

HOUSE

AND LEISURE

Vol. 17 : Winter 2025

harvest
the joy of gathering



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HOUSE AND LEISURE

LOOKBOOK

In this Shop the Look curation, we're embracing
the warmth and generosity of country life

Compiled by LOOKBOOK Studio



De Hoek, Barrydale (Perfect Hideaways)
perfecthideaways.com

lookbookstudio.com

LOOK

sky & sand

Shades of blue and natural tones add a touch of calm



Thuúla Haven, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, Overberg (Perfect Hideaways)

LOOKBOOK



o1.



o2.



o3.



o4.



o5.



o6.



o7.



o8.



o9.



10.



11.



12.

1. Mary vase in Clay R600 from Hertex Haus. Marble trinket tray in Natural R359 by Thread Office from Yuppiefchef. Low oval ceramic vase R450 from @home at Bash.com.
 2. 1972 pendant light by Gubi R29 250 from Créma Design. 3. Cast-iron Signature pumpkin casserole in Chambray R6 699 from Le Creuset. 4. Easy Living Macau scatter cushion in Petrol from R629 from SLV Home. Mohair, linen and silk blanket in Natural R8 500 from African Jacquard. 5. Heritage bath-filler in polished brass R19 990 from Victorian Bathrooms. 6. Zinhle side stool R7 200 from The Urbanative. Bialetti six-cup Moka pot in blue R1 490 from Poetry of Living. Desert lounge chair in Light R11 111 from Créma Design.
 7. Renocrete flooring in Mollusc POR from Cemcrete. Chevron flooring in Puro Ice POR by Oggie Hardwood Flooring. 8. Rattan fruit basket in Natural R649 from Superbalist. Corn husk placemat R99.95 from Woolworths. Egg basket R390 from Babylonstoren. 9. Block Flower jute-and-wool rug R5 999 from Yuppiefchef. African checkerboard rug from R8 200/m² from Coral + Hive. 10. Lia armchair in Light POR by GamFratesi from Molteni&C. 11. Sculpt stool by 101CPH R8 042 from Créma Design. Curvy tall vase in blue R199 from Woolworths. 12. Betsy ottoman R11 400 from Anatomy Design.

LOOK

rust & sage

Earthy copper and dusty olive connect to the outdoors



The Shepherd's Cottage, De Aap Private Nature Reserve, Prince Albert (Perfect Hideaways)

