

WHY KUGANHA

Kuganha was created from a personal experience of what true rest can feel like when hospitality becomes effortless.

For Simone and Searl Derman, the idea began during a rare journey to the Maldives. It was a milestone trip for Searl's 50th birthday, and one of their first holidays alone together in many years. Away from work, family life and constant responsibility, they experienced a style of hospitality that stayed with them long after they returned home.

It wasn't the destination that made an impression. It was the ease. A single point of contact understood the rhythm of their stay. Small decisions were removed before they became decisions. Service was present, but never heavy. Luxury felt relaxed, intuitive and deeply personal.

That feeling became one of the first seeds of Kuganha.

The second came from something more practical. Searl has always loved massages, spa rituals and wellness, but often felt that the calm of a spa experience was lost the moment the treatment ended. The walk back to the room, the need to get dressed, the return to movement and conversation – all of it interrupted the stillness the treatment had created.

From that came a simple question: what if the guest never had to leave that state of rest?

What if the spa was not a separate place? What if the suite itself could hold the full experience – heat, cold, steam, water, massage, quiet, open air and private dining – all within the guest's own space, on their own terms?

That question became central to Kuganha.

But Kuganha was never created to copy another destination. The Maldives may have sparked the feeling, but the Karoo gave it meaning. This land had its own story. It had been depleted over time, then slowly restored through conservation, habitat renewal and the reintroduction of wildlife. The landscape had been given care, patience and space to find its rhythm again.

The owners saw something powerful in that. If land can return when it is protected and given time, people can too.

This is the why behind Kuganha.

It exists to give guests what modern life so often removes: privacy, stillness, time, warmth and the freedom to be cared for without being crowded. It is for people who do not necessarily need to be fixed, but who need room to stop properly. To sleep. To breathe. To eat well. To move slowly. To feel the pace drop.

The luxury at Kuganha is not only in the scale of the suites, the private service, the in-room wellness or the remote nature experience. It is in the absence of friction. Guests do not have to move between places to find what they came for. They do not have to follow someone else's rhythm. They do not have to perform relaxation.

Kuganha was built from the owners' belief that the most meaningful hospitality is not about impressing people. It is about understanding what they need before they have to ask, and creating the conditions for rest, connection and return.

A dream that began with a journey elsewhere has become something rooted entirely here – in the Karoo, on restored land, shaped by space, nature, stillness and care.

KUGANHA
RESET. REWILD.

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