

For Immediate Release
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Peermont unveils two new Metcourt Hotels in South Africa

The unveiling of Peermont Hotels, Casinos and Resorts' two latest Metcourt hotels, the **Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace** and the **Peermont Metcourt at Rio in Klerksdorp**, showcases this successful group's ability to exceed the challenges of providing comfortable and affordable accommodation, in the most innovative and stylish of ways, while being mindful of international necessities for improved energy efficiency and maximized use of resources.

Although the Metcourt brand is designated "Select-Services", the design and features of both hotels within their resort settings are superior to many standalone city hotels. *"We emphasise elements that make travel enjoyable and easier for our guests, whilst eliminating unnecessary frills through superior designs, hence offering a superb experience and great value for money,"* explains Anthony Puttergill, Peermont's Chief Executive Officer.

The 3-star Metcourt hotels cater equally well to mainstream business and leisure travelers, budget conscious independent travelers, as well as conference and tour groups and pride themselves on a reputation for quality, flair and warm hospitality. Convenience and user-friendly services include 24-hour reception and check-in, a business centre and boardroom (in selected hotels), a generous express deli (CentroDeli), self-service buffet breakfast restaurant (the F.L.A.G. Café), 24-hour vending machines stocked with snacks and cold beverages, disability guest rooms and convenient parking.

The Peermont Group is highly regarded for its cutting edge practices in hotel design and operation and with the plans for both of these new hotels being tabled over two years ago, the unveiling highlights the impressive fact that the trends and principles used are those being hailed today as the way forward for the industry globally.

Much of the success of the styling and functioning of the hotels is attributed to the constant interaction between the Professional, Development and Operations teams, which is part of Peermont's unique approach to its' projects. From the broadest concepts to the finest detail, the convergence of the three different mindsets ensures the guest achieves maximum comfort.

What is also unique about the Peermont approach is the ability to take the brand design and architectural "template" and allow it to adapt to local surroundings and themes where hotel construction takes place. Thus the services and standards will be familiar and comfortable, yet the interior colour palette and the exterior design, for example, may reflect the resort itself. This is particularly evident with these two new hotels - the Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace reflecting a vision of modern Rome and Peermont Metcourt at Rio in Klerksdorp paying tribute to Rio carnival style moods and colours.

The Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace

This R170-million project entailed the successful collaboration of 17 different supply companies to deliver the new 248-key hotel. For architects, **Boogertman and Partners**, the challenge was to produce a design that would contextualise it within the Emperors Palace resort but give it a suitably fresh and young identity as the newest addition. The interpretation of this is an external façade punctuated by five strong columns along its length that boast strong classical proportions. The use of classical ruled plinths, concrete balustrades, keystones and mouldings ensure the brand remains consistent. Detailed window dressings on the top floor of the five story elevation have been cleverly used to frame the building against the skyline while the use of paint shading enhances the illusion of depth.

One of the country's most prestigious construction companies, **Wilson Bayley Holmes Ovcom Ltd (WBHO)** delivered the building ahead of schedule and shaved two months off the project time, using a formwork system that represents some of the latest building technology from Germany with regard to structural assembly and shuttering.

CPRO Construction Professionals were responsible for project management and for 14 months, they successfully managed over 600 construction workers and seamlessly facilitated the traffic of numerous contractors.

When it came time to breathing life into the shell, interior design specialists, **Lionel Levin and Partners** were selected for the task. "Aware of the new Metcourt hotel's place within the resort, and the brand portfolio, we presented the concept of modern Rome, the Rome of today" explains Alan Hurlbatt. As a result the two worlds were merged by using the strong classical 'art deco' Roman art and artifacts as the graphic idiom throughout the hotel, while using more contemporary styled furniture to deliver an eclectic result. The colour palate of teal, lime green and fuchsia pink is deliberately contemporary, adding punch to the classic finishing of walnut and grained timber and natural stone floors.

Within the rooms, the classic walnut finishes translate into modern ergonomic furniture as floating desks, pedestals and closet frames. Presiding over each bed of either twins or a king size bed covered in high quality percale cotton linens are the inspirational blueprint drawings of Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci. The fresh contrast of the teal or subdued turquoise fresco against the crisp white linen smacks of contemporary elegance. Even the modern bathrooms clad in turquoise glass mosaics remain flooded in natural light as only a frosted glass door that is shared between shower and toilet serves as a privacy barrier.

Ensuring Maximum Guest Comfort with the Finer Details

- The ring road at the Metcourt entrance has been widened to allow for a better guest arrival and departure experience, and easy access for tour busses.
- The height of the hotel has been increased, thus reducing passage lengths. Passage widths have been increased for better movement for groups.
- The variety of room, bathroom and bed interleading configurations for different guest requirements.

- The open plan bathroom layout provides a sense of space but privacy concerns were addressed by the double swing shower/toilet door as well as a block-out curtain separating the bathroom from the bedroom.
- The multi-purpose lobby provides a cavernous space for large groups to assemble and check-in and allows the guest to experience all the hotel's facilities from the first glance with the seamless flow into the deli, lounge, bar and restaurant.

Socially Responsible Engineering Solutions

With both of these projects, Peermont has proved its commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency.

- The new Peermont Metcourt at Emperors Palace is extremely energy efficient. compact fluorescent lighting, the installation of an electroflow unit and a power management system ensure the maximum demand is reduced by 14% with power correction factors.
- The generator not only offers back-up services but will provide the ability to run all services with the exception of air-conditioning.
- Provision has been made for a Vincard energy saving unit for future installation.
- While 16 suites have been custom built to include a bathtub, the rest of the hotel's standard rooms have showers with water-saving shower heads.
- The air-conditioning system has been tied into the existing plant which allows for greater efficiency and less energy being consumed overall, whilst the luxury and satisfaction of having the system itself is normally typical of a 5-star facility.

