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Six cold water veterans and up to 30 other extreme swimmers are set for one of the coldest swims in Africa when they plunge into an icy dam in Fraserburg, near Sutherland in mid winter for the first Speedo Ice Swim Africa Wearing only Speedo costumes, swimming caps and goggles, the six veterans who include world record holders Ram Barkai and Theodore Yach will attempt to swim a mile on July 23 in bone-chilling Nuwedam in remote Fraserburg, near Sutherland, Northern Cape – one of the coldest regions in Africa. The dam temperature is expected to plummet to below 5C at the time. Fraserburg is a five hour drive from Cape Town and is one of the most authentic, well preserved and coldest towns in the Karoo. The brainchild of Barkai who holds a Guinness World Record for having undertaken the world's most southerly swim (a kilometre in an icy lake, 1C, in Antarctica in early 2008) the event is a first for Africa and part of Barkai's goal to undertake an ice swim (5C or colder) on every continent. In addition to the mile, 30 other newcomers to "ice" swimming, but all regular cold water swimmers, will attempt a shorter Endurance Swim of 600m in Nuwedam. Both swims are set for Saturday 23 July, usually the coldest time of the year in the area, with temperatures plummeting to minus 10 degrees Celsius or below some nights. Contact: Craig Doonan on +27 (0)21 785-3683 Please Note: Dates for this event to be confirmed.

The Festival of Chariots is an amazing East-meets-West cultural experience and everyone is welcome. The festival offers you the opportunity to explore and appreciate a culture and lifestyle that is friendly to oneself, others and the environment. It makes a fun day out for the whole family. The parade is the highlight of the festival, hundreds of festival-goers from all over South Africa will hand pull the 20 meter- colourful wooden chariot bearing the figures of Jagannath, Baladeva and Subhadra down the streets of Seapoint. The procession is accompanied by melodious singing and dancing. The traditional Jagannath Festival of Chariots is a celebration over 5000 years old, observed in the ancient holy city of Jagannath Puri in India, making it the oldest street festival in the world. Festival of Chariots Festival of Chariots What else can we see at the Festival? • Live performances featuring classical dance, music and dramas • Famous Hare Krishna food for all tastes • Books for the seeker • Discourses by Spiritually enlightened practitioners • Exotic imported clothing and books • Henna tattoos and face painting • Kids Jumping castle Venue: Seapoint Civic Hall, Main Road, Seapoint, Cape Town Opening Hours: Boxing Day, Friday 26th December 2008. Hall opens @12.30 Cultural entertainment 4.30 pm Float parade leaves hall at 12.30 pm Festival goes on until 8.00 pm Contact: +27 (0)21 686-1179

South African artists such as Kwagga, Fredi Nest, William, Karlien Husselman and Jaycee and DJ Ossewa. The Komatipoort Festival offers other popular family entertainment including food and other market stalls, childrens' activities such as face painting and of course a merry go round and as

a special for the local farmers, a banana competition with prizes donated by the Lebombo Kwekers. This is a "not for profit" local event with all proceeding going to local schools and churches, so come and have a great family day out! Contact: Sue Steele on +27 (0)13 793 8262 Please Note: Dates for this event to be confirmed.

nother world first for Harley-Davidson® Africa Bike Week is set to attract more than 20 000 Harley-Davidson® riders from all over the world. The event will include a line-up of attractions and activities to entertain both bikers and their families. The programme features live bands, non-stop street parties, VIP lounges and bars, a ride-in bike show and culminates in a mass ride out which will include a Parade of Flags. People of all ages can get up close and personal with Harley-Davidson® motorcycles. The rally provides an opportunity for H.O.G.® members to meet and interact with riders and other H.O.G.® members from all over the world. Just don't forget to bring your driver's licence and protective clothing. Helmets can be loaned to you if you do not have your own. All bike riders are welcome so bring the family for a weekend of entertainment! Contact Person: Martin Telephone: +27 (0)82 558-3616

