

INDULGE IN

LUXE LIVING



LUXURY TRENDS

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Licence to live sumptuously

Quiet luxury, sustainability, nostalgic chic are just some of the buzzwords in luxe living. Read on as **Glenda Nevill** delves into these and other trends



Investment in classic cars is up 25%.

unsplash.com

There's something about winter that makes it the season for luxury. The crisp air, piles of lush fabrics, glowing fires, the deep red wine ... cold weather gives us licence to live sumptuously. In Cape Town, the first rains herald the emergence of coats, boots, hats and plush scarves. It doesn't matter that hot days are interspersed among the chilly; summer is packed away with indecent haste.

I've already unearthed my wellies (for mushroom foraging in the forest) – not Hunters, sadly, as they are truly a luxury buy with our constrained rand/pound exchange rate – but not my classic wool/cashmere black coat bought in London decades ago for a price that made me wince, but which is still living its best stylish life.

Vogue magazine reckons "quiet luxury" is a pervasive theme in



Oh for a pair of Hunter wellies.

2023. Elevated classics such as the cinched waist blazer. The classic button-up shirt and white tee. Nineties layering and tailored leather. Plain trousers and wide-legged denim jeans. Think of a well-loved designer bag, and an "investment" coat "thrown over a pair of vintage jeans". That's the style.

RESALE ROCKS

Which brings us to another key trend: sustainability. According to Bain & Company's 2023 Luxury Goods Worldwide Market Study, the resale market will boom this year as brands take control of their second-hand markets. It makes sense. Luxury goods are meant to be durable; the absolute antithesis to fast fashion.

Scarcity is also a factor, increasing desirability for a certain bag (think the Hermès Birkin) or a vintage frock. Rolex recently launched a certified pre-owned programme. LVMH's Heristoria.com sales platform sells the group's archive pieces, each with its own history and in-person "sales experience".

This ethos extends to décor and furniture. "Nostalgia chic" is a thing, with reclaiming, restoring and upcycling a means to create a beautiful space – without an environmental price tag. Fast

Luxury goods are meant to be durable; the absolute antithesis to fast fashion.



Luxury watches never go out of fashion.

unplash



Legacy brand, Burberry oozes classic style.

Burberry

Younger generations are making their presence felt in the luxury realm. Like so much else in the technological age, modern consumers – Millennials, Generation Z and increasingly, Generation Alpha – are rewriting the luxury rule book.

furniture, like fast fashion, is out. Vintage and pre-loved crafted pieces are in. But, as *Vogue* warns, 2023 “doesn’t copy the past, but merely uses it as inspiration”.

Interestingly, sustainability also popped up as a theme in sunglasses trends. GlassesUSA.com notes four key styles: green frames made from natural wood, coffee, cork and bio-acetate and even some made from upcycled water bottles and recycled plastic; then there are athletic-inspired sunnies from the likes of Oakley, Costa, Nike, Puma, Arnette and FILA; glam glasses never go out of fashion and 2023’s over-sized angular frames deliver the drama; and lastly, those ‘70s-inspired tinted specs, in red, orange, and yellow. We saw them worn by trendsetters at Coachella earlier this year.

With many consumers feeling the pinch, another major trend is micro luxury. We, who are not part of the 1% super-wealthy class, have licence to splurge on a few special things: gorgeous wallpaper or paint, a statement crafted item of furniture, an extra-large bath – something that contributes to our wellbeing. Which, by the way, is another trend. What makes you feel at peace in your home? What gives you comfort?

Still, there is space for luxury investments. The annual global Knight Frank Wealth Report says art and cars are back in vogue, with art up 29% and classic cars 25%. Rare whiskies grew 3% while wine investments topped 10%, with Burgundy leading the field.

