



THE ROYAL PORTFOLIO

PRESS RELEASE

Royal Malewane's H.J. Esterhuizen Honoured as Safari Guide of the Year 2024



JULY 2024 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Royal Malewane is thrilled to announce that their esteemed guide, H.J. Esterhuizen, has been awarded the prestigious FGASA (Field Guides Association of South Africa) Safari Guide of the Year for 2024.

Since its inception in 2011, the Safari Guide of the Year (SGOTY) competition has celebrated the most talented and dedicated field guides in southern Africa. This accolade recognises the rigorous training, skill development, and exceptional expertise of guides, positioning it as one of the highest honours in the field.

H.J. Esterhuizen expressed his delight and pride in receiving this award, acknowledging the formidable competition. "The Safari Guide of the Year competition is important to me because it showcases how far our profession has come over the last 20 years. It educates people about what we do and inspires younger guides to strive for excellence in their careers," he said.

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A Passion for Nature and Guiding Excellence

Growing up in Hoedspruit, near the Greater Kruger area and close to Royal Malewane, H.J. Esterhuizen developed a deep love for nature and the outdoors. With a natural affinity for the bush, he has dedicated the last thirteen years to guiding, achieving his first FGASA qualification in 2011. As a FGASA Professional Field Guide and SKS (DG) Trails Guide, H.J.'s knowledge and passion for conservation, wildlife, and his profession are unparalleled.

H.J. attributes much of his success to his mentors, including Royal Malewane's Director of Conservation, Juan Pinto as well as industry legends like James Steyn, Adriaan Louw, and Colin Patrick. He also extends his gratitude to FGASA for their continuous support and commitment to professionalising the industry. "FGASA has provided me with a network of mentors and assessors that have significantly contributed to my guiding career," H.J. remarked.

The Pinnacle of Guiding Excellence

H.J. Esterhuizen is a proud member of Royal Malewane's guiding team, renowned as the most qualified guiding team in Africa due to their impressive array of FGASA qualifications. For H.J., the greatest reward of guiding is the opportunity to connect people with nature and impart important conservation messages. "It is a great privilege to pass on knowledge and educate visitors about the wild environment. This role allows me to promote conservation and ensure wildlife preservation for future generations," he added.

MD of The Royal Portfolio, Simon Mandy says, "We are very proud of H.J., he is an integral member of Royal Malewane's highly-skilled guiding team and has shown incredible commitment and personal growth during his years with us."

For more information about H.J. Esterhuizen and the Royal Malewane Guides and Trackers, please visit our website or download information about our guiding team [\[here\]](#).

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NOTE TO EDITORS

Royal Malewane is part of The Royal Portfolio - a collection of ultra-luxury hotels, lodges, villas and private residences in South Africa.

Royal Malewane, La Residence, Birkenhead House and The Silo Hotel are located in the most beautiful and iconic areas of South Africa. The combination of luxury safari, winelands, beach and city properties makes the portfolio a sought-after collection for luxury travellers.

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