

Combined Exhibition & Conference facilities at

# Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa...

In keeping with local market demand, Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa will offer combined conference and exhibition facilities, with a new exhibition centre opening in February 2010.

PART of recent extensive hotel renovations, the original workshop has been recycled and converted into a modern exhibition centre, ideally suited for small to medium sized events.

Situated opposite the Pelindaba, the largest of Misty Hill's conference venues, the 1 000 square metre air-conditioned exhibition centre will comfortably accommodate 55 exhibitor stands of 3 x 3 and 3 x 2 square metres. The stand configuration is adaptable in design to suit individual

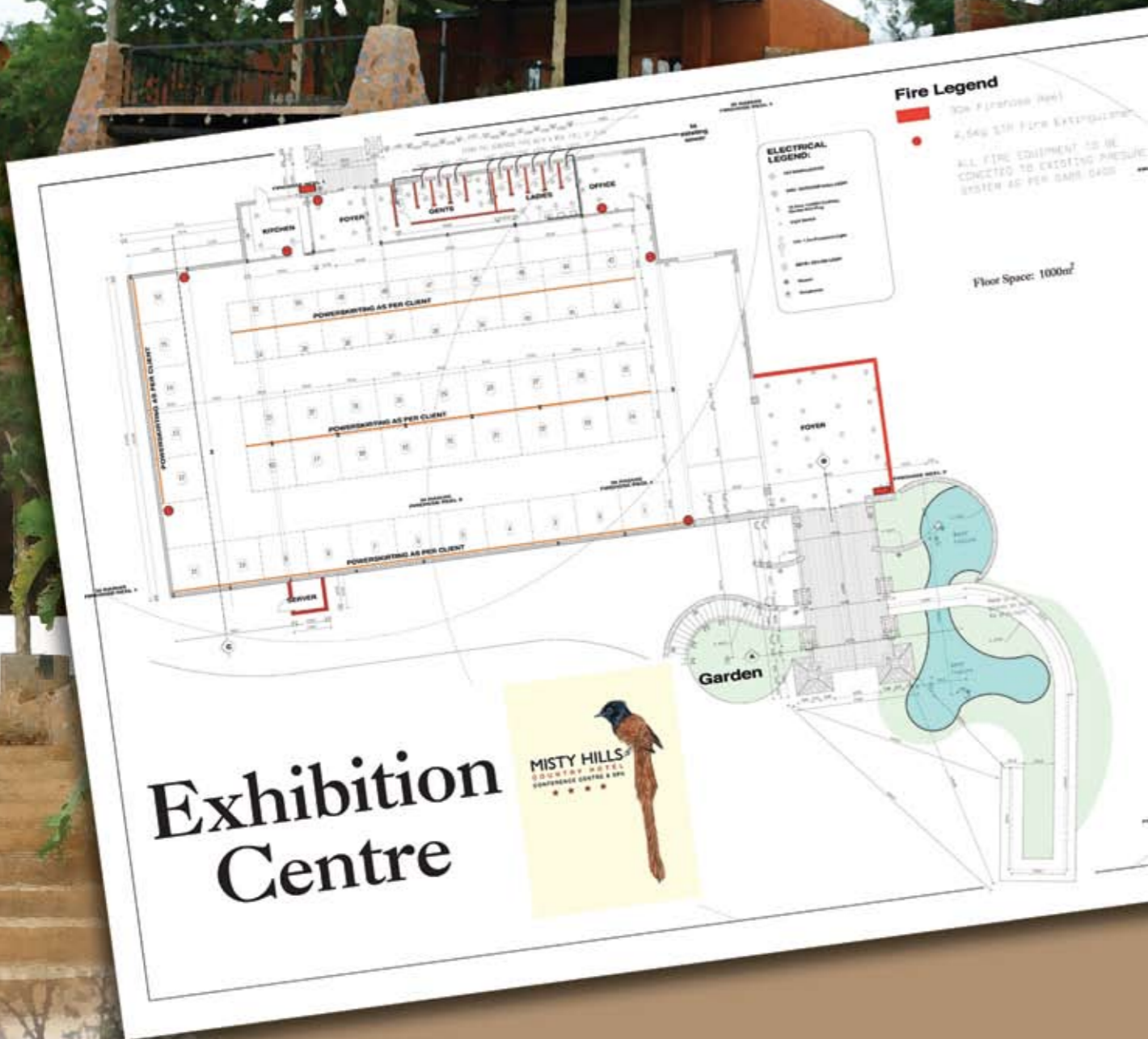
requirements and is suitable for a variety of décor options including carpet, hessian, rattan and wooden flooring. A catering service is also available.

Overlooking the Kromdraai Valley on the edge of the Cradle of Humankind, Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa is a country retreat located in Muldersdrift, 25 kilometres from Johannesburg. The charming stone and thatched hotel set in landscaped

gardens, offers 215 accommodation rooms and suites and 17 African themed conference and events venues, including a spa conferencing facility. A new reception area will also be completed early next year.

