



Text by Jana Leonard | Images © Abalone Hotel & Villas

Turn Your Summer into a Seaside Story

At Abalone Hotel & Villas

Summer on the West Coast has a special kind of magic. The long, golden days feel endless, the Atlantic sparkles under the sun, and the salty air seems to sweep the last of the city out of your system the moment you arrive. Two hours from Cape Town, in the quaint fishing village of Paternoster, lies Abalone Hotel & Villas – a boutique retreat that perfectly captures this mood. Here, summer isn’t something you simply watch unfold. It’s something you live.

Driving into Paternoster, past its iconic whitewashed cottages and wide, sandy beaches, you immediately sense why this town is so loved. Life slows down. Mornings start with a barefoot stroll along Gaatjies Beach or a paddle out on a kayak. Afternoons are for long lunches, gallery browsing, or a nap in the shade. And evenings? They're best spent with seafood and a glass of wine, watching the light soften over the ocean. Abalone Hotel & Villas is at the heart of this rhythm, offering guests not just a room, but a way of life.

The property itself is a blend of elegance and ease. Step inside and you'll find spaces designed with summer in mind: rooms and suites that open onto balconies, communal sunlit areas beside the two pools on the property, beach villas where the ocean is your soundtrack, and private patios that beg for late-afternoon lounging. Couples slip away to the Oyster Villa Seaview Suites, where sliding doors reveal private sunbeds and a serene pool just steps away. The Ocean View Beach Villas – perfect for groups – are perched right on Gaatjies Beach, with a private pool and hot tub welcoming the ocean's waves.

Friends gathering for festive season celebrations might choose the airy Penthouse Apartment, with its balcony and braai area, ideal for long, laughter-filled evenings. And for those seeking flexibility, the self-catering apartments offer all the comforts of home – only with the Atlantic on your doorstep.

Of course, summer holidays are as much about food as they are about sunshine, and Abalone takes this seriously. Mornings begin at Blues Restaurant, where breakfasts roll lazily into lunches – think West Coast mussels, seasonal salads, and line-caught fish plated with care. By the time evening arrives, the mood shifts effortlessly to something more celebratory. Whether it's crayfish you're after or something fresh like their Volcano Salad – beautifully prepared with fresh fish, black rice, and avocado – the menu feels made for summer appetites.

Just across the way, the Oyster Lounge serves up oysters and sushi alongside cocktails, making it the kind of place where you stop for a snack and end up staying until the sky turns pink.



And when you're not out exploring or lingering over a meal, Abalone makes it wonderfully easy to slow down. Spend the afternoon drifting between the two heated pools, slip into the jacuzzi just as the sun begins to set, or retreat to the Wellness Suite for a massage or facial that feels like the very definition of holiday indulgence. And if all you're after is a quiet moment to yourself,

the sauna and tucked-away courtyards offer the perfect excuse to stay put a little longer.

The beauty of a Paternoster summer is the balance it offers. Some days are made for adventure: kayaking along the coast, hiking through the Cape Columbine Nature Reserve, or wandering the nearby towns. Other days, the only choice you'll want to make is whether to head to the beach or

stretch out by the pool. Abalone is built for both moods – polished enough to feel indulgent, yet relaxed enough to let you unwind completely.

Perhaps the best part is how accessible it all is. A mere two-hour drive from Cape Town, the journey is easy enough for a weekend, yet rewarding enough for a longer holiday. Many guests make it part of a West Coast road trip – stopping in Langebaan or Darling along the way – before arriving in Paternoster, ready to sink into a slower pace. And with summer stretching ahead – from balmy October afternoons to festive season celebrations – there's never been a better time to plan the escape.

Picture this: the sun on your shoulders, the ocean breeze threading through your hair, and a glass of bubbly waiting alongside a platter of oysters at the Oyster Lounge, with nothing but calm stretching out before you. That's summer at Abalone Hotel & Villas, where the West Coast isn't just a destination – it's a state of mind.

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:

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ABOUT ABALONE HOTEL & VILLAS

A five-star boutique property on South Africa's West Coast, Abalone Hotel & Villas blends luxury with laid-back charm. With a range of rooms and villas, two on-site restaurants, spa and wellness facilities, heated pools, and direct beach access, it's the perfect base for a Paternoster holiday year-round.