



Press release
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Southern Sun Ridgeway celebrates 70 years of hospitality in Lusaka

Southern Sun Ridgeway celebrates a milestone 70th anniversary in 2023, marking seven platinum decades of hospitality in Zambia's capital, Lusaka. Originally known as the 'Ridgeway Hotel', it was one of the city's first hotels to open in 1953. Over the years it has undergone various rebrands and refurbishments, and today is one of Southern Sun's most renowned hotels.

Southern Sun's journey into Zambia began when the group signed a management contract with Anglo American Corporation (Central Africa) in 1994, and the hotel was converted into a Holiday Inn Garden Court, and subsequently upgraded to a Holiday Inn a year later in 1995. This involved a major refurbishment of the entire hotel together with the addition of 35 rooms, bringing the total to 154, which set the course for it to become one of Zambia's leading hotels.

Having managed the hotel for a number of years, in October 2008 Southern Sun acquired it from Anglo American and rebranded it Southern Sun Ridgeway, aligning it with the iconic Southern Sun legacy brand. This further solidified the hotel's presence in Lusaka and reinforced its position as a world-class accommodation provider delivering impeccable service. In keeping with the group's high standards, the hotel underwent another refurbishment in 2019. The public areas were refreshed with a contemporary look and feel, and the rooms were beautifully refurbished with décor reflecting Zambia's unique natural heritage.

Operating at consistently high occupancies for many successful years, the hotel has been the proud recipient of numerous awards, including seven TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence (2011-2018), a TripAdvisor Hall of Fame Award (2019), a TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Award (2020), a Booking.com Traveller Review Award (2022), as well as the Zambia Tourism Award for Sports Tourism (2009), and the prestigious Award for Distinguished Service from the president of the Republic of Zambia (2008).

Commenting on the hotel's memorable milestone, Marcel von Aulock, chief executive of Southern Sun said, "We're extremely proud of what Southern Sun Ridgeway represents, not only to the group because it was our first hotel in the country, but also to Lusaka and the Zambian tourism industry as it is regarded as a city landmark and the destination of choice in the nation's capital. We are delighted to celebrate its Platinum Jubilee this year and look forward to welcoming guests for many years to come."

Visit www.southernsun.com/southern-sun-ridgeway-lusaka to find out more or to make a reservation.



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Southern Sun is Southern Africa's leading hospitality group comprising an extensive collection of strategically located hotels, resorts, restaurants and conference facilities in South Africa, Africa, the Seychelles, and the Middle East. With a rich heritage of excellence and dedication to delivering service with flair, Southern Sun provides guests with unforgettable experiences at destinations that offer unparalleled variety and scale. The group's portfolio of brands comprises award-winning luxury hotels such as 54 on Bath, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, the Beverly Hills, Mount Grace Hotel & Spa, the Sandton Sun & Towers and Paradise Sun, as well as renowned brand collections, including Southern Sun Hotels, SunSquare, Garden Court, StayEasy and SUN1 hotels, as well as a selection of Southern Sun Resorts in idyllic settings.

Southern Sun is committed to transformation and is proud to be a Level 1 Contributor to B-BBEE in South Africa – a certification that demonstrates the spirit in which Southern Sun actively contributes to broad-based black economic empowerment through its commitment to maintaining workforce diversity, developing and transferring skills, and providing support to small businesses and local communities. Southern Sun is consciously committed to integrating best environmental practices into its core business strategy and endeavouring to ensure that its conduct meets the needs of the present, while minimising the cost to future generations.

Escape to the world of Southern Sun, where exceptional experiences are created with passion and every day is a celebration. Visit southernsun.com. Follow Southern Sun on Twitter (@SouthernSunGrp), Instagram

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