

On the ROCKS



There's a stereotype about Cape Town residents being reluctant to drive anywhere further than 20 minutes away, which, to anyone from Johannesburg, is considered just around the corner. That's why, when I told my friends I'd be going to Simon's Town for the weekend, they expressed sympathy for me having to go so far.

Eugene Yiga was a guest of Tintswalo at Boulders. For more information or to book a stay, go to tintswalo.com.

Yet, I was more than happy to make the half-hour trip to Tintswalo at Boulders. Given its location in Simon's Town, the main base of the South African Navy, it's not surprising that this villa takes its inspiration from the sea. If that wasn't peaceful enough, Tintswalo means 'the intangible feeling of love, warmth and gratitude you bestow upon someone who has given you a worthy and meaningful gift'.

Each of the villa's nine double suites is named after famous ships from history. I stayed in the Drommedaris, named after one of three 17th-Century ships that carried Jan van Riebeeck and his party to the southern tip of South Africa. With its large private balcony, sweeping views of the ocean, and direct access to the pool area, it was the perfect place to enjoy an afternoon of drinking wine and staring at the sea.

Small, private hotel is surrounded by magnificent landscapes and historic towns



Although the villa was created when two adjacent houses became one, it retains a sense of privacy. And while some suites have better bathrooms and others have better views, they all feel secluded from each other, accessed via a labyrinth of corridors and stairs so that you don't have to worry about bumping into other guests.

Of course, there's also an option to book out the entire place for your group, which could work best for a corporate retreat, with executives strategising around the fire pit in the central courtyard, or for a family getaway. There's a separate room for kids, with colourful decorations and more toys than they'll know what to do

with, as well as a TV room where you can watch movies or sport together as a group.

Heritage all around

The hotel operates on a bed and breakfast basis, so there's not much to do at the villa itself. Instead, it is a superb base from which to explore the area. A short drive north will bring you to Kalk Bay (which *Forbes* magazine named as one of the coolest neighbourhoods

Inside or outside the hotel, visitors are surrounded by beauty.

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The number of New Jersey governors appointed within the space of eight days in 2002.

2,000

The number of serial killers thought to be active in the USA.

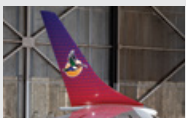


The locals are happy to share their beach with you, as long as you behave yourself.

in the world), and beyond that, the surfer's paradise that is Muizenberg. And not far to the south is the Cape Point Nature Reserve, which is the perfect place to take a hike, spot small game and birds and appreciate the rugged beauty of the place.

There's also Simon's Town itself, the third-oldest town in South Africa (after Cape Town and Stellenbosch), named after Simon van der Stel, an early governor of the Cape Colony. It's the home of several museums as well as Mineral World (South Africa's oldest gemstone store) and the False Bay Yacht Club, which hosts regular regattas. There's also the gorgeous Boulders Beach, easily accessed via the villa's private gate. It is home to a resident colony of endangered African penguins that are happy to go about their lives without much care for all the visitors who can't stop marvelling at how cute they are.

How to get there



Airlink connects Cape Town with destinations across southern Africa. Go to page 35 for schedules. www.flyairlink.com/flightschedule

Feed your soul

Whatever you choose, be it hiking or kayaking, it's good to know that fuelling up for the day isn't a problem. Because there's no point in having a massive buffet where so much goes to waste, Tintswalo at Boulders serves each course individually. That means starting with muesli, yoghurt and fresh fruit, before moving on to either a cold breakfast (meats, cheeses, salmon, and so on) that's ideal for sharing, and/or a hot one (think crispy bacon, eggs and sausages).

For lunch and dinner, there are several seaside restaurants nearby and, if you're renting the entire hotel, there's the option of a private chef to cater to your needs. You can also order in, bearing in mind that food delivery services (and ride-hailing apps) take a while to



reach this quiet corner of the world. You're unlikely to mind, because it's difficult to feel like you're in a rush in such a peaceful place. Unless you're heading out on the town, the only thing on the evening agenda might be lounging around in a fluffy hotel gown and catching up on TV shows.

Fall asleep to the sound of the ocean and wake up to the warm seaside sun. It's things like this that make somewhere so close feel so far, far away.

Text | **Eugene Yiga** Photography | **Sergey Uryadnikov, Supplied**