

GO EAST The insiders' guide to London's coolest neighbourhoods

Condé Nast Traveller

WIN
A FABULOUS
HOLIDAY IN
MALAYSIA

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JULY 2012 £3.99

Stylish hotels

15 European gems from
less than £100 a night

Rome

The 27 best restaurants
where the locals like to eat

Greek classic

The original Olympic
sites of the Peloponnese

Escape from New York

The Hamptons, Montauk & Shelter Island

Cuba

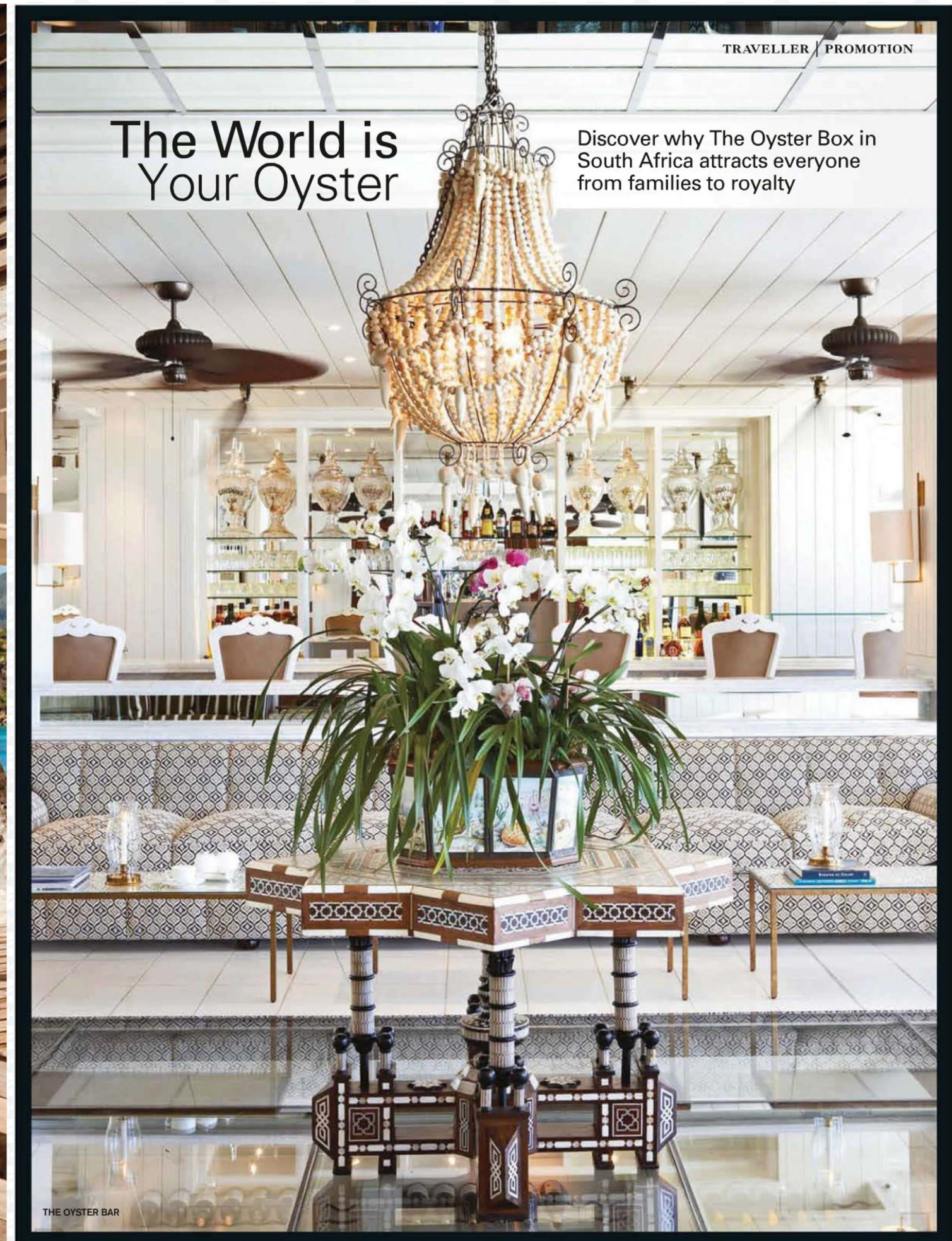
Mojitos and
marlin



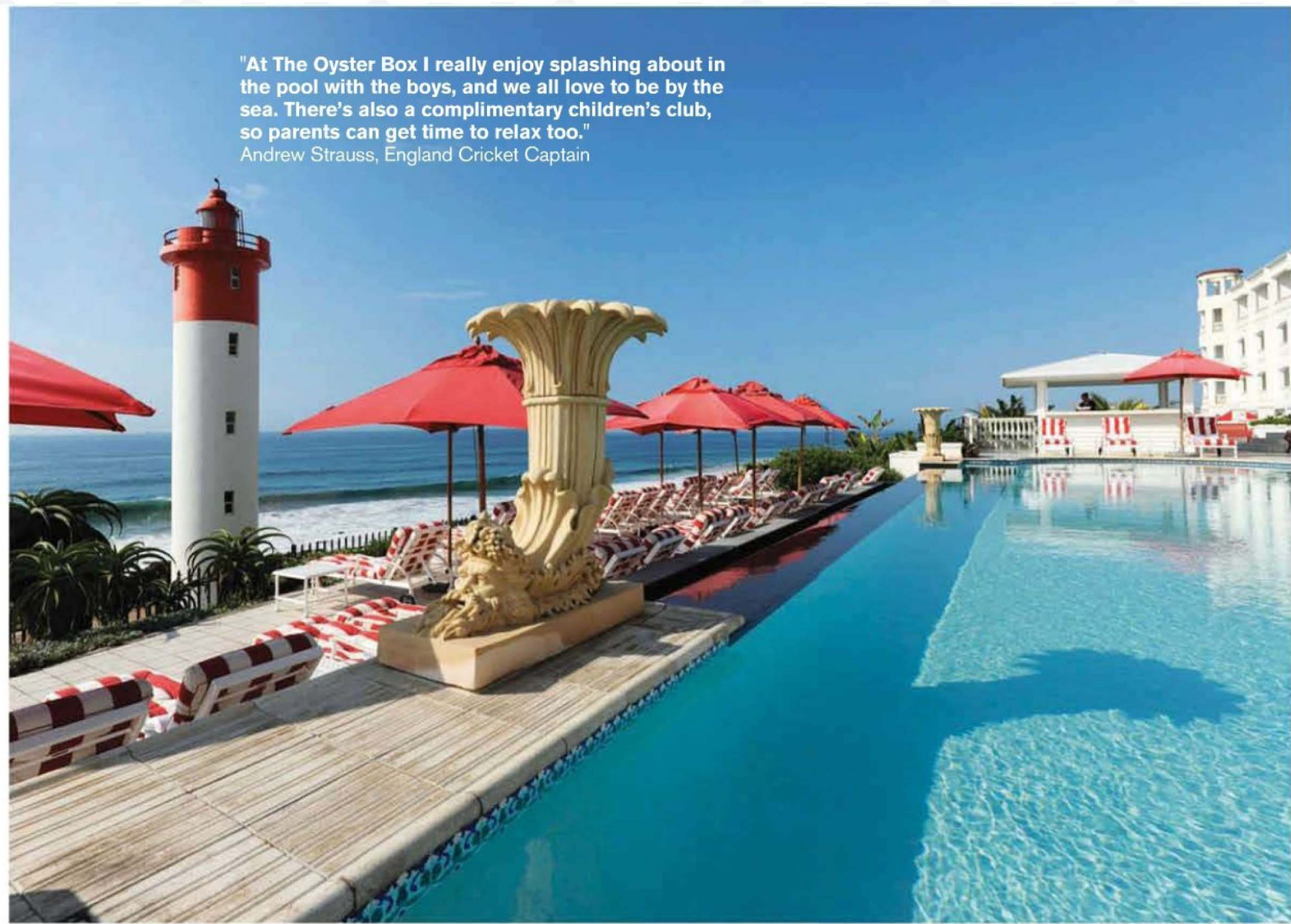
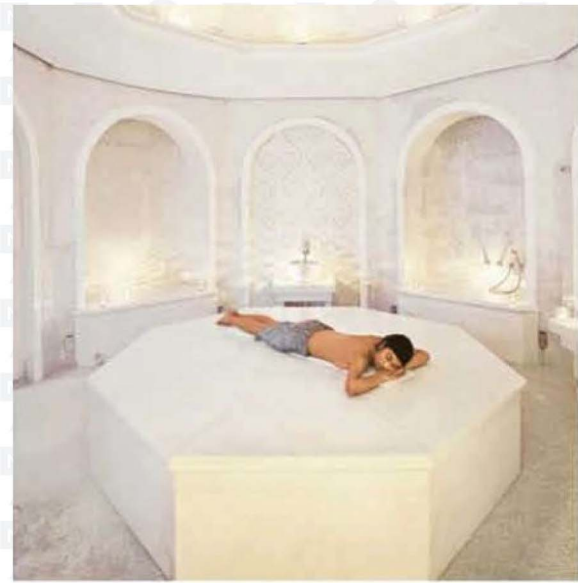
TRAVELLER | PROMOTION

