

Bleisure BLISS with a view

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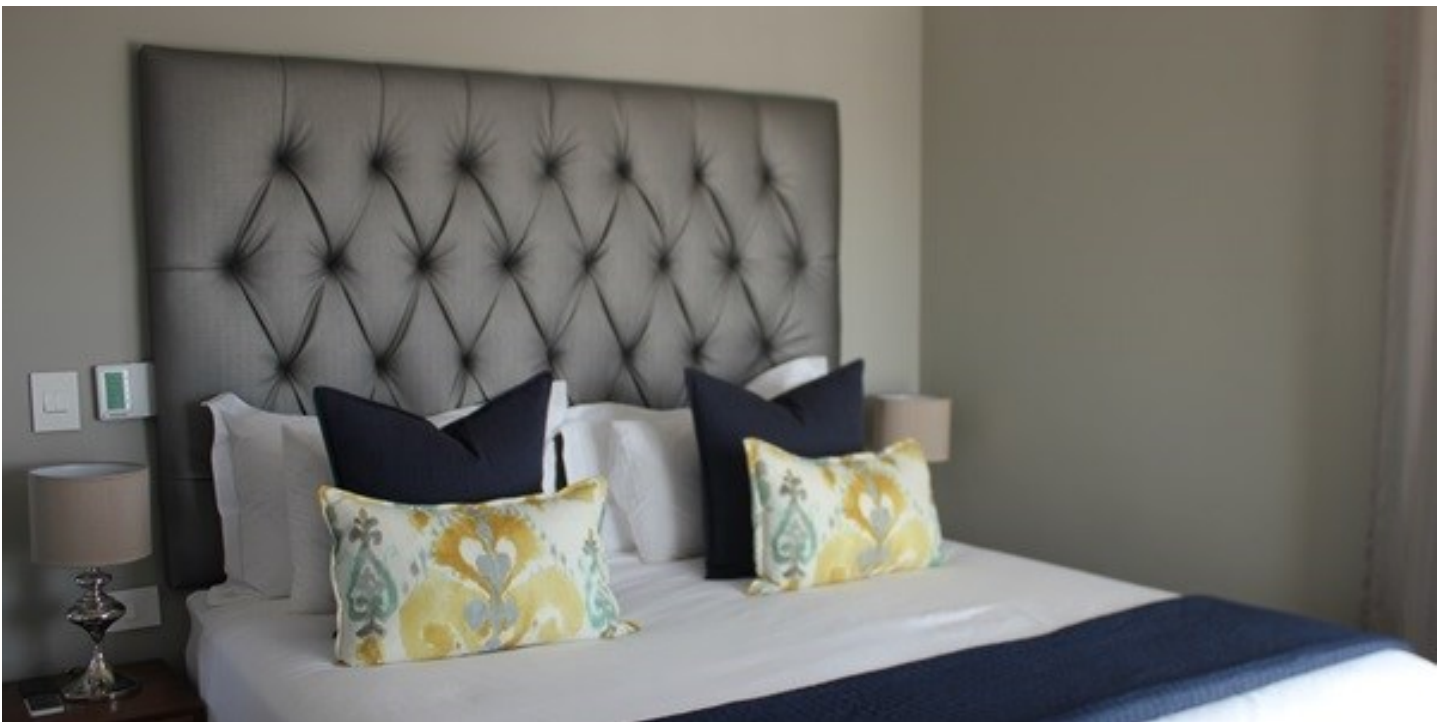
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Reminiscent of that famous yellow brick road, there is a big yellow door in Sunset Beach, Cape Town that will lead you to a magical land of bliss. Upon opening it you will find the type of understated luxury and attentiveness that makes you feel at home while on holiday.



What is striking is the beautifully consistent décor of grey with splashes of yellow that follow you everywhere. The walls and halls serve as a gallery for artist Michaela Rinaldi, which only further enhances the BLISS vibe.

We met up with the owner of BLISS Boutique Hotel, Brian Winston, who was infectiously enthusiastic about the décor (and the Shakshouka - see below) and dynamic general manager Michelle who gave us a tour of the hotel and rooms where everything was custom made and handpicked. The sheer elegance and exquisite attention to detail did not go unnoticed.





