

JUNE TO NOVEMBER 2014

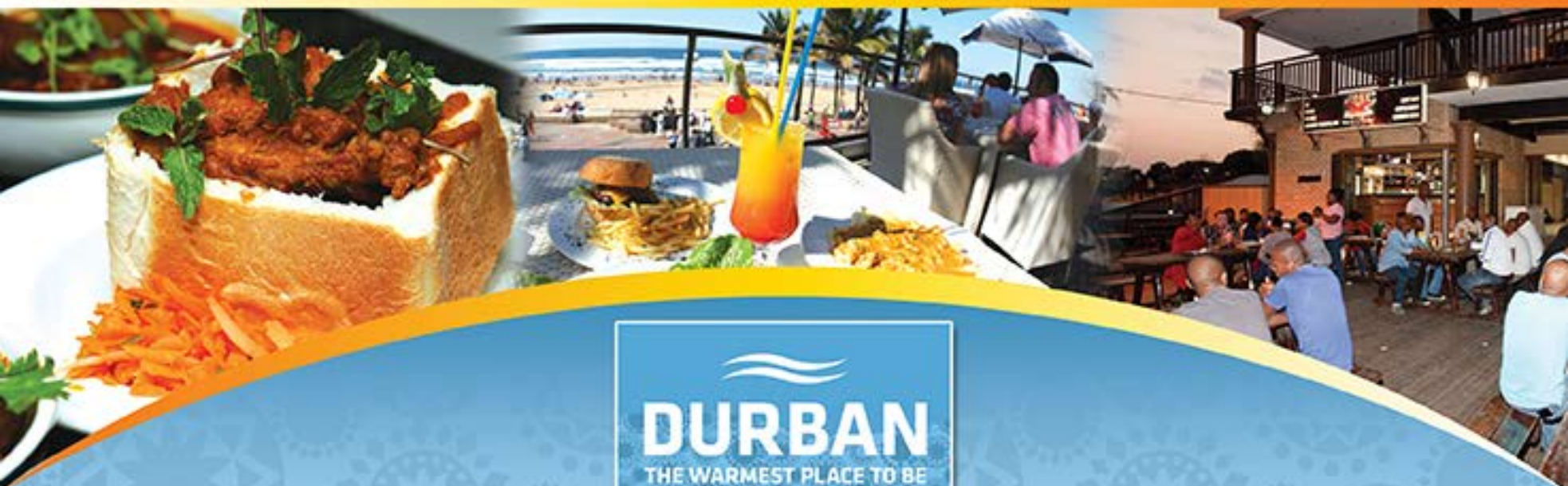


THE MERCURY
GET A HEAD START

YOUR GUIDE TO THE RESTAURANTS OF DURBAN AND KWAZULU-NATAL

EATING OUT

WITH ANNE STEVENS, FRANK CHEMALY AND AGIZA HLONGWANE



DURBAN
THE WARMEST PLACE TO BE

CBD & BAY AREA

BUD'S BAY SHACK

No 30 Grunter's Gully, Bayhead Park C
031 466 6100

Relax at this "dockside diner", which offers simple fare like grilled fish, but also fun "cranky cuisine" and dishes from Thailand and Vietnam. A covered deck overlooks the bay. Don't expect to be served in a hurry – just chill.
Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner B: R25, R30 for bubbly WF

CIAO BELLA CAFE

162 Mahatma Gandhi (Point) Road 031 332 5917

Family-run cafe in an historic old police station, which produces fresh, home-made Italian food served with flair. A deli and an array of fresh baking complete the picture.
Mon-Sat 8am-3.30pm, Sun 10.30-2.30pm, C: R30

DELICIO

14 Boatman's Road, Wilson's Wharf, 031 3014877

This Italian inspired diner serves light, fresh lunches, a selection of pizzas, and burgers for a giant appetite.
Tues-Sun 8am-9pm C/B: R40