In April, to celebrate the end of another the hectic summer harvest season The Stables Wine Estate will hold its annual Grape Crushing Festival. This provides the opportunity for wine lovers to "stomp" their own grapes. In classic French tradition the grapes are foot-stomped after careful cleaning, and the juice then used to make the season's wine. We will also have pony rides / face painting for the children, as well as boerewors and prego rolls, cheeseboards, beer and soft drinks for sale. Based on previous positive response the Grape Crushing Festival has become an annual highlight! Contact For bookings phone Christelle on +27 (0)33 266-6781 Date: 25 April 2009 Time: 12h30 Venue: The Stables Wine Estate, Nottingham Road, Natal Midlands. Please Note: Dates for this event in 2011 to be confirmed.

Come and join the celebration to bless the grape harvest at the annual Spier Wine Harvest Festival, in Stellenbosch. The lawns in front of Eight—Spier's new 'farm-to-table' restaurant—will be transformed into a wine wonderland. Adults can lounge under the trees and enjoy great food and wine, while children join in a host of interactive games. With so much to do during the day you will find lots of things to have fun, with wine tastings and scrumptious specialty food stalls to create the ultimate wine picnic. This can be enjoyed either on the lawn, or around the harvest table alongside the Eerste River. Games for all include grape stomping, croquet, and boule. For kids there will be T-shirt and face painting, and loads of entertainment, including tractor rides to the vineyards, storytelling, magicians, an obstacle course and more. Gerald Clarke and his band will entertain with guitars, cellos, accordions and singers. Tickets: R70, for adults, this includes a tasting of two of Spier's award-winning wines and a special edition wine glass. For kids this includes entrance for five games. Times: 10h00 to 16h00

cksburg is known throughout the country as the Cherry Town, and the two have become synonymous with each other. The Ficksburg Cherry Festival takes place during the third week in November. This is the oldest crop festival in South Africa having celebrated its 43rd anniversary in 2010. Every year, festival activities include cherry tours, a golf classic, a half marathon, cherry product competitions, veteran vehicle displays, equestrian events and beer fests. New exhibitions on the list include a food and wine fiesta. A 'ready, steady, bake' competition is always a firm favourite to watch as is the making of cherry mampoer (a South African moonshine). Well-known South African artists provide live entertainment and the festival itself is usually hosted by a national celebrity. Highlights of recent festivals include an appearance by the Soweto String Quartet and the Lipizzaner horses from Johannesburg. Additional Reading For a first hand review of the Cherry Festival see: It's the Ficksburg Festival, my cherry! Please Note: Dates for this event to be confirmed. Related Pages:

BibberChill 2011 is expected to be held on Saturday 25 June and planning for the event is due to get underway at the beginning of next month. The annual Bibber Chill Festival is held in Smithfield, and has lots of entertainment lined up. This includes agricultural displays, motorcycle and bike events, competitions, and fun go-carting. There will also be an art exhibition during the festival. Come and join in the fun and experience what this wonderful small town offers. Contact: Lizette on

+27 (0)82 562-3256 Please Note: Dates for this event to be confirmed.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Food Festival presents a wonderful food, cheese and wine experience. With over 300 exhibitors and several food presentations and shows including wine and whisky tasting, wine and food pairing and whisky and cheese pairing. This festival will increase your knowledge with loads of interesting facts about food, wine and cheese presented by well-known celebrity chefs. From traditional to contemporary cuisine, to food flavours from around the world including: India, Thai, German, Austrian and many others. You will be able to enjoy magnificent South African wines from the top wine farms in the country. You can participate in the 'Potjiekos' competition or enjoy a traditional Sunday lunch 'Spitbraai'. A Kids Zone and festival playground is available so bring the kids along for a family day out. Venue: DF Malherbe School Grounds, Walmer Park, Port Elizabeth

