 3.5m in diameter and covered in more than 20 000 triangular tiles made from recycled solar cells. The cells create a complex distribution of blue shades – an appropriate metaphor for the “blue planet”.

“Here (2019)” was originally commissioned from Tangent by the luxury brand Hermès for its booth at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie – one of the most prestigious trade fairs for the international watch-making industry.



Above: Hideki Yoshimoto. Opposite: “Here (2019)”, the sculpture of Earth commissioned by Hermès.

— / —

“INAHO” WAS INSPIRED BY THE SUBTLE MOTION OF GOLDEN EARS OF RICE IN THE WIND



News

THE FUEL SIPPER

The Lexus ES 300h luxury sedan led the way in the recent **ADAC ECOTEST** ranking in the “upper middle class” segment, and was the only model to reach 4 stars out of a possible 5



A DAC is Germany’s leading automobile club – basically the equivalent of our AA. Founded in 1903, it is currently the largest association of its kind in Europe, with more than 20-million members. Since 2003, the ADAC Ecotest has helped consumers to evaluate the environmental performance of cars in Germany.

Each car is awarded a number of stars based on the following criteria:

- Emissions of legally limited pollutants (including carbon monoxide/CO, hydrocarbons/HC, nitrogen oxides/NOx, and particles); and
- Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

All types of powertrains and fuels are evaluated in exactly the same way.

Looking specifically at CO₂ emissions, which are in direct proportion to fuel consumption, the ES achieved outstanding results. Fuel consumption was assessed as low as 5.5 litres per 100km in the overall test, which combines test-bench and road measurements. It even decreased further to 4.3 litres per 100km in urban driving conditions, where the benefits of Lexus’s self-charging hybrid powertrain can be fully leveraged.

The Lexus ES 300h was launched in South Africa at the end of 2018. Its self-charging hybrid powertrain features an ultra-efficient 2.5-litre petrol engine combined with an electric motor, which together deliver a total output of 160kW.

Lexus self-charging hybrids can be driven in zero-emissions mode for up to 50% of the total driving time in urban conditions – whatever the duration of the trip, and without ever needing to plug in and recharge the vehicle.

LEXUS PARTNERS WITH MEN’S HEALTH MAGAZINE

The first **MEN’S HEALTH RESIDENCY** event took place recently at the Wanderers Club in Johannesburg

The luxury event – an afternoon of masterclasses and inspiring panel discussions on fitness, future tech and fashion – offered the best advice from the smartest men in any room. All about curation, this sophisticated project was, in the words of *Men’s Health* editor Rob Cilliers, “a potent combination of the best luxury brands, elite experiences and hand-picked influential speakers, providing the greatest luxury event for discerning men (and women) in South Africa”.

For Lexus, a brand at the very pinnacle of luxury, it was the perfect fit. “Creating bespoke experiences is what we strive for in the design and crafting of our products,” says Glenn Crompton, VP of Sales & Marketing at Lexus SA. “The *Men’s Health* Residency partnership has allowed us to expose the Lexus brand and products in a way that’s relevant to our brand, and that engages an audience that knows what it wants and where it’s going.”

On show at the entrance was an array of recently launched Lexus models, including the iconic RC F.





Luxurious Italian designed footwear

DUCA DEL COSMA[®]
ITALIAN GOLF EVOLUTION

WWW.DUCADELCOSMA.CO.ZA



@DucaDelCosmaAfrica





dunhill
LONDON

SIGNATURE
COLLECTION

GETTING SOCIAL IN SINGAPORE

A lively, offbeat hotel in the heart of **SINGAPORE** is the perfect base from which to explore the multicultural city

Quirky is a word that's used far too frequently these days - but it is a fitting way to describe M Social Singapore. It's not often that two large bronze peanuts are the welcoming sculptures at the entrance of a hotel, or that room-service orders are delivered by a robot... More on that later.





**M SOCIAL WON A STRING OF AWARDS, FROM BEST HOTEL INTERIOR
AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN TO BEST GREEN DEVELOPMENT
AND MOST INNOVATIVE**



“M SOCIAL IS WHERE ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD - INCLUDING CREATIVITY, HUMOUR AND LOVE - COME TOGETHER IN AN EXPLOSION OF ENERGY”

- PHILIPPE STARCK

With art, design and technology at its core, and interiors imagined by famed French designer Philippe Starck, the hotel prides itself on having embraced the Millennial mind-set. But everyone is welcome! The 293-room design hotel is all about community, new experiences and having fun. Located along the Singapore River and overlooking the buzzing Robertson Quay, it's an ideal base from which to explore the Lion City.

Rooms come in four configurations, each comfortable and light. The Loft Gallery is duplex-style, with raw marble flooring and a queen-sized bed on the first floor, and a mezzanine level complete with comfy sofa bed. The spacious and airy Alcove Cosy features bare concrete walls and mirrored surfaces that extend into a striking, four-metre-tall pitched ceiling; while the Alcove Terrace and Loft Terrace suites are for those combining business with leisure, providing nesting tables to work at and attached balconies for when you need a breather. All rooms benefit from the artistic touch of Starck through fun and interesting furnishings, and each has full-length windows, welcoming in light and a glimpse of Robertson Quay.

“M Social is where all the elements of the world – including creativity, humour and love – come together in an explosion of energy to create the joy of today’s and tomorrow’s world,” says Starck in his unique, descriptive way. “To me, it is a stage dedicated to creative people.”

