

# Condé Nast Traveller

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104

AMAZING BARS &  
RESTAURANTS  
AROUND THE WORLD

MOROCCO'S  
MOST BEAUTIFUL  
HIDEOUT

+ THE BEST  
COUNTRY-HOUSE  
SPAS IN BRITAIN

NEW YORK'S  
COOLEST  
ADDRESSES

CAPE TOWN  
OUR INSIDER'S  
SHOPPING GUIDE

*Chasing the winter sun*  
BEACH LIFE IN THE CARIBBEAN



## CONTRIBUTORS

This month we asked our writers and photographers to tell us about where they take time out



**Alistair Taylor-Young** *Photographer, Danakil (p82)*

'Quiet time is an unhurried time, which can be **anywhere**. I usually am anywhere, which makes me fortunate. There's always five minutes for a break, and that's good enough for me. A flight is ideal: no phone, just me and a good book or a movie.' *Alistair divides his time between New York and Paris, and exhibits with The Little Black Gallery in London*



**Sarah Khan** *Writer, Cape Town (p63)*

'This might sound counterintuitive, but my favourite spots to get away from it all are in **New York**. I lived in Manhattan for seven years and loved seeking out serene pockets such as Greenacre Park or the waterfront at Roosevelt Island.' *Sarah is a travel writer based in Cape Town and blogs as the 'South AfriKhan'*



**Christophe Madamour** *Photographer, Le Perche (p120)*

'With the internet you have control over how much contact you have with people and the news. When I'm in my country house in the **Loir-et-Cher** I can choose to be connected to the world or to be at one with nature.' *Christophe has been a photographer for more than 30 years, with subjects ranging from food to fashion*



**Mirjam Bleeker** *Photographer, Antigua (p130)*

'When I come back home to **Amsterdam** after a trip, I love to take my little boat out. I travel the city via the canals and cross the big waters of IJ lake. There's so much to see and discover. Being outside always makes me feel free.' *Mirjam has worked on four books and her work is regularly published in international travel and interior magazines*



**Charles Runnette** *Writer, New York (p51)*

'When I lived in Los Angeles, I grew to love a slow-paced poolside getaway in perpetually sunny **Palm Springs**. For a connect-with-the-universe, deep-relaxation experience, try a sound-bath session at the otherworldly Integratron.' *New York-based Charles is working on a film about the search for Genghis Khan's tomb*



**Sophie Dening** *Writer, Le Perche (p120)*

'Our family house, in the **Vaucluse** not far from Avignon, is in a part of Provence that isn't in the least bit glamorous – it's more of an agricultural hotspot. There's nothing to do but read, cook, swim, go running in the hills among the vines, and whinny gently at the horses in the field next door.' *Sophie has been writing about food, wine and France for 10 years*



STYLE FILE

## SHOPPING IN CAPE TOWN

Take the springbok by the horns and hunt down the city's greatest gear with our insider's guide

By Sarah Khan. Photographs by Russell Smith

PHOTOGRAPHS: RUSSELL SMITH / FRANK FEATURES

November 2015 Condé Nast Traveller 63



## STYLE FILE



Clockwise from left: a display at Klük CGDT boutique; Bronze Age gallery at The Woodstock Foundry; Chandler House antiques shop in the Central Business District; coffee bar at The House of Machines; Honest Chocolate shop; Nudge Studio in Cape Town's CBD. Previous page, homeware at 117 on Long



While high-street behemoths such as Topshop, Forever 21 and H&M are making inroads here, South African brands and boutiques proudly maintain cult followings, revitalising formerly run-down neighbourhoods into vibrant shopping hubs in the process. Johannesburg may be where the big money is made, but the Mother City's got all the looks, and its pedestrian-friendly districts are a far cry from Joburg's seemingly never-ending expanse of malls. Hit the streets of the Central Business District or Woodstock and De Waterkant to witness the transformation up close: chic studios showcase everything from handcrafted leather bags to artisan chocolate and moustache wax – much of which is produced locally and only likely to be found in this independently minded city.

### CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

About five years ago the CBD was almost empty beyond business hours. But the city's heart is beating again, with glossy shops and restaurants reviving wilting Victorian-era buildings and a lively First Thursdays programme that turns downtown into a massive street party each month. **MERCHANTS ON LONG** Designer Hanneli Rupert has sourced a covetable mix of high-end brands from across the

continent in this museum-like concept shop. Alongside her own Okapi handbags – she uses antelope, ostrich and crocodile leathers, and fashions handles out of springbok horns – the store carries cut-out dresses by Ghanaian label Christie Brown, and brightly printed men's shirts from Malawi's Makono. *34 Long Street (+27 21 422 2828; [www.merchantsonlong.com](http://www.merchantsonlong.com))* **OLIVE GREEN CAT** From their Church Street atelier, jewellers Philippa Green and Ida Elsje craft and sell playful pieces (rings inlaid with spangled Lego blocks and





diamonds set in resin) under the label Nunc. 76 Church Street (+27 21 424 1101; [www.olivegreencat.com](http://www.olivegreencat.com))

**ISSA LEO** Spanish fashion designer Issa Lopez's new outpost is dedicated to her edgy, urban menswear, such as denim boots and leather jackets splashed with hand-painted liona. 75 Loop Street (+27 21 426 2757; [www.issaleo.com](http://www.issaleo.com))

**KLUK CGDT** Christiaan Gabriël du Toit and Malcolm Kluk, the creative minds behind Cape Town's most celebrated fashion house, transformed a huge Bree Street car park into their new flagship store last year. The first two levels stock the duo's lavish ready-to-wear, couture and bridal lines, and from the street you can spy seamstresses busy at work through the windows of the third-floor atelier. 43-45 Bree Street (+27 833 777 780; [www.klukcgdt.com](http://www.klukcgdt.com))

**THE HOUSE OF MACHINES** If there's no space for a man-cave at home, outsource the position to this cool

café/bar/live-music venue/motorcycle shop/menswear boutique, all under one roof. Pop in and score a Reuben sandwich, shot of bourbon, Biltwell motorcycle helmet and a tin of hair pomade, among other manly essentials. 84 Shortmarket Street (+27 21 426 1400; [www.thehouseofmachines.com](http://www.thehouseofmachines.com))

**BLACKWOOD BROTHERS** Shortmarket Street seems to be turning into quite the bro-block. This recently opened heritage-denim emporium stocks global brands including Edwin and Schott NYC. 63a Shortmarket Street (+27 21 422 2549; [www.blkwood.co.za](http://www.blkwood.co.za))

**WILD OLIVE** If there is a heaven, I hope it smells like this apothecary. It sells heady bath oils, body butters, soy candles and more, all of which are made on-site. 29 Pepper Street (+27 21 422 2777; [www.wildolive.eu](http://www.wildolive.eu))

**117 ON LONG** Every design boutique should have a setting as beautiful as this lovely Victorian pile, home to ➤



## STYLE FILE



➤ three beloved South African homeware brands – ArtVraat Designs (linens), Ceramic Factory (retro robots and hanging pots) and A Love Supreme (quirky stationery). 117 Long Street (+27 21 839 2103; [www.facebook.com/pages/117onlong/116431945358195](http://www.facebook.com/pages/117onlong/116431945358195))

**STABLE** Interior designer Aidan Bennetts, a familiar face on South African television, opened Stable to bring together all the go-to specialists he uses on his projects. There are more than 100 decor labels here; some of the more portable ones include wood tablet covers from Houdt, LeatherLab's nguni-hide place mats and neon-coloured plastic salad tongs by Snapp. 65 Loop Street (+27 21 426 5922; [www.stable.org.za](http://www.stable.org.za))

**HONEST CHOCOLATE** For a sugary souvenir, grab a slab or 10 of artfully packaged dark chocolate from the city's greatest artisan chocolatier. 64a Wale Street (+27 76 765 8306; [www.honestchocolate.co.za](http://www.honestchocolate.co.za))

## DE WATERKANT

Wear trainers when heading to this area, just west of the CBD – steep hills and cobbled lanes mean you'll be giving both your calves and your wallet a workout.

