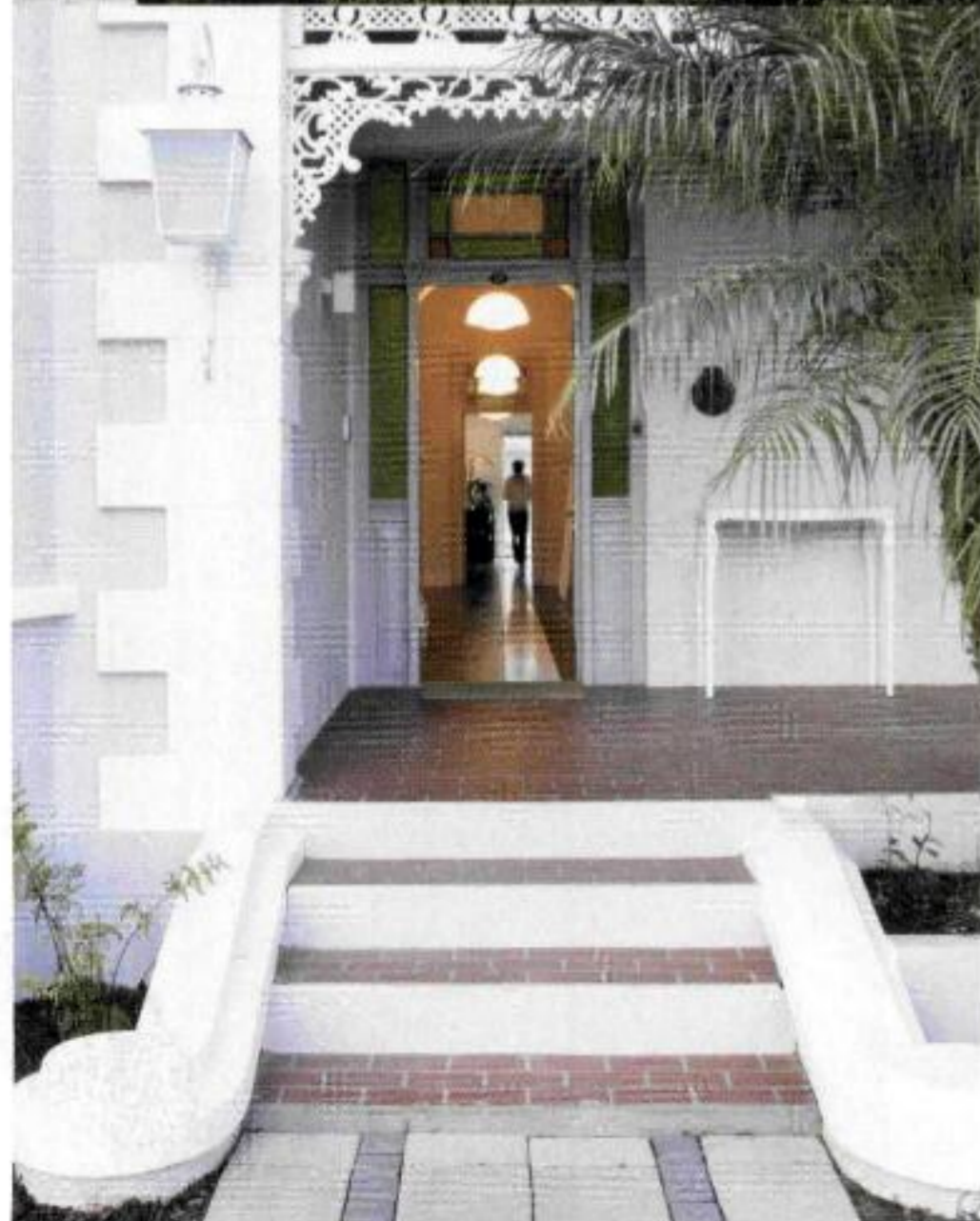


LONG WEEKEND

OVERBERG & SURROUNDS



HALFAAMPIESKRAAL, NAPIER

If you're after an authentic 'farm stay' weekend but want something a little more sophisticated than a 'Tannie Sannie se kothuis' stay, then Halfaampieskraal is a must. This 250-year-old wool, down, wheat and dairy farm in the Overberg is an unusual retreat, with three stylish rooms in what was once a blacksmith's forge, a school room and a building that housed the wind-powered generator. Then there's Club Havana, a shed filled with coloured lights and interesting bits of *Ouma's* furniture that makes for a great party atmosphere. Owner Jan-Georg Solms and his partner Cobus Geldenhuys, who live in the main house, are fabulous cooks who whip up delicious, hearty food and the best paella in the region. You can relax in the beautiful gardens or next to the pool and, for those more energetically inclined, there are always the vast rolling hills to hike. The seaside villages of Arniston, Hermanus and Cape Agulhas are all within an hour's drive, as are the historic farming villages of Swellendam and Greyton, making Halfaampieskraal the perfect Overberg base. Don't miss a visit to nearby Elim, founded as a Moravian mission station in 1824 and with its community still deeply rooted in the Overberg to this day.

From R800 per person for dinner, bed and breakfast; www.kraal.biz.

– Cornelia Badenhorst

THE ROBERTSON SMALL BOUTIQUE HOTEL, ROBERTSON

Don't be put off by the austere style of the reception area or the draughty air-con that greets you on arrival – this gem of a hotel set within a series of converted buildings and stables is deserving of every one of its five stars. And, despite its name, there's nothing diminutive about what's on offer. A place of utter escape and discreet luxury, this is a welcome addition to the Breede River Valley. Comprising 10 contemporary suites all set within lush, old-style gardens as well as two pools, The Robertson Small has ensured no detail has gone unnoticed – from the king-size beds to the complimentary mini-bar and a veritable smorgasbord of bath products for your personal use. And if your idea of relaxation is staying put, no problem – the hotel's signature restaurant, Reuben's (directed by acclaimed chef Reuben Riffel), dishes up delicious local and organic meals – so you can sit back, relax and soak up this unique brand of country hospitality.

From R700 per person sharing per night; www.therobertsonsmallhotel.com.

– Nicola Redelinghuys

ESCAPE TO PERFECTION

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM The Robertson Small; De Hoop Nature Reserve; Halfaampieskraal; Koppie Alleen; The Robertson Small