A fun filled event with loads of family entertainment. The 3 days will be packed with lots of activity, during the day we are going to have games and family competitions, arts and craft stalls, food stalls, picnic area, comedy, poetry and lots more. In the evening there will be braais, a beer tent, live music performances by local artists like Camagu, Kaya, Hoshea, Ozone and many more. This is definitely one of the most exciting events in the Eastern Cape, and the moral fibre leading to the conceptualization of the event is a clear objective of restoring values and moral regeneration; bringing the young and old in an atmosphere conducive to the restoration of character, human dignity, family values, happiness and joy. Do not miss out on this one of a kind event, it promises to inspire romance and laughter! Contact For more information please contact Nosipho Tungata. Telephone +27 (0)73 698-7778

This is one event not to be missed! Enjoy the SA Navy Band Dry Dock Concert in the evening and then spend the rest of the weekend watching the naval display. There will be so much in the way of activities that we recommend booking your bed in Simon's Town ASAP! There will be various events in the main arena that both young and old will find entertaining. Some of the standard attractions to look forward to during the festival include: South African Navy ships and submarines will be open for public viewing, Tug rides, flea market, children's activities, Gun Run Display, Navy Band performance, SA Navy Precision Drill, ship boarding display by the Maritime Reaction Squadron, Lynx & Oryx Helicopters display, live cannon firings, South African Navy diving display, Dry Dock concert, Right of Entry Parade through Simon's Town, Navy Choir performance, Night Gunnery Shoot and more... Entrance to the festival is free and gates will open daily at 10am until 6pm. Bring your families and have fun with all the Navy personnel! Information kindly supplied by The Grosvenor Guest House - The Grosvenor Guest House offers a relaxed and beautiful environment to the discerning traveller. A choice of executive, luxury guest house or self catering accommodation in a relaxed and secure environment with the most spectacular views of the ocean and the South African Naval Base. Related Pages:

Mischa Wine Estate only opens its doors to the public once a year! The time is coming from 10:00 to 19:00 on March 16-18 for you to join us for a luxurious day in Wellington. Kick-back in a Moroccan tent with cushions and stunning views. Chill out to relaxing music and taste the internationally acclaimed Mischa Estate & Eventide wines. Tantalize your taste buds with delicious local food. Special kids area & food! Swim in crystal-clear idyllic fresh-water pool and set off on adventures such as tractor rides through the vineyards. Vertical tastings & wine club member events – Bookings essential! Win fabulous prizes all day from Mischa & local sponsors. End your day by watching the sunset over Table Mountain while sipping on Mischa's famous, refreshing wine cocktails. We will be selling raffle tickets and having a Golf Ball hitting competition to raise money for our charity (PETS – Pets Empowerment in Townships)! Invite all your friends and come on out - We can't wait to see you! And if you want explore Wellington, why not stay a night or two at Misha Estate. Contact: Telephone: +27 (0)21 864-1020

During this weekend the people of Wellington invite guests from all over the country to come and experience Wellington. Good food, fine wine, and superb entertainment. Come and join in the fun and experience Wellington. Visitors can purchase tickets via Computicket which provides you with a wine tasting glass and an entry arm band pass. The pass will allow you free wine tasting at

participating cellars through out the weekend. Thereafter it works on a pay-as-you-go system with many of the activities for free. Be there when the heart of the Cape Winelands is transformed into a one-stop venue for non-stop fun, including outdoor activities, potjiekos competitions, grape stomping, cellar visits and much more. Enter the 365 competition and you could be the winner of 365 bottles of wine for each day of the year! Tickets: R80 per person (under 18's enter free) Venues: Wellington's surrounding wine farms Contact: Peter on +27 (0)21 864-2479 for more information.

