



A Seat at the Table

With new resorts and a booming cultural scene, Cape Town prepares to welcome the world.

BY ELIZABETH WOODSON

GO FOR All eyes will be on Cape Town next June when the **FIFA World Cup** touches down, but there's still plenty to see before then, thanks to the city's creative and culinary scenes, which define modern South African style. Summer in Cape Town kicks off with the **OBZfestival** (December 4 through 6), South Africa's largest street fair, with open-air concerts, art installations, and crafts markets in the nearby suburb of Observatory. **Design Indaba Expo** (February 26 through 28, 2010) is the largest gathering of South

African designers in one place. Foodies will love **Taste of Cape Town** (April 2 through 5, 2010), a food-and-wine extravaganza that showcases the city's best chefs.

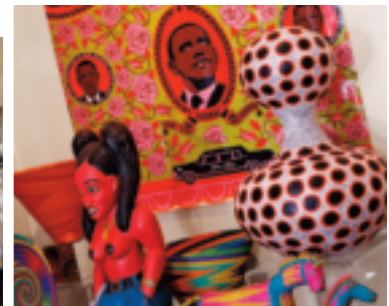
EAT The elaborate menu at the Camps Bay-situated **Roundhouse** (The Glen; 27-21/438-4347) melds the Cape's various influences - Malay, Afrikaans, African - into such dishes as eland fillet topped with chocolate sauce. For a more casual experience, try South Africa's version of tapas (think ostrich meatballs in chutney) at cozy **Fork** (84 Long Street; 27-21/424-6334). A short drive away in Stellenbosch (part of Cape Town's abutting wine region), Laurence Graff has opened **Delaire** (27-21/885-8160), a restaurant and tasting room on his wine estate with seasonal cuisine and works by some of the country's top artists.

DRINK For a bit of the south of France in South Africa, head to **The Grand Café** (35 Victoria Road; 27-21/438-4253), a scene-y beachfront café and bar à la Saint-Tropez's Nikki Beach. **Caveau Wine Bar & Deli** (92 Bree Street; 27-21/422-1367) offers an unpretentious vibe, a great selection of meats and cheeses, and an extensive menu of wines by the glass. Beer and bar food get a decided upgrade at **Brewers & Union** (110 Bree Street; 27-21/422-2770), with German microbrews on tap and charcuterie in place of peanuts.

SHOP Everyone from artisan cheesemakers to jewelers sets up shop for the eclectic Saturday morning market at **The Old Biscuit Mill** (375 Albert Road; 27-21/462-6361) in the industrial neighborhood of Woodstock. Tap into Cape Town's creative side at colorful **Waterkant district** boutiques: Don't miss **Africa Nova** (72 Waterkant Street; 27-21/425-5123) for modern tribal furnishings or the incredible selection of beans from the continent at **Origin Coffee Roasting** (28 Hudson Street; 27-21/421-1000).

STAY The **One&Only Cape Town** embodies all the glamour you've come to expect of the jet-set resorts: a tony Victoria and Alfred Waterfront address, sleek Adam Tihany-designed interiors, and a spa on its own island - not to mention Table Mountain views from all 131 rooms (doubles from \$881, including breakfast and a 50-minute spa treatment). The recently renovated **Cape Grace** features 121 charming waterfront rooms with handpainted fabrics and artisan glass- and metalwork (doubles from \$736, including breakfast, a bottle of wine, and a 30-minute massage). **The Ellerman House** also promotes all things South Africa - albeit in a more intimate setting overlooking Bantry Bay. Staying at the stylish 13-room mansion is like staying with a well-heeled relative: Guests have full run of the house, whether they want to raid the larder at midnight or stroll through the gardens (doubles from \$521, including breakfast and a bottle of Champagne).

Clockwise from top: The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, Africa Nova, Delaire, The Old Biscuit Mill, and One&Only Cape Town.



(WATERFRONT) GRÄFENHAIN GÜNTER/SIME/ESTOCK PHOTO. (THE OLD BISCUIT MILL, DELAIRE, AND AFRICA NOVA) DOOK