LOOKBOOK



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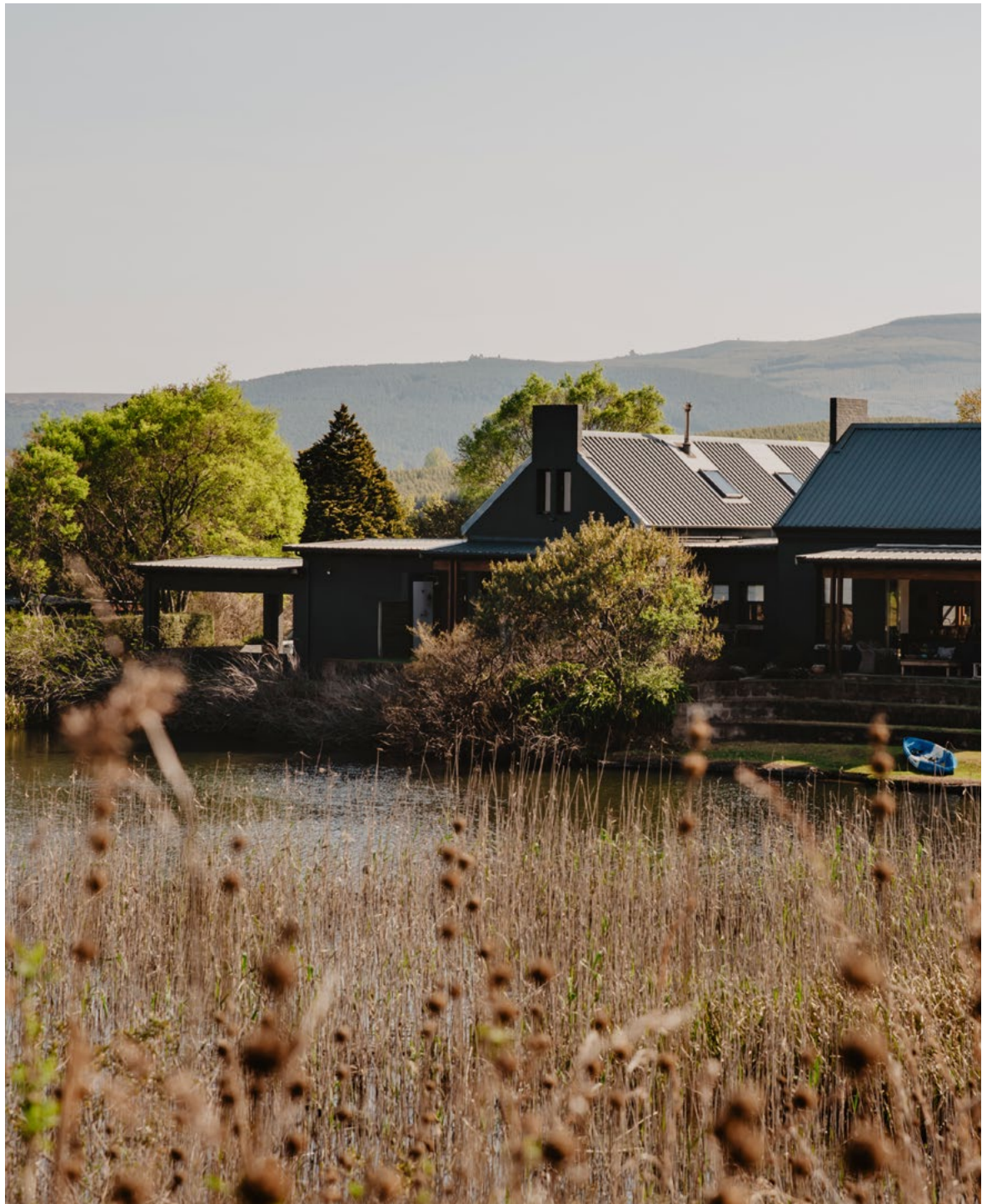
10.

1. **Betsy pendant** R14 300 from Anatomy Design. 2. **Linen placemat** (set of 2) R499 from Polo. **Le Creuset Coffee Press** in Flame R1 649 from @home at Bash.com. 3. **Palinfrasca chair** POR by Vincent van Duysen from Molteni&C. **Soma Medium planter** POR by Laurie Wiid van Heerden from Indigenus. 4. **Sphere Bubl Big vase** in Sand R4 300 by 101 CPH from Créma Design. **Chai Screen Block Celosia** R80 by Klay from Stiles. **Cheetah head ceramic vase** R1 295 from Black & Chisel. 5. **'Gates of the Sun' artwork** R15 000 from Leila Atelier. 6. **Ginger Biscuit paint** POR from Plascon. **Brisk Standard flooring** from the Lite collection POR by Hakwood from Bestwood. 7. **Mudziira floor lamp** in Sienna R7 200 from TheUrbanative. 8. **Salt box** R1 300 from Babylonstoren. **Kenan stoneware mug** R90 from Woolworths. **DUO round tray** in red R695 (medium) and R895 (large) from Pedersen + Lennard. 9. **Metallic Bogolan cushion cover** in gold and copper R930 from African Jacquard. **Fern 6 Thylepteris cushion** R1 495 from Evolution. 10. **Daphne Chais modular sofa** in Pebble Rust POR from Sofa Company.

