

# Winners of the junior and senior Chef of the Year Competition visit South Africa

The winners of the junior and senior Compass Chef of the Year competition, Jack Crow and Rob Dant have returned from an action packed week in South Africa as guests of SAMAC. Accompanied by Compass UK's Executive Chef Nick Vadis, their prize trip took in the culinary and natural riches of the Mpumalanga region, a key producing area for South Africa's Macadamia industry.

Many sponsors came on board to make this a truly memorable experience, the first of which was Summerfields Rose Retreat and Spa in Hazyview where the Chef's enjoyed a magnificent dinner, stay and breathtaking view of the Sabie River. The Couch House made sure they felt welcome on their arrival by giving each Chef a hamper filled with macadamia treats which includes their famous Macadamia Nougat.

Golden Macadamia hosted the chef's at their processing plant and gave them a taste of their truly 'golden' honey-coated macadamias. They also had a very informative tour through the factory with Quality Assurance manager, Esme van Jaarsveld and received magnificent hampers to take home.

Green Farms gave the Chef's a look at what macadamia farming is all about, with a visit to their White River orchards explaining the nuts journey from tree to processing and shipping. The Chef's each received a bottle of Green Farms Macadamia Oil which got them talking about all the possible recipes they would try when back home.

Blue Mountain Lodge in Hazyview hosted the Chef's on the evening of the 7th of December with a mouth-watering dinner and a taste of some of South Africa's top wines.

As well as discovering South Africa's Macadamia industry the chefs were also able to enjoy some of the entertaining activities this country and Mpumalanga as a province has to offer. These included a guided Chimp tour at Chimp Eden, River Rafting on the Sabie River, a game drive through Kruger National park and an early morning elephant interaction in Hazyview.


Savanna Private Game Reserve ended the Chef's trip on a particularly high note. Treated to a late-lunch followed by a 3 hour game drive which revealed the true meaning of the Big 5, made for very enthralled and astonished Chef's.

This trip not only gave the Chef's a better understanding of Macadamia Nuts and the South African Market, but also went a long way in establishing future relationships for the industry abroad.



Compass Chef of the Year Winners visit the Kruger Park

## Trip Sponsors

 <p>Just a little different</p>	<p>Situated in the internationally famous Sabi Sand Reserve, Savanna Private Game Reserve has 10 000 hectares of pristine African bushveld to explore. Accompanied by our highly experienced rangers and trackers, we pride ourselves in delivering special safari experiences with the emphasis being on game viewing. Close up and from the safety of our open safari vehicles you will be sure to see the Big 5 and a large variety of other rare and wonderful creatures.</p> <p>The exclusive Five star Lodge promises to deliver personalised service and luxurious accommodation to a limited number of discerning guests. A close knit team of staff provides personalised service to each guest, encouraging a home away from home environment whilst delivering the best safari experience possible.</p> <p>Gourmet dining is an essential component of the Savanna experience with traditional local dishes adding spice and variety to the best international fare. Cuisine is of the highest standard with emphasis on quality and presentation. Dynamic menus allow a perfect marriage with award winning wines.</p> <p>Savanna offers three room types to suit individual needs. The thatched Savanna Suite is ideal for families or small groups wishing to share private time together in elegant, stylish surroundings. The suite consists of two en-suite bedrooms each boasting a lounge area and covered wooden deck with private plunge pool. These rooms lead into a central beautifully appointed lounge, providing an idyllic 'home away from home' safari option. Seven of the nine rooms offer an 'Out of Africa' experience with canvas roofs above draped linen ceilings blending the elegance of a by-gone colonial era with the convenience of modern facilities. Three Executive Suites each boast a lounge area and covered wooden deck with private plunge pool.</p> <p><a href="http://www.savannalodge.com/news/high-res-images">www.savannalodge.com/news/high-res-images</a></p>
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