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CAPE TOWN

Cape Town has been on an upswing ever since the 2010 FIFA World Cup, when it surged onto the global stage. In the last six years, Capetonians have leveraged their city's many assets—natural beauty, agricultural abundance, a fascinating-if-often-tragic history—to build a business hub rivaling most in the Southern Hemisphere. “It’s become one of the great leisure destinations in the world, like Rio or London,” says Mark Coetzee, executive director and curator of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art

Africa, slated to open in early 2017. Dramatically backed by 3,563-foot Table Mountain, surrounded by surfable beaches and hiking trails, it connects urban life with the outdoors like few other cities. It’s still a long trip, but Middle Eastern and European carriers have been adding flights, meaning now’s an optimal time to see dynamic neighborhoods like the CBD, where exciting restaurants and shops keep popping up—proof this city at the edge of Africa isn’t done booming yet.

—REPORTED BY SARAH KHAN

Everything’s hyperlocal at Naturalis, an instant classic from chef Luke Dale-Roberts.



From top: Luke Dale-Roberts at Naturalis; Culture Club Cheese's yellow facade.

Restaurant Recs from a Guy Who Knows

Liam Tomlin owns Chefs Warehouse and Canteen, a laid-back tapas spot in the Central Business District that doubles as a culinary shop selling knives, olive oils, and cookbooks from around the world. Here, his recently opened faves.

NATURALIS

“Luke Dale-Roberts is the most innovative chef in South Africa, and here he plays with techniques like fermentation and cheese-making—and serves dishes like sweet potato salad with miso cream, sumac-smoked trout, and beet hummus.”

BACON ON BREE AND CULTURE CLUB CHEESE

“These two spots are right next door to each other. Bacon on Bree co-owner Richard Bosman makes some top-notch charcuterie, and his menu is full of bacon—on salads, on burgers, even mixed into the mayo for BLTs. Culture Club Cheese serves sandwiches and salads, along with the widest selection of artisanal cheeses in Cape Town. Try the raclette.”

FRANKIE FENNER MEAT MERCHANTS AND PUBLIK

“It’s both a butcher and a wine bar. Now it’ll have a third element, with chef Ash Heeger opening a restaurant called Ash in the same space this spring. She’ll serve charcoal-grilled beef, chicken, lamb, and pork, nose-to-tail style, alongside a great wine list by David Cope, who’s a big champion of indie wineries like Alheit Vineyards and Migliarina.”

The Classics We Love

Casual may be on trend, but Cape Town has a few finely tuned stalwarts we return to again and again.

HEMELHUIJS

Reservations are essential at this brunch mainstay that regularly revamps its menu and decor. A perennial favorite: flavorful *mosbolletjie* bread made from grape must and aniseed.

LA COLOMBE

The storied restaurant in the wine-making suburb of Constantia has a well-earned reputation for turning out top-flight culinary talent like Luke Dale-Roberts. Current chef Scot Kirton kicks off his inventive meals with his signature tuna tataki playfully served in a tin.

THE TEST KITCHEN

The tasting-menu restaurant that catapulted Dale-Roberts to fame when it opened in 2010 is still one of Cape Town’s best. Expect unexpected dishes like roast duck with kumquat, foie gras, and barbecue meringue.



The well-tended ocean-view lawns at Ellerman House.

Cape Town, Four Ways

These historic properties—each in a different neighborhood—offer a window into the port city’s rich and varied past.

In the CBD

Set in the stately former South African Reserve Bank and Temple Chambers, the centrally located **Taj Cape Town** is a short stroll from some of the city’s top sights, like the seventeenth-century Company’s Garden and Gothic St. George’s Cathedral. The hotel’s 176 understated rooms are in stark contrast to the building’s classic bones; many have floor-to-ceiling windows that frame Table Mountain.

