

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH US

JULY | AUGUST 2016

# VIRTUOSO LIFE



## Cape Town Cool

{Eat, shop, and beach it like a local}



AMSTERDAM  
BY BIKE

OUR GUIDE TO THE  
FRENCH RIVIERA

10 TRIPS  
OF A LIFETIME



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# INSIDER'S CAPE TOWN

Once again, South Africa claimed a top 10 spot on our Travel Dreams Survey — no doubt due to its buzzed-about southern star. Here, six top hoteliers reveal where they sun and have fun in the Mother City.

*Interviewed by Sarah Khan*

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From far left: Twelve Apostles Hotel's oceanfront perch and Leopard Bar, and the "bathing boxes" on Muizenberg Beach.

## TWELVE APOSTLES HOTEL & SPA



### Michael Nel

After working his way up the hospitality-industry ladder in the UK, Nel returned to his native South Africa in 2014 to helm the 70-room oceanfront Twelve Apostles on Camps Bay.

- **DON'T LEAVE OUR HOTEL WITHOUT ...**  
Enjoying Cape Town's best sunset view with a strawberry daiquiri in **The Leopard Bar**.
- **IF YOU ONLY HAVE TIME FOR ONE ACTIVITY ...**  
See the area by **motorcycle sidecar**. A recommended route: the Victoria & Alfred

***"Handcrafted coasters from Original T Bag Designs' Hout Bay studio make great souvenirs. The arts workshop grew out of a project to help the local Imizamo Yethu community."***



Waterfront via Camps Bay, through Hout Bay and over Chapman's Peak. Stop for a drink at one of the vantage points and continue on to Kalk Bay for lunch at **Harbour House Restaurant** (Kalk Bay Harbour). Return to the city via Muizenberg. I guarantee that you'll fall in love with Cape Town!

- **BEST BEACH:**  
**Llandudno** has perfect white sand and great waves for body surfing.
- **ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST:**  
Paris, New York City, and Tanzania's **Grumeti Reserve**.



## TAJ CAPE TOWN



### Sanjay Sood

A newcomer to Cape Town, Sood arrived at the 176-room downtown hotel in April and is excited to introduce others to the city – especially its innovative cuisine and nearby Winelands.

● **FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF CAPE TOWN:**  
Exciting, international, clean, and warm.

● **FAVORITE DISCOVERIES SO FAR:**  
The Good Company Farmers' Market in Company's Garden (19 Queen Victoria Street), and Bree Street, Cape Town's gourmet go-to.

● **NEIGHBORHOOD I SHOW VISITING FRIENDS:**  
Trendy Woodstock, especially The Woodstock Exchange (66-68 Albert Road) and The Old Biscuit Mill's Saturday Neighbourgoods Market (375 Albert Road) for local designers.

● **IF YOU ONLY HAVE TIME FOR ONE ACTIVITY ...**  
Ascend **Table Mountain** – it's one of the world's new seven wonders of nature for a reason.

● **SOUVENIR FIND:**  
A pinotage from Tokara vineyards (Route 310) in Stellenbosch.

● **ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST:**  
Namibia, Turkey, and South Africa's Garden Route.



***"Start your stay at our hotel with a walking tour led by our in-house city specialist – the perfect way to get oriented in the historic Central Business District."***



Clockwise from left: A view of Table Mountain from the Taj, shopping The Woodstock Exchange, and a coffee break at Neighbourgoods Market.

(TAJ CAPE TOWN: THE WOODSTOCK EXCHANGE, NEIGHBOURGOODS MARKET, KLOOF STREET, AND POT LUCK CLUB) DOOK





From top: Kloof Street, Pot Luck Club's interior and Thai lamb shank, and the Belmont Mount Nelson.

● **DON'T LEAVE OUR HOTEL WITHOUT ...**

Enjoying the **Chef's Table** experience for lunch or dinner. The playful, slightly edgy, and theatrical interactive culinary encounter takes place at a table in the kitchen.

● **RESTAURANTS NOT TO MISS:**

**Chef's Warehouse** (92 Bree Street) for its casual style and ever-changing menu of small plates, and **The Kitchen** (111 Sir Lowry Road) for healthy breakfasts or salads and sandwiches at lunch. I also love the seven-hour slow-roasted leg of lamb with bacon and garlic at **Black Sheep** (104 Kloof Street) – note that it serves six and requires 72 hours' advance notification.

● **GREAT FOR A DRINK:**

**Straight No Chaser** (47-49 Greatmore Street) has excellent live jazz.

● **NEIGHBORHOOD I SHOW VISITING FRIENDS:**

**Kloof Street** is lined with the best of local designs, galleries, crafts, restaurants, collectibles, and coffee shops.

It's always vibrant, trendy, and inspirational.

**BELMOND MOUNT NELSON**



**Xavier Lablaude**

Frenchman Lablaude brings with him decades of experience from hotels across France and the U.S. He loves the energy of the historic 198-room property in the heart of the city.