In its launch year of 2016, M Social won a string of awards, from Best Hotel Interior Design and Architectural Design to Best Green Development and Most Innovative. Three years on, it still ticks all those boxes – and it's also home to Southeast Asia's first front-of-house autonomous service-delivery robot, AURA, who can operate and ride in elevators, navigate her way to a guest's door, announce herself when she arrives, and even open the cloche to reveal the food beneath. Apart from food service, the robot is used to replenish bottled water, towels, toiletries and other necessities on demand, and is even able to “mingle” with guests.





The tech theme runs through the hotel. The on-site restaurant, Beast & Butterflies, is dimly lit, with clusters of lava lamps huddled in one section, a feature wall full of tablets in another, and wooden furniture adorned in retro prints throughout. The kitchen is open-plan and the bar is kitted out with multiple TV screens, but the atmosphere is calm. The menu offers everything from traditional noodle dishes to burgers, and the cocktails are a delight.

At breakfast, AURA's robotic friend AUSCA is on hand to prepare your sunny-side-up eggs or flip an omelette

With chandeliers, lava lamps, video projections and a wall lined with 40 tablets, M Social's East-meets-West fusion restaurant Beast & Butterflies has an unforgettable ambiance.

with the fillings of your choice. While the gym is modest in comparison to other large hotels in the vicinity, the rooftop pool area is anything but: surrounded by green hedges and skyscrapers, the pool deck is also used for yoga and Tai Chi classes.

As the hotel caters to “highly connected Millennials” and people on the go, Wi-Fi is both super-speedy and free, and being connected 24/7 is not only okay but encouraged. It may all sound slightly futuristic, but the elements of fun do not outweigh the high quality of service (from humans too), in-room amenities and luxury furnishings.

This avant-garde hotel has the perfect fun factor – as quirky as it is cool.



1 2 3

1. M Social is the perfect base from which to explore Singapore. 2. The Alcove Cosy rooms feature striking pitched ceilings. 3. The green hedges around the hotel's rooftop pool provide a contrast to its skyscraper surroundings.



**THE ELEMENTS OF FUN DO NOT OUTWEIGH THE HIGH QUALITY OF SERVICE,
IN-ROOM AMENITIES AND LUXURY FURNISHINGS**



EXPLORING ROBERTSON QUAY

This area was made to explore on foot – and it's safe enough to do so. From the countless laid-back riverside restaurants to experiential dining aboard a boat on the Singapore River, there are more than enough eateries to choose from. Also in the vicinity you'll find art galleries, museums, designer and local boutiques, and an array of craft stores and bookshops.

visitsingapore.com

The Art of Living

APEX METALLICA

Whether you're signing a deal or jumping on a bicycle, here are 10 of the finest pieces of **PERFECTLY POLISHED DESIGN** for every moment of your day



1.

THE COFFEE MACHINE

LA MARZOCCO LINEA MINI

For the true aficionado, there's only one machine: La Marzocco. These commercial espresso machines are known for their reliability, quality and iconic design – and now the Linea Mini houses the same components as its bigger sibling in a compact countertop design.

R53 995 | capecoffeebeans.co.za

2.

THE FLASK

GSI OUTDOORS GLACIER STAINLESS HIP FLASK

Few pocket-friendly items are as underrated as the hip flask. This 178ml model has taken the original, smoothed out the edges and added some characteristic design cues from renowned outdoor brand GSI. The next-gen flask only has one rule: no engraved quotes on the side!

R600 | justlikepapa.com



3.

THE AXE

HULTAFORS EKELUND HUNTING AXE

Axes have made a comeback thanks to the rise of adventure travel and craft everything – and as you'd expect, it's heritage Scandinavian iron that's most sought-after. This one has a medium-weight hand-forged head of Swedish steel and a 50cm hickory handle.

R1 740 | justlikepapa.com



4.

THE PEN

MONTBLANC MEISTERSTÜCK MARTELÉ FOUNTAIN PEN

If our handwriting reflects our personality, who can put a value on the pen we use? As a master fountain-pen maker, Montblanc knows this – so this Meisterstück, made of hammered sterling silver, has a rhodium-plated 18-carat-gold nib, and is meant to accompany its owner for life.

R24 600 | montblanc.com

5.

THE COOLER BOX

COLEMAN STEEL-BELTED COOLER BOX

Based on the original 1954 design, this retro-inspired steel-belted cooler is able to hold 85 cans, and is tall enough for two-litre bottles standing upright. It has four-day ice retention at 32°C – and the reinforced lid doubles as an extra fireside seat.

R2 999 | futura.co.za



6.

REUSABLE COFFEE CUP**MiiR 12OZ DAILY TUMBLER**

Now that you've given up paper takeaway cups, the stylish and indestructible MiiR is what you need. The double-walled insulation and medical-grade stainless steel mean it will keep whatever you're drinking hot (or cold!) – and the smartly designed BPA-free lid ensures zero spills.

R400 | justlikepapa.com

7. **THE BIKE****CALCULUS BIKES**

There's only one frame more revered by cycling aficionados than one handmade of steel – and that's one made of titanium. South African brothers Millar and Charl-Stephan Nienaber make bespoke, exquisitely detailed mountain-bike, gravel and road-bike frames that are custom-built for each client.