YOUNGER GENERATIONS

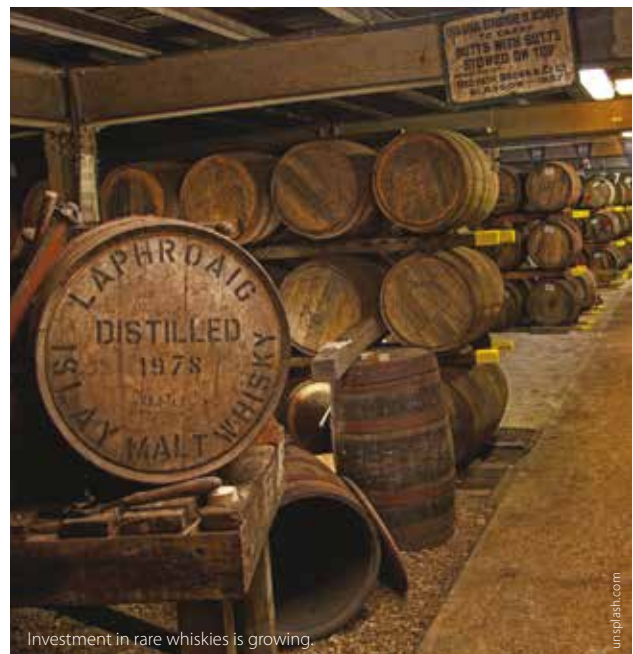
Younger generations are making their presence felt in the luxury realm. Like so much else in the technological age, modern consumers – Millennials, Generation Z and increasingly, Generation Alpha – are rewriting the luxury rule book. And have resurrected Y2K style too. Low-rise belts, Ugg boots, sporty sunglasses ...

Think with Google partnered with *Vogue* to produce *CUBE: Fashion Takes Shape*. The study explored “behavioural shifts likely to drive future innovations in luxury and fashion”. A powerful takeout is that “82% of consumers want fashion and luxury items to help them express themselves”.

It also underscored the importance of technology, and online and offline access to luxury. “Fashion and luxury consumers will move away from a linear path-to-purchase and instead find themselves immersed in a seamless space between the real and virtual,” the study found.



Natural frames and tinted lenses were spotted at Coachella.



Investment in rare whiskies is growing.

unplash.com

Luxury living really does come down to personal choice. What we as consumers need to tap into is what makes us happy and comfortable, and contributes to our sense of wellbeing. Not what an influencer or designer tells us we should want. We just have to be brave enough to develop our personal luxury living style, and live with it. Happily ever after. 🏠



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Models shown: Continental GTC Azure, Continental GT Azure, Bentayga Azure, Flying Spur Azure, and Bentayga Extended Wheelbase Azure.



EXPECTED



Bringing forth a new era of Bentley wellbeing, the new Bentayga Extended Wheelbase (EWB) Azure is Bentley's most luxurious and comfortable SUV to date. **Jermaine Jardine**, National Sales Manager of Bentley South Africa, explains why this model is positioned as a sanctuary in motion.

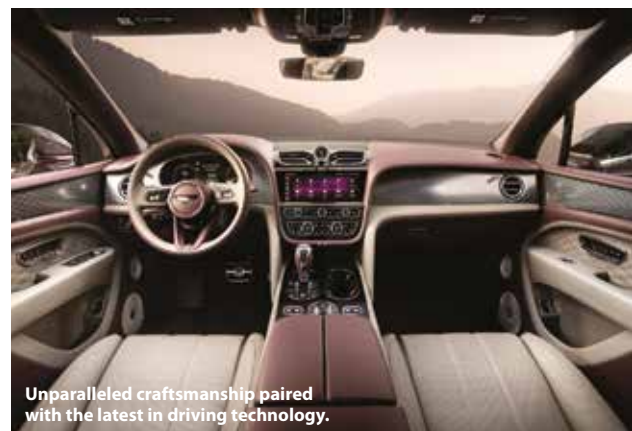
SUPREME LUXURIOUS

Built on the strengths of the Bentayga, this new grand touring SUV harmoniously balances bold design, world-leading luxury and powerful performance to create a unique experience of wellbeing. Passengers are welcomed by new heights of comfort and, as a driver, all the features you need for an effortless journey are at your fingertips. The possibilities to create your own personal haven are indeed endless.

AMBIENCE AND SERENITY

The 180mm extension of the wheelbase has resulted in a larger cabin space, providing class-leading legroom, while remaining beautifully proportioned with little indication of the extra space within.

Front on, it presents a bold new visual presence, with a stylish and striking vertical vane grille design. The unique and impressive 22-inch, 10-spoke Bentayga wheel comes in a new mirror-polished design, and the repositioning of the panoramic sunroof focuses on the rear cabin's ambience and serenity.



ELEGANCE AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL

As you step inside the spacious cabin, you will experience a new level of interior design elegance, craftsmanship and attention to detail. Here you can enjoy a luxurious valet-like experience with power-closing doors and adjust the lighting to suit your mood with a tap of the touchscreen remote.

The new Bentley Diamond Illumination, exclusive to the Bentayga EWB Azure, provides a striking illumination effect using LEDs that emit light through small perforations in the leather trim on the door panels, and can work in harmony with the mood lighting settings.

