



Ask The  
**Experts**

Letter from the Publisher

**Kevin Panko**, Group Publisher and CEO

Twenty-six years on, Ellerman House is still everybody's fantasy bolthole in Cape Town: minutes from the best beaches and the Table Mountain cableway, but close enough to the city and its dynamic food, art, and design scene. Sandwiched between Lion's Head and the Atlantic Ocean, the Cape Edwardian mansion looks like a private residence from the road and that's exactly what keeps guests coming back. Owner Paul Harris takes enormous pride in his country—his impressive collection of South African art spans original works from the turn of the last century to current contemporary art. An informal tour of the collection with one of the in-house art experts is a fascinating lesson in the country's socio-political history. Then there are the 7,500 bottles of rare and vintage South African wines in the cellar, and the indigenous plants sourced from Kirstenbosch (Cape Town's botanical garden) in the 1.5-acre terraced gardens. Besides the main house, there are two modern, minimalist private villas built into the granite mountainside, as well as a wine gallery, and an excellent little spa.



I have stayed in one of the rooms at the top of the house with a balcony and a magnificent sea view. To fall asleep at night with the balcony doors wide open, listening to

the crash of the surf on the shore far below, was sheer bliss. While the hotel bar is a glamorous spot for a sundowner drink, all I wanted to do was pour a glass of wine and watch the sun sink into the ocean in delicious solitude (Bantry Bay sunsets are epic, especially in winter). The room had the feel of a private guest bedroom with deep-pile car-



pets, antique furniture, books, compelling original artworks and expensive fabrics and crisp bedlinen. The en suite bathroom was spacious and bright. Each of the 13 rooms is completely different in character, but all are classically decorated in comparison to the two exclusive-use villas which have minimalist interiors in keeping with the contemporary design.



There are so many 'wow' factors here, but the extensive collection of original South African art dating back to the 19th century

is unique. You could call this an art gallery with a hotel attached, as every room and all available wall space is hung with original and rare art from the Harris family's private collection. The garden is a gallery for sculptures, and there's even a contemporary art gallery below the swimming pool where an eclectic, thought-provoking collection is exhibited on a rotational basis throughout the year. I also loved the walk-in 'pantry', stocked with sweet and savory treats and homemade snacks, including sweets, cookies, cakes, granola bars, roasted nuts and sandwiches. All drinks are included, except for wine and Champagne.

Food and wine are taken very seriously here. It's all overseen by newly appointed food director Peter Templehoff, a Relais & Chateaux grand chef who also heads up his own restaurant, Fyn, in the city center. A new focus on wellness means that healthy, nourishing food is the rule, rather than the exception. That said, you can eat whatever you want. The chefs dream up seasonal menus of modern classics for lunch and dinner every day, always including healthy, plant-based options, because that's how the owners like to eat, but you can also ask the chefs to prepare whatever you feel like eating. Wine pairings are considered suggestions by resident sommelier, Wayve, who oversees the impressive wine gallery, with temperature-controlled white, red and sparkling wine storage for 7,500 bottles. Don't miss a private tasting in this subterranean space with its packed-earth terroir wall and inviting bar.



*...We Recommend*



**ELLERMAN HOUSE**

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