Frames from R35 000 | calculus-bikes.com

8.

THE KNIFE**KAI SHUN PREMIER DAMASCUS CHEF'S KNIFE**

Created in the Japanese town that's known for forging samurai swords for 700 years, the KAI Shun range is made from 32 layers of Damask stainless steel. This well-weighted, convex-cut 20cm blade delivers unrivalled sharpness, and will give your kitchen cred an instant upgrade.

R4 299 | yuppiechef.com



9.

THE WATCH**ROLEX GMT-MASTER II**

Rolex remains the benchmark in classic luxury by subtly evolving the design of its watches. The updated GMT II was released at the annual Baselworld watch and jewellery fair – and this 2019 model features a black-and-blue bezel and “Jubilee” bracelet.

Approx. R249 900 | luxurytime.co.za



10.

THE SUNGLASSES**RANDOLPH AVIATORS**


Founded in 1978 and family-owned, Randolph sunglasses became famous for their handcrafted yet unbreakable frames and 100% UVA/UVB scratch-resistant lenses. First contracted by the US military in 1982, they're the frames of choice for the US Army and Navy.

R2 800 | randolphsunglasses.co.za



The Art of Driving





THE FIRST 30 YEARS

Celebrating its
30TH BIRTHDAY

this year, the Lexus brand has become synonymous with sophistication, performance, safety and refinement – the ideals of contemporary luxury. And it all started with a simple idea...

In 1983, Toyota chairman Eiji Toyoda called together the strategists, engineers and management behind the success of Toyota for a classified meeting. The message was a simple one: build the world's greatest vehicle. They were tasked to look for the ultimate in automotive excellence – and then to figure out how to do it better. Six years, 1 400 engineers and \$1-billion later, the Lexus LS 400 was released in the United States. This is the story of the Lexus brand.

1985-1990

GETTING OFF THE GROUND

From the late 1980s and into the '90s, the world was experiencing a wave of interconnectivity. For the first time, cars were being made worldwide – and brands like Lexus were ready to connect with every market.

With 60 designers, 1 400 engineers and 2 300 technicians, approximately 450 prototypes were built before the LS 400 was born. The launch edition sported a new 4.0-litre V8 engine and rear-wheel drive, and shared no similarities with Toyota's past vehicles.

The LS 400 premiered in January 1989 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, and went on sale in September.

1990-2000

METEORIC RISE TO FAME

It was an instant hit, and as the company's reputation flourished, so did the product line. Two new vehicles – the ES 300 and the SC 300 – were added to the roster. By 1991, Lexus had already won in three out of five categories with JD Power, and outsold Mercedes-Benz and BMW, making it the best-selling luxury import brand in the US.

1996

SC 400

With a provocative design draped over a highly capable grand tourer chassis, the SC 400 set the pace for the Lexus coupés that followed. The current LC 500 can trace its DNA back to this predecessor.

1998

RX 300

Lexus launched the world's first luxury crossover and started a sensation, creating what has now become the most popular luxury automotive category on the planet. Globally, it remains the brand's best-selling model.

By the turn of the century, Lexus was sitting on something of a mountain of milestones: five more vehicles were added to the line-up, second and third generations of each model were dominating the market, and one million vehicles were sold.

2000-2010

BUILDING A LEGACY OF LUXURY

By 2001, Lexus had become a household name, and a symbol of luxury and performance. What's more, the brand was quick to adapt to every new wave of automotive disruption.

2002

FIRST CONCEPT CAR

But innovation never rests.