Travel first-class with the new Bentley Airline Seat Specification, the most advanced seat ever fitted to a car, and fine-tune your seat's climate, ventilation, massage and postural settings to suit your needs. The Bentayga EWB Azure sets a new standard in comfort, making it a candidate for the most luxurious SUV in the world. 🏠

OBAKU

DENMARK



WATCH MODEL
JUVEL

The perfect pair

Sunglasses and watches aren't just trendy or functional; they're alive with artistry. You just need to know where – and how – to look, writes **Nia Magoulianiti-McGregor**

Sunglasses are more than just fashion pieces, says Naseera Omarjee, co-director and optometrist at Global Eyes, an optometry group and luxury retailer. "They're also functional accessories that offer protection from ultraviolet radiation and airborne debris." Still, so much innovation has gone into designs and materials that sunglasses have evolved into an artform to complement the craftsmanship in exclusive jewellery and watches.

But how to choose a pair? Omarjee says if you're looking for longevity as well as elegance, the materials used in production are as important – if not more so – than aesthetics. "Look for three core materials: Japanese titanium, Italian acetate and 18-carat gold-plated."

She says in luxury brands, even the micro-parts such as screws are made out of these materials. "They're engineered to perfection."

Technology has come to the rescue of fashionistas in the form of transition lenses. The trend right now is for lighter lenses (so sunglasses can be worn indoors) that will automatically tint when walking outside. "It's a fashion statement," says Omarjee.

Design has moved towards colourful frames. "Colour blocking is in," she says. Fashion labels have opted for their corporate colours in their sunglasses frames: "Tiffany's iconic blue and Valentino's shocking pink align with their brands."

But what shape? "Cat eyes for an oval face, square or angular frames for a round face and aviators for just about any shape!" says Omarjee.

She adds, "Design-wise the classics hold their place. Aviators, cat eyes, squares and rounds are timeless."

Linda Farrow 'Newman' aviator sunglasses in metal with patterned hardware accents.
Price: R20 900.



The Boucheron BC01225 002 sunglasses with shiny yellow gold Boucheron frame and gradient blue "brandeggiata alta" lens.
Price: R22 800.

Première de Cartier sunglasses in red horn with a smooth golden-finish and grey lenses.
Price: R57 200.



The Longines Master Collection combines classical elegance and excellent quality. Approx. R77 300.



The Grand Seiko Hi-Beat has an award-winning slim design including a structured dial, and tight precision. Approx. R170 000.



This Omega Speedmaster is inspired by the 2nd Generation Speedmaster, which was the first watch worn in space. Approx. R9 833 000.

TICKING BOXES


When it comes to watches, "Beauty is very much in the eye of the beholder," says Treger Group marketing manager Anita Solomon. It's hard to define an ideal watch, she says. "It's like asking who your favourite child is."

High-end, too, is variable in cost. A good timepiece could be R20 000 or R200 000 or R2-million, she says. "A diamond-encrusted Rolex may be worth much more than that."

For many watch collectors, says Solomon, it's not the curves or size that count. "Some may look plain but it's in the precise movement – known as complications – where the true artistry lies. The lineage also matters. Many brands are steeped in history and it's sometimes a question of a personal connection to a particular brand."

While authenticity is key, classic styling can be updated. "Longines has recently re-released its Pilot Majetek with technical and aesthetic revisions."

Of course, says Solomon, while the serious collector won't be a follower of fashion, those who want to follow trends should look out for big cases – the outside metal covering – which are in style for fashion brands.

But ultimately, says Solomon, "Like art, a watch has to speak to you." 

LUXURY EYEWEAR GUIDE

with GLOBAL EYES

GLOBAL EYES has emerged as South Africa's premiere retailer of luxury eyewear with their flagship store nestled at 204 Oxford (previously Thrupps Centre). The store houses fully fledged optometry services on site and boasts one of the continent's largest range of luxury eyewear pieces with an impressive selection of over 30 international brands. The AW23 season brings in some hot favourites from around the world with their top 3 featured here.

