

R60 million refurb for the palatial Palazzo

The palatial Palazzo Hotel at Montecasino in the heart of Fourways in Sandton recently celebrated its 15th anniversary with a comprehensive refurbishment that included the transformation of all rooms as well as the addition of a beautiful new restaurant and function venue.

“We pride ourselves on our reputation for providing ‘the velvet touch’ to guests, and this revamp has ensured that we maintain the high standard of refined elegance and opulence that have been the hallmarks of this property – which we believe is the most beautiful hotel in Johannesburg – since we opened in November 2000,” comments Robert Jasper, General Manager of the Palazzo Montecasino.

The refurbishment formed part of Tsogo Sun’s organic growth strategy and represented an investment of R60 million by the group. “The Palazzo is a magnificent hotel with classic architecture and iconic public spaces, particularly the beautiful gardens. We particularly focused on the rooms in this refurbishment to ensure they offer a luxury experience to match the overall setting. This is the most beautiful hotel in Johannesburg,” says Marcel von Aulock, CEO of Tsogo Sun.

The Palazzo Montecasino offers world-class facilities for leisure and business travellers, including a variety of tastefully decorated rooms that vary from the lavish 600m² Penthouse to the luxurious Presidential, deluxe, superior and standard rooms, catering for all tastes and travel requirements.

Interior designers David Muirhead and Associates handled the makeover of the rooms, giving them a contemporary colour palette in elegant fabrics and wall finishes.

The development team created a design that retains the hotel’s distinctly Tuscan feel and its stylish look. Lo-Ann Abernethy, Interior Designer at David Muirhead, was responsible for the execution of the designs: “We were inspired by the exquisite gardens and the buildings of the property – and they formed the starting point. We brought through that same essence into the interiors; the same authenticity that makes it true to the Italian

spirit, while being innately elegant and luxurious.”

Much of the existing furniture was retained and either modified, reupholstered or recoloured. An element of ultra-modern technology was added in the form of new 40-inch LED TVs on beautiful new TV stands.

The refurbishment of the rooms was completed one wing of 25 rooms at a time, in a systematic approach that took a year – and feedback from guests has been overwhelmingly positive.

“In addition to the room refurbishment, and in response to our guests’ valued feedback, we also built a function venue in the garden alongside the colonnade leading through to the Montecasino complex – called Rosa – enabling us to meet the demand for overflow breakfast and function space,” says Jasper.

The design of Rosa is in keeping with the Tuscan theme of the hotel and is located adjacent to the walkway that leads guests out of the hotel into the Montecasino complex. The back wall of the restaurant is an existing stone boundary wall clad in ivy, lending a garden feel to the restaurant, and tables and chairs in the walkway add to the venue’s typical European café style.

The Palazzo is ideally located in the upmarket suburb of Fourways, Johannesburg, a mere 15 minutes from Sandton, South Africa’s business hub, 40 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport and 20 minutes from Lanseria International Airport. The hotel forms part of the award-winning Montecasino entertainment complex, which offers guests an endless variety of entertainment options.

Guests enjoy leisure time around the magnificent outdoor swimming area which offers a light menu as well as African-inspired massage treatments available at one of the four poolside gazebos.

Dining is a true culinary experience in the Medeo Restaurant which serves a menu encompassing the flavours of the Mediterranean and offers an extensive wine list that includes a selection of iconic wines sourced from the prestigious Cape Winemakers Guild and Nederburg auctions, where

Tsogo Sun took top spot for total wine sales by a single bidder.

The Palazzo Montecasino is one of the luxury properties within Tsogo Sun's portfolio of over 90 hotels and 14 casino and entertainment destinations throughout South Africa, Africa and the Seychelles. For further information go to tsogosun.com.