



PRESS RELEASE

Leeu Collection acquires world-class Le Quartier Français

South Africa, July 2015: A new and exciting time will be introduced at one of the world's most romantic places to stay, Le Quartier Français in Franschhoek, when Analjit Singh of Leeu Collection and his family take this boutique hotel situated in the Cape Winelands, South Africa, over as new owners from Susan Huxter and her family on September 1 2015.



(Left to right) Hector de Galard, Susan Huxter, Analjit Singh, Margot Janse

"With Analjit's introduction of new offerings and exciting luxury lifestyle contributions to Franschhoek, I feel confident and happy that he and his family are the right people to take Le Quartier Français to the next level," said previous iconic owner Susan Huxter. Huxter has offered to work closely and hand in hand with the new owners to achieve a smooth transfer.

"Le Quartier Français has always been about family. It is a very special place full of soul, happiness and above all else wonderful people," she said. "Between us all we have 924 years of service with two generations working here. It is the people that make Le Quartier Français the special place it is. I feel it is the right time to pass on this sanctuary to a new family who will love it and treasure it. I also believe there lies an exciting time ahead for the Le Quartier Français team, a wonderful opportunity for them to grow and spread their wings and I will be watching from around the corner."

Award-winning Executive Chef Margot Janse will also see to it that the magic continues at The Tasting Room with her cutting edge cuisine. She, along with the rest of the Le Quartier Français team, will ensure that the exceptional service and experiences continue to charm guests from around the world.

This latest acquisition forms part of Leeu Collection, the manifestation of owner Analjit Singh's (aka BAS) vision for sophisticated escapes and unique wineland experiences, which comprises in the first phase, Leeu Estates, a 21 room, five-star luxurious boutique hotel and winery in the Franschhoek

valley, and Leeu House, an exclusive and private five-star 12-room boutique hotel in the heart of the Franschhoek village, set for a phased opening from the last quarter of 2015.

According to BAS, the respected Le Quartier Français brand will be kept as is and for now only changes such as soft refurbishments and landscaping developments will take place. Further additions and alterations will be considered in 2016.

“I am passionate about South Africa, its energy and sense of place,” says Singh. Leeu means lion in Afrikaans as does Singh in Sanskrit. “This latest acquisition makes me excited because I love to be part of creating something special. The team involved in the Leeu Collection portfolio, headed by Hector de Galard, shares this excitement and is determined to create world-class experiences in a luxurious environment of which Le Quartier Français will form a part. This opportunity is a natural for us,” he said.

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Notes to Editors:

About Le Quartier Français:

Live like a local at award-winning boutique hotel and destination, Le Quartier Français. Located in the centre of the village yet tucked away in its own sprawling private gardens, it offers guests both privacy as well as proximity to all the village has to offer. At Le Quartier Français discover: the world-famous cuisine of The Tasting Room; luxury boutique accommodation, with 21 rooms designed to spoil; the convivial Living Room, for the best breakfast in town, small plates made to share for lunch or dinner, artisan cocktails, and more.

The Tasting Room:

The Tasting Room is the stage for executive chef Margot Janse, who’s been at the helm of this multi-award winning restaurant for 20 years. Here, diners have the opportunity to experience her unique eight-course, African-inspired surprise tasting menu: a true journey of taste that continues to evolve. The Tasting Room creates a dining experience unlike any other; one where surprise and nostalgia take centre stage.

About Leeu Collection:

Three historic farms, Dieu Donné, Klein Dassenberg and Von Ortloff, were joined to create Leeu Estates, with its exquisite, restored 19th-century Manor House. These farms featured prominently in the traditions of the Franschhoek Valley, which has a fascinating history and a distinctly French ambience, having been settled by the French Huguenots in 1688.

Leeu Collection is also a partner in Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines, which produces award-winning wines in Riebeek-Kasteel in the Swartland wine region some 80 kilometres north of Cape Town and at Leeu Estates. Chris and Andrea Mullineux are the dynamic winemaking duo behind the success of Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines, which has notched up 11 five-star ratings from Platters’ South African Wine Guide. Established in 2007 as Mullineux Family Wines, it was also Platters’ Winery of the Year in 2014 due to the stellar quality of its wines.

The breathtakingly beautiful Franschhoek Valley is renowned as one of the world’s great wine and food destinations. Settled by French Huguenots in 1688, it has retained its Gallic charm and character. At the heart of the valley is the romantic village of Franschhoek, with its award-winning restaurants, art galleries and boutiques, as well as numerous other attractions.

Heritage Square, which complements the Leeu Collection portfolio, will bring an exotic new culinary element to the main street of Franschhoek. The Square will be home to Marigold, the first classical Indian cuisine restaurant in Franschhoek village; Haiku, offering modern Asian tapas-style fare; and Madira, a trendy bar and popular meeting place for visitors and locals alike.

About Analjit Singh:

An international investor of Indian origin, Analjit Singh (aka BAS) is the Founder Chairman of Max India Limited, with interests in life insurance (Max Life), health care (Max Healthcare), health insurance (Max Bupa) and senior living (Antara). Max India Group is renowned for service excellence and has successful joint ventures with some of the pre-eminent firms of the world, including Mitsui Sumitomo of Japan, Life Healthcare of South Africa and Bupa Plc of the United Kingdom.

He is the non-executive Chairman of Vodafone India and a Director on the boards of Tata Global Beverages and Sofina NV/SA, Belgium. He has recently served as Chairman of The Doon School. Analjit has also served as the co-chair of Prabodhan, a unique forum for facilitating closer and more effective engagement between European and Indian decision makers and opinion leaders.

A self-made entrepreneur, industrialist Analjit has received several prestigious awards, including Padma Bhushan, India's second highest civilian honours; the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Service Category); the Golden Peacock Award for Leadership and Service Excellence; and Spain's second highest civilian honour, the Knight Commander of the Order of Queen Isabella and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Boston University. He also serves as the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of San Marino in India.

Among his private businesses, Analjit has significant interests in real estate in India and lifestyle-related ventures in the Western Cape, South Africa, pertaining to viticulture, winemaking and hospitality. The activities centre around the Franschhoek valley and Riebeek-Kasteel in the Swartland region.

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