

GOING GREEN

Virtuoso travel providers are taking the helm of **SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL** to help preserve our delicate environment.



Photos: Courtesy of Jaul's Lodge

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Flower power:
A protected
orchid blooms
in Peru.

Below: Elusive
Cape Mountain
leopards
spotted in
South Africa.

Orchid Orators

Peru's **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel** is home to some 372 native species of orchids – the largest single collection of indigenous species in their natural environment. So, it only seemed apropos that the hotel would host one of the largest conferences on orchid conservation and education. This past February, the world's most influential orchidologists and orchid specialists gathered at the hotel to view nearly 70 species in bloom and take part in a special workshop with celebrated orchid artist Angela Mirro. Since 1975, Inkaterra has pioneered programs aimed at preserving Peru's delicate environment. For instance, visitors staying at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel – which lies in the shadow of the ancient citadel – enjoy 100 percent carbon neutral stays. Virtuoso guests also receive a room upgrade on arrival, if available; breakfast included in rates; upgraded welcome kit; and, for suites, a complimentary foot massage. *For up-to-the-minute pricing, contact your Virtuoso travel advisor.*

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

As if **Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat** in South Africa needed further proof of its invaluable conservation efforts, this rare Cape Mountain leopard and her cub were recently photographed while roaming the area. The stationary camera is one of several set up by the nonprofit Cape Leopard Trust. As part of its ongoing support for the Trust, Bushmans Kloof sponsored ten global positioning satellite collars, which help provide invaluable data on these elusive and enigmatic felines. Dedicated to preserving and protecting its indigenous wildlife, the retreat harbors a host of rare or endangered species of birds and mammals, including one of the world's largest protected herds of Cape Mountain zebra. What's more, this Relais & Châteaux property boasts more than 130 sites of Bushman rock-art, which are accessible only to resident guests, archaeologists, and researchers. Virtuoso guests also enjoy a room upgrade on arrival, if available; all meals included in rates; picnic for two at a private location; two complimentary logo caps and treats upon departure; and early check-in, if available. *From ZAR1,805 (approx. US\$264) per person, per night.*