JULIOS ON THE BAY

Wilson's Wharf, 076 4400 057 or 072 420 1747

Julio Duarte brings his own brand of Mozambique back to Durban after a long stint in Ballito. Fans know to expect plenty of prawns, chicken and peri-peri.
Tues-Sun noon-9pm C/B: R25

RAINBOW TERRACE

Hilton Hotel, 12-14 Walnut Road, 031 336 8100

A big, all-purpose venue, with a buffet. There's also a brief but interesting à la carte menu and light bites. On Friday night the focus is on seafood and on Saturday there's an Indian-themed buffet.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner, Mon-Sat lunch subject to availability, Sun lunch buffet. B/A: R65 WF

ROMA REVOLVING RESTAURANT (Views *)

John Ross House, Margaret Mncadi Road
(Victoria Embankment) 031 337 6707

This retro venue is an institution after 40 years. Views from the suburbs, to bay and beachfront, unfold as the restaurant turns. The menu is international, but some of the best dishes are, naturally, Italian. Good fresh fish and veal dishes. Senior citizens' discounts.

Fri & Sat lunch, Mon-Sat dinner A/B: R40

ROYAL GRILL

Royal Hotel, 267 Anton Lembede (Smith) Street
031 333 6000

Lovely, 70-year-old restaurant restored to colonial



splendour. There's been a move back to a la carte fare in the evenings, with a breakfast buffet for R110.
Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner B/C: No BYO

THE OYSTER BAR & ZENBISUSHI

Wilson's Wharf, 031 307 7883

Sit back and sup on oysters and sushi (or prawns) at big windows at the edge of the small craft mooring.
Mon-Sun noon-8pm C: R20

ZACK'S ON THE WHARF

Wilson's Wharf, 031 305 1677

Buzzing cafe-style restaurant with a wide range of meals and a deck with a great view of the bay.
Mon-Sun from noon C: R20

BEACHFRONT

ACE BUTCHERY

27 Tysack Street 031 368 4485

Selection of African traditional cuisine, including tripe and hot pap. No-frills, unsophisticated butchery, where meat is braaied while you wait.
Mon-Sun 7am-10pm C: Pub

AFRO'S CHICKEN (Frank ☆)

South Beach Promenade, bottom of Rutherford Steet, 078 509 8276

Look for the yellow container that's being making waves with the most succulent chicken burgers in Durban, served with home-made tjips and a spicy peri-peri sauce. Sit on the pavement, eat out of cardboard and watch the world go by. Bacon and egg rolls for breakfast.
Mon-Sun 6am-6pm C: Not licenced

AL MEHRAN

191 OR Tambo Road (Marine Parade)
031 332 5127

Halaal venue with a menu that covers a broad geographical field from China to Pakistan, with the latter being a popular choice. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: Halaal

BLUE DOLPHIN

Blue Waters Hotel, 175 Snell Parade, 031 327 7000

This casual eatery spills out on to the pavement. The menu specialises on gourmet pizzas served straight from the oven in the courtyard; R55 pizza specials are popular.
Mon-Sun 11am - midnight C: No BYO WF

CAFE JIRAN

Belaire Suites, 151 Snell Parade, North Beach
031 332 4485

Healthy, fresh seasonal food is the focus at this cafe opening on to the pavement. Casual during the day, it features an imaginative bistro menu from Tuesday to Saturday from 6pm. Great coffees.

Mon-Sun 6.30am-10pm B/C: R35 WF

CAPE TOWN FISH MARKET

Suncoast Casino, Suncoast Beach 031 368 3320

Member of the chain, offering a huge range of mostly fishy dishes. Sushi carousel.

Mon-Sun 11am-11pm B/C: R35 WF

CARGO HOLD

Phantom Ship, uShaka Marine World, 031 328 8065

Enter a fantasy world on a shipwreck and descend into the bowels of the vessel. One wall is the glass of a shark tank, the other looks over the beach. In between are all the trappings of the decaying ship. Food draws from influences around the world. Booking advisable.

