

Cape ETC South Africa – September 2007



Country Treat

This 300-year-old Cape Dutch homestead, 25 minutes from town, has the feeling of a spot with a story to tell – a window covered with names carved into the glass by several generations of women using the diamonds of their engagement rings is one example. But it's not all antiquity, the interior is a clever mix of updated aged (think antique bedposts painted silver) credited to Simon Olding, who owns Hawksmoor House with partner Mark Borrie. The worldly-wise and down-to-earth Maïke Harms runs the guest house and her husband, Jonathan, sees to wine production (enjoy their easy-drinking Chenin Blanc or Pinotage with dinner). Each of the four en-suite rooms (they're restoring other cottages to increase this number to 16) have deep baths, comfy beds, iPod docking stations and private terraces – there's also the option of an in-room massage. The communal spaces, with their saavy but not overly serious air, lend themselves to entertaining. You can use the farm-style kitchen – help yourself to herbs or veggies from the garden – but there's superb home cooking on offer. Dinner for 20 people and accommodation for 10 make this an ideal spot for reconnecting with friends. The only whisper of the city is the iconic silhouetted table top in the distance, so you're absolutely sure to unwind. Winter rates R550 per couple. Matjieskull Farm, Klipheuwel Road, Stellenbosch. Book online: reservations@hawksmoor.co.za, www.hawksmoor.co.za