



AFRICA
—100 RESORTS 2014—

Vine Intervention

LA RESIDENCE, FRANSCHHOEK, SOUTH AFRICA

THE NARROW ROAD that leads to La Residence's circular entrance meanders past rippling rows of vines, meadows filled with gleefully bucking springbok, and a glass-like pond frequented by wild birds. But the quaint bucolic spectacle at this South African wine-country resort ends at the door. Inside, a medley of eclectic international styles overwhelms the senses: Enormous crystal chandeliers hang from triple-height thatch ceilings, Persian rugs stretch across travertine tile floors, and French and Chinese antiques mingle with local works of art. The decor is no less elaborate in the 11 suites and five villas, which include the Maharani Suite (featuring golden accents and paintings of tigers and maharajahs on the walls) and the Tang Suite (with large Chinese scrolls and rich red and green fabrics). Guests can drink in the exquisite scenery by venturing out in the Cape Winelands—top vintners including La Motte and Boschendal are a short drive away—or, back at their suite, by relaxing with a bottle of La Residence's own blend on a private vineyard-view terrace. (Suites \$315–\$630 per person, villas \$650–\$1,800, including breakfast) www.laresidence.co.za

—JACKIE CARADONIO



Each of the 11 villas on North Island offers direct access to a secluded stretch of white-sand beach.

and 41 accommodations that include three gold-domed palaces. The resort's 14-seat private jet is available for transfers from Casablanca. (\$490–\$12,000) *www.palaisnamaskar.com*

MOZAMBIQUE Azura Benguerra Island

BENGUERRA ISLAND
An intimate beach retreat located 14 miles from the mainland, offering 16 thatch-roofed villas with private plunge pools and attentive butlers. After a day of reef diving or big-game fishing, watch the sun set at the open-air Star Bar. From July to September, glimpse a passing parade of migrating humpback whales. (\$550–\$4,950 *per person, all inclusive*) *www.azura-retreats.com*

SEYCHELLES Frégate Island Private

Seven beaches, two swimming pools, two restaurants, a spa, and just 17 villa accommodations make up this private retreat set on a 740-acre jungle-covered island in the Indian Ocean. Claim your own beach by turning over the “do not disturb” sign at Anse Macquereau. (\$5,360–\$17,410, *all inclusive except alcohol*) *www.fregate.com*

North Island

Enjoy flawless barefoot luxury and top-notch service at this Seychelles private-island resort. The 519-acre hideaway includes just 11 villas—each with a butler and an expansive sundeck—plus a spa, a dive center, four beaches, a library,

and a conservation center for its few guests to enjoy. (\$3,510–\$5,545 *per person, all inclusive*) *www.north-island.com*

SOUTH AFRICA Birkenhead House

HERMANUS
Perched grandly above Walker Bay, this Royal Portfolio property redefines South African coastal luxury with 11 opulent rooms rich with leather, marble, and silk. From June to December, the resort terrace affords views of migrating southern right whales. (\$325–\$525 *per person, including meals*) *www.birkenheadhouse.com*

La Residence

FRANSCHHOEK
(See page 112)

Royal Malewane

THORNYBUSH RESERVE
Set in a private 30,000-acre reserve within Greater Kruger National Park, this exquisite game lodge

is known as much for its A-list clientele as its exceptional wildlife. A collection of antiques and art embellishes the 10 suites; the six-bedroom Africa House is perfect for families. (Suites from \$1,260 *per person; Africa House from \$11,900; both all inclusive*) *www.royalmalewane.com*

TANZANIA Singita Grumeti

SERENGETI
Three lodges, a mobile camp, and a private villa on a 350,000-acre Singita-managed concession add up to what is arguably Africa's most luxurious safari destination. Twice-daily game drives offer the chance to see lions, elephants, and, from June to August, the great migration. (From \$995 *per person, all inclusive*) *www.singita.com*

ZAMBIA Chimzombo Camp

SOUTH LUANGWA
(See page 109)

NEW OPENING

Singita Castleton

SABI SAND GAME RESERVE

Safari goers enjoy absolute privacy at this new exclusive-use farmhouse retreat set within a 45,000-acre reserve bordering South Africa's Kruger National Park. Six cottages and a main house sleep as many as 12 guests; amenities include a swimming pool and tennis courts. (From \$6,740 *for as many as eight guests, all inclusive*) *www.singita.com*