

fourways • bryanston

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prizes

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for cooler months

meet  
fairlawns'  
**bel stanbury**  
and other fourways  
hoteliers

free

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june 2008



## bel stanbury

fairlawns boutique hotel & spa

'I'm a Durban girl and actually studied occupational therapy at the University of Cape Town. But after graduating I was attacked by the travel bug and began working at sea on cruise ships. This 'holiday job' became a mini-career as I stayed on ships and in the cruising industry for six years, working and travelling simultaneously. I've been really fortunate to have travelled extensively, all around the Med and Africa. One of my favourite places is the rose red city of Petra in Jordan. I enjoy scuba diving and my favourite spot is the Red Sea. But you can't live out of a suitcase forever! I've been general manager at Fairlawns since the beginning of the year. This elegant, exclusive hotel is a real hidden gem in the heart of Joburg. Many prominent businessmen tend to stay here, including the Disney family. The property used to be a private homestead and the owners, Anna and John Thacker, turned it into a boutique hotel. Anna is an interior designer and has individually designed the suites herself. The courtyard suites are themed (English Manor, Scottish, Swedish...) and the premier suites are based on characters in SA history. Another drawcard is our fabulous Balinese spa, which brings about a funny story.... We had a guest make a special request for one of our Koi fish in the spa garden. I explained that they weren't for sale. He then explained in broken English that he would like to have the koi fish prepared for his dinner. He was a little upset that we unfortunately couldn't accommodate his request! We did keep a very close eye on our pond for a few days... I don't have much time to relax - the hotel business is a 24 hour game! But I do enjoy visiting the theatres around Joburg, and diving when I'm at the coast, and I love it that every day is different in this industry. I work closely with our staff, and that's the best thing ... working with a dynamic team and being presented with new challenges every day.'

Alma Road, Morningside Manor. Details: 011-804-2540.

**Visit Fairlawns for...** 'Our Rose Terrace restaurant overlooking the beautiful gardens and sparkling pool is a romantic haven and a lovely spot for breakfast, lunch or dinner and the colonial bar and roaring fireplaces are a welcome sight in winter. Our spa is unusual in that we have a Balinese garden, as well as exotic signature treatments such as the Royal Bali Ritual - a floral footbath with acupressure foot massage - Bali Kopi which is a back exfoliation with a back massage, Thai herbal wrap and an aromatic facial (R1 450). We'll also be hosting a Father's Day lunch.' Visit [fairlawns.co.za](http://fairlawns.co.za) for details.'