

# First Group breathes new life into Selborne

After acquiring Selborne Golf Estate, Hotel, and Spa, First Group invested R28 million into its refurbishment, a refurbishment that will allow this 4-star gem on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast to soar.



Selborne front entrance

Following extensive renovations that required the full closure of the hotel, Selborne re-opened its doors to showcase its grand makeover, which has also had a positive 'ripple effect' for the golf estate with a record-breaking 15 properties sold since the refurbishment after a five-year period of dormant sales.

"This bears testament to a renewed investor confidence under the new management banner of the First Hotels brand, and we are extremely proud to be the catalyst to the rejuvenation of the country's first residential golf estate. Rarely do you have the opportunity to restore the grandeur of a hotel so rich in heritage and to breathe new life into period architecture that dates back to the mid-1900's," said Tim Spencer, direction of hotels, First Group.

## A perfect balance between modern and period charm



Selborne staircase

This was achieved by preserving the original features, such as the fine oak paneling, window panes, and flooring that was originally imported from England. “The appeal of this distinguished hotel is that we are now able to offer our guests a sentiment of yesteryear, which sets this vacation experience in a class of its own,” adds Spencer.

Signature era details, like the warm oak stairway and spectacular chandeliers, have been seamlessly combined with modern luxuries. The design team’s carefully handpicked selection of sleek fabrics, bespoke furnishings and a fine selection of art compliments the hotel’s heritage, striking a perfect balance between modern and period charm. The rooms, suites, bar, dining and lounge areas have been individually refurbished with the inference that it feels more like a beautiful private residence of days gone by than a traditional hotel.



Selborne presidential suite

## Spoiled for choice

The most prominent feature and prized offering is still the 18-hole championship golf course which was designed by Denis Barker, one of the original proprietors of Selborne, and is today proudly ranked in the top 100 golf destinations. The hotel, which is also referred to as the Manor House, is complemented by a sparkling outdoor pool, lush coastal gardens, a private beach club and tennis courts.

Guests are spoiled for choice with a range of delectable dining options from the relaxed atmosphere of The Terrace, to the formal elegance of The Lord Selborne Restaurant and the convivial atmosphere of Barker’s Bar or the Piano Lounge.

The world-class wellness spa is fully equipped with a sauna, express gym and four private treatment lounges. A state-of-the-art conference and banqueting facility caters for a wide array of event requirements, and the quaint wedding chapel is the perfect location for an unforgettable celebration with a grandeur of a former era.

With the spotlight now on Selborne Golf Estate, Hotel, and Spa, we are confident that it is destined to become the most sought-after holiday destination and residential investment on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast,” concludes Spencer.

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