In the Gardens

This mostly residential area is marked by leafy lanes lined with tidy Georgian villas but few good

hotels. An exception is the 15-room **Cape Cadogan**, occupying an elegant early-1800s National Monument building steps from the posh restaurants and boutiques of Kloof Street. The sleek decor includes bold stripes and black-and-white-checked floors, offset by touches of Oscar Wilde-inspired extravagance like voluminous Versailles chairs and vases brimming with proteas.

On the V&A Waterfront

The six-room **Dock House Boutique Hotel & Spa**

is housed in the former harbormaster’s residence, one of this popular district’s oldest surviving structures, originally built

in 1860. The opulent interiors blend plenty of old-world details like antique chairs, mirrored desks, and vintage hat boxes with modern amenities such as oversized bathrooms and a lovely (if smallish) pool.

On the Atlantic Seaboard

The Cape Edwardian mansion **Ellerman House**, with its camera-ready panorama of the Atlantic from the seaside Bantry Bay district, is the city’s answer to Rhode Island’s Ocean House. One of the most luxurious hotels in the country, it has an extensive collection of South African art adorning the walls and the manicured cliffside lawns.

Art Collectors, Take Note

The contemporary art scene here is getting better by the day, and its hub is Gallery Momo, the 11-month-old CBD outpost from super-curator Monna Mokoena, who’s got his eye on these artists and showrooms.



WHY IT PAYS TO GO RIGHT NOW

The rand has collapsed against the dollar since 2011, thanks to falling commodity prices. Here are just a few of the recent deals that caught our eye.

\$10

Steak at Carne

\$1.50

Cappuccino at Rosetta Roastery

\$77

Nine-course tasting menu at the Test Kitchen

\$2.25

Glass of wine at Tjing Tjing Torii

\$10

Uber from the airport to the CBD

\$15

Round trip on Table Mountain’s cable car

COMMUNE.1

With the exhibition space’s focus on promising young artists like painter Alexandra Karakashian and painter/sculptor Marlene Steyn, founders Greg and Leigh-Anne Dale have created “an up-and-coming game-changer,” Mokoena says.

JONATHAN FREEMANTLE

His signature style mixes earth, resin, and oil to create “powerful, engaging” landscape paintings. Freemantle often works in a small, by-appointment-only studio that’s worth a visit for the art—as well as the killer views of city and mountain.

MAURICE MBIKAYI

A Congolese artist now working in Cape Town, Mbikayi creates “fascinating” sculptures and mixed media pieces from discarded and outmoded computer parts like keyboards, mouses, and USB cables.



THE BEST BEACHES

The city is fringed by countless stretches of sand, but most visitors find the waters too icy for a swim, even during the peak summer months of December through February. Don't let that stop you from hitting the coast. Whatever you're into, there's a beach for that.

Family-friendly
Clifton 1, 2, 3, or 4

Beautiful people
Camps Bay

Surf breaks
Muizenberg

Low-key vibes
Llandudno

Penguin spotting
Boulders

Views of Table Mountain
Bloubergstrand

Nudists
Sandy Bay



Haas Coffee, one of Cape Town's top cafés.

The Local Brew

Independent shops serving organic African beans are booming in the CBD, where locals are increasingly living and working.

"Cape Town has around 160 independent roasters, more than you'd find in London," a city with nine times the population, says David Donde, founder of **Truth Coffee**, a Steampunk-inspired spot where waiters in leather waistcoats and top hats (don't hold it against them) serve house blends with

names like Antithesis, Resurrection, and Vengeance. That supply is meeting a rapidly growing demand as an expanding roster of entrepreneurs convert old commercial buildings into all-day cafés like **Haas Coffee**, with salvaged wood furnishings, contemporary paintings, photography for sale, and killer espresso drinks. Nearby

Kamili Coffee is a brick-walled den inside a turreted Victorian-era building filled with burlap sacks heaving with beans. The granddaddy of the artisanal coffee scene remains **Origin**, which serves a hearty breakfast—omelets with cured confit pork-belly lardons; shakshuka with merguez lamb sausage—along with house-roasted blends.

