Hartford House
KWAZULU-NATAL

THE HOME OF GOOD CONVERSATION,
FINE WINE AND CLASSIC HORSES
The only World class hotel
On a World class stud farm
In the World
Could this be one of Earth’s most beautiful places?

Think about this. There must’ve been something out of the ordinary about our countryside, that so many extraordinary things happened here.

What, for example, caused the British, the Zulus and the Boers, in the greatest military moments in their histories, to fight so furiously for dominion of our territory in the 1800’s?

What was Winston Churchill, the most famous of Englishmen, up to in 1899 when he was captured by General Louis Botha, the Union’s first Prime Minister, just north of here? Mahatma Ghandi, liberator of India, what brought him to the tragic stage at Spioenkop, in a scrap so far removed from “satyagraha”?

And Nelson Mandela, the greatest African of all time, what was he doing on that fateful day in 1961, when he was taken prisoner a half hour to the east of Hartford?

What magnetized the family of the last Prime Minister of the Colony of Natal, into founding Hartford House in 1875, or the Deputy Prime Minister, our “mother” farm, Summerhill?
The reality is, this is a place of unspeakable beauty; these are marvellous people, the Zulus; there's space, tranquility, an unparalleled climate, and a bountiful land. To the degree of captivating the Ruling Family of Dubai, the Sheikhs Maktoum, to keep to this day their priceless racehorses on this farm, when all the world was there to choose from.

And that, we guess, is what gets us up in the mornings. There is, arguably, no other place quite like it.

When the Moor family came here in the midst of all that conflict, they set about building Hartford House, which stands alone today as one of the most striking examples of a Natal colonial homestead anywhere.

Now embracing its third century, it has served as the home of just three families. The Ellises founded their all-conquering racing enterprise here in 1939, and the present owners have done that legacy proud as the nation's Champion racehorse producers, under the banner of their internationally celebrated Summerhill Stud.

It's appropriate then, with its distinguished political and sporting histories, that this heritage gem should be open for the comfort of our travelling guests.

Yet long before the Inguni migration and the arrival of the Moors, this beautiful country we're so lucky to live in was populated by an ancient people, whose spiritual understanding of these great plains and valleys was deep and profound, beyond our imaginings.

Like us, they lived in peace and great serenity among the animals and plants of our Kingdom, and they built their abodes with the materials of the neighbourhood. We're fortunate still, to have among us the rarest of craftsmen who inherited this appreciation, and whose talents include the creation of homes in the traditional way.
They Broke the Mould When They Made These

Ezulweni, which means “in the heavens”, was born of a reversion to the methods of old, a sensual interpretation of the way things were, and a spectacular statement on the compatibility between the practicality of the past, and the comforts of today.

Built with materials harvested largely from the greater Hartford and Summerhill estates, or acquired from the nearby vicinity, Ezulweni has enjoyed worldwide acclaim.

The purpose of juxtaposing the original Hartford homestead with Ezulweni, is to provide travellers with an insight when they are in the manor house, of our region’s colonial history, and then to transport them through an intimate glimpse of what’s possible with a touch of imagination from our Zulu builders, whose creative hands are strikingly apparent.

In so many ways, Hartford has gained and regained inspiration from the cultures it celebrates. It is life’s exception, a place at the same time comfortable beyond dreams, yet innocent of pretence.
Food is life, Food is love, Food is a voluptuous delight...

National Top Ten Restaurant
Facilities and Pursuits
ON THE ESTATE AND IN THE VICINITY

- Personalized tours of Summerhill Stud (on which Hartford is situated); include the stallions of the Rulers of Dubai, as well as the fascinating political history of the estate.

- Our national Top Ten Restaurant serves scrumptious meals either on the verandah overlooking the magnificent gardens or in a candlelit dining hall. It has one of only a handful of Five Star Wine lists in South Africa.

- The Hartford wellness centre offers a range of therapies, body treatments, holistic massages and facials.

- Trout and bass fishing, including trophy-sized fish. Masterclass tuition with “Wildfly” can be arranged, preferably in advance.

- Horse riding.

- Hartford’s resident guide offers personalized trips to the Drakensberg World Heritage site, Giant’s Castle, Lotheni, Injisuthi and Kamberg reserves, as well as the Weenen Game Reserve (by arrangement).

- We are in close proximity to the world-renowned Drakensberg Boys Choir (advance booking advised).

- Swimming pool, tennis court, historic gardens and close to quality golf courses.

- The historic Chapel provides for weddings, baptisms and memorial services.

- Fully equipped 150 delegate conference facility and 60 seater theatre.

- Traditional Zulu Dance Troupe (ranked second in the world in Tokyo and Hong Kong) perform on selected evenings.

- Walks on the extensive Game Conservancy; numerous rare wild animal and bird species inhabit the estate.

- Easy access to Anglo-Zulu and Boer War battlefields, and the capture sites of Nelson Mandela and Sir Winston Churchill.

- Hot air ballooning (by arrangement).

- Karkloof Canopy Tours (by arrangement).

- Helicopter flights (by arrangement).

- Clay pigeon shooting (by arrangement).

- Helicopter landing facilities.

- Airport transfers Durban International, OR Tambo and Estcourt Airports.

- We are fully serviced; room service available 16 hours a day.

- Laundry and valet service.

- All major credit cards are accepted.
One of Africa’s great destinations