We had the pleasure of staying in two different rooms – regular and suite - which gave us the full scope of living the BLISS life. What both rooms have in common? Blissful colours to help you relax, a bed that wants to make you nap all day long, a TV, a quaint working desk, room service, beautiful bathrooms and a mini-fridge and drawer filled with goodies to keep you going throughout the day.

BLISS offer

BLISS can be a bit of a maze, but once you figure it out after the first wrong turn, you get to enjoy all the access points to what BLISS has to offer – the pool, the lounge, the various decks, and the restaurant and bar.

The pool is almost too pretty to use – almost. Unfortunately, it was a bit on the cold side when we got there and I only got in as far as one big toe, but that did not stop us from lazily lounging on the deck chairs, in the sun, with a good book.



All the decks offer stunning views – whether you decide to lounge in the hanging chairs on the front deck by the bar or choose the more sheltered deck looking out on the pool and a pristine piece of conserved land and beach - BLISS is right by the beach and provides easy access to it. But above all that, on the sun deck, is the view par excellence – sit back,

relax, have a cocktail or dinner while enjoying the sunset with this view:



To the bar! Here you'll find Bevan and he'll set you up with the famous BLISS Martini (don't ask him his secret ingredients, you have to guess). I pretty much had drinks only on his recommendations – besides the martini, you can choose from classic cocktails, a great selection of beers and an impressive wine list – my favourite was Warwick's The Three Cape Ladies - Cape Blend.



BLISS Martini

To the dining table (with a view of the kitchen)! Here is where it gets dangerous... dangerously good. Ex Chefs Warehouse chef Dean Correia will try to kill you with the amount of good food he feeds you. Ok, no... nothing that dramatic, but he will happily send you into a food coma.



Chef Dean Correia

Me: When was this bread baked?

Chef Correia: Just now...

That little conversation pretty much sums up the level of dining experience you will have here. Everything is fresh!

Some of our favourites include:



The Shakshouka - an Israeli breakfast dish that owner Brian is proud of and according to him chef Dean perfected it.



Deep fried goat cheese and beetroot salad



Butternut ravioli with a sage sauce and parmesan



Blue cheese stuffed chicken breast with caramelized apple



Trio of creme brulee that is full of delicious surprises

You don't have to be a guest to enjoy the culinary delights chef Correia cooks up. The Restaurant will be open to public – all you need to do is make a reservation.

It's good for...

Whether you are looking for a break away from work or a romantic weekend getaway for two – BLISS will tick all your boxes. What makes it even more impressive is the way it lends itself to "bleisure travel" (mixing business with leisure). Based on articles from [The Points Guy](#) and [CWT Savvy Traveler](#), I came up with a list of must haves for business travel accommodation. Let's put BLISS to the test:

Wi-Fi	✓	Free Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi password supplied the moment you enter the room.
Meeting space	✓	The various decks, lounge or restaurant can be utilised for small meetings
Full service restaurant	✓	Yes and the food is great
Enough, easily accessible power outlets	✓	Enough power outlets of different types and they are easily accessible
Coffee in room	✓	Each room has a Nespresso Machine
Functional, neat bathrooms	✓	Each room has a large shower that doesn't take rocket science to figure out. If you stay in a larger room or suite, you will have both bath and shower. Bathrooms are neat and cleaned daily (by staff you hardly see, they are sneaky good)
Amenities	✓	They have it – From shampoo, body wash and conditioner to shower caps and cotton swabs
Free water	✓	Yes, in the mini-fridge among other things
Easy room service	✓	They have room service and it's as easy as dialling 9
Blackout drapes	✓	Yes, to the point where night becomes day and day becomes night
Decent storage and luggage racks	✓	More than enough storage space and luggage racks. They also have a decent amount of hangers and a state-of-the-art safe
Pool	✓	Yes, BLISS has a beautiful pool
Fitness centre	X	They do not have a fitness centre as such, but you can always burn off extra energy by taking a jog on the beach which is about five metres away, walking the dunes or swimming in the pool
Do not disturb signs	✓	Their do not disturb signs will put a smile on your face
Location	✓	BLISS is about a 20 minute drive away from town without traffic. Although it's not walking distance, what does add to the location is its close proximity to both a shopping centre and mall which is nice in case you need anything extra.

I highly recommend spending down time here. The food, the comfort, the attentive and personal service, and the views are all the makings of good break away.

ABOUT CARI VAN WYK

Cari Coetzee is a contributor to Bizcommunity Tourism, Agriculture and Lifestyle.

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