The Top Hikes

Other cities have skyscrapers; here, there's Table Mountain. With easily accessible trailheads all around, you're never far from an afternoon of adventure.

If you have...

90 minutes

The spiral route from Signal Hill up Lion's Head winds its way around the conical peak, giving you a changing view of the city at every turn.

3 hours

Take the steep but doable Platteklip Gorge trail up iconic Table Mountain, starting not far from the visitors center; pause at the top for a well-deserved photo op, then relax on the cable-car ride down (\$8 one way).

5 hours

At the southwestern-most tip of Africa, the scenic Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve has countless hiking paths, including some overnight routes. The Shipwreck Trail is littered with remnants of boats: There's a reason this area was originally dubbed the Cape of Storms.

Bring an Extra Suitcase

This could be the best place in all of Africa to buy cutting-edge fashion, housewares, and jewelry—and Aidan Bennetts, stylish creative director of the CBD furniture shop Stable, knows where to get the good stuff.

DARK HORSE

“They’ve expanded into things like dining room tables, armchairs, and other furniture, but they got their start with well-crafted leather bags, duffels, and totes that remain their best-known line—along with an ever-expanding selection of buttery wallets, iPad cases, and belts.”

NEIGHBOURGOODS MARKET

“The Saturday market at the Old Biscuit Mill is known for its food, but designers show up too. Furniture and lighting from Jasper Eales Original is worth seeking out, though admittedly hard to pack. More portable is the range of contemporary costume jewelry, as well as fine gold-plated and diamond pieces from Black Betty, which also has a stand here.”

The Wiid Design studio.



UNDERRATED URBAN ESCAPE KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

NIC HARRY

“Socks may not sound cool, but these guys have created a colorful range that’s manufactured locally out of sustainable bamboo. They’ve also got a solid selection of ties, pocket squares, and lapel pins.”

PRINS & PRINS

“This jeweler has a gemstone museum in the basement, and they also make modern bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and rings, specializing in diamonds and tanzanite, mostly set in white gold.”

WIID DESIGN

“Laurie Wiid van Heerden works mostly with cork to make bar stools, seats, and lights at his appointment-only atelier, but smaller items like jugs and vases are just as lovely.”



At the corner of Hout and Loop streets.

It’s All About Loop Street

With smart boutiques, casual bistros, and plenty of bars, this CBD micro-hood is the city’s most talked-about of the moment.

61 + ATE, No. 61

This casual lunch spot has a rotating menu of dishes like carrot and coriander salad; chili, salt, and pepper squid; and spinach and feta quiche.

GIULIO’S CAFÉ, No. 16

An Italian spot with exposed-brick and white-walled interiors by local designer Michael Chandler.

GOLDBAR, No. 70

The Veuve Clicquot flows until late at this lounge hosting soul, hip-hop, and funk DJs.

HONEY BADGER, No. 91

Loop Street’s hangout HQ serves Alliance ale and hosts comedy shows and concerts.

ISSA LEO, No. 75

This Cape Town-based-of-the-moment menswear brand from Spanish designer Issa Lopez mixes classic European blazers with graphic tees.

VELVET CAKE CO., No. 16

Next door to Giulio’s, it’s famed for its “naked rainbow cake,” with multicolored layers slathered in cream cheese frosting.

VILLAGE IDIOT, No. 32

A vibey neighborhood pub, it serves peri-peri chicken and beef sausage burgers and hosts a popular braai, or barbecue, on summer Sundays.



THE KNOW-IT-ALL APP

VoiceMap has audio tours for cities worldwide, but because the iPhone and Android app launched here, its Cape Town offerings are super robust. Look for in-depth narratives on the city’s slave history, the Company’s Garden, and the revolutionary struggle, all told by locals like genealogist Aubrey Springveldt, writer Eve Sandler, and activist Gael Reagan. Who knew George Bernard Shaw surfed at Muizenberg beach? These guys.