Out in Africa was launched in 1994 to celebrate the inclusion, in the South Africa Constitution, of the clause prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. It's now Africa's biggest Gay and Lesbian film festival. The triple Oscar nominee Albert Nobbs will première at this film festival. Glenn Close received her sixth Oscar nomination for her role as a woman passing as a man in order to work and survive in 19th Century Ireland. Janet McTeer, nominated as Best Supporting Actress, also has a cross-dressing role, and the film is up for Best Makeup. Rising star Mia Wasikowska (Alice in Wonderland, Jane Eyre) is the love interest. The director Rodrigo Garcia, son of the Nobel Prize winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, is an Emmy-nominee. The Festival will host three international guests, Lead actress and producer Dreyja Weber, Swedish actor and producer Josefine Tengblad and Belgian director Bavo Defurne. Soweto-born Fanney Tsimong is also a guest of the festival as the writer and director of The Secret (Imfihlo). The guests will present the following interesting films 'A Marine Story', which has won 16 major awards, 'The Gymnast', 'Kyss Mig' (Kiss Me), 'North Sea Texas' which was named Best Feature Début at the Montreal World Film Festival and won the Fipresci International Press Award and 'The Secret' which will play with two South African short films: 'Anders' by Werner Coetzee and Mthokozisi Lembethe's 'Paving Forward'. Other festival highlights include: • the award-winning, wickedly funny British film 9 Dead Gay Guys - the queer flick Guy Ritchie should have made... • Christopher and His Kind, a lush drama and the real story of Christopher Isherwood's Berlin, fabric of the cult classic Cabaret • The award-winning Chilean My Last Round, an exquisite South American sleeper in the fashion of the runaway hit Undertow • German must see Romeos, a trendy, unconventional and very contemporary take on the issues facing queer teens. Venue: Nu Metro V&A Waterfront Tickets: R48 - but there are lots of concessions available - Clicks, Metropolitan, NuM OAPs and half-price Wednesdays for Fanatics.

Come and join us at the Zigzag Farm Family Country Fair in the Shongweni Valley every last Sunday of the month! It's the place to be for meeting and greeting, shopping and eating - we have it all! On offer: beautiful arts and crafts for those special occasion presents, a variety of gifts for yourself and your home, clothing, shoes, books, aromatherapy, lovely goodies for the garden and from the garden, preserves, nuts and dried fruits, confectionaries and baked delights, biltong, fresh herbs and the list goes on and on! We also have delicious takeaways galore, wonderful coffees, locally brewed beers and locally produced wines. Entertainment: live music, and for the kids, clowns / facepainters / balloon twisters, jumping castle, zorba balls and ponies. We are a family fair - so bring along your dogs too! R5 cover charge is donated to animal welfare organisations. Follow the boards from Hillcrest / Assagay, Kassier Road Time: 9am - 3pm.

TBC Tues-Sun R180 buy one get one free! Wed-Sat ticket cost is R135p/p Why Go Dreaming of an island getaway? Want to relive your greatest beach party ever? This is the show for you! From The Beach Boys to Katy Perry, Mango Groove to Beyoncé, Grease to Maroon 5 (to name but a few) - this fun show has it all. Read more: http://www.southafrica.info/event_calendar/results.htm?eventID=35854#ixzz2jkcQFTJo

It doesn't matter if you are an avid birder or if you are just starting out, but whatever you do make sure you take part in the annual Sappi BirdLife South Africa's Birding Big Day. The event takes place all around the country and you can event take part in it in your own garden. The event is fun and competitive but it also raises much needed funds for BirdLife South Africa's important bird conservation work. Count the birds in your garden or go to your favourite birding spot. There are plenty of great prizes to be won as well as several lucky draw prizes. So don't miss out.

Join the folk in the delightful town of Malmesbury and celebrate the start of the Festive Season in the swartland at this annual community event. Enjoy the street parade of local brassband, head off

to the Town Hall for carols and gospel performances and celebrate the "switching on" of the Christmas lights in the main street. Christmas shopping can be done at a variety of stalls at the Christmas Market offering gifts, home-baked goods and a variety of products. The market is open from from 15h00 until 22h00.