LOOK

olive & coffee

Verdant hues and rich brown are a powerful combination



Rockwood Farmhouse, Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal (Perfect Hideaways)

LOOKBOOK



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1. Plates R200 (medium), R260 (large) and breakfast bowl R150 in Pasture Green all from Babylonstoren. Wallace pear small oval dish R499 from Poetry of Living. 2. Wawa lampshade R15 675 from Ashanti Design. 3. Wabi chair POR by Rimedesio from Domum. 4. Mojo candlesticks POR from OKHA. Agapanthus vase R270 from Uneathing Studio. 5. Theia table lamp R19 530 from Studio Lloyd x Nammu Ceramics. FLOU table lamp POR from Roche Bobois. 6. Cityloft armchair POR by Pascal Mourgue from Ligne Roset. 7. Tangent L ladder heated towel rail in matte black R10 500 by Jeeves from Italitle. Meir cross handle taps in Gun Metal R5 325 from Flush. 8. Scarlett chest of drawers in Sage R13 000 from Poetry of Living. Hand-painted stripe block mug in green R199 from Poetry of Living. 9. Bow console R26 500 by 101 CPH from Créma Design. Speckled-glaze stoneware mug in brown patterned R179 by H&M from Superbalist. 10. Skipping Block cushion cover in Leapfrog R560 from Mungo. Journey throw in Baked Clay R2 000 from Hertex Haus. 11. Barstool POR from James Mudge. Dogon stool R5 500 from Grand Living with Beck Ernst.

LOOK

rose & honey

Soft blush perfectly complements glowing amber



Buffelsdrift, Ladismith, Klein Karoo (Perfect Hideaways)

LOOKBOOK



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1. Aria Swivel chair in Blush R9 995 from Mobelli. 'Rooted in Joy' print by Dayna-Gay Tate from R850 from The Local Edit.
2. Small raffia pendant R2 100 from KLight.
3. Farm Still Life throw R1 800 from Babylonstoren. Time vessel in yellow R999 from Alexandra Palmer Creative. Red travertine art block (tall) R13 995 from Weylands.
4. Basket wool rug with Russet edge POR from Herringbone. Feuille rug POR by Marie-Aurore Stiker-Métral from Ligne Roset.
5. Verge Flowers & Grasses majolica stoneware plates R2800 for 4 (or R750 each) by Jane Young from Sitting Duck Studio.
6. Satin coffee table R15 500 from TENT Furniture Design.
7. Frankie counter stool R4 290 from Houthakker.
8. Amber candleholder R1 000 from House of Harhaz x Okracandle collaboration.
9. Lea Tumbler in orange R179 from Poetry of Living.
10. Haws brass spritzer R880 from Babylonstoren.
11. Aya dining table in oak or ash from R27 715 from Soft&Co.
12. Handmade salad bowl from R1 950 from Pezula Interiors.
13. Pink-and-white Drip mug set R280 from Nika Atelier.
14. Prince armchair and footstool POR by Rodolfo Dordani from Minotti.
15. Single mild-steel hook in ivory with hardwood peg R490 from Pedersen + Lennard.
16. Outdoor Kuba cushion cover in Terracotta from R930 from African Jacquard.
17. Oddjects Shell cushion cover from R625 from Skinny laMinx.

vast

A carefully renewed homestead in the Tankwa Karoo creates

veld

a haven of peace, tranquillity and deep connection

Words by Anji Connell Photography by Obsessively Creative Directed With special thanks to Perfect Hideaways



‘The garden lies in an old human place that has grown and evolved over time, but is entirely of the Karoo, its history and its lifestyle’

– Franchesca Watson, landscape architect

Previous spread The views of the blue mountains of the Tankwa River valley, Karoo scrub and vast sky create a canvas for spectacular sunrises and sunsets, and celestial celebrations. The architecture blends Dutch, English and indigenous designs and is tailored to the harsh environment, using local and recycled materials for the thick walls, gables, corrugated iron additions and stoeps. **Above** The old windpump pays tribute to many that once graced the area, and is a much-needed water source. **Right** Landscape architect Franchesca Watson referenced the existing reservoirs on the land when creating the round swimming pool.







