

L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival 2020

My thoughts – via Social Media

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A meaningful experience is one that you remember because it left you feeling great, gratified, engaged, revitalized and motivated. Experiences help shape the way we view life, others and the world around us. Those are moments that leave you feeling fulfilled; and having been a part of the L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival 2020 via social media and online reporting; I know that is exactly what the guests in attendance FELT.

The 2020 edition of what I see is termed Africa's biggest race and South Africa's firstever multi-day Racing Festival took place on Friday, 10 and Saturday, 11 January 2020 at its usual picturesque Kenilworth Racecourse, Cape Town location. With the majestic Table Mountain backdrop, a beautiful summer's weekend under the Cape Town African Skies, I remain convinced that this is not only a pleasurable two days for locals, but international visitors, horse racing lovers, friends, families and colleagues; and everyone looking for an intimate, beautiful and fun outing – an opportunity to create memories.

As a lover of beautiful events, spaces, food, horses, music and meeting new people, once again, I found myself following the event, curious to check out the personalities in attendees, the fashion that is the signature blue and white, the garden décor and food, the winning horse and jockey; and all that is elegant and inspiring.

If you are an ardent horse betting fanatic like my late dad was, if you enjoy the art of watching horse races, then you will know that horse betting was again, a REAL THING, with VARDY making the 1600 km look like dust. For those not familiar with the order of the day when it comes to betting, options included anything from Place Accumulator, Pick 6, Jackpot, Pick 3, Double, Quartet, Trifecta, Exacta, Swinger, Place all the way to Win.

There is something to be said about strategic relationships with brands, in the case of L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival; the sponsorship list is nothing but impressive. From the forever sophisticated ELEGANCE that is Cartier, local and WORLD-CLASS winery, Anthonij Rupert Wyne, local Drakenstein Stud Farm (THOROUGH-BRED breeding farm, situated on the lower slopes of the L'Ormarins Wine Estate), Ardmore Ceramics (in their words “we bring to life a MAGICAL, DREAM-LIKE world in clay and paint”), the historical and local Franschhoek Motor Museum (the EVOLUTION of the automobile captured beautifully), worldrenowned design world of Design Indaba, international Suffolk-based and the world's oldest auctioneers, Tattersalls (LEADING bloodstock auctioneer in Europe; an obvious fit with LQP's British roots), Skyy Vodka SA (as SMOOTH as Vodka gets) and of course, Heineken SA (PREMIUM beer and cider brands). These brands are consistent with quality, elegance, style and class – a definition of L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival.

As a lover of jazz, vintage cars, intimate spaces, people and beauty, it is undoubtedly the Peninsula Jazz Room that had me intrigued... or shall I say inspired? What came to mind as I went through the list of what looked like perfectly curated hospitality areas that were surprisingly reasonably priced from a R350 all the way to R1500, was the Peninsula Jazz Room that offers among other amazing offerings, a three course meal, Anthonij Rupert wines and a full local bar, live jazz from the Cape and a gift. What more can a girl ask for? Other relaxing lounges included LQP Garden Party, Somerset Room, Style Village, Stud Club, Paddock Sites and Kenilworth Room.

There is something to be said about the infectiously happy faces on all images, from those captured on the website to those shared on social media, by attendees and media houses; something genuine and authentic. The event timing is perfect, an awesome opportunity to unwind, party up a storm in elegance; just before you kick off yet another year guaranteed to leave you exhausted and drained. The weather, the fantastic racecourse and grounds (that I have luckily been to), beautiful horses (because horses are resilient, charming and oh-so-beautiful creatures), a safe space and strangers bound to make you smile!

Growing up in Limpopo (although privileged), events such as these were unheard of. Lovers of horses could only watch races on SABC 2 and get to TAB (for obvious, fun reasons)! It is amazing to live in a world where one (now) has opportunities to create beautiful memories!

I cannot say why I have not attended this prestigious event, maybe I had to first enter a competition, write about my experience so far of having a part of the event via social media, every January. The past three years have been a bit of a nightmare as a first time entrepreneur and probably the reason I have travelled and partied less. As they say, everything happens for a reason.

For hundreds of followers like myself, I think a live Facebook broadcast I future would be EPIC! I know that I am not the only one that has followed the activities via social media; there is a whole world desperately wishing to be 'IN'.

I hope what I have shared resonates with the judges and their experience of 'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival.

I hope I get to attend the Qatar Glorious Goodwood Racing Festival in 2020 as well as the quintessential L'Ormarins Queen's Plate Racing Festival in 2021; and finally get to let my hair down in pure style and elegance; or in my case, something like let Cape Town breeze gently run through my hair!

Oh no! that too won't happen as I will be wearing a HAT and hoping to scoop the Best Dressed and Best Hat award!

What I also found extra special and impressive: That the event is that it is in its 159th year and voted top 5 race days in the world by the British Telegraph (huge deal)!

May we all go through experiences that make us look back with a smile and beautiful heart prints!

My name is Moloisi Mabeba, I am a broadcast specialist, TV producer, Film and TV school founder and an All-rounder. I am passionate about children, women, jazz, vintage cars, art, food, football and life! I am a Joburg resident.