

hotel information: history



The Petousis Family owned the Criterion Hotel in Johannesburg which they sold in the late 1960's and moved to the Cape. Swiss-trained Francois Petousis saw the potential to open a hotel in Cape Town, and after much investigation bought an 11 roomed South African Breweries Hotel called Trocadero - this was in 1970. He then demolished the old hotel and created a 12 storey 104 roomed hotel called "The Townhouse/Dorphuis Hotel", situated in a quiet corner of Cape Town.

The townhouse hotel officially opened in 1973 and became one of the most popular hotel and restaurants, particularly for parliamentarians, who would queue around the block for the special lunch which was organised at a very reasonable price.

Francois Petousis was quite an historian who loved antiques. He spent many hours at various auctions, purchasing antique furniture, which he renovated to be used in the rooms.

The past few years have seen many changes to the hotel. The introduction of the completely renovated new rooms allows the hotel to compete with many 5 star hotels. It offers business and leisure guests alike, rooms which include facilities such as FREE high speed internet access, state of the art LCD screen television, air-conditioning, tea and coffee making facilities, home-made biscuits, double glazed windows, electronic safes and mini bars on request. Today the hotel has 106 rooms and the brand name is now the townhouse hotel.

The hotel now has 106 rooms (all en suite), an outstanding "a la carte" restaurant that serves breakfast and dinner, and a lounge that offers guests lunch and light meals throughout the day. To complete the offering to all our guests there is a business centre.

Granted four stars by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa, the hotel is a popular destination for businessmen, parliamentarians, and in particular, foreign travelers from Germany, Japan and the UK.

Although the original owner passed away a few years ago, his family, and in particular his two sons, George and Lex, (both trained hoteliers) have carried on the Petousis Family Tradition of constantly upgrading and improving their hotels. In addition to the Townhouse Hotel they currently own the deluxe Vineyard Hotel & Spa in Newlands, which is recognised as one of the best hotels in the Cape. It boasts a conference centre, Spa, and 2 restaurants that have won numerous awards, and is enhanced by the most beautiful views of the forested slopes of Table Mountain, overlooking 6 acres of attractive, landscaped gardens.