1 DITA has long been appreciated by eyewear connoisseurs for its fine craftsmanship and high quality materials. Creating a single Dita frame can take as many as 100 artisans and master craftsmen. Featured here, the Dita LXN-EVO has been designed with maximum impact in mind, categorised by its classic navigator style that drips with show-stopping details in yellow gold and Japanese acetate. Price: R22 400



2 BALMAIN eyewear has made quite the impact on the European fashion scene this season with the house's rock-runway DNA throughout the maison's newest collection. Its design features embody silhouettes that channel the sleek lines of '80s rebels and the confident style of today's biggest stars. The Balmain Brigitte pair featured here shows off an iconic round frame, thin temples and an embossed gold-tone Balmain logo on its side, making it undoubtedly one of the hottest releases of the season. Price: R17 800



3 VALENTINO Eyewear is made in some of Japan's oldest and most revered workshops. Each piece is crafted using some of the world's finest materials through a combination of time-honored production techniques and modern technologies. The Valentino I model featured here, connotes an oneriac landscape, permeated by grace and inclusivity. The gold logo temples and light lenses make this model a must-have this season. Price: R18 400



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What dreams are made of

A luxurious bedroom is easily achievable with a curated aesthetic and beautiful furnishings, writes **Hasmita Amtha**

LUXE APPEAL

From soothing pastel hues to bold palettes that ooze decadence, we've seen it all. This year, according to Schanè Anderson of Olala Interiors, luxury bedroom designs are celebrating a vibrant, opulent aesthetic. "Think black and gold, marble and stone finishes, and animal prints and patterns that are not only on furniture but on walls and floors too."

Anderson stresses the importance of choosing high-quality finishes: "Quality matters. Carefully consider the fabrics, lighting, finishes, and furniture – quality trumps quantity, and sustainability must be included."

From well-placed LED lighting to eye-catching pendants and/or chandeliers, opulent and textural fabrics, lavish rugs, mirror finishes, and glass elements in cabinetry doors or tabletops – these are key features that evoke a luxe feel.



An opulent main bedroom design by Olala Interiors.



Featured here is the royal bed, City Spirit from KARE Johannesburg.

THE ESSENTIALS

Good-quality furniture is what you should opt for when materialising any luxe bedroom. Johann De Waal of KARE Johannesburg says: "Bedroom furniture should be comfortable, functional, aesthetically pleasing and made from high-quality, sustainably sourced materials such as solid wood, leather or metal."

When choosing, De Waal recommends looking for well-made, durable and long-lasting pieces. "These pieces add to the room's elegance and ensure that your investment lasts for years to come. Additionally, storage is an essential consideration in any bedroom, including a luxury one."


"Choosing furniture pieces that offer ample storage space, such as dressers and nightstands, is key to keeping the room organised and clutter-free, creating a serene and peaceful environment for relaxation."

THE NATURAL TOUCH

A good night's sleep cannot be understated, so superior bedding is an investment that's well worth the reward, says Mungo's Georgina Selander.

"High-quality bedding is a must for a luxurious bedroom. We believe that pure linen bedding is the best out there; linen has an unmatched look and feel, is long-lasting, and breathable for all seasons. The soft, natural creases of linen also give it an inherently cosy, comforting appearance – an aesthetic that has gained in popularity with the resurgence of hygge styles/aesthetics."

Noting the movement towards sustainable bed linen, Selander says: "Consumers are looking to make considered and conscious lifestyle choices, and sustainable and natural fibres are becoming increasingly popular. The environmental impact of linen is lower than any other natural fibre."

"Linen is also a highly durable fibre, and its longevity and sustainability work hand in hand. The longer you can enjoy your linens, the better for you, and for the planet." 



The Kamma duvet cover from Mungo is the epitome of luxury bed linen.



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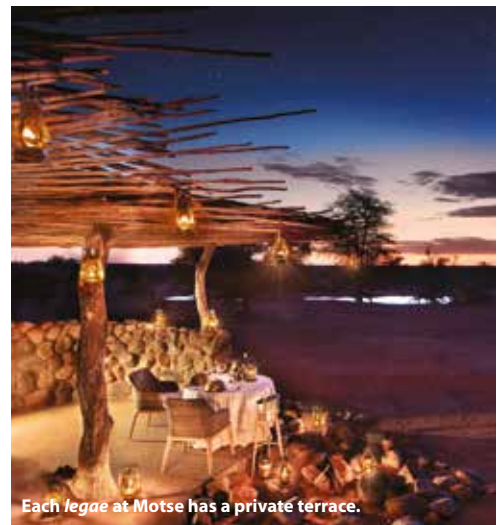
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From the call of the wild to mobile glamping in unique locations, **Keith Bain** has you covered for your next luxury getaway



Tswalu's Motse Camp integrates with the red soil of its surrounds.



Each *legae* at Motse has a private terrace.



For safaris at Tswalu, each room gets a private vehicle, ranger and tracker.

TSWALU

South Africa's largest private game reserve is situated in the depths of the Green Kalahari, a faraway destination both visually magnificent and full of wildlife – plus it's home to the country's most astonishing dining experience, Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen's Restaurant Klein JAN.