‘Over 25 years ago, during our honeymoon, my husband and I were captivated by the untamed beauty of the Karoo. Within that vast landscape, we sowed the seeds of a dream to one day call a piece of it our own. This longing to cultivate a sanctuary grew with our family; we always kept an eye out for the right land, knowing that the perfect moment might never arrive. Then came the day we stumbled upon De Kruis. It might not have been the right time – our children were still at home and our careers demanded our attention – but it felt right! Initially, our plans to restore the homestead began modestly, but what flourished was a genuine labour of love,’ explains the owner of this homestead in the Tankwa Karoo, which is available to rent.

Looking back, they realise that had they truly understood the challenges ahead, they may have hesitated to plant their roots here. But serendipity graced their journey. During his Covid gap year, their 19-year-old son took the initiative and embarked on a quest with a skilled team. They harvested stones from the farm to restore the walls, recycling the land’s materials into the very fabric of the home. ‘Each trip to gather resources was a step toward transforming a dilapidated shepherd’s hut into a cherished space. The crew worked diligently, navigating the tricky 8km-long main farm road like farmers tending to a field, delivering the bricks and sand essential for our vision.’

The restoration was not merely physical; it also required cultivating relationships. Franchesca Watson, the landscape architect, helped them envision how to integrate De Kruis into the naturally wild environment surrounding it. ‘The garden was conceived to echo the simple yet sophisticated way the buildings were imagined by the architect and client – an old human place that has grown and evolved over time, but is entirely of the Karoo, its history and its lifestyle. In the garden, the plants are mostly Karoo varieties, but you’ll also find old favourites including climbing roses, pencil cypresses, pepper trees, aloes and pelargoniums from Renu Karoo Nursery in Prince Albert. And the materials are all of the Karoo – broken slate gravel, sundried bricks, wood and stones,’ explains Franchesca.

With Franchesca’s guidance, the owners met Richard Perfect, an architect who understood the essence of South African heritage architecture, to help them breathe new life into the 200-year-old homestead. Every nail driven and every stone placed echoed with the whispers of history, intertwining the past with the future.

Entering De Kruis is like stepping into a bountiful harvest of warmth and authenticity. The home radiates a palpable love, every corner reflecting the care poured into its rejuvenation. Above, a magnificent chandelier reigns, reflecting the sunlight

and leading the gaze toward an open door that unveils the expansive Karoo landscape – where the endless blue sky kisses the earthy browns and rusty hues of indigenous flora. A rustic water mill stands like a sentinel, fostering the charm of the scene.

Below the chandelier, a richly patinated wooden dining table invites gatherings, reminiscent of a harvest feast filled with laughter, stories and sharing life’s abundance. The cosiness of home is palpable; in the kitchen, an Aga stove stands to the left, while a Smeg refrigerator to the right introduces a modern twist that harmonises with the house’s nostalgic roots. Together, they tell a story of comfort and joy, merging past and present, nostalgia and innovation.

Every detail within De Kruis has been intentionally created; from the carefully chosen decor to the rustic architecture. History is honoured and beauty celebrated. It is a place that nurtures a profound sense of belonging – a sanctuary where gratitude and joy flourish in the ruggedness of the Tankwa Karoo. Here, the land itself becomes a partner in the journey, its raw beauty reminding its occupants of both life’s fragility and its resilience.

The distinct climate of the Karoo also reflects life’s changes; the sizzling heat of day turns the landscape into a sunbaked canvas of browns and golds, while nightfall brings a chill that invites you to gather around a fire under a starlit sky. ‘These evenings remind us of the vast harvest of the universe – a celestial bounty of stars that glimmer above us, as if the universe celebrates our journey together. On moonless nights, the darkness unveils a stunning display of shooting stars and the Milky Way, a constant reminder of the beauty surrounding us.’

‘As we nurture this homestead, we recognise that our journey at De Kruis goes beyond restoration – it is about harvesting the essence of life – love, tradition and connection – to cultivate a legacy that will live on beyond us. Each moment here is an opportunity to gather the fruits of our labour, a chance to weave our family’s story into the fabric of this land,’ explains the owner.