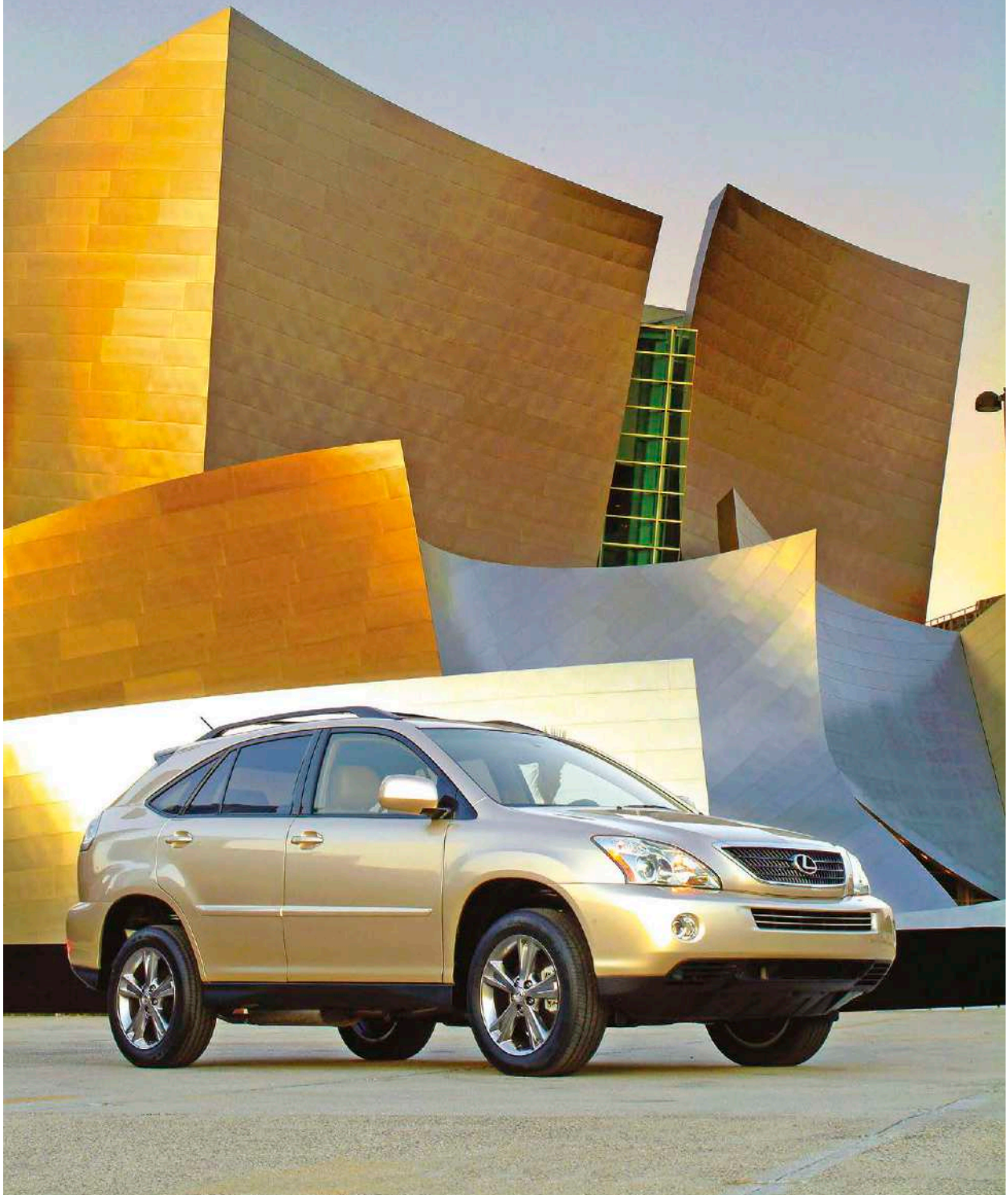
In 2002, the LF-S – the first Lexus Future Sedan concept vehicle – was unveiled in Tokyo, with unique features that included side-mounted cameras instead of mirrors, and keyless entry.

The Lexus LF-S was powered by a high-output hybrid V8 system that included all-wheel drive. This marked the conceptual debut of a Lexus vehicle with hybrid technology.





**THE RX 400H EMPLOYED THE FIRST HYBRID SYNERGY
DRIVE SYSTEM ON A CROSSOVER**



2003**L-FINESSE DESIGN LANGUAGE**

L-finesse has been the collective term for Lexus design language since its official introduction in 2003. In its most succinct form, L-finesse can be described as “leading-edge design and technology applied with finesse”. Those concepts have translated into vehicles known for their sharp lines, spindle grilles, arrowhead headlamps, and unusual approaches to construction.

2006**RX 400H**

At a time when drivers were looking to escape high fuel prices, the RX 400 employed the first Hybrid Synergy Drive system on a crossover. Lexus’s first luxury hybrid laid a foundation for later models by combining petrol and electronic motors, offering an alternative fuel component while improving efficiency at the same time.

2006**LAUNCH IN SOUTH AFRICA**

In July 2006, Lexus was officially launched to the South African market as a unique, standalone marque distinct in quality and craftsmanship from its mother company Toyota. It now has 13 premium, standalone dealerships in major metropolitan areas around the country.

2007**GS 450H**

Lexus engineered the world’s first mass-produced, rear-wheel-drive luxury performance hybrid sedan.

2010-Present**A DECADE TO REMEMBER**

In the past decade, Lexus has taken the luxury brand to new heights, and the company is using technology to innovate around driver safety. From pedestrian-detecting capabilities to smartphone integration, the latest tech is embedded across the driving experience.

2012**LFA**

Along with this unparalleled exotic’s groundbreaking aerodynamics, 10 high-revving cylinders create one of the finest automotive symphonies ever crafted.

2013**INTERSECT BY LEXUS**

Lexus opened its first concept store in Tokyo: a space where ideas and people could converge. With five core pillars – hospitality, food, design, entertainment and technology – the different facets of culture in the concept store “intersect” on multiple levels. Lexus followed this up with spaces in Dubai (2015) and New York (2018).

1 2

1. Lexus LFA. 2. Intersect by Lexus, Dubai. 3. Lexus ES 300h.

3





2016

ONE MILLION HYBRIDS SOLD

In April 2016, Lexus announced that it had sold more than a million hybrid vehicles since the world's first luxury hybrid vehicle, the RX 400h SUV, went on sale in 2005.

2019

TEN MILLION VEHICLES SOLD

In February this year, Lexus announced it had sold its 10-millionth vehicle worldwide, adding to the momentum that has seen the brand break multiple sales records around the world in 2018.

What began as a quest to create the best automobile in the world with the ground-breaking LS 400 set into motion a future of innovation. In keeping with this spirit, Lexus is looking to provide guests with new, personalised experiences through connected technology, and its goal is to create an electrified option for every vehicle in the line-up by 2025.

The Lexus brand has transcended the automotive sector, bringing enthusiasts world-class experiences in dining, travel and design. Lexus's history as a disruptor and pioneering innovator has cemented its place as one of the great luxury brands, ensuring the next 30 years are equally innovative.

