

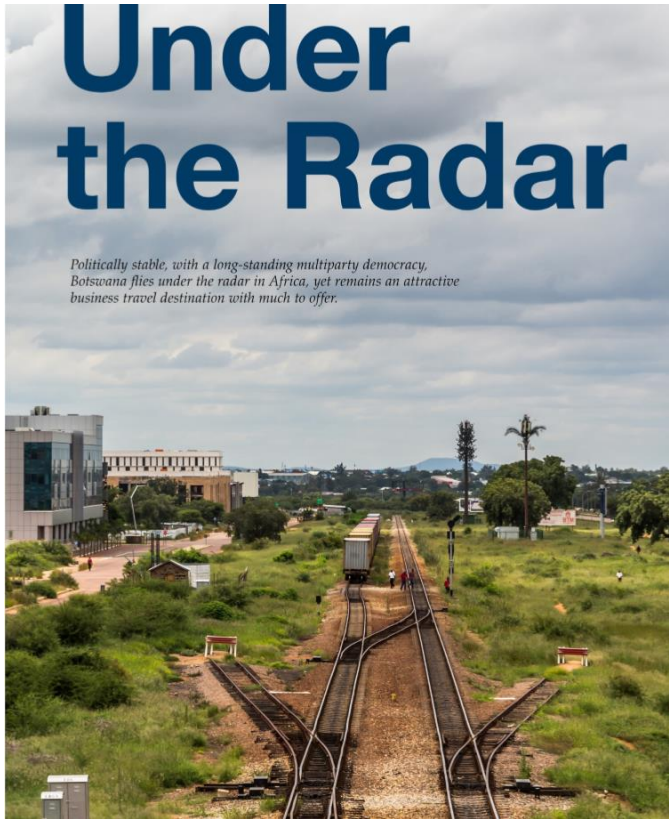
BOTSWANA
Taking shape

**TRAVEL
TECHNOLOGY**
A moving target



Under the Radar

Politically stable, with a long-standing multiparty democracy, Botswana flies under the radar in Africa, yet remains an attractive business travel destination with much to offer.



HOTELS

Aha Hotels & Lodges – the tourism property management company of Tourvest's Accommodation and Activities division – has been managing the Masa Square Hotel since 2015. The hotel has 152 rooms spread over seven floors, a restaurant and café, rooftop infinity swimming pool, and event space. In addition, there is a fully-equipped Jack's Gym, the Absolut Gaborone bar, seven meeting rooms with multimedia equipment, and conference facilities that can accommodate up to 200 people.

Aha Hotels & Lodges also manages the Chobe Marina Lodge in the northern part of the country, on the banks of the Chobe River.

Formerly a Sun International property, AVANI Gaborone Resort & Casino has completed an extensive renovation, representing an investment of \$7.5 million by Minor Hotels. All 156 rooms, as well as the public spaces, including the main entrance and porte cochere, have been renovated and now sport new contemporary designs and technological enhancements. The hotel's open plan lobby blends reception, lounge, eateries and chill-out spaces. The layout of the guest bedrooms and bathrooms have been redesigned to ensure the best use of space. Room features and amenities include free wi-fi, a dedicated work station with media hub, LCD TVs with satellite news, sport and movie channels, and a rain shower. The hotel also offers a number of dining options, including The Conservatory, The Pantry, Savuti Grill and Mahogany.

Peermont's Grand Palm Hotel, Casino and Convention Resort is 12 kilometres from Sir Seretse Khama International Airport and adjacent to the Gaborone International Convention Centre, which can accommodate up to 1,800 delegates. Well-appointed accommodation is offered in two hotels – the 188-key Peermont Walmart and the 149-key three-star Peermont Metcourt Inn – both of which grant guests access to



Palm. The resort offers a casino, a Camelot health spa, The Boys Hair Salon and an outdoor area dedicated to keeping the children entertained.

The resort recently invested in a variety of new refurbishments to its Okavango and Moremi conference rooms at the Peermont Walmart, including an interior décor makeover and installation of wi-fi. Peermont also operates the Peermont Mondior in Gaborone.

Cresta Hotels currently has 11 hotels spread out across the country, including two in Francistown and two in Gaborone – Cresta President and Cresta Lodge catering for both the business and leisure traveller. If you're looking for representation across the country, Cresta

with its remaining properties in Jwaneng, Kasane, Mahalapye, Maun, Palapye, and Selebi-Phikwe. Its latest addition, Cresta Maun Hotel, is on the banks of the Thakalane River in Maun.

"The opening of this property brings our number of hotels in Maun to two, with our other property being the Cresta Riley's in the CBD, two minutes from Maun Airport," says Stutchbury, who hints at new developments to be unveiled in the new year.

The newest players in the Gaborone hotel market are South Africa-based City Lodge, which opened the Town Lodge – its two-star brand – in 2013, and Aquarian Tide, which opened along the A1 to Francistown in 2015 and offers 110 rooms.