

# Travel

LUXURY  
*Travel*  
LAND & SEA







Words: Jabulile Ngwenya. Photographs: Sarah de Pina

## BEGUILING JEWEL *White Pearl*

A luxury hideaway in southern Mozambique invites you to forget the worries of everyday life and enjoy having it all

**T**he thick foliage of casuarina trees and bush, dry savannah, grasslands and swamp forests hide the exclusive playground of White Pearl Resorts on southern Mozambique's Lagoon Bay at Ponta Mamoli. Through the lobby, the view of the azure sea and gleaming sand dunes in the distance is alluring, but it's the interactive decor by acclaimed interior designer Fox Browne that make this place a gem.

Owner Florival Luis Mucave chose white as the predominant colour for the establishment. Fresh and inviting, it thematically binds the resort's 21 well-appointed, beach-

facing suites, while other organic hues soften the effect.

Pale shades meet wood and other textures in ornamental lamps, chandeliers, mirrors and beautiful figurines in all the rooms. I fell in love with the glass walls, which enhance your awareness of your beautiful, natural surroundings. "I wanted to create a chic beach resort where even if you're indoors, you feel as if you're outside, not secluded behind walls," says Florival. When you're in the bathtub or one of the outdoor showers, you're overlooking the ocean. Your bed faces the ocean too, while each suite has its own plunge pool for some quiet time.



Whether you're lying on a sunbed with a novel, taking high tea in the reading room or lazing around the pool, relaxation is blissful at White Pearl. The weather's favourable most of the year, while the warm Indian Ocean will bring out the water baby in you. Besides, the sight of dolphins playing close to the shore is an enticing call. An early-morning ocean safari had us cruising and finally



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# LUXURY travel BEACH RESORT



diving overboard to swim with a large pod of these magnificent creatures – a thrilling experience. Afterwards we went snorkelling, marvelling at the colourful reefs and marine life.

This is an ideal destination for divers, surfers and body-boarders. Or you might prefer a game of volleyball or a mid-morning horse-ride on the beach.

On arrival, you're appointed a butler to attend to your needs during

your stay, including filling your mini-bar with your choice of drinks and snacks or arranging a picnic basket for you.

And for a spot of sheer indulgence, the holistic spa treatments will soothe mind, body and spirit. Then dine under the stars, with chef Ananais Chambule's nine rotational menus featuring delicious Mozambican cuisine, including seafood. The house speciality is a delectable crab curry.

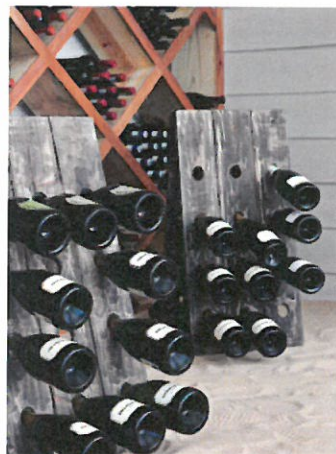


Regular events are held at White Pearl to entertain guests, including wine pairings by General Manager and sommelier Jeremy Clayton, drumming, singing and dancing performances by the local village children or live jazz, which you can enjoy while sampling the resort's signature cocktails as the sun goes down. At night, escape to the Ibiza-styled Beach Bar, where the soft, colourful lighting, music and champagne encourage you to make new friends, dance, let your hair down – and give yourself over to the Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

**RATES:** From US\$355 (R3 775) for half-board pp per night during off-season to US\$455 (R4 835) in peak season. Enquire about a rate that includes all meals, beverages and transfers.

**GETTING THERE:** SAA flies directly to Maputo seven days a week. From there you can take a chartered flight or helicopter transfer, or drive on an untarred road to the resort. Ponta Mamoli, Zitundo, Mozambique. ☎ 011 026 2674  
✉ [www.whitepearlresorts.com](http://www.whitepearlresorts.com)





## A gem of exquisite tastes – and lingering

From July-November, go cruising in search of humpback whales on their annual migration. Seeing these magnificent marine creatures blow, breach, lobtail and frolic is a life-changing experience. You could also spot newborn calves.



From November to February, Ponta Mamoli becomes a nesting site for loggerhead and leatherback turtles, which head to this part of the coast to lay their eggs.

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Chef Chambule and his staff go to great lengths to meet your dietary requirements. Before arriving, you're asked to fill in a form about your preferences. I recommend the exquisite seafood platter (although meat and locally sourced vegetarian options are also on the menu). All pastries, sorbets, ice-creams, yoghurts and sauces are home-made. The peri-peri sauce is highly

recommended. I'm still trying to get the recipe!

The vibe is as good as everything else at White Pearl Resorts. Everyone from honeymooners and lovers to friends and family will enjoy it. There are also many different areas where you can spend time alone or as part of a group. Start making your New Year's Eve reservations.