WORDS Steve Smith



The Art of Driving



THE

ATHLETES

If you're searching for a more dynamic flavour to the legendary build quality and luxury of the Lexus brand, the **LEXUS F-SPORT** derivatives offer bespoke chassis and design enhancements. These are the five F-Sport models available in South Africa



Inheriting its "F" from the Fuji Speedway – Lexus's primary testing site, located near the base of Mount Fuji – the F-Sport badge offers performance improvements purpose-built for select Lexus models. First introduced with the 2007 Lexus IS F, and followed by the ground-breaking LFA supercar, the Lexus F DNA is echoed in the revolutionary development practices of all F-Sport models today. The models can be identified by their mesh grilles and interior and exterior upgrades, along with performance enhancements to the brakes, stabiliser bars, suspension, clutch and chassis.



1. LS 500 F-SPORT

Sharing a platform with the LC coupé and benefiting from a specially tuned suspension system engineered by the team behind the iconic LFA supercar, the LS range is already imbued with razor-sharp handling. Power comes from a new 3.5-litre V6 turbopetrol with V8-like output figures of 310kW and 600Nm.

DESIGN: EXTERIOR

The grille's distinctive F-Sport mesh design has been crafted to catch the light, giving the car a dynamism even when it's not in motion. The vehicle is also equipped with F-Sport 20-inch wheels.

DESIGN: INTERIOR

The athletic-looking F-Sport leather seats are designed to support your body firmly but comfortably during energetic driving, while the three-spoke leather steering wheel, drilled aluminium pedals and TFT instrument display reflect the LS 500 F motorsport design heritage.

2. RC 350 F-SPORT

With 232kW and 380Nm on tap from its 3.5-litre V6 engine, the RC 350 F-Sport offers seamless power. And the Lexus Dynamic Handling (LDH) system, which monitors speed, steering and other dynamic inputs, provides optimal stability and agility at higher speeds, and excellent manoeuvrability at low speeds.

DYNAMICS

The Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS) system's custom-tuned suspension ensures riding comfort, stable control, performance and safety under a variety of driving and

road conditions. The electronic power steering has been improved to optimise handling stability and further enhance high-quality driving, while Drive Mode Select has six selectable modes – Eco, Normal, Sport, Sport S+, Comfort and Custom.

DESIGN

The newly designed grille, front bumper, outer mirrors, wide bumper corners and front flares, as well as the lower rear bumper, give the car a wide stance and low centre of gravity. The striking dark 10-spoke, 19-inch premium metallic alloy wheels feature prominent wheel arches that highlight the large-diameter tyres and further accentuate the RC F-Sport's profile.

3. NX 300 F-SPORT

The mid-sized Lexus crossover boasts turbocharged performance plus exclusive F-Sport features, such as a tuned suspension, bold front fascia with a unique mesh grille, black exterior mirrors, and G-force and turbo boost meter.

DYNAMICS

Along with Drive Mode Select (which includes the exclusive Sport S+), NX 300 F-Sport also comes with front and rear performance dampers that enhance the vehicle's rigidity and minimise vibration for excellent handling stability.

The boost meter measures turbocharger pressure levels; its graphic interface features a band colour that changes in the high-pressure range. There's also an oil temperature and oil pressure gauge displayed at the bottom of the boost meter.



1 2 3 4 5

DESIGN

The NX 300 F-Sport gets a unique grille, rear bumper and 18-inch alloys on the outside, and a reflective metallic-finish trim on the pedals and scuff plate, and a perforated-leather steering wheel and shift knob on the inside. It also comes with sports seats that are designed with performance conditions in mind.

4. IS 350 F-SPORT

Developed by the team that tuned the LFA supercar and IS F high-performance sedan, the IS 350 F-Sport carries the spirit of these two amazing vehicles. Courtesy of its 3.5-litre V6, the IS 350 F-Sport offers engaging performance, delivering a maximum power output of 232kW at 6 600rpm, and maximum torque of 380Nm at 4 800-4 900rpm.

DYNAMICS

The front and rear suspension as well as the electric power steering are all exclusively tuned to enhance handling performance without compromising ride quality. It also has Drive Mode Select with four selectable modes: Eco, Normal, Sport, and Sport S+.

DESIGN

The IS 350 F-Sport gets a bold and distinctive front spindle grille with special “L-mesh” inserts, and chrome highlights. The lower front spoiler features front brake cooling ducts, aerodynamic fins for increased downforce, and a larger grille opening. The 18-inch alloy wheels feature a twin-spoke design inspired by the LFA supercar.

Inside, the exclusive F-Sport seats use “integrated foaming” technology that allows a more detailed seat

profile with better fit and hold, as well as drilled sport pedals and an F-Sport steering wheel. Providing the driver with all the key info is a single meter binnacle, which features a TFT screen with a moving centre-ring design inherited from the LFA. When operating the multimedia system, the meter ring slides to one side to reveal the menu.

5. UX 200 F-SPORT

Powered by a 126 kW 2.0-litre petrol engine featuring VVT-iE (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent, with an electric motor) and ultra-light pistons, the UX 200 F-Sport is an athletic all-rounder that offers both fuel efficiency and high performance.

DYNAMICS

The UX 200 F-Sport boasts AVS with adjustable dampers at each wheel and 650 levels of damping force, which provide the ultimate control on any road surface. Its Drive Mode Select also includes the Sport S+ mode, which adjusts the car’s suspension, steering and throttle response for a much sportier driving experience.

DESIGN

Exclusive 18-inch 10-spoke high-rigidity alloy wheels with a dark metallic coating hint at its dynamic abilities, as does the F-Sport steering wheel with paddle shifters for swift and precise gear changes. Body-hugging F-Sport leather seats with eight-way adjustment and lumbar support, and drilled aluminium pedals that offer excellent grip characteristics, also reflect the UX 200 F-Sport’s motorsport design heritage.



The Curator

STATE
OF
THE ARTS


Investing in his passions is a passion
for businessman
MANDLA SIBEKO,
the new owner and director of Africa's
oldest art fair. We caught up with him
after the relaunch of FNB Art Joburg

Mandla Sibeko was exposed to the diverse South African experience from an early age. Born in Mpumalanga, he describes his childhood before he moved to Johannesburg at the age of eight as rural. "I attended a school as most people understand it for the first time when I got to Joburg," he says. "Until then, my schooling days took place under a tree in a village where there were only black people, so I never knew of this world. It was the first time I was in a school with white people."

Through his big-city immersion and the influence of his guardian parents, Mandla was exposed to art, culture, industry and eventually travel – all elements that would shape a future grounded in a deep sense of his roots. Among many successful endeavours, Mandla's innate entrepreneurial spirit has seen him own one of the first Pick n Pay stores in Soweto, act as chairman and shareholder of NetFlorist, tackle the look-and-feel of the FIFA World Cup stadiums and concessions in 2010, and, most recently, acquire the legacy that is FNB Joburg Art Fair, which he has been a part of as director for three years.

"After Mandela, I feel that art is our biggest symbol," he says. "It has an ambassadorial role to play, which we haven't used to our advantage. We have used the 'Mandelaness' to our advantage, but not our creativity."

But that's changing – and Mandla is undoubtedly part of that change.



**“AFTER MANDELA, I FEEL THAT ART IS OUR BIGGEST SYMBOL.
IT HAS AN AMBASSADORIAL ROLE”**



What is one of your earliest memories of appreciating the arts?

I grew up in a home with beautiful art. Some of the art on the walls, collected by the guardian parents I lived with in Johannesburg, was William Kentridge's early work. I appreciated all of that ... although I didn't really know who he was, just that he was a great artist.

Describe some of your early influences.

My guardian mother took me to shows on weekends, at the Goodman Gallery and at the Philharmonic, and I was involved in arts and culture at school. I got to encounter someone like [interior designer] Stephen Falcke at a young age – he used to come in and out of our home – and I admired what he did, although I didn't quite understand what a career like that entailed. It was only much later, when I was travelling around the world and I got used to seeing major designers and architects doing amazing things, that I could put it all in context.

Talk us through the new direction of FNB Art Joburg this year.

The FNB Joburg Art Fair was pioneering in many ways. It was a good fair, but 11 years down the line, the ecosystem of the art world was changing quite fast, and our ecosystem in South Africa was evolving.

Quite a bit of work needed to be done to reposition FNB Art Joburg to be unique, first and foremost, and to design our own narrative; to cater to an audience that has matured and has become much more engaged than it was 11 years ago; and finally, to celebrate Johannesburg and make it the centre of it all. Johannesburg doesn't

What were the highlights for you? The fact that art has become the central part of the fair. We had a new section that's dedicated to what we call MAX: large-scale works, such as the beautiful hanging tapestries by Igshaan Adams. Artists took time to create large pieces so that audiences could experience them. I often get to see these works in Europe, but not locally, so it was really the first time audiences could see how far one could go with art.

Is there anything you plan on developing for next year?

We had such a short space of time to do the fair – just three months. Next year, we'll have more time to recruit interesting galleries from around the continent to join us. We'll refine the concept of Gallery Lab, which I think is where more talent is going to come from; I hope it will become a space in which the entire continent can collaborate.

Then there's been a longer-term south-to-south conversation. When I visited Brazil, I found so many similarities between that country and South Africa. So there has been an ongoing discussion to move in the direction of curatorial galleries – and I think next year we would like to take it there.

Is there an emerging artist we should be looking out for?

All the FNB Art Prize winners: each one has been amazing and achieved much success. This year's winner Bronwyn Katz is someone to look out for. Her work is relevant – she's dealing with many of the issues that we're currently facing as South Africans. And she's only 26!

“WE’VE CARRIED THE FLAG NOT ONLY FOR JOHANNESBURG, BUT FOR THE ENTIRE CONTINENT”



always have the best reputation, but I've found that our arts, design and culture are something people are always amazed by. We've carried the flag not only for Johannesburg, but for the entire continent.

How did you go about making this happen?

Our new positioning is centred around making sure that we become an art fair that's about quality rather than quantity. So we reduced the number of exhibitors and sought instead to re-imagine ourselves as an art scene. It was amazing, because it was the first time we collaborated with the galleries and found an elegant new solution for everyone. Over the same dates in Johannesburg, there is also a curatorial platform called Underline, as well as a fringe fair called Latitudes. Then, to experience the best of the best African art, you come to us.

If you had to design an “arts tour” of Joburg that every local and visitor should do, what would it include?

