



THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

For Immediate Release



Royal Malewane, Birkenhead House and The Silo Hotel named among the first properties to be awarded 5 Star Premium status by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa

4 July 2019 (Cape Town, South Africa): As part of the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa's (TGCSA) enhanced grading standards which were implemented on 1 April 2019, a '5 Star Premium' grading status was introduced. This is intended for graded establishments in South Africa which epitomise the essence of luxury in both product quality and service standards.

The Royal Portfolio's Royal Malewane, Birkenhead House and The Silo Hotel have all been awarded the new 5 Star Premium status by the TGCSA - three of only four properties to so far achieve this prestigious accolade.

Royal Malewane, The Royal Portfolio's exclusive safari lodge in the Greater Kruger National Park, was the first ever establishment to receive this aspirational award reserved for the most luxurious product offerings in South Africa. The motivations behind Royal Malewane's award were based on exceptional guiding, the dining and spa experiences, and its host of international awards.

Darryl Erasmus, Chief Quality Assurance Officer at TGCSA, said that "South Africa prides itself for being a tourism destination that has a variety of products catering for various traveller needs and affordability. Much time and energy has gone into setting grading standards that have the traveller's needs at the centre. This helps maintain South Africa's

global competitiveness as a tourist destination. I would like to be the first to congratulate the team at Royal Malewane on attaining 5 Star Premium Status!"

The Royal Portfolio's Marketing & Communications Manager, Ross Bowers said that, "While the quality of the accommodation and the cuisine at Royal Malewane are among the best in the world, it is the quality of our guiding team that really sets Royal Malewane apart in terms of luxury safari lodges. Something that often goes unrecognised, Royal Malewane is home to the most qualified guiding team in Africa, which includes 3 of only 7 Master Trackers in the world, as well as the current FGASA Safari Guide of the Year. This makes such a difference to the wildlife experience for our guests where there is also a strong emphasis on conservation and community."

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Notes for The Editor

The Royal Portfolio is a collection of iconic hotels and private residences in South Africa owned and run by the Biden family. The Royal Portfolio includes Royal Malewane in the Greater Kruger National Park, Birkenhead House in Hermanus, La Residence in Franschhoek, The Silo Hotel in Cape Town and a collection of Private Residences.

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