Leisure facilities include two large

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swimming pools, a gym, games room and the magical Peregrine Castle kiddie's playground. The Spa in the Country is designed as an African sanctuary and follows a natural approach to skin and body care, infusing modern therapies with African herbs and oils. The spa boasts amongst its accolades, "Health Spa of the Year" and a consistent place in the top five spas in South Africa.

Adjacent to Misty Hills is the award winning Carnivore Restaurant – "Africa's

Greatest Eating Experience," which offers guests a unique dining experience, including a selection of succulently charcoal-grilled domestic and game meats, served from Masaai swords.

Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa is an affiliate of the Warwick International group of hotels and is also part of Recreation Africa which prides itself on the development of hotels and restaurants with a truly African ambience. ■

For more information please contact Marketing at Misty Hills Country Hotel, Conference Centre & Spa: Tel: 011 950 6000 or visit [www.recreationafrica.co.za](http://www.recreationafrica.co.za)

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# Q & A

## Glen Stutchbury – strives on ensuring service delivery

Glenn Stutchbury, 43, managing director of Africa Albida Tourism (AAT) in Zimbabwe, has never been scared of getting his hands dirty, and working long hours with his team. This, according to him, has been one of his secrets to success.

Mr Stutchbury has been in the tourism industry since 1984. "My late parents, Jeff and Veronica, are my role models. They were pioneers in tourism. He epitomised the classic character in the safari world and created memories, and she made sure it all happened."

Africa Albida Tourism is a grouping of Southern African tourism offerings, with the award-winning Victoria Falls Safari Lodge as its flagship. It operates three divisions, namely AAT Hospitality, AAT Restaurants and AAT Parks.

Looking at the current hospitality industry, he said: "Hospitality in South Africa is very lucky to have had the build up to 2010 World Cup, as they have essentially fared better than most with the world recession. The rest of the Southern Africa region has not fared as well but indications are that we are slowly climbing out of the slump.

"What is significant is the major increase in international hotel operators all trying to get going before the 2010 World Cup. I am most relieved to see that they are finding that we as Southern African hotel operators have a strong belief in our abilities and can also run hotels – we deserve to be part of the future of Southern African tourism and need to hold onto our identity."

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Zimbabwe, attended Peterhouse and after school studied at the Bulawayo Hotel School.

### Where did you start your career?

At Harare's Jameson Hotel.

### Are you married?

Yes, to Caryl Ann, a hotelier-turned-IT practitioner. We have three daughters - Savannah (13), Danielle (11) and Jessica (3).

### What has been your most embarrassing moment in the industry?

As acting executive chef, whilst catering for a royal banquet for HRH Prince Edward, realising at the last minute that we were short 20 portions of the main course. We had to butcher some lambs from a nearby farmer to



Glenn Stutchbury

make up the shortfall – never a fresher lamb cutlet, from farmyard to plate in an hour...

### What has been the biggest changes you've seen in this sector?

Technology. In particular the Internet and its impact on the way we do business, sometimes to the detriment of hospitality – the one-on-one contact with the guest.

### What role does your family play in your life?

My wife is my true advisor. I often think she is more of a hotelier than I am!

### What would you change in your life if you could when looking back?

I would spend more quality time with my late father, Jeff.

### Do you have any hobbies?

Fishing and cooking.

### Do you play any sports?

Golf and squash.

### What is your favourite sport?

Rugby. Favourite team is the All-Blacks.

### What has been your biggest challenge in the hospitality industry?

In 1994, opening six restaurants and 14 new banquet rooms in one hotel, all within the space of six months.

### What is the most memorable place you have ever been to, and why?

Lake Kariba, on a luxury houseboat. Within five minutes of departure, all stress disappears and nature takes over.

### If you could be anyone for the day who would you be and why?

Auguste Escoffier (1846-1935) – the original master-chef.

### What is your favourite city and why?

Cape Town. Four seasons in a day, amazing food and great people.

### What is your favourite book, film and TV programme?

Book: Anything by Robert Ludlum  
Film: The original Peter Sellers' Pink Panther  
TV programme: 24

### What is your favourite food?

Thai.

### What is the most impulsive thing you have ever done?

Left an opera after-party in black tie at 4a.m. - hooked up boat to car and drove five hours with wife and another couple to the Zambezi River at Chirundu to have a drink.

### What advice do you have for anyone starting out in this industry and hoping to follow in your footsteps?

Remember everyone – no matter how senior or junior – is part of the guest experience, and until you understand everyone's role in the business, you can't effectively manage it.

### What is your dream for the future?

To leave a legacy in honour of my father and ensure that the few remaining idyllic natural places in Africa are preserved for generations to come. This fits in well with our whole plan at AAT – to get these special places and use tourism to sustainably manage them, share their beauty, support livelihoods and that way ignite the same passion in guests, staff and local communities to ensure they last. ■