The World is Your Oyster

Discover why The Oyster Box in
South Africa attracts everyone
from families to royalty



THE OYSTER BAR



"At The Oyster Box I really enjoy splashing about in the pool with the boys, and we all love to be by the sea. There's also a complimentary children's club, so parents can get time to relax too."
Andrew Strauss, England Cricket Captain



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: THE ONLY AUTHENTIC TURKISH HAMMAM IN SOUTH AFRICA; THE POOL; KIDS ENJOY THE PIZZA-MAKING CLASSES; THE GRILL ROOM; THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE BATHROOM WITH A VIEW; THE DELICIOUS CURRY BUFFET; WEDDING GAZEBO IN THE GARDEN



cherished on the African continent as an icon for hospitality at its finest, The Oyster Box has been revered since it first welcomed guests in 1947. A splendid edifice on the prestigious Umhlanga coastline of South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal region, it has long seduced a discerning, international clientele.

The Oyster Box had an enchanting effect on its owners Mr and Mrs Tollman decades before they had the opportunity to add it to their Red Carnation Hotel Collection. 'My husband and I first fell in love over a dinner of oysters at The Oyster Box in 1952. It was a very special night,' remembers Mrs Tollman, 'It was the night he spoke - in jest - of a dream to buy this hotel for me.' That dream became reality in 2006.



A careful renovation ensued, introducing modern comforts and conveniences. 'We also assembled beautiful furniture, art and antiques to wow the guests but remained committed to keeping the traditional ambience', explains Mrs Tollman. The Oyster Box (now a Leading Hotel of the World) prides itself on exacting service, superb dining and an award-winning spa. Still infused with its romantic aura, it seems fitting that Prince Albert and Princess Charlene of Monaco chose to honeymoon here.

Renowned for catering effortlessly to families, The Oyster Box offers a multitude of activities including crab fishing, rock pooling and pizza making. Or why not take the kids to the hotel's luxury cinema, complete with hot chocolate and popcorn?

The Oyster Box's 86 rooms, suites and villas are individually and lavishly decorated, many with views of the lighthouse and mesmerising Indian Ocean.

The complimentary children's club allows parents both peace of mind and the opportunity to unwind. Swimmers can choose between an infinity pool and a pool set within the hotel's tropical gardens. Fervent golfers will be impressed by the selection of fairways at the nearby four courses. And while deep-sea fishing and diving can also be arranged, a visit to The Spa might temporarily diffuse all desire for action.

While a swim at the beach is a tantalising five-minute walk, it's hard to believe that the metropolis of Durban and King Shaka airport are a mere 15-minute drive away. Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana, the Drakensberg Mountains and the 'Big Five' Phinda Game Reserve are a few of the region's captivating attractions. Alternatively, a shuttle can whisk you to the nearby Gateway shopping centre - the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Featuring the only authentic Turkish hammam in South Africa, hydrotherapy baths and a plunge pool, The Oyster Box will surprise even the most spa savvy guests. Highly skilled therapists offer an extensive menu of holistic treatments using Elemis, Dermalogica and the Red Carnation Hotel Collection's signature BJAfrica products, specially formulated with native African plant extracts for purification and pampering.