**MAISON MARA** When fashion buyer Kelly Withey was deciding on where to lay down roots (she grew up in Kenya, Gabon, Nigeria and Angola before studying and working in Paris), she chose Cape Town. And when she started missing the brands she loved in France, she opened Maison Mara to share her favourite labels with locals. It's easy to while away a whole afternoon here, admiring not only clothes by Chloé, Maison Martin Margiela, Balenciaga and Sonia Rykiel, but also the 19th-century building's stunning structural details: antique closets with coloured-glass panels that now serve as changing rooms; a marble bathroom/display space for Malin + Goetz products; a stone-clad courtyard, and tiles that have served as a backdrop







Clockwise from far left:  
Klûk CGDT shopfront;  
jewellery designer Ida  
Elsje of Olive Green Cat;  
furniture design at Vogel;  
Kirstin Goss + Missibaba  
accessories store on Bree  
Street; window display at  
117 on Long

for plenty of #ihavethisthingwithfloors Instagram posts. 5 Jarvis Street (+27 21 425 6320; [www.maisonmara.co.za](http://www.maisonmara.co.za))

**LOADING BAY** Think of this industrial space as a Maison Mara for dudes: it sells man-essentials such as Acne Studios jeans, Our Legacy T-shirts and a full range of Aesop products. There's also a funky café serving some of Cape Town's finest burgers and fresh juices. 30 Hudson Street (+27 21 425 6320; [www.loadingbay.co.za](http://www.loadingbay.co.za))

**NAP** Head here to pick up some stylish beach-house knick-knacks and homeware in a neutral palette; such as wood boot racks, mesh lampshades, and skull-motif ash trays and serving platters. Shop 001, Cape Quarter (+27 21 421 6482; [www.napliving.co.za](http://www.napliving.co.za))

**LUXURY AFRICA ATELIER** Reservations aren't required at this art gallery/boutique, but if you do phone ahead, staff can arrange to have the designers and artists themselves on hand to tell you about their work. Charmaine Taylor's Legacy

Collection jewellery is a conversation starter: each necklace, ring and bracelet is crafted from remnants of a fence at Robben Island prison, where Nelson Mandela was locked up for 18 years. Also worth a look are driftwood sculptures by Tony Fredriksson and Oliver Barnett's surreal floral photography. Shop 210, The Foundry Courtyard (+27 21 180 4010; [www.luxuryafrica.co.za](http://www.luxuryafrica.co.za))

**AFRICA NOVA** On the hunt for chic African decor that doesn't slip into kitsch? This emporium is brimming with statement pieces, including a feathered Cameroonian headdress, mosaic faux-antelope busts and cushions in bold West African fabrics. 71 Waterkant Street (+27 21 425 5123; [www.africanova.co.za](http://www.africanova.co.za))

**YAKIRA HOMEWARE PICKLES & ROSES** This cave-like sliver of a shop opened in April and stocks the most unusual mix of things: imported fabrics from Afghanistan and India; upholstered Art Deco chairs; candles; ceramics, and

homemade pickles. 11 Jarvis Street (+27 83 321 0333; [www.facebook.com/yakirahomeware](http://www.facebook.com/yakirahomeware))

## WOODSTOCK

Once gritty, now artsy (but still rough around the edges), Cape Town's original urban-renewal success story continues to thrive, with plenty to browse beyond the popular Saturday-morning Neighbourgoods Market at The Old Biscuit Mill on Albert Road.

**C20 GALERIE & POSIE** When design dealer Emma de Crespigny moved back to Cape Town from New York, she brought her enviably extensive collection of mid-century American furniture with her. She doesn't keep them for herself, though: you can browse and buy the straight-out-of-*Mad Men* range at her showroom. If the set of four bar stools made from tractor seats are a touch bulky for your suitcase, then consider a pair of cushion covers she's screen-printed ➤



## STYLE FILE



➤ from classic Art Deco designs instead. 103 Roodebloem Road (+27 82 414 0317; [www.facebook.com/C20Galerie](http://www.facebook.com/C20Galerie))

**IMISO CERAMICS** Andile Dyalvane and Zizipho Poswa have exhibited their smart ceramics from London to Taipei, Dubai to Miami. Highlights from their past collections, many of which incorporate the duo's signature 'scarified' technique inspired by African tribal traditions, are on display at their gallery/workshop in The Old Biscuit Mill. The View from the Studio range, in particular, consists of sculptures inspired by their Woodstock surroundings. A102, The Old Biscuit Mill (+27 21 447 2627; [www.imisoceramics.co.za](http://www.imisoceramics.co.za))

