

1989 – 2019

BELVIDERE MANOR

BELVIDERE MANOR CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY!



BM
Belvidere Manor
★★★★

A dream destination

From the vision of Thomas Duthie in 1849 to the beautiful estate that was the brainchild of Gray Rutherford in 1985, Belvidere Manor is now one of Knysna's premier destinations. When the hotel opened its doors in September 1989 the beautifully restored Belvidere House regained its position as grand dame of this estate.

Now, surrounding the house, 34 free-standing cottages all echo the simple Cape Georgian architecture where hotel guests can relish their own space and relaxed living, whilst enjoying the full service that Belvidere Manor Hotel offers. Beyond the hotel's border the exclusive residential estate once again reflects that simple whitewashed architecture throughout the 260 homes overlooking Knysna's sparkling lagoon.

Lanes and Closes are lined with colourful gardens and Belvidere Manor is awash with hibiscus and gazanias in summer, strelizia and aloes in the winter, and a host of other indigenous planting.

Now no longer a farm, but still occupying the site on which Thomas Henry Duthie built his legacy Belvidere House welcomes hotel guests into its wide reception hall, before they are shown to their cottage. Breakfast is taken on the veranda overlooking the sparkling lagoon, whilst in the evening meals are served from the gracious dining rooms where polished yellowwood floors and rich fabrics maintain a quiet elegance. The sitting-room houses a library of books, games and dvd's which guests can borrow and enjoy during their stay.



BELVIDERE HOUSE: Nestled under the ancient ficus tree, Belvidere House welcomes all our visitors.



BELVIDERE MANOR : with magnificent lagoon views amongst the historic Belvidere Estate

Knysna's historical past echoes at Belvidere...

In her book, *A Vista and a Vision*, historian Patricia Storrar tells the story of Belvidere, with the arrival of Lt. Thomas Henry Duthie in Knysna in the summer of 1830 where he was hosted by the "Squire of Knysna" George Rex, purported to be the illegitimate son of England's George III. His daughter Caroline caught Duthie's eye, and soon they were romantically involved, and wed in 1832. After spending some time back in England, they returned to Knysna and Thomas bought the farm "Uitzig" from his father-in-law for £400. Work on Belvidere House began and Duthie writes in his diary in November 1849 that the family had enjoyed their first dinner "out of New House... good!" Belvidere House features wide yellowwood floors, and a staircase of local stinkwood and yellowwood which led up to a spacious loft. Originally thatched, it was only in the 1870's that the thatch was replaced with corrugated iron and the Victorian-style verandas added. In the 1850's the avenue of oak and gum trees were planted and some of these 150 year old trees can still be seen today.

Belvidere House served as a post office during several periods, and copies of letters and envelopes can be seen in the sitting room today with the Belvidere postmark.

The last direct descendent of Thomas Duthie to live at Belvidere House was his great granddaughter Ave Duthie, a prominent botanist who studied at Stellenbosch. She retired to Belvidere aged 58 and cared for the estate until her death in 1963. In her will the over-riding purpose was "to preserve the tradition and atmosphere of Belvidere as laid down by the Founder".

This proved difficult, and several distant relations spent hard years trying to keep the farm going. However, in 1983 a Trust was set up by the Duthie Family to open negotiations in respect of the future of Belvidere, and in 1987 the development now known as Belvidere Estate was incorporated.

Belvidere House's future was secured, and restoration commenced, until in September 1989 the first guests were welcomed to six pretty cottages and a sparkling grand dame!

BELVIDERE MANOR : www.belvidere.co.za

+27 44 387 1055 : 169 Lower Duthie Drive, Belvidere Estate, KNYSNA, Western Cape

FACT FILE

ACCOMMODATION

26 delightful whitewashed cottages.....

6x Garden Classic Cottages

A single storey cottage, with 2 double en-suite bedrooms. Some have a 3rd bedroom. Max 6 guests

7x Garden Deluxe Cottages

A double storey cottage, with two double en-suite bedrooms. Some have a 3rd bedroom. Max 6 guests

6x Lagoon Classic Cottages

A single storey cottage with one double en-suite bedroom. Max 2 guests

7x Lagoon Deluxe Cottages

A single storey cottage with 2 double en-suite bedrooms. Max 4 guests

GUIDE/DRIVER Max 1 guest

CHILD POLICY

2-11 years will pay 50% of adult sharing rate; Under 2 yrs stay for free

ROOM FACILITIES

All rooms non-smoking
Complimentary wifi
Satellite television DVD player
Full stove Microwave
Fridge/freezer Iron & board
Electronic safe Hair dryers
Guest toiletries Gowns
Fireplace & heaters
Overhead fans

ACTIVITIES – on the property
Swimming Pool (15 x 6m) unheated
Tennis & Boule courts
Boat cruise
Fishing
Nature walks
Holistic Therapies (on request)

ACTIVITIES – available nearby
Pristine wide sandy beaches
Golf – 5 courses within 45 mins drive.

Preferred golf rates offered at Pezula Golf Club. Pre-booking recommended.

Forest walks – guided or alone
Guided bike tours

Wine tasting

Hiking & Mountain bike trails

Scuba diving & Canoe hire

Surfing & Stand-up Paddleboard hire

Lawn bowls & Squash courts

Horse riding

Whale watching and scenic boat trips



Double-suite Lagoon Deluxe and single-suite Lagoon Classic cottages each offer an airy veranda with views of the lagoon and swimming pool, a spacious living room with fireplace, satellite TV & dvd player, wifi, a fully equipped kitchen and adjacent private parking



Single storey, double-suite Garden Classic and double storey, double-suite Garden Deluxe cottages offer garden views from verandas and balconies, and similar features and interiors to the Lagoon cottages



Overlooking the parklike gardens and lagoon, cottages offer sunlit verandas and adjacent parking

FACILITIES

& more information

BAR & RESTAURANT



The Bell Tavern - Open from 8am until late. Pub-style menu, Mitchells craft beer on tap, local wines and spirits



Caroline's – Situated in the Belvidere House dining-room and serving a casual a la carte menu

Room Service

Available from 08h00 – 22h00

Meetings

The Duthie Room can host up to 50 delegates for meetings, conferences, product launches, etc. on a daily or overnight basis.

Weddings

Belvidere Manor offers a garden wedding venue for up to 80 guests

TRANSPORT DETAILS

Nearest town	Knysna	9 kms
Nearest city	Port Elizabeth	260 kms
	Cape Town	80 kms
Nearest airport	George	75 kms
Transfers available		On request

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Garden watered from 5x rainwater tanks.

Paper/glass/food waste separated for recycling.

Low usage globes and/or LED lights installed throughout.

Belvidere supports a disadvantaged community in Rhenendal close to Knysna, Knysna Sedgefield Hospice, the Knysna & District Pipe Band, NSRI and is a member of **StreetSmartSA**, an organisation helping to rehabilitate street children.

