



THE VINEYARD



### **Choose not to use: Help us to continue to save our beautiful town's resource**

As caring hoteliers operating in a water-scarce region that also happens to be one of the most beautiful in the world, we will always focus on reducing our impact on the environment. Conscious of our declining rainfall pattern in recent years, we started investing significantly some time ago in water-saving projects, devices and appliances. We are grateful to our guests and our staff for fully supporting and embracing our continuing efforts to save this precious resource.

To reduce our consumption of municipal water, we installed a groundwater filtration plant at The Vineyard. While we will always use this water source responsibly, it ensures that we will have an independent water supply at our Newlands hotel. We have been assured that the Townhouse in central Cape Town will always be supplied with water, and that Stellenbosch has adequate provisions in place for Oude Werf guests.

In addition, our grey-water projects at The Vineyard and Oude Werf are complete and now provide grey water for the flushing of lavatories – this will reduce water consumption at these hotels by a further 5 to 8%. The treatment plant at The Vineyard has the capacity to save 6 000 litres per day and Oude Werf's system can reduce consumption at that property by 3 000 litres per day.

We are in the process of increasing the amount of rain water we are able to harvest from all our hotels' roofs.

An adequate on-site supply of water will always be available to deal with a fire, should any of our properties experience one.

Well over a year ago the company established a water-crisis committee which has been working tirelessly to reduce water usage at our hotels and minimise our reliance on municipal water. As a result, many water-saving initiatives have been implemented over the past year in all operational areas of our Hotels.

### **The following is a summary of both previous and newly introduced initiatives that exist across all three hotels:**

- Removed all bath plugs to encourage guests to shower (one of the first in the industry to do so and we implemented this over twelve months ago);
- Installed shower timers to help guests monitor and keep their showers to two minutes;
- Provided buckets to collect shower water which is re-used by housekeeping (and in the case of Townhouse to water the roadside plants with greywater);
- Change linen every 4th day and replace towels on request;
- Installed extra water meters and a water-wise air-conditioning chiller unit at The Vineyard;
- Water saving fittings include aerated taps, aerated showerheads, movement activated taps in public areas and hand sanitisers.
- Active plan to replace all non-water-wise plants with alternatives (70% of The Vineyard and Oude Werf gardens are already water wise and watering is either from groundwater or greywater sources);

- Replaced hand towels with paper towels in public lavatories and the option to only use hand sanitisers;
- Emptied most of our water features and those we have refilled only use groundwater or rainwater;
- Installed tank system to recycle laundry water and use the last rinse water of one load for the first wash of the next at The Vineyard's onsite laundry;
- Well-established recycling ethos continues to mitigate any additional pressure on landfill with the increased usage of plastic water bottles;
- Highly visible education programme, "Choose not to Use" to elicit guest participation and support.
- Ground water and grey-water systems in place.

As a result of these and other measures, all three hotels are using significantly less water – the Vineyard's consumption has been reduced by more than 45%.

While we look forward to the end of the restrictions, we will always focus on sustainable practices at Petousis hotels. We must all continue to live sustainably and we must keep our personal consumption of water to a maximum of 70 litres per day.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff and our guests for their water-saving efforts. We are very proud to have served as a model for many other hotel groups in the region.

Yours sincerely

GEORGE PETOUSIS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER