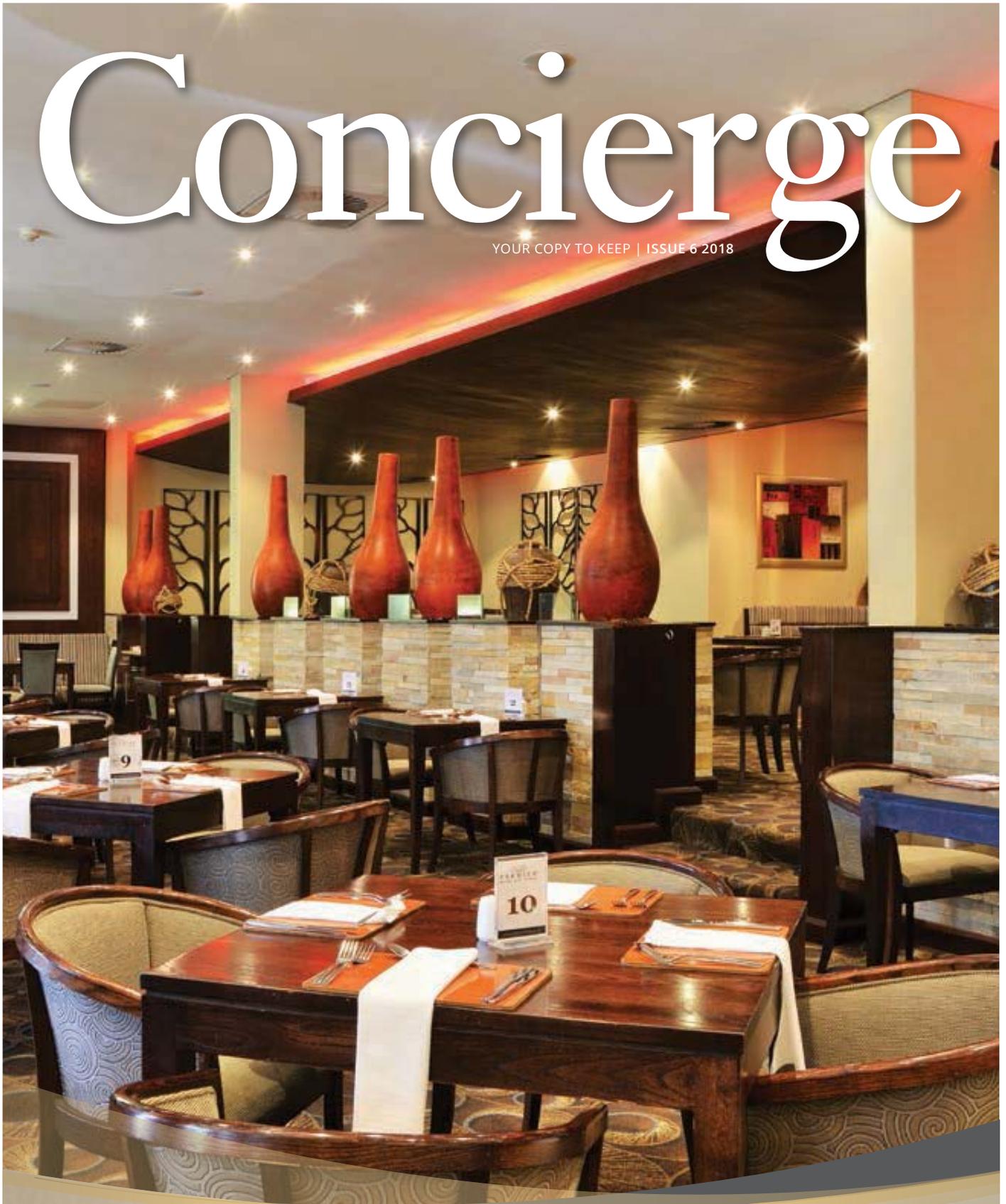


# Concierge

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🌐 World 🌐 Class 🌐 Africa 🌐

## THE HEART OF O.R. TAMBO

Premier Hotel O.R. Tambo lies in the heart of the concrete jungle of Johannesburg.