● **SOUVENIR FIND:**

One look at **Wonki Ware** pottery and you'll see why it's totally different – it's, well, wonky, and it has a great story. The studios are in George, but you find it locally at **Blink** (71 Regent Road).

● **WHERE YOU'LL LIKELY FIND ME FOR BRUNCH:**

The **Pot Luck Club** (373-375 Albert Road) for its relaxed ambience and *that view*.

● **ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST:**

Ethiopia, **Antarctica**, and gorilla trekking in the Congo.

***“To feel like a true Capetonian, attend a rugby game at Newlands Stadium or visit the weekend Milnerton Flea Market.”***



## CAPE GRACE



## Sandy Pollard

Pollard held executive positions in industries as wide-ranging as mining, retail, and telecommunications before joining the 120-room Cape Grace, an elegant grande dame presiding over the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, in 2011.



### ● DON'T LEAVE OUR HOTEL WITHOUT ...

Trying **Signal Restaurant's** tasting menu: seven absolutely delicious courses of contemporary Cape cuisine paired with local wines.

### ● RESTAURANTS NOT TO MISS: **The Codfather** (37 The Drive) for seafood from heaven and

**The Butcher Shop & Grill** (125 Beach Road) for delicious aged steaks.

### ● TO FEEL LIKE A TRUE CAPETONIAN ...

Hit the **Sea Point promenade**. It's the best spot to go for a run or a quiet stroll, and afterward you can reward yourself with a gelato – guilt free.

### ● BEST BEACH:

**Llandudno Beach** is a real gem. It's usually a lot quieter than the rest of the beaches in Cape Town and is absolutely beautiful.

### ● ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST: Tanzania, Norway for the **northern lights**, and the Maldives – again.



***"My secret for a great night out: Take in a film at the Pink Flamingo Rooftop Cinema. Don't tell anyone!"***



Clockwise from top: Llandudno Beach, Signal Restaurant at Cape Grace, and The Codfather's sushi.

● **DON'T LEAVE OUR HOTEL WITHOUT ...**

A visit to the One&Only Spa, followed by some **pool time**.

● **RESTAURANTS NOT TO MISS:**

**La Colombe** at Silvermist Wine Estate (Main Road) has a wonderful setting on top of Constantia Nek and great nighttime views over Cape Town as you arrive and depart. And you can't go wrong with

either location of **Harbour House Restaurant** – choose Kalk Bay (Kalk Bay Harbour) for the best sea views and waves crashing on the rocks; the Victoria & Alfred Water-front location (Quay 4) is more convenient and has a lively but sophisticated atmosphere.

● **LOCAL SECRET:**

The wineries and farms around **Constantia** and the southern

suburbs are the best! The area is only 20 minutes from downtown, but it's another world.

● **BEST BEACH:**

**Noordhoek** is a beautiful long beach with crystal-clear water and great surfing – but the water is *freezing*.

● **ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST:**

Bequia in the Grenadines, Saigon, and **Marrakech**.

**ONE&ONLY  
CAPE TOWN**



**Richard Lyon**

Lyon's globe-trotting hotel career has taken him to London, Paris, Saint Lucia, India, the U.S., Hungary, and the Middle East. He took the reins of Cape Town's glamorous 131-room One&Only last year.



***“Head out to Cape Point and return by way of Boulders Beach to see the penguins.”***



**Clockwise from top: Meet the Boulders Beach locals, bathing rituals at One&Only, Noordhoek Beach, and South Africa's oldest wine estate, Groot Constantia.**





Clockwise from top left: Ellerman House and where you'll find its GM for tapas, coffee, traditional South African dishes, and a drink.



## ELLERMAN HOUSE



### Ella Cuyler

A veteran of luxe lodges and hotels across southern Africa, Cuyler has overseen the opulent 13-room, two-villa Ellerman House in Bantry Bay since 2012.

● **DON'T LEAVE OUR HOTEL WITHOUT ...**  
Trying the **Dom Pérignon Experience**, a tasting for two that pairs a bottle of Dom with a bento box of South African dishes from our executive chef.

● **RESTAURANTS NOT TO MISS:**  
**The Test Kitchen** (375 Albert Road) tops my list – book well in advance as the waiting period is a couple of months. I always recommend **The Village Idiot** (32 Loop Street) to friends wanting to try true South African food. **Chalk & Cork** (51 Kloof Street) is a go-to favorite: They have great tapas, the menu frequently changes,

and they pour some of the country's top wines.

● **GREAT FOR A DRINK:**  
Small and intimate rooftop bar **Tjing-Tjing** (165 Longmarket Street), always.

● **BEST CUP OF COFFEE:**  
**Honest Chocolate** (64A Wale Street) – not only is the coffee great, but they have an excellent chocolate-banana loaf.

● **TO FEEL LIKE A TRUE CAPETONIAN ...**  
Visit one of the many Saturday markets, then grab a drink along the **Camps Bay strip**.

● **ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST:**  
**Budapest, Prague, and Brazil.** VI

***“My best tip for Cape Town: Ditch the map and simply walk from one end of the city to the other – it's small enough and a good way to experience it like a local.”***