

HOT SPOTS

ELLE SELECTS WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

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What? THE SPLURGE
Where?

GRANDE ROCHE HOTEL & RESTAURANT gets a thumbs up from ELLE editor



Jackie Burger: 'When Deon and I found ourselves sitting on the terrace of the highly-acclaimed Grand Roche Hotel with suave GM, Graham Vass, I knew we were about to engage in a memorable affair. Grande Roche has been named the fifth best resort in Africa, 29th best hotel in the world, and Bosman's restaurant voted one of the top 100 restaurants in the world! To a fashionista, it offers the same discernment and refined taste as a bespoke Margiela jacket or a pair of Galliano shoes. The selection of seasonal produce and unexpected and lingering taste combinations are not just presented and plated with the utmost visual pleasure, but also most elegantly served, while a sommelier guides your selection from one of the best-stocked cellars in the country.' granderoche.co.za or 041 407 1000

ELSEWHERE: THE MONARCH HOTEL in Northcliff, Jo'burg, provides the perfect mix of old-world charm and contemporary African style plus the best concierge service in town. monarchhotels.co.za

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What? THE PRIVATE HIDEAWAY
Where?

THE ROBERTSON SMALL HOTEL in the heart of the Robertson wine valley, a 90-minute drive from Cape Town. It offers a peaceful and romantic escape from the urban buzz with decor combining old-world charm with modern contemporary style, and a boutique version of Reuben Riffel's famous Franschhoek restaurant. Every detail in the hotel has been considered, so whether you are relaxing on the poolside terrace or having tea in the beautifully manicured gardens, this stylish setting will leave you feeling revived and wanting more. therobertsonsmallhotel.com

ELSEWHERE: Morningside's FALLSTAFF INN, an English country-style inn tucked away on a leafy street a heartbeat away from bustling Sandton, is perfect for a day in. 011 784 8580

ELSEWHERE: Off the beaten track in the Drakensberg, the ANTBEAR GUESTHOUSE is a getaway for lovers who want the privacy and pampering afforded by an establishment that allows no more than 10 guests at a time. Book special candlelit dinners and try their Moroccan spread and tagine prepared on wood coals. antbear.co.za

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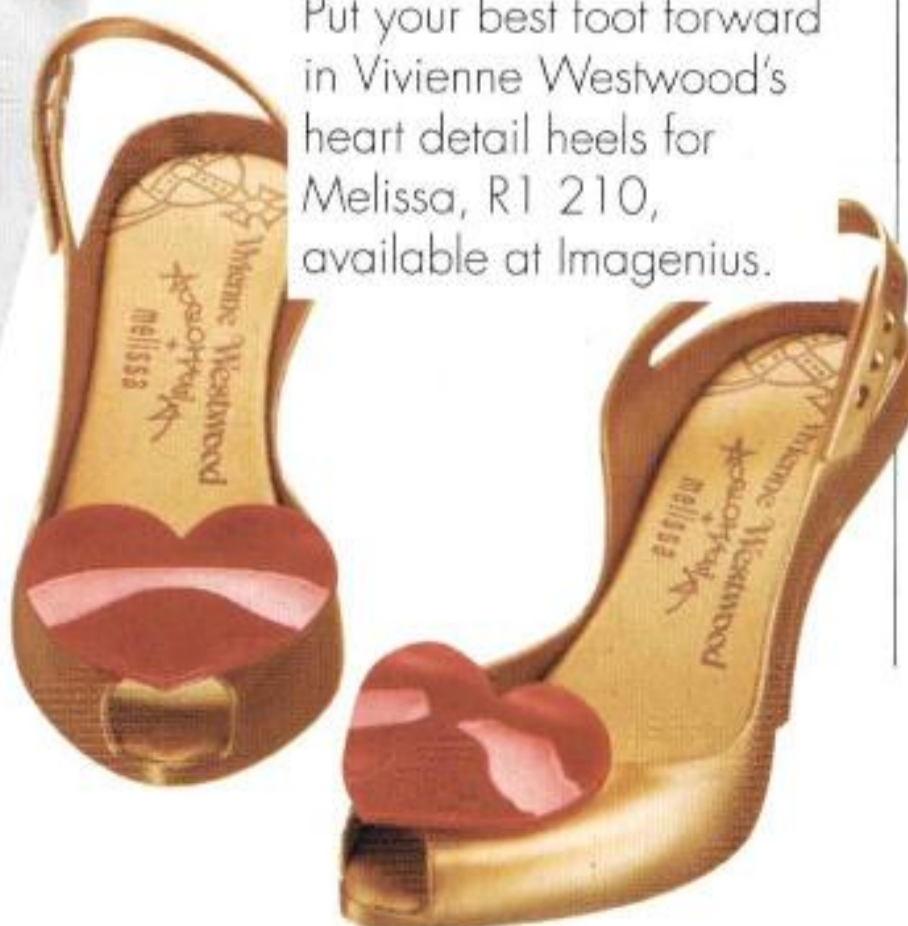
What? THE PICNIC

Where? ALLÉE BLEUE WINE ESTATE near Franschhoek in the Cape Winelands offers elegant and sophisticated summer picnics. Enjoy your picnic in the shade of ancient oak trees at tables clothed in starched white drapery. Your picnic basket is freshly made and served with an ice bucket to ensure your wine is perfectly chilled. Standard baskets (R145 per person) are for two adults sharing, but if you make it a family affair, there's a kid's menu at R80 a head and loads for them to do while you enjoy the warm afternoon. alleebleue.co.za

ELSEWHERE: At KIEVITS KROON outside Jo'burg you can relax in the rose garden or next to the pool and enjoy the French-style architecture of the hotel and spa. Book a picnic basket in advance; R194 for two. kievitskroon.co.za

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Don't forget to pack this cloth with heart embroidery (R79) and these ceramic heart coasters (R110 each), in your basket. Both from Rhubarb Room.



Put your best foot forward in Vivienne Westwood's heart detail heels for Melissa, R1 210, available at Imagenius.



Light up your private hideaway with candles such as these quirky kissing bunnies, R65 each from LIM.