## VELAR VISITS THE VEIL

The latest model by Range Rover, the Velar, travels to the Bridal Veil Falls in Mpumalanga.

## MADAGASCAR MEANDERING

A budget-friendly exploration of the tropical island paradise of Madagascar.



**PREMIER**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

INTERNATIONAL

# Celebrating Life Through a Lens

“A fine art photograph is taken long before you see it. It happens within yourself as an emotion ... the camera can record it weeks later.” – Marlene Neumann

Text: Julie Graham | Images © Marlene Neumann



Best known for her work as a master fine art photographer, East London born Marlene Neumann is also known for her incredible work as a teacher, author, designer, inspirational speaker, and visionary. She celebrates life in a variety of creative ways and her passion for sharing this celebration with others is evident in her emotive photographs which have won awards all over the world

and continue to push the boundaries of photography and what it represents.

Coming from a German background with English as a second language, Neumann used photography as a way to communicate the beauty of life from a very young age. “The only way I could really express myself was through the camera,” she recalls. “That is what I have done for the past 35 years. The lens of the camera is merely an extension of

the lenses of my eyes, which are connected to my inner core. I feel as though my purpose as a child growing up was to channel how beautiful this life is.”

Neumann achieved this purpose with her magnificent coffee-table book consisting of over 100 moving images, titled *Sky Meets Land*. Neumann, who refers to her book as a metaphor for “mind meets heart”, hopes for viewers to experience a mindful shift when

paging through the visual journey, which she has so artfully captured and curated. “My purpose is to ‘shine’, and through this, to allow others to shine. I have the ability to inspire people – to make them want to get out of their old skin and into something new. Life is a privilege and to waste it being negative is crazy,” Neumann reflects.

Filled with images captured over 30 years of exploration, Neumann’s journey through

*Sky Meets Land* has been rich in personal and spiritual discoveries. “There were many things that stood out for me. One is how things show themselves to me. I specifically remember a row of aloes in the Eastern Cape,” she recalls. “I felt they were showing me their spirits. I turned and asked if anyone else saw what I saw, and naturally they thought I was crazy. So, to prove them wrong, I photographed the aloes. Everyone took a step

back when they saw the image. There was no words that could explain what I meant; it could only be understood by the image. It is just a different way of seeing, and I try to teach people to do this in my workshops.”

The year, 2017, was a busy year for the master photographer, and between running workshops, empowering the youth, and giving inspirational talks at schools around the country, Neumann added, what she refers



to as the *mother ship* of all printers to her collection – a P9000 Epson, which will allow her to print images at an even larger scale. “I can now enlarge my images up to 1,118 x 1,725 mm. Images this size will be stunning in boardrooms and homes with double volume walls,” she says. She also launched her DVD series entitled, *Capturing What People Don’t Talk About* – a series based on her own realisation of what it means to be a true, authentic human.

Her collection of images is vast and covers a range of subjects such as landscapes, her travels, wildlife, and much more. One specific range that is close to her heart, and which

she has been in the process of developing, is her Black and White range – a collection of provocative and powerful imagery. “Fine Art photography is about emotion, intuition, and connection,” she says. “I am interested in the spirit, the essence of the subject. I want the message it has for me to be seen by the world. Back in the day I would never speak so freely about the subject. I had to guard what I said or I would not be taken seriously. Things have changed. I believe the world is seeing that things have to be integrated; the mental with the physical, emotional, and spiritual. Black and white allows for all of this. Colour can be a distraction.”

The work of Neumann is truly in a league of its own and it is no wonder that she was awarded South Africa’s top woman photographer in the Creative Photography category at the Mbokodo Awards in 2014. Having spent most of her life paving the way for Fine Art Photography in South Africa, this exceptionally talented, vibrant and passionate artist is bringing not only the beauty of nature into everyone’s lives, but is also sharing a deep, personal journey – one that transcends words.

To view her work and to purchase it for yourself, visit [www.marleneneumann.com](http://www.marleneneumann.com). 🏆