



# Conferencing Success

Whether it be a public session, exhibition, or internal company meeting, a conference can either be an event which the whole team dreads, or an occasion that everyone enjoys. To make sure that a conference is enjoyable and not merely tolerable, choosing the correct venue is essential. Staples such as excellent Internet connection, spacious and comfortable conferencing rooms, and state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment are, of course, some of the first things to look out for. Added

benefits of being in beautiful or vibrant surroundings, chefs offering delicious catering, and comfortable hotel rooms all add to the overall package of a fantastic conferencing event.

**PREMIER** has put together a list of some of the best conference venues in Johannesburg, KwaZulu-Natal, and Cape Town.

#### **Johannesburg**

Located in the heart of the city's CBD is Pyramid Conference and Venue Centre, a five-star establishment that caters for a wide range of events. With nine function

rooms that can accommodate 10 to 500 guests, every type of conference is catered for - intimate meetings of just a few delegates to an event for the whole company. The Great Hall is a space for the latter, with a revolving stage and sound booth. Pyramid offers catering options including banquets, buffets, set menus, cocktail parties, as well as Halaal and Kosher options. Secretarial services are also on offer, as well as WiFi, computer and printing facilities, data projectors, large screens, and microphones.



Amber Rose House

For more information, please visit [www.pyramidvenue.co.za](http://www.pyramidvenue.co.za).

Sandton has become Johannesburg's business hub and, as a result, there are many options when it comes to finding the ideal conference venue. One of the best is Radisson Blu, a hotel with meeting and conference rooms spread out over two floors and an auditorium capable of seating up to 95 people. The sleek décor of the rooms along with modern technology and high speed Internet, as well as professional staff on hand to ensure events

run smoothly, come together to create the perfect conferencing venue. The hotel's chefs will also whip up customised menus with delicious options.

For more information, please visit [www.radissonblu.com](http://www.radissonblu.com).

Moving away from the city to a more laid back setting, Amber Rose Country Estate is perfect for conferences that need the peace and serenity that comes with being outside the city. The house has a Tuscan charm to it, with extensive gardens that host the estate's namesake:

roses. The conferencing venue here is ideal for smaller groups, as it can seat up to 20 delegates, or 40 in cinema style. The Rose Terrace is the setting for the buffet lunches on offer, as well as a great place for sundowners after a day of brainstorming.

For more information, please visit [www.amberrose.co.za](http://www.amberrose.co.za).

#### **KwaZulu-Natal**

Located in the beautiful KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is the five-star Fordoun Hotel. The high ceiling, air-conditioned



L'Avenir



Fordoun Spa, FCH & Villas



L'Avenir

conference room hosts up to 40 delegates. The lodge has 22 rooms to accommodate all guests, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included. The conference room has a large screen, WiFi, and data projector; a PA service is also on offer. The added luxury of conferencing here is the Fordoun Spa where one can indulge in a range of treatments to ease muscles and soothe the mind, as well as the fine dining restaurant, Skye Bistro, where the sumptuous meals are made with attention to detail and fresh, local produce.

For more information, please visit [www.fordoun.com](http://www.fordoun.com).

If minds need to be cleared and creative ideas need to be brought to the fore, then the Palm Dune Beach Lodge is the ideal conferencing venue. Between the soothing ocean and a lush nature reserve, this is a lodge that promotes utmost peacefulness. The air-conditioned conference room is able to accommodate up to 200 people (depending on the seating arrangements), and leads out onto a patio. The lodge's bar and restaurant overlook the ocean, which boasts a boma for festive dinners.

For more information, please visit [www.palmdune.co.za](http://www.palmdune.co.za).

#### Cape Town

In the picturesque winelands valley of Franschhoek, one of the best accommodation options in the Western Cape is situated - Franschhoek Country House & Villas. Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town CBD, FCH & Villas has excellent facilities to host small and medium sized conferences. There are two packages that can be chosen: standard and exclusive, depending on the attendees' needs. Catering is taken care of by the onsite Monneaux Restaurant, renowned for its inventive French cuisine. When a break is needed from the conference, activities such as hiking, wine tasting, and golfing (among others) can be arranged.

For more information, please visit [www.fch.co.za](http://www.fch.co.za).

L'Avenir Wine Estate in Stellenbosch have created the Single Block Rooftop, a cutting-edge conferencing centre in the winelands. With uninterrupted panoramic views dedicated to inspiring innovative and expansive thinking, the facility aims to facilitate collaboration, education, and interaction within the growing winelands business community, and international commerce in Africa. The same hands that cultivate the vineyards for L'Avenir's

flagship Single Block wines have crafted this venue with the same precision and passion applied in the vineyards. While the construction of the facility makes use of raw materials, the technology within meets any businesses' needs. For more information, visit [www.lavenirestate.co.za](http://www.lavenirestate.co.za).

With an award-winning Reuben's Restaurant onsite and situated right on the beach, Abalone House in the small West Coast fishing village of Paternoster is a five-star boutique hotel with a plush boardroom for delegates to meet. This cosy venue can accommodate 16 people in high back chairs around an antique table with underfloor heating and air-conditioning. The boardroom also boasts state-of-the-art media and audio-visual equipment, as well as WiFi. The venue looks out onto the gorgeous garden courtyard - a perfect place to enjoy a drink and unwind after a day of conferencing.

For more information, please visit [www.abalonehouse.co.za](http://www.abalonehouse.co.za).

Conferences do not have to be a boring affair that everyone in the office dreads; by finding a great venue with a few added extras to enjoy, such as beautiful surroundings and fun activities, it can be an event everyone looks forward to. ■