**MIYU** Head to this shop in the Salt Circle Arcade for animal trophy busts fashioned from bottle caps, wine corks, knitted wool and neon wires. 374 Albert Road ([www.miyu.shopstar.co.za](http://www.miyu.shopstar.co.za))

**PEDERSEN + LENNARD** This recently expanded showroom in the Woodstock Exchange is the place to shop for locally made, Scandi-style furniture. If you're not in the market for coffee tables and bed frames, there are also butcher-block side tables and colourful metal-bucket stools. Otherwise, just have a snack at its coffee shop – of course there's a coffee shop, this is Cape Town. 66 Albert Road (+27 21 408 7600; [www.pedersenlennard.co.za](http://www.pedersenlennard.co.za))

**VOGEL** Acclaimed architect and designer John Vogel carries a limited selection of his custom-made furniture in his workshop. On display are chairs, benches, and stools with his signature bright, woven cane seats and a collection of petal-like side tables that come together to form one large, flower-shaped coffee table. 160 Albert Road ([www.vogeldesign.co.za](http://www.vogeldesign.co.za))

**KAT VAN DUINEN** The fashion designer's sumptuous collections are showcased at this boutique, including her favoured classic cuts luxed-up with lavish materials and detailing: a python-and-ostrich leather bag here, a rooster-feather coat there. Shop 101A, The Old Biscuit Mill (+27 21 447 6582; [www.katvanduinen.com](http://www.katvanduinen.com))

**DEAR RAE** Look out for delicate brass and silver necklaces and rings in Karin Rae Matthee's airy showroom and atelier. Shop 3, The Woodstock Foundry (+27 21 447 1390; [www.dearrae.co.za](http://www.dearrae.co.za))

### V&A WATERFRONT

**WATERSHED** As a rule, you should flee the Waterfront shopping malls as soon as you've disembarked from the Robben Island Museum ferry. After all, you didn't come all this way to shop in Mango. But with last year's opening of the Watershed craft and design market, everyone has a compelling reason to wade through the Waterfront's visiting hordes. The complex houses an eclectic mix of South African designers curated by Trevyn McGowan of Source, a collective promoting homegrown talent overseas. Here, McGowan has installed mini boutiques for fashion designer Michelle Ludek's feminine frocks, reversible jackets by Lo, Shongololo's stuffed giraffes, homeware from her own Odeon collective, and dozens more under one roof. 17 Dock Road (+27 21 408 7600; [waterfront.co.za/Shop/watershed](http://waterfront.co.za/Shop/watershed))

Top left, antiques at Chandler House in the Central Business District. Below, lighting at Mexican restaurant The Pot Luck Club



## LOCAL KNOW-HOW

### Neil Aaron

CO-OWNER OF FASHION LABEL FICTION, LIES AND FILTH

'Woodstock has become a thriving place with loads of twenty- and thirty-somethings moving their businesses and studios to the up-and-coming area. When people think of Woodstock, they often automatically think of the **Neighbourgoods Market**, which is amazing. Every Saturday you can find fresh food and drinks made by local creatives. They also have a great section of clothing, leather accessories and other craft goods. **Rosetta Roastery** in The Woodstock Exchange has excellent coffee with an awesome, laid-back vibe. They also have the coolest barista alive, Ollie Teddy. **Fat Cactus** has become a bit of an establishment with its Mexican food, tequila and rad vibe.

**The Pot Luck Club** in The Old Biscuit Mill is one of the best places to eat out in the country, and it has outstanding views too. **The Local Grill** has really good steaks, which are paired with equally delicious wines. And I love the **Corner Store** on Sir Lowry Road; these guys are the new kids on the block and have been killing it. The store stocks local brands such as Young and Lazy, 2Bop and Sol-Sol.' [www.fictionliesandfilth.com](http://www.fictionliesandfilth.com)

PHOTOGRAPHS: CAROLINE MACINTOSH AT MY FRIEND NED; RUSSELL SMITH/FRANK FEATURES