Mon-Sat lunch & dinner, Sun noon-5pm A: R50 WF

CHESA NYAMA

570 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Point

New kid on the block. Promises, and delivers, good meat flame-grilled "the traditional way". Halaal. As their pay-off line says, it's "Nyamalicious". C Pub

CIRCLE CAFE

Jewish Club, 44 KE Masinga
(Old Fort) Road, 031 368 1766

Peaceful spot in the Garden of Remembrance, with the best cheesecake in town. Here they do real blinis.

Mon-Thurs 8.30am-4pm, Fri 8.30am to 2pm, Sun 8.30am-4pm C: BYO

CIRCUS CIRCUS BEACH CAFE

90 Snell Parade, North Beach, 031 337 7700

Wake up to breakfast on the beach, or enjoy sundowners with the sand between your toes. Light cafe food covers everything in between.

Mon-Thurs 6am-5pm, Fri to Sun 6am-5.30pm C: R35

DARUMA (Oriental ☆)

Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani,
63 Snell Parade, North Beach, 031 362 1322

A big room with a sushi bar, teppanyaki area, separate tables for those who aren't into communal eating. The sushi is some of the best in town, but there's a wide range of other Japanese fare.

Mon-Sat lunch, Mon-Sun dinner A/B: R75 WF

EDWARD BRASSERIE

Protea Edward Hotel, 147 OR Tambo Road
(Marine Parade), 031 337 3681

Upmarket venue in a hotel which has celebrated its centenary. There are light meals, as well as an à la carte list. Buffet Sunday to Friday nights for R210. The Saturday night seafood buffet is R230.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B/A: R35 WF

HAVANA (Grills ☆)

Suncoast Casino, Suncoast Beach, 031 337 1305

Buzzy, trendy venue with two levels giving great views of the beach and sea. Really good, well-aged steaks are the speciality, but the extensive menu offers a lot of variety, showcasing fine cooking. Cigars and cocktails give it that distinctly Cuban touch.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner A/B: R50

JEERA

Suncoast Hotel and Towers, 031 314 7878

Specialises in authentic Indian dishes and signature Durban curries. Top marks for the crab curry and butter chicken and the wide array of accompaniments.

A la carte during the week. Friday and Saturday night R245 buffet.

Mon-Sun 6am to 10pm. B: R75 WF

The
BIKE & BEAN on Country Club Beach offers great views, great cappuccinos and light meals after a ride along the promenade. Also equipment hire.
082 773 6870

THE GRILL JICHANA (Grills ☆)
Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani,
63 Snell Parade, North Beach, 031 362 1300

Sophisticated steakhouse in Durban's refurbished super hotel, Jichana, "eating good" in Swahili, celebrates first-class ingredients and good grillroom cooking,

influenced by the East African spice routes. Steaks, chops and duck feature. The chocolate bomb is a talking point.

Mon-Sat 6pm-10pm A/B: No BYO WF

KAI THAI

Suncoast Casino, Suncoast Beach, 031 368 3226

Lavishly decorated in black and gold, this venue offers a wide selection of Thai dishes.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B: R40



WOZA ENANDA
DURBAN'S HERITAGE ROUTE



DURBAN
THE WARMEST PLACE TO BE

Welcome to this the 33rd edition of The Mercury Eating Out guide. We hope you will keep it handy for the months to come.

We have done away with the former star system. Instead we have selected five of the best restaurants in various categories. You will see these alongside the restaurant's name with a star. Categories include fine dining, innovative dining and casual dining. There are stars for various ethnic cuisines, for Italian, continental flavours, oriental and Indian. Then there are stars for seafood, breakfasts, even for views. Country Escapes reflect the pick of the Midlands and Coastal Escapes the North and South Coasts.

We have also chosen our personal top five locals. These may be anything from the fabulous to a neighbourhood dive. They're simply places where we enjoy eating on a regular basis.

Chain restaurants have been removed, and some smaller, quirkiest places (perhaps technically not restaurants) included. They make dining out such fun. Happy eating.