‘De Kruis is more than just a home; it’s a vibrant community of memories, an orchard of dreams realised in the heart of the Tankwa Karoo. Here, surrounded by nature, visitors find peace and purpose, a place where the soil nurtures not only plants but the very spirit of our family, inviting us to harvest and share the blessings of this idyllic sanctuary for years to come.’

For its owners, De Kruis is not merely about restoration – it is about finding love, memory and connection in every inch of this land. It is about nurturing a legacy that will flourish for generations, deeply rooted in the soil of the Tankwa Karoo. ●

@perfecthideaways

*Book De Kruis via perfecthideways.co.za

Previous spread The modern design of the dining pavilion suggests a later addition made necessary by a growing family. The owners and architect embraced this idea playfully, inviting guests to guess the architectural timeline of the building’s additions by incorporating a touch of Rennie Mackintosh-style lattice work. **Left** The heart of the home is the perfect spot to gather around a large, convivial dining table, where stories are shared and memories are made. A traditional Aga stove and flagstone floors add to the homely feel.



This spread The homestead is lovingly furnished with cherished pieces from the owner’s childhood family home. ‘Our children remember items from spending time with Ouma. Some we collected and kept in a “running away cupboard”, knowing that one day we would want to use them somewhere. Some we bought specifically for De Kruis.’ **Next spread** The green corrugated-iron bathroom exudes rustic charm with views of the sky and rugged landscape, combining the comfort of an indoor sanctuary with the vastness of nature. A few remote dwellings that reveal the lives of past farmers are dotted across the veld. Some are being restored, while others are left to be reclaimed by nature.





lush

A landscape designer and floral artist have created a

Words by Robyn Alexander · Photography by Warren Heath · a Bureaux production

forest

multi-layered oasis along the Garden Route



‘The early morning sun
over the garden, with the
awakening of an abundance of
life and birdsong, makes
it a magical place to be’

– Hannes Stander and Daniel ‘DP’ Ferreira

Previous spread One of the two original timber cottages on the property that Hannes Stander and DP Ferreira have renovated, furnished and decorated, and which now accommodate overnight visitors to Highacre Garden. **Right** The conservatory, where a variety of potted plants are displayed, is also used as a small venue. Fiddle-leaf figs and various orchids are among the many plants that flourish in the space – the latter also being one of DP’s favourite flowers.





Over the past 17 years, Hannes Stander and Daniel ‘DP’ Ferreira have been hard at work at Highacre, their property on South Africa’s Garden Route, creating a harmonious haven that is their ‘home, retreat and playground’ that now also hosts intimate gatherings and regular overnight guests at Sylvan and Floreo cottages.

DP, who has a degree in fine art, and Hannes, who studied landscape architecture, purchased the property that is now Highacre Garden almost two decades ago. They were attracted in part by its location – on the edge of Knysna Forest, a wilderness area located close to the coast and characterised by indigenous afromontane vegetation, and which has long been renowned as one of South Africa’s loveliest places. The property had an original woodcutter’s house on it – constructed from old adobe bricks – as well as several other structures including two timber cottages.

‘The buildings were neat and beautifully built with basic materials and minimal fittings,’ say Hannes and DP, recalling what their small farm looked like then. ‘Small pockets of garden with larger areas of lawn surrounded the buildings, and the remainder of the 1.75 hectares was maintained with a tractor-mounted mower that kept the field low, promoting the growth of buffalo grass. Scattered with Australian blackwood and pine, it had a good number of water tanks for rainwater storage, which is the only source of water. It was very liveable and a clean palette.’

Visiting Highacre today, it’s difficult to picture this previous incarnation of the landscape: the lushly planted, multifaceted garden spaces that the couple has created could not be more different from what was here before. And initially at least, realising their vision was a challenge. Highacre is on the edge of an indigenous forest reserve, so ‘initially, wildlife such as baboons, bushbuck, porcupines and bushpigs raided newly planted areas’, they say. ‘We had to fence off a section of the garden and, in time, we managed to protect our territory with our family of dogs.’ This wonderfully disparate pack – there are currently 12 in all, ranging in size and breed from a diminutive (and very assertive!) Jack Russell terrier to gentle but incredibly speedy giant *boerwindhonde* – roams the garden freely, forming a very effective deterrent for baboons, in particular.

