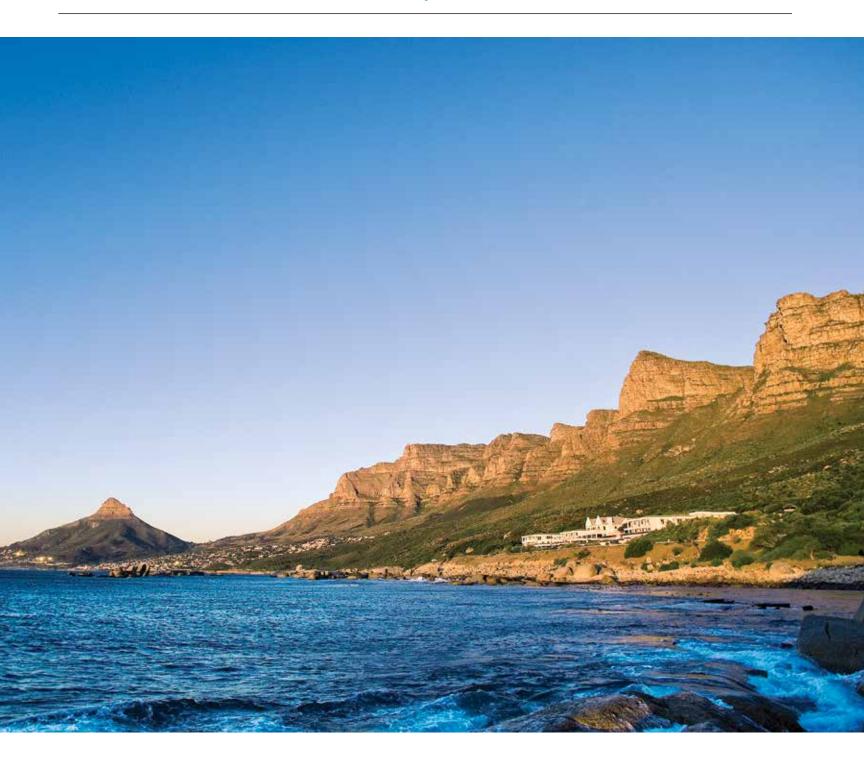
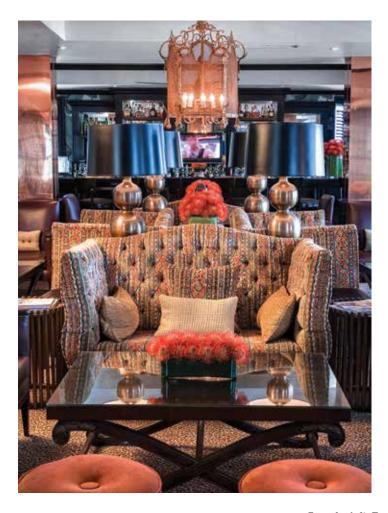


INSIDER'S CAPE TOWN

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







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.

"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."

- 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

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!



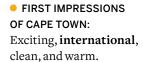
- BEST BEACH: **Llandudno** has perfect white sand and great waves for body surfing.
- ON MY TRAVEL DREAM LIST: Paris, New York City, and Tanzania's Grumeti Reserve.

TAJ CAPE TOWN



Sanjay Sood

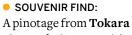
A newcomer to Cape Town, Sood arrived at the 176room downtown hotel in April and is excited to introduce others to the city - especially its innovative cuisine and nearby Winelands.



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.





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

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

Business District."





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





 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.

From top: Kloof Street, Pot Luck Club's interior and Thai lamb shank, and the Belmond Mount Nelson. "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 Waterfront 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: Beguia in the Grenadines, Saigon, and Marrakech.

ONECONLY 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 chocolatebanana 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 liké a local."