I'd suggest visiting artist studios in Bertrams – of artists such as Nicholas Hlobo, who is based in a converted synagogue; Nandipha Mntambo; Bronwyn Katz. I'd also suggest going to the Johannesburg Art Gallery, which is so beautiful; galleries in Rosebank and Parktown North, and the Market Theatre. Joburg has so many exciting options. We launched a Gallery Week concept aimed at warming the public up and making the spaces friendlier, with galleries curating brunches and tours. It was a success.

What would you like FNB Art Joburg to be remembered for?

The platform for viewing the best African art in one place. I'd like for it to be the space and place to see what Joburg has to offer.



WORDS Amelia Brown IMAGES Karabo Mooki (portrait); Supplied

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

How do you choose a piece of art?

It's instinct. My eye directs me, then I engage with the work, with the artist.

In addition to art, what are some of your other passions?

Travel. Running. Reading and collecting books.

Where was the last place you visited?

Did you buy anything?

I went to Marsala in Sicily and thoroughly enjoyed it. It has a Moroccan influence, and it's so beautiful. I didn't buy anything – but it was an experience and a half on its own.

What do you always travel with?

A book. I mostly travel to Europe in summer, so I pack my swimming stuff. And definitely my iPhone. It offers everything – navigation, photos, places I want to visit... I always get a local SIM card when I land, so I stay connected.

What's on your travel bucket list for 2020?

Japan. And I'd like to return to Italy.

A favourite building?

Johannesburg Art Gallery. I think it's one of the most iconic buildings in the city – architecturally timeless.

The three people you'd invite to dinner?

[Musician] Abdullah Ibrahim, [artist] Marlene Dumas and [director and head curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem] Thelma Golden.

What would you cook for them?

Something by Yotam Ottolenghi. I collect his cookbooks. I'd probably cook something from *Simple*.

What item would you put in a time capsule?

Definitely art. A piece by Robin Rhode.


What's the best advice you've been given?

Be yourself. The rest will cover itself.



THE HOPSTER

Meet **BEVERLEY-ANNE JOSEPH**,
the woman shaping the identity
of South African beer



**“COMPARING SOUTH
AFRICAN HOPS TO
INTERNATIONAL
VARIETIES IS LIKE
COMPARING APPLES
TO PEARS”**

Most of what you think you know about South African beer is wrong. We may account for just over a third of the beer that's consumed on the continent, but depending on the source, our annual average of about 60 litres per person places outside the top 30 beer-loving countries – well behind Namibia, Gabon and Australia. The country's first beer was produced six months before the first wine, and Castle Lager was crafted by Lisa Glass, not her husband Charles (as the marketing would have you believe).

The person currently ensuring that the taste of local beer stands the test of time is Beverley-Anne Joseph, and she is hard at work planting the next generation of hops at Zelpy farm just outside George, along the southern Cape's famed Outeniqua Hop Route.

"South African hops are bred from the most acclaimed international varieties," says Beverley-Anne, setting the record straight about the perceived quality of our home-grown varieties. "Mention hop varieties such as Saaz, Cascade, Nugget, Willamette, Magnum, Herkules, Fuggle and Hallertau Mittlefrüh to any brewer, and you will be met with a big smile and a welcoming nod."

Beverley-Anne is a Grabouw native whose tuition money for Maties (Stellenbosch University) came from canvassing the farmers in her community. This caught the eye of Dr Paul Cluver, who awarded her a bursary. With a degree in viticulture and oenology – and honours in the latter – and experience in the wine industry, an opportunity to join the South African Breweries' Rob Roy Research & Development Centre hop-breeding programme beckoned.



"What makes our hops unique is their truly South African roots – a twist on flavour and aroma that would be unachievable and unmatched anywhere in the world," she says. "Comparing South African hops to international varieties is like comparing apples to pears."

Speaking to South African craft brewers reveals a different side to the tale, with remarks and rumours constantly calling the quality of local hops into question. Beverley-Anne dismisses this as pandering to the international community. She has a point, because the South African craft brewing industry is only now starting to experiment with different flavours. Local beer isn't black and white any more.

Beverley-Anne has been adding colour to the local hops spectrum since she first assisted Gerrie Britz in developing the internationally acclaimed J17 hops variety in 2006, before taking over in 2010 and releasing "African

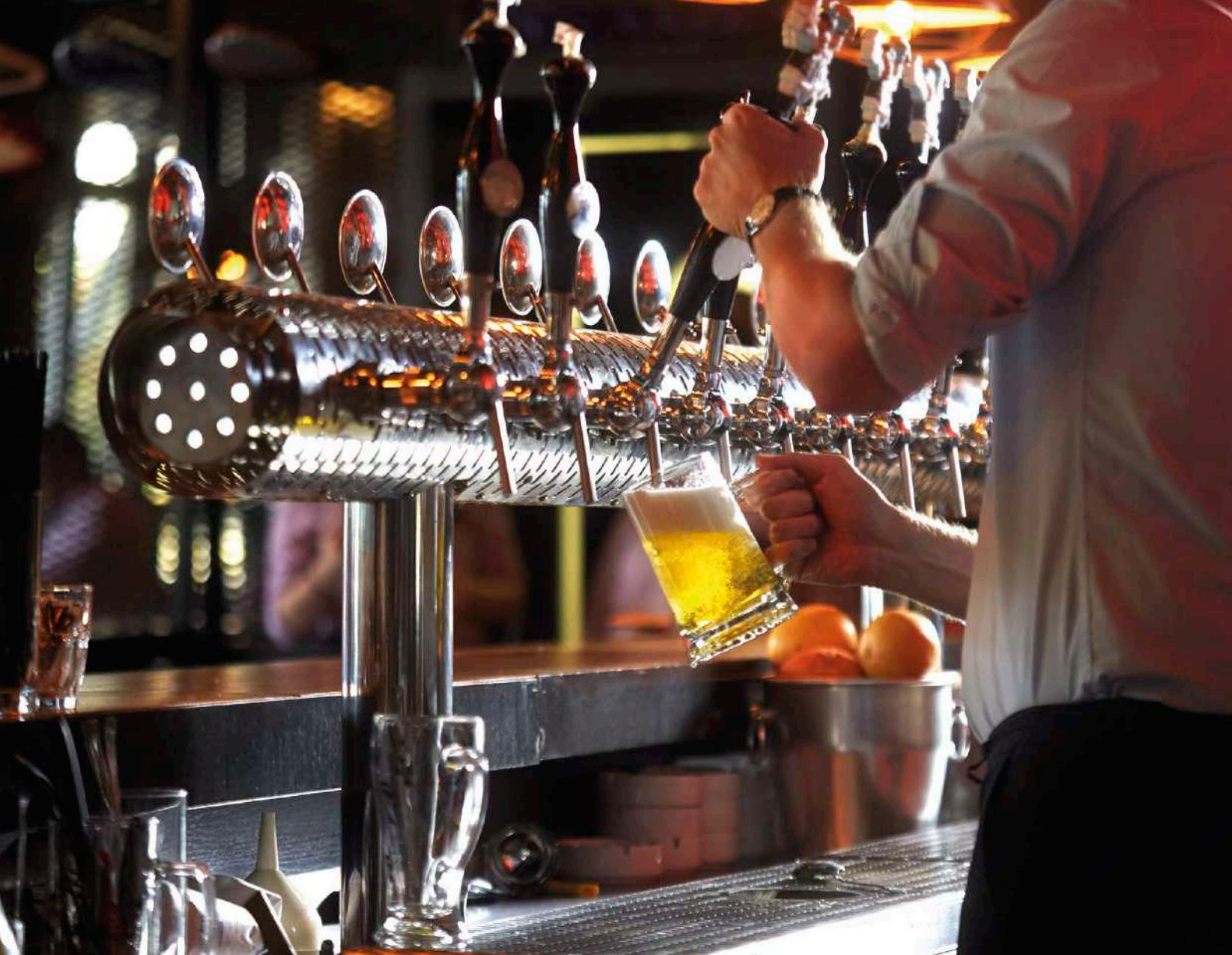
"SOUTHERN AROMA IS OUR TRUE AFRICAN NOBLE AROMATIC VARIETY, LOW IN BITTERNESS"



Queen" in 2014. To produce world-class hops in a region so far removed from the ideal European climate is a major achievement, and the tireless work of the farmers who first established the region in the late 1930s should be commended.

"This area is best suited for growing hops because it has the longest day length in the country," explains Beverley-Anne. "But even so, George still has two to three hours less of sunlight than is ideal. The northern hemisphere weather conditions, where the hop plant originated, are known for long, cold winters and long daylight hours during the growing season. The shorter days result in early onset of flowering, which shortens the relative vegetative growth period and restricts the proliferation of cone-bearing laterals, which results in lower yields. To overcome this, all the varieties grown commercially have been bred specifically for the South African conditions."

Recovering from the recent drought has also sparked a technological revolution in the Outeniqua valley. "We're not only focused on delivering high-quality products, but producing high quality at the best cost," says Beverley-Anne. "Apart from monitoring soil-water and temperature



WORDS Lindsey Schutters IMAGES Ruan Redelinghuys; Gallo Images/Getty Images

RECOVERING FROM THE RECENT DROUGHT HAS SPARKED A TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION IN THE OUTENIQUA VALLEY



levels, we are looking at our operation as site-specific so we can maximise our crop efficiency by using real-time data. For example, by using a fertiliser schedule and soil-moisture probes for drip-irrigation scheduling in combination with satellite imagery, we evaluate under-performing sites in plots to increase productivity. This kind of precision farming has many advantages, from optimising resources to cost management and responding quickly to a changing environment.

“The industry was initially focused on producing high alpha varieties (i.e. varieties with higher bitterness levels), but South African beer enthusiasts were hungry for something different and new. In the last couple of years, the scope of the breeding programme changed to include flavour hops – a first for South Africa. This led to the release of three exciting, niche hop varieties.

Southern Passion boasts flavours of passion fruit, sweet fruit and gooseberries, whereas African Queen has higher concentrations of alpha acids and a beautiful balance of sweet fruit, citrus notes and a hint of chilli. Southern Aroma is our true African noble aromatic variety, low in bitterness.”

Building a sustainable business in today’s economic climate means branching out into other types of agriculture – and Zelpy has spread itself into protea and fynbos cultivation. “Not only are proteas stunning to look at, they also have the ability to survive harsh environmental challenges, which gives me a sense of hope when dealing with my own daily challenges,” says Beverley-Anne. And like the proteas, she is blossoming in the harsh environment of growing exceptional hops in an ill-suited climate.