Guests to the farm are invariably rejuvenated and uplifted by spending time at Highacre; the property now includes multiple different spaces, each with its own identity and atmosphere. Overall, the garden is a masterclass in beautifully textured, naturalistic planting, and includes a large, abundant pond and surrounding wetland, an area that in high summer is filled to overflowing with the blooms

of 19 different species of agapanthus, a restful round lawn surrounded by walled seating that defines its circle, an elegant gravelled walk enclosed by high hedges, a fragrant rose garden and an abundance of beautiful trees. The spaces of the garden are linked via pathways that twine through the landscape, enabling visitors to meander at leisure.

In addition, there is the delightfully layered and rustic conservatory, which is both a variably semi- to fully enclosed greenhouse in which potted plants can be nurtured, and a wonderful space where small events are hosted. Combining the conservatory with the beautiful garden pavilion – a fairly newly developed part of Highacre that straddles the boundary between the more intensely developed garden and the natural environment, which is reached via a long pergola – makes for a truly special place to celebrate a wedding or birthday. Two charmingly appointed guest cottages provide overnight accommodation for visitors.

This creative couple might focus their attention in different realms, with Hannes mainly working in landscape design and DP taking the lead on events and floristry, but their mutual love of plants is key to both their professional and personal lives. When asked what has attracted them to working with plants, they respond: ‘Their presence as a life force in our environment – and how they can be grown, nurtured and shaped to fulfil a function in the garden.’

Hannes’s office and landscaping yard are located on the property, while DP’s studio is in the nearby town of Knysna, where he keeps a beautiful collection of vases, furniture, glassware, cutlery and crockery for the events side of the couple’s business. But the Highacre garden itself remains a focus. This is DP and Hannes’s home as well as a place for hosting events and guests, and they ‘spend as much time as possible here to make sure that it is continually developed, kept in a beautiful state and sufficiently nurtured’.

Unique and special places – especially gardens – can’t be brought into existence overnight. It has taken many years of effort and care to create Highacre; as Hannes and DP say, ‘We consider the function and aesthetic of each space and project very carefully before we manifest it. Sometimes we contemplate for a long time and, when the installation happens, it draws from all those thoughts, discussions and dreams.’ Their combined aesthetic skills, plus bucketloads of patience, dedication and hard work, have enabled the development of this unique and special place, which ‘celebrates the botanical realm’ in a way that is sure to inspire and invigorate those fortunate enough to visit it in person for many years to come. ● [@ecozest_dp](#) [@ecozest_hannes](#) [@perfecthideaways](#)

Left Its open lattice of roof beams gives the conservatory an almost barn-like feeling, while the semi-opaque roof creates ideal growing conditions for plants. Both dining and lounging set-ups can be created within the space.



Above The kitchen in one of the overnight cottages features farm-style wooden cabinetry painted in a sophisticated shade of grey, with charming tiled countertops in a multiplicity of colours. The boldly elegant floral arrangement features roses from the garden. **Right** A vintage leather sofa found at an antique shop in George, a Persian rug and a Nguni hide create a sense of laid-back opulence in the cottage's living room.







Previous spread A collection of found natural objects such as tortoiseshells, plus interesting memorabilia and artworks, creates a sort of vertical ‘cabinet’ of curiosities in the cottage. The timber-lined shower space in the cottage leads out onto a private courtyard in which guests can take a semi-alfresco bath. **Left** The elegant, covered pavilion is one of the newest elements in the garden. It makes a beautiful space for functions such as small weddings, and frames charming views of the rest of Highacre’s spaces and the indigenous forest landscape beyond the garden’s boundaries. **Above** Hiram, one of DP and Hannes’s boerwindhonde, takes a break on the verandah of the cottage.