At Motse Camp, you are 100% a VIP; your needs and cravings and personalised schedules are the focus. You can spend all night on a game drive searching for aardvark or pangolin, or laze for days on your patio, watching roan antelope saunter by. In July, a new tented lodge, Loapi, opens, kicking off with an unmissable four-nights-for-the-price-of-three introductory offer. tswalu.com

ROVOS RAIL

There's a deep nostalgia that goes hand in hand with properly sophisticated train travel; something beautiful about seeing the world from a hotel-on-wheels that never gets old.

Rovos offers luxury trips of between two days and two weeks – each is an all-inclusive, hassle-free adventure harking back to an era of bracing romance with just 36 beautifully appointed suites.

Between scheduled stops in places like Matjiesfontein, Vic Falls and Sossusvlei, there's an observation car with open-air balconies, a snazzy lounge carriage, a small spa, and two elegant dining cars. Plus impeccable service throughout.

rovos.com



Moving scenes from the Rovos observation car.

MFULAWOZI WILDERNESS

Abutting Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in KwaZulu-Natal, a 16 000-hectare tract of community-owned land has been given over to conservation, the successful culmination of an ambitious rewilding project.

Currently, two lodges – Biyela and Mthembu – situate you in the heart of this ancient land. Biyela overlooks a bend in the White Umfolozi River, its 12 snazzy concrete-and-glass freestanding suites connected via boardwalks that undulate up and across the hills that the architects had to contend with.

Meanwhile, Mthembu's seven suites and two family-size villas are set on an embankment of the river, with pretty views and an immersive wild soundtrack. Both offer game drives, bush walks, top-notch spa treatments and fabulous Zululand hospitality. mfulawoziwilderness.com

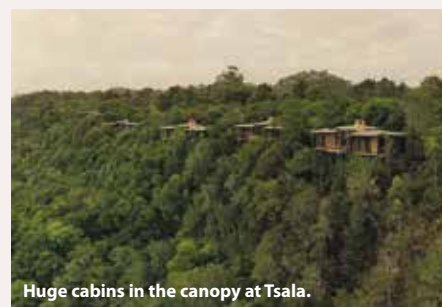


Room with a view at Biyela Lodge.

TSALA TREETOP LODGE

Like many fairytales, this one happens in the woods, specifically an indigenous forest named Faerie Glen, which comprises yellowwood and ironwood trees, white pear and Cape beech. It's in the Garden Route hamlet of Harkerville, just 10km west of Plettenberg Bay, yet it feels a million miles from anywhere.

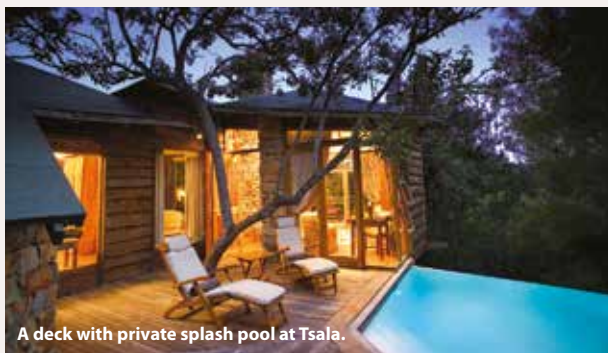
Accommodations comprise a series of big glass-and-timber treehouse-like suites, each elevated between 4m and 16m above the forest floor where you feel like you're suspended in the sky. They include every imaginable convenience, including double-volume lounges surrounded by generous decking, outdoor showers, and even a splash pool. tsala.hunterhotels.com



Huge cabins in the canopy at Tsala.



Tsala Treetop's lounge.



A deck with private splash pool at Tsala.



Canvas Collective's mobile camp features a wood-fired hot tub.

CANVAS COLLECTIVE AFRICA

At this innovative luxury mobile camping venture, it's not just that you get a kitted-out canvas-walled room to sleep in, but each one comes with a proper shower, twin basins, and a top-notch camping loo. Plus there's a stocked bar, a hot tub and a boma with a fire that's constantly stoked and tended, with lunches served here and there, guided hikes and attentive service.

If it turns wet or windy, the sturdy restaurant tent (staffed by a talented chef and a small team) becomes a great place to hang out instead of sheltering alone in your tent.

Each new season's location is a surprise; it might be Matjiesfontein or Tulbagh – or just about anywhere remote and pretty in the Western Cape.

canvascollectiveafrica.com



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