Anne Stevens and Frank Chemaly

KEY

At the bottom of each entry is a code. **A** means an average two-course meal without wine will cost more than R200; **B** between R150 and R200; **C** under R150. The rand figure to the right of that is the corkage charge. **WF** is wheelchair friendly.

Page 3 photograph of Anne, Frank and executive chef Shaun Munro taken by **Jacques Naude** at the Elangeni Hotel. Cover design by **Stuart Senar** Inside pictures by **Peter Duffy**

INDEX

CBD and Bay	2	Umhlanga	9-11
Beachfront	2-3	North Coast	11-12
Morningside/ Greyville	3-5	Bluff	13
Berea	5	Southern Suburbs	13
Glenwood	5-6	Pietermaritzburg	13
Westville to Pinetown	6	Midlands	14-15
Kloof to Botha's Hill	7	Battlefields	15
Inanda/KwaMashu	7	Upper South Coast	15
Durban North	8-9	Lower South Coast	16



KEBABISH TIKKA

Sol Harris Crescent 031 368 1844

Simple eatery and takeaway, specialising in Pakistani dishes. Specialises in an authentic chicken tikka, while the lamb rogan josh is better is worth mentioning and the vegetarian selection is better than most.

Mon-Thurs 9am-11pm, Fri-Sat 9am-midnight B: Halaal

LINGELA

Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, 63 Snell Parade, North Beach, 031 362 1300

This is one of the best deals in town for the really hungry, with an extensive buffet for R270 from Monday to Friday. Everything is there, from salads to stirfries, grills, curries, desserts and cheeses. The Friday focus is seafood, and Saturday and Sunday are family nights, with the price R215 and children 4-12 half-price.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner A/B: R45 WF

MEAT JUNCTION

14 Brickhill Road, 031 337 2503

Scrumptious, flame-grilled vleis and pap, prepared while you wait. Unassuming, simple, clean, downtown butchery. C: Pub

MOYO

uShaka Marine World, 031 332 0606,

Funky, fun venue set on the beach. Touches like face-painting and serenades make it perfect for parties. The menu is loosely based on the cuisines of Africa. An area at the end of the pier is great for sundowners.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner A/B: No BYO

NEO CAFE

Summer Square, Sol Harris Crescent, North Beach, 031 332 2299

Unpretentious, casual venue in a shopping centre. The fare is tasty Mozambican in flavour and the peri-peri chicken might be the best in town. Good prawn rissoles too. Popular for ladies lunches.

Mon-Sat noon to 9pm C: R25

PESTO

Palace Hotel, 211 OR Tambo Road (Marine Parade), 031 332 8351

All-day restaurant with a terrace to watch the passing parade on the beachfront. Fare ranges from breakfasts to burgers and pastas.

Mon-Sun 7am-9.30pm C: R25

PIER 107

Beach Hotel, 107 OR Tambo Road (Marine Parade), 031 337 5511

Casual venue with a patio, open from breakfast, featuring light meals, seafood, steaks, ribs, curries and bunny chow. There are good specials.

Mon-Sun from 8.30am C: No BYO

VERSAILLES

Blue Waters Hotel, 175 Snell Parade, North Beach 031 327 7000

This long running venue offers a big restaurant with sea views. There are à la carte menus featuring the likes of tempura linefish and slow-roast rack of lamb and good-value daily buffets.

Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, dinner seasonal B: No BYO WF

VIGOUR & VERVE

Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, 63 Snell Parade, North Beach, 031 362 1300

Light, casual hotel eatery with a small interesting menu taking in everything from pizzas to curries, breakfast to coffee and home baked delicacies. Good steaks on offer.

Daily 6.30am to 10pm C/B: R45

WODKA

Docklands Hotel, 40 Mahatma Gandhi (Point Road) 031 332 8190

Modern hotel in the docklands with a large industrial chic restaurant. The food style is global fusion. Light lunches.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C/B: No Corkage WF

GREYVILLE, MORNINGSIDE

ANTIQUÉ CAFE

Churchill Road, Morningside, 031 303 5959

Quirky cafe with an intimate outside area under the leopard trees and antique and gift shop. Great coffees and baking. Good lunchtime staples.

Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm, Sat 8.30am-2.30pm C: R40

AUDACIA MANOR

11 Sir Arthur Road, Morningside, 031 303 9520

Beautifully restored listed historical home, built in 1928, turned into an upmarket boutique hotel with a deep veranda with views. A brief but interesting menu changes regularly. Booking is essential.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/A: R45



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DURBAN
THE WARMEST PLACE TO BE

BILLY THE BUM'S

504 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, 031 303 1988
The bar is the centre of the action and cocktails the speciality, but there is a wide range of burgers, steaks and the like, with sports fans served by big-screen TVs.
Mon-Sat lunch & dinner C: R25

BLUE ZOO

Mitchell Park, 6 Nimmo Road, 031 303 2265
Venue in the park. Favourites are oxtail and curries.
Mon-Sun 8am-4.30pm C: R50

BUTCHER BOYS

170 Florida Road, 031 312 8248
Busy venue aimed at the well-fed carnivore. More than just another steakhouse, it offers top-quality meat dishes. But it's not all about steak and there are plenty of options. Daily specials and kids' menu.
Mon-Fri & Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B/A: R40

CAMDEN 031 COMEDY CLUB & BISTRO

507 Lilian Ngoyi Road, 061 028 7248
A fun and funky spot with extremely limited menu but offering some of the best steaks in town. Cool deck on which to chill with cocktails. Weekends are comedy nights, weekdays offer unplugged jazzy vibes.
Tues-Sun 2pm-midnight B: R40

CAPERS

Shop 3, Avonmore Centre, 9th Avenue, Morningside, 031 303 9238
Simple restaurant and sports bar with a reasonably priced menu. Sunday roast (R49) and weekday specials.
Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C: R30

CAPSICUM (Curries ☆)

Britannia Hotel, 1299 Umgeni Road, 031 303 2266
The restaurant in this national monument has been revamped, but is still a little short on style. What it's not short on is flavour. The menu has become formidably extensive, but Durban curry is the draw.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R30

CASABLANCA

413 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, 031 312 4648
Venue specialising in Indo-Portuguese food. Strictly halaal and no alcohol permitted.
Tues-Thurs & Sat-Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner C: Halaal

CHILL COCKTAIL LOUNGE

170 Florida Road, 031 303 9095
Restaurant and cocktail lounge with a menu offering home-style fare including grills, wraps and bunnies.
Mon-Sun 6.30am till late C: No BYO

**CHUCK & BOBS**

465 Innes Road, Morningside, 082 565 7545
This fun little hole in the wall, that spills out onto a patio overlooking Mitchell Park, specialises in charcuterie. So expect baguettes filled with home-cured coppa ham, charcuterie planks or scrambled eggs with Cumberland sausage. Coffee and juices complete the picture.
Mon-Wed, Fri 7am-4pm, Thurs 7am-7pm, Sat 8am-2pm C: R45

CUBANA

23 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 303 4383
Shib bar and grill with a wide-ranging menu. A place to see and be seen for the trendy set. Open till late.
Mon-Sun from 7am-2am C/B: R30 (management's discretion)

DELFI (Continental flavour, Frank ☆)

386 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, 031 312 7032
Tables spill on to the pavement in a little family-run venue that oozes Greek flavour and warmth. The menu is strong on mezze, but also watch for daily specials like fresh linefish. Stuffed tomatoes are a favourite.
Wed-Mon lunch & dinner C: R25

DROPKICK MURPHIES

219 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 825 1858
Rugby pub aimed at the younger set. Menu ranges from an Irish inspired Guinness pie to gourmet nachos.
Mon-Sun 11.30am-1am C/B: R30

FREEDOM CAFE

37-43 St Mary's Avenue, Greyville, 031 309 4434
Tiny, stylish venue attached to a funky boutique hotel. Housed mostly in a shipping container, it has a patