

A NIGHT AT CHALKLEY'S



Overlooking the rapidly darkening bush from my lofty position at the Chalkley Treehouse, a glass of chilled wine in my hand and a scrumptious, tapas-style dinner laid out before me, I literally have to pinch myself. Scattered along the wooden stairway and upper platform, paraffin lamps cast a romantic glow over the furnishings, which consist of a table and chairs, sitting sacks, nightstands and a double bed that's lavishly adorned with cushions and mosquito netting.

Behind the safety door is an enclosed bathroom. Other than that, there are no walls or windows. There isn't even a roof: only a clear, full moon in a sky strewn with stars and smudges of cosmic dust.

There isn't a soul in sight either: just the wildlife people come to see at Lion Sands. River Lodge is 4,5km away and the two-way radio left on the nightstand is my only means of communicating with the world.

Apart from the sound of rutting impalas echoing across the darkness, and the roaring of lions during the night, it's also absolutely quiet. This is surely the bush at its best.

www.lionsands.com – **Fransje van Riel**



ALL SO EIGHTYATE

EightyAte, the new restaurant at Cape Town's Hollow Boutique Hotel is located in the heart of the city opposite the Company Gardens, the iZiko South African Museum and the National Art Gallery – and the handmade oak tables, charging stations for laptops and bright, open space make it perfect for a productive (or lazy) afternoon.

But the contemporary restaurant (the work of interior designers Hilary Brotherton and Leonore Kruger) is ideal for dinner too. Like the decor, the seasonal menu is essentially simple and each dish is paired with a recommended wine sourced from local farms. And because a "La Verre de Vin" system is used to remove oxygen before resealing open bottles, you can order any wine by the glass.

For starters, go with the Caprese salad (with Villiera Starlight Brut) or the salmon gravlax (with Vondeling Chardonnay). For mains, have the line fish (with Iona Sauvignon Blanc) or a *moskonfyt* bobotie phyllo pocket (with Grangehurst Pinotage). And for dessert, enjoy the berry bliss (with Vondeling Sweet Carolyn Noble Late Harvest) or a warm chocolate brownie (with Catherine Marshall Myriad Port).

"I love the way food brings people together and makes them happy," says chef Sunette Kruger, who began her culinary career with a Bachelor's degree in consumer science, followed by a stint in product development.

"If you use the finest ingredients and you cook with passion, you can't go wrong." She certainly doesn't. 88 Queen Victoria St, Gardens. 021 423 1260. reservations@capetownhollow.co.za; www.capetownhollow.co.za – **Eugene Yiga**



BACK IN TIME To celebrate 40 years of design, Tumi has released a commemorative collection called 1975, its founding year. The range is inspired by the cowhide leather which Tumi imported from South America in the early years of production. We love its look, quality and vintage feel! Each piece has a limited-edition number embossed on it. www.tumi.com

Fashion Forward

Local fashion designer Desirée Jearey of the label Desray creates a mix of chic garments for women with an eye for beautiful clothes. Basic, yet stylish pieces – the backbone of the collection – translate into a trouble-free wardrobe.

Jearey on best travel basics: "Assembling a capsule wardrobe for travelling is like creating a fashion puzzle. If a garment doesn't go with two or more items, it doesn't come with me. The core is a black or white vest, a denim shirt (casual, but you can make it look smart), a blazer or a coat. And I always pack a good pair of jeans (boyfriend or skinny, but not one with distressed patches or holes)."

On accessories: "When space is tight, choose only one handbag. It needs to be tan-coloured so that it goes with anything. I like a bucket-shaped bag that can be worn on your arm or slung over your shoulder. Pack a scarf, which is like the scatter cushion of a wardrobe. It breaks any solid black outfit and keeps you cosy on a plane. Don't go overboard with jewellery: pack a pair of statement earrings or a necklace and avoid rings, since they can hook on clothes and your fingers can swell while you're travelling."

On packing: "Pack shoes at the bottom of your case and don't take too many pairs. Ankle boots are ideal, as they can be worn with skirts, shirt-dresses and skinny jeans. And always leave a bit of space in your suitcase for shopping. Even if you're not intending to, once you're abroad, you shop!" www.desray.co.za – **Helen Clemson**

