

JOANNE SELBY TAKES OVER THE TABLE BAY HOTEL

Meet the new General Manager of Sun International's prestigious five star hotel.

7 September 2015 – If “design” is the catchword that best describes Cape Town, “elegance” is the word that captures the essence of the city’s five star Table Bay Hotel, and “style” sums up the woman who will take over as its general manager.

Joanne Selby arrives at The Table Bay on the first day of spring and brings with her a breath of fresh enthusiasm – and excitement at working with what she calls a great team. “I’m delighted with the appointment. Not only is The Table Bay in what is probably the best position in the world, given its location, it’s got an incredible international clientele. I am thrilled to be able to continue to build on the hotel’s brilliant reputation.”

Joanne arrives at The Table Bay after spending just 10 months at Sun City’s The Palace. Before that, she spent 11 happy years in Zambia at the Falls Resort in Livingstone. “It was an exhilarating decade and a bit in Zambia and my short sojourn at The Palace was wonderful. Now, I’m ready for a move to the hotel renowned for its distinguished service, set against the backdrop of a city voted Design Capital of 2014, Cape Town,” she says.

Joanne has won numerous awards and earned accolades for the properties she's managed. Every reputable travel magazine has featured her hotels, or regaled readers with tales of her superbly trained staff. She intends to keep up the trend and make sure that The Table Bay stays at the forefront of international travel media. Joanne said: “It’s been my and my husband Nicholas’s goal, to end up in Cape Town so that I’m closer to my family.” Family is important for Joanne who made the transition from Canada, where she was born, to Durban as easily as she segued into the University of Cape Town and later the London Business School. Joanne considers herself lucky. “I love what I do. Working in the hospitality industry opens a door to the world – to new people and places and cultures. More importantly, it gives you a greater understanding of the country or region you’re in – connecting you to the area, and the world all at the same time.”

She counts off on the fingers of both hands the creative side of the industry: “No matter if you’re a concierge in a hotel, or a cook or a dish washer or a floor sweeper or a manager... every time you come to work and do your job you make someone else’s day a little better, a little brighter. Not many people can say that about their lives.”

In her 22 years in the industry, Joanne has seen the astonishing changeover to technology and a new way for people to plan, execute and book their travel – as well as new ways of experiencing travel. “New gadgets, new apps, new ways to travel... the past decade has unveiled a wealth of technological tools to assist with receiving travel updates, selecting airline seats, checking into hotels, dropping off rental cars and conducting business or being entertained on the road. “Any traveler who has used a mobile device to change plans on the fly or find a well-reviewed restaurant nearby using GPS or get a same day hotel discount on an app has reaped great benefits from this boom.”

Joanne intends to reacquaint herself with the city of her university days and be a very demanding tourist in her own town.

Watch out Cape Town! You’ve been warned.