Then, when that 'sundowner' cocktail beckons, guests might consider where best to enjoy it: The



TRAVELLER PROMOTION



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A SEAFACING DELUXE SUITE; THE PALM COURT; CHUKKA BAR



OYSTER BOX READER OFFER:

If you want to experience all of this, readers can spend five nights B&B at The Oyster Box in a Luxury Sea Facing room with one indulgent Swedish massage per person plus delicious curry buffet on one of the nights. Then stay for two nights at Phinda Mountain Lodge, where you will have the opportunity to spot the Big Five, with meals and house wines included and two game drives per day included as well as your very own guided nature walk. And to make things really easy all transfers are included too. Prices start from R17 850.00 per person (£1,420 each). Call + 27 (0) 31 514 5000 and quote 'Condé Nast' to book. Terms and conditions apply.

Lighthouse Bar has a terrace that looks onto its namesake. The Oyster Bar, however, famously specialises in champagne and oysters harvested daily from the hotel's own oyster beds and has the added cachet of live music (a cheerful tradition The Oyster Box is famed for). Furthermore, there's The Chukka Bar, characterised by its old-world charm and extensive selection of whiskies, beer and cigars; and The Wine Cellar, where private dinners and tastings with the Resident Sommelier can be arranged.

For some, the highlight of a stay here could easily be the food. With three restaurants The Oyster Box ensures a variety of culinary experiences. At The Grill Room, freshly caught seafood and fine meat dishes are complimented by local and international wines. The

Ocean Terrace is the informal counterpart, perfect for families with views over the infinity pool and ocean. As well as offering wood fired pizza and fish and chips, the renowned curry buffet is sensational. Finally, the nostalgic aura of the Palm Court - with its terrazzo tiles, palms and chandeliers - is the ideal setting for a buffet breakfast or delectable afternoon tea.

Guests old and new, wedding parties and conference visitors are equally charmed by their experience at this hotel. Having been so sympathetically restored and passionately reinvented by a family for whom it is a treasure, The Oyster Box is successfully able to embark on its next illustrious chapter.

Visit oysterboxhotel.com for more information.

"For some, the highlight of a stay here could easily be the food. With three restaurants The Oyster Box ensures a variety of culinary experiences."

TOP TEN THINGS NOT TO MISS OUT ON

- 01 Four acclaimed golf courses within 30 minutes from hotel. 18km*
 - 02 Designer shopping at the largest shopping mall in the Southern Hemisphere. 5km*
 - 03 Catch the Big Five at renowned safari destination Phinda. 350km*
 - 04 Visit the fantastic uShaka Marine World. 22km*
 - 05 A microlight trip along the coast viewing dolphins and whales. 25km*
 - 06 Hiking in the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Mountains. 225km*
 - 07 Surfing lessons in the warm Indian Ocean. 29km*
 - 08 An historic day tour to the KwaZulu-Natal Battlefields. 300km*
 - 09 A drive to the picturesque Midlands for artisan shopping. 240km*
 - 10 A game drive in the oldest proclaimed Reserve in Africa – Hluhluwe. 360km*
- *Distance from hotel.

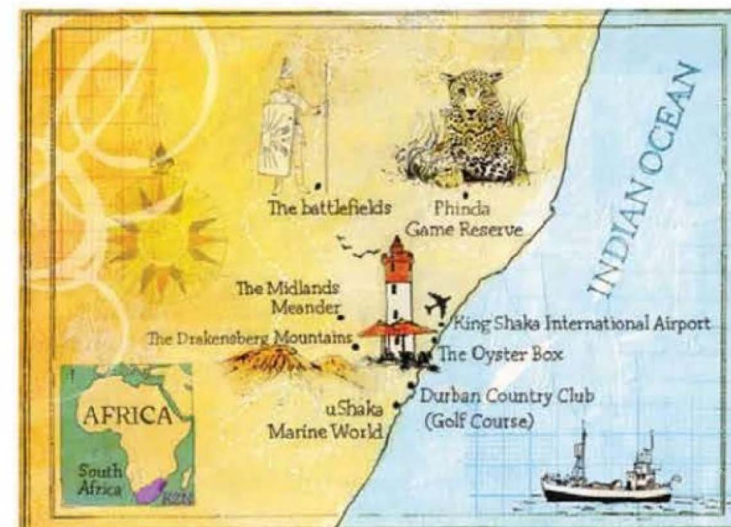


Illustration: Tina Zellmer