Safety and Security in the Event of Fire

- The hotel building utilises a rational fire design that exceeds all building codes and standards. Interleading solid core doors have been proven fire resistant for up to 30 minutes.
- Two fire compartments divided by Pyran safety glass are situated on the ground and first floors. Smoke extraction has been catered for through via the double volume automated doors.
- An automated voice evacuation speaker system has been positioned throughout the hotel and the fire detectors in every room are displayed on a matrix allowing immediate knowledge of where the fire is and where it is moving to.

The result is a fresh, elegant contemporary style hotel that augments the accommodation offering at Emperors Palace by an additional 248 rooms to 674. Its proximity to the boundary wall of Jones Road (airport fronting) has allowed landscapers to produce a private garden that offers an infinity swimming pool, edged in dark blue mosaics and protected by white canvas

awnings and loungers for some respite from the harsh summer rays. The organic flow of the hotel from lobby to lounge to dining, bar and patio means that even the most committed business traveller can maintain contact with his working world through the hotel's wireless connectivity.

The Peermont Metcourt at Rio in Klerksdorp

The new hotel comprises 30 Classic Twin Rooms, 20 Classic King Rooms, 10 Superior Twin Rooms, 5 Superior King Room, 1 Special Assistance Room and 4 Executive Suites. The hotel is styled for both comfort and convenience, and includes a business centre, a pool and landscaped terraced garden, a buffet-style restaurant - the F.L.A.G. Café, and Wi-Fi internet access in public areas. The total budget for the project was R73,5 Million which included the new Convention Centre.

"In terms of the architectural design of the new Peermont Metcourt and convention facilities, we have endeavored to be sympathetic to the existing architecture while freshening the style by adding new elements and softening the colour palette," says Heleen Grimsehl from **Boogertman + Partners**.

The hotel rooms have been developed to the Peermont Metcourt brand standard, are stylish and well-laid out and offer full telephone and internet facilities, accommodating both business and leisure travellers. The hotel pool has been specifically designed to cater for children, with a splash pool leading seamlessly into the main pool and the hotel itself has been designed with the possibility of extension in mind.

Rainbow Construction has been responsible for building the new facilities and has made use of the groundbreaking PERI-Wiehahn multi-flex system, which has resulted in the superior finishes achieved on the build. According to Gerald Loe from Rainbow Construction, "Quality has been our first priority and we are exceptionally gratified with what we have achieved. The rooms are of a particularly high standard and showcase the workmanship that has gone into the construction."

The hotel's socially responsible energy solutions include energy efficient lighting and an air-conditioning system which does not use water as part of heat dissipation. The hotel utilises a smaller rational fire design with the automated voice evacuation speaker system in the event of fire.

Interior design is being masterfully directed by **Lionel Levin and Partners**, who also have a successful history working with the Peermont group. According to Alan Hurlbatt, "With the Peermont Metcourt brand, we have a very clear design strategy – crisp, clean and minimalist and to compliment this, we have made extensive use of lights and lighting, an example of which are the exquisite feature curtains of light throughout the resort." Another outstanding element is the use of vibrant colours - pinks, purples and blues, the use of large drops of fairy lights, as

well as bold furnishings and the use of walnut and granite classical finishes all recreating the true spirit of the Rio carnival experience.

Areas within the hotel (which has already been nicknamed The Pink Lady), have been designed as flexible multi-purpose spaces, an example of which is the breakfast buffet which is utilized as a drinks serving table for groups in the evenings. The public toilets feature a larger than life (floor to ceiling) dramatic photograph of a beautiful, smiling Rio Carnival dancer which celebrates the style. In the rooms, a similar vibrant image awash with vivid pinks is positioned as headrest art. (Note that in all the images the dancers look slightly away, to ensure the guest does not feel stared at).

In the hotel bathrooms the colours are toned more towards burgundy to create a calmer tone and the mirror design is round to create a unique effect.

Both new Peermont Metcourt hotels have the highest level of finishes as a result of a comprehensive system of mock-up rooms and samples. According to Heleen Grimsehl from architects **Boogertman + Partners**, "We have a unique client in Peermont. They are constantly re-inventing themselves, setting their standards higher, improving their brands and ultimately the guest offering. We are certain the projects they envisioned have achieved all their aims and is a tribute to all involved."

With both of these Metcourt projects coming in on-time and on-budget, the Peermont Group now look towards the project, a nautical themed Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in **Richards Bay** which will include a Metcourt hotel, casino, convention centre and restaurants as well as a retail centre. Groundbreaking will take place in March 2009 and the resort is expected to open towards the second half of 2010.

Background information on Peermont

Peermont is South Africa's most empowered hospitality and gaming company. Peermont has an excellent track record in the design, development, management, ownership and operation of multi-faceted integrated resorts. This includes hotels, casinos, convention centres, retail outlets, restaurants, bars and other sport and entertainment facilities.

Peermont has a strong market position in South Africa and Botswana, where it owns and manages Emperors Palace Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in Johannesburg, Graceland Hotel, Casino and Country Club in Secunda, the Mondazur Resort Hotel at San Lameer, KwaZulu-Natal, the Frontier Inn & Casino in Bethlehem, the Tusk Umfolozi Casino Resort in Empangeni, Rio Casino and Convention Resort in Klerksdorp, Khoroni Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in Thohoyandou, and Tusk Mmabatho Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort in Mafikeng.. In Botswana, Peermont owns and manages The Grand Palm Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort and the Mondior hotel in Gaborone, the Metcourt hotel as well as the Sedibeng Casino in Francistown and Syringa Casino in Selebi Phikwe.

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