Starry eyed lovers, epicures, champagne aficionados, merry-makers, curiosity cats and anyone who simply loves the good life will be heading to Franschhoek for this "Magic of Bubbles" festival. The culinary capital of South Africa has a dazzling array of outstanding eateries. Restaurants will compile special menus to complement the bubbly, so come along and awaken your senses with the Valley's outstanding cuisine. A shopper's seventh heaven, Franschhoek's stylish boutiques will entice festive-season shoppers! Of course bubbly in all its guises will be on sale throughout the festivities, a perfect Christmas gift. Spend the Champagne festival weekend popping corks, filling flutes, sipping vivacious bubbly and snacking on delicacies prepared by some of the valley's gourmet masterminds. Telephone: 021 876 2861 Venue: Franschhoek Monument, Franschhoek

Whisky-Lovers, whether connoisseurs or occasional sippers of a dram or two, are looking forward to the FNB Whisky Live Festival held at the Sandton Convention Centre on 9-11 November 2011. Introduced five years ago, the festival has quickly become the largest consumer whisky show in the world. Featuring more than 180 top brands, some of them new releases, from Scotland, Ireland, the US, Canada, Wales, Japan, and South Africa. Whisky is progressively becoming the drink of-choice for adults in the 40-45 year age group, says Sian Neubert, co-founder of NC Connect, the company that organises the South African event. There is an international trend, with whisky festivals being held in London, Paris, New York, Belgium and Tokyo. South Africa, however, is leading the way, with the Whisky Live Festival being the world's largest consumer show. With the industry sending its distillers, master blenders and global brand ambassadors to present the whisky tasting workshops and give consumers a chance to meet the faces behind the brands, the festival promises to be as informative as it is entertaining. Scottish, American and Irish brands remain the most well-known. But whiskies of the world from as far afield as Japan and Wales are beginning to feature, too. Festival visitors have 15 one hour whisky tasting workshops from which to choose. Hosted by international master distillers, global brand ambassadors, and whisky experts, they are a chance to taste whiskies not available in the main tasting hall or possibly South Africa. These lectures will run during the festival and be held in meeting rooms that hold 60 people. Schweppes Royal Mixing Zone Schweppes will facilitate the Schweppes Royal mixing zone where visitors can learn how to mix various Whisky-Based Schweppes cocktails. Contact Person: Sian Neubert Telephone: 012 460 7579 Times: 18h00 - 22h00 Venue: Sandton Convention Centre

'Exclusivity', 'prestige' and 'ultimate indulgence' are just some of the expressions that come to mind when a selection of more than 150 of South Africa's finest wines come together with the sole purpose of going under the hammer at this year's annual Nederburg Auction at Nederburg in Paarl on September 16 and 17. Incredibly, the majority of SA's 18 official wine routes will be represented when Anthony Barne MW, the London-based auctioneer from Bonhams, sells off a collection of the country's most prized liquid assets to local and international wine buyers, including supermarket retailers, liquor licensees, restaurant owners, food and beverage buyers for hotels, guesthouses and game lodges. The original five producers, who have participated on every auction since 1975, are again represented. They are Delheim, Groot Constantia, Overgaauw and Simonsig, and, of course, Nederburg. Debuting alongside these stalwarts and other of the country's finest producers are newcomers Ataraxia, JP Bredell Wines, Capaia, Deetlefs Familie, De Morgenzon, De Reuck, Fryer's Cove, Orange River Cellars and Perdeberg Winery.

Gauteng's wine aficionados will not want to miss this event, taking place 17-18 September 2011. So make a plan to take a scenic drive to the spectacular Kloofzicht Lodge and indulge in fine wines, delectable cuisine and good old fashioned hospitality. Description: Key exhibitors at this festival of good taste include Excelsior, Rietvallei, Roberson Winery, Rooiberg Winery, Weltevrede, Zandvliet, Major's Hill and Van Loveren. Welcome spring in grand style! For more information visit Robertson Wine Valley Website.

True jazz lovers will have the opportunity to see some of the country's greatest jazz talents in action

during the annual Plett Festival (previously known as the Whiskey, Whales & Jazz Festival) in Plettenberg Bay from 18-26 September. The festival has been expanded this year to a week-long celebration featuring whiskey tastings, superb jazz performances and spectacular whale safaris as well as loads of sporting opportunities. Bitou Tourism offices on 044-533 4065

Oscar-nominated rising star James Franco (Milk, 127 Hours, Rise of Planet of the Apes) stars as Beat Generation poet Allan Ginsberg in *Howl*, the opening night film at this year's third and final edition of Out in Africa (OIA). Franco's career-defining role focuses on the Pulitzer Prize-nominee during his infamous public indecency trial. *Weeds'* Mary Louise Parker and *Mad Men's* Jon Hamm also feature alongside a host of familiar faces like Jeff Daniels (*Squid and The Whale*) and David Strathairn (*Good Night and Good Luck*). It's directed by legendary documentary filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, who have two Oscars, three Peabodies and multiple Emmy Awards between them. The African premières of a number of other high-profile films have already been confirmed. These include:

- *Pariah*, an unusual and accomplished African American lesbian coming-of-age story which won Best Cinematography at Sundance 2011, where it was also nominated for the Grand Jury Prize.
- *Heartbeats*, directed by and starring Canadian wizzkid Xavier Dolan (*I Killed My Mother*). This love triangle twist, which won the Youth Prize at Cannes International Film Festival, is about a fag, his hag and the boy they both want.
- *Room in Rome*, a steamy lesbian one-night stand romance from acclaimed Spanish director Julio Medem (*Sex and Lucia*, *Lovers of the Arctic Circle*).
- *Gun Hill Road*, a Sundance Grand Jury Prize nominee about an ex-con who returns home to the Bronx and a really queer son. The San Francisco Chronicle called it "gritty, delicate, in your face and nuanced at the same time."
- *The Adonis Factor*, a candid documentary about Marys, martyrs to their muscles, and the gay fashion-facisti.
- *Going Down in La-La Land*, a riveting look at how to get ahead in Hollywood, based on Andy Zeffer's novel. It's directed by OIA favourite Caspar Andreas (*The Big Gay Musical*, *A Four Letter World*, *Slutty Summer*).
- *Heart Breaks Open*, directed by Billie Rain, tells the heartbreaking story of Jesus, a queer activist whose world implodes after discovering that he is HIV positive.
- The local documentaries *Breaking Out of the Box*, about successful black lesbians in South Africa, and *Whisper Not*, about triumphing over HIV.

Venue: Nu Metro V&A Waterfront Tickets: R45 - but there are lots of concessions available - Clicks, Metropolitan, OAPs and half-price Wednesdays for Fanatics.

Tractor-trailer and donkey carts will take visitors on a tour around the town, visiting local shops, restaurants and studios, where there will be a variety of entertainment, activities and specials. There will be a craft market and food stalls on the municipal lawns in the center of town, and a children's entertainment area on the NG church lawns, with a jumping castle, games, face painting, etc. Other activities include: A parade with vintage cars, floats & motorbikes, a downhill soap-box cart race, a flower-arranging competition and auction, a beer tent with live entertainment, the Karoo Saloon potjie-kos competition finals, wine-tasting, luxury picnics at the Blue Cow, farm tours, and much more. Contact: Barrydale Information Office on +27 (0)28 572-1572

The North West Cultural Calabash takes place in the rural village of Taung, home of the famous Taung child skull found in the early 20th century. The North West Cultural Calabash is a multi-disciplined youth arts festival which include Local and District Selections, as well as a Provincial Festival held annually in the North West Province and culminating in the village of Taung and aimed at an adult audience. The Festival Coordinator on Tel: 018-384-4890.

Buy & Braai' at Laborie Lazy Days Market as part of the Heritage Day Celebrations and have chef, Duncan Doherty, do your braaing for you as you meander through the market. Description: Situated in the beautiful Paarl valley, less than an hour from Cape Town, this popular market offers loads of local goods and arts and crafts, as well as a variety of entertainment for the whole family. For more information, contact info@laboriewines.co.za

Uniondale to Knysna via the Prince Alfred's Pass 100 km offroad Race - Voted by Bicycling Magazine Readers as one of the top ten mountain bike races in South Africa. April 2007 edition Organised by the Lions Clubs of Knysna and Uniondale. In aid of Lions "SightFirst" for sight restoration operations for the poor.