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LIST FOR 2022

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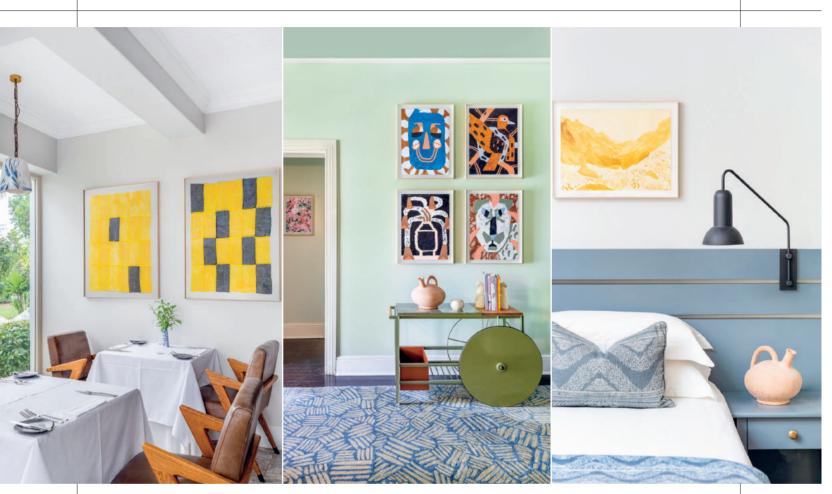
WATCHES, TRAVEL -CARS & TECH

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VISI / TRAVEL

COUNTRY COOL Far from a backwater, the small towns of the Western Cape have become home to architecturally forward-thinking spaces and hotels with a contemporary identity, that still somehow retain the charm the area is loved for.



THE ROBERTSON SMALL HOTEL, ROBERTSON, SOUTH AFRICA One of the Western Cape's secret gems, the Robertson Small Hotel is a welcome alternative to the glitz and glam of traditional five-star accommodation. With a top-star rating but without all the fuss, it offers guests to the historic Victorian manor highly personalised service, stylish interior design that includes a wonderful contemporary art collection, and a menu based around seasonal produce by renowned chef Chris Erasmus. Established in 2011, the hotel was redesigned by owner Tim Rands's daughter Abigail in 2016, pulling together a team of local designers and artists such as Alexis Barrell, Michael Chandler, Renée Rossouw, House of Gozdawa, Lisa Firer, Rene Botes and Bofred Furniture. Most recently, in 2021, the Robertson Small Hotel collaborated with online art platform Art Gazette and the Norval Foundation to showcase new collections of original artworks by emerging and established contemporary artists. The collection now adorns the hotel's rooms, corridors and restaurant. And the food is certainly worth a mention too: "A showcase of local produce fused with wild ingredients, with a classic French bias and a local twist" is how Chris describes his dishes. "Each ingredient must be at the height of its season," he says. One particularly useful service the hotel provides is an in-room publication, *The Small Guide*, which contains a carefully curated list of 26 intimate experiences with the Small's many and various neighbours in the valley. **therobertsonsmallhotel.com**

ABOVE LEFT The Small Restaurant focuses on seasonal produce sourced in the Robertson area and selected by head chef Chris Erasmus (of Foliage fame in Franschhoek). **ABOVE CENTRE AND RIGHT** The hotel's extensive contemporary art collection has been curated by South African artist Morné Visagie, co-founder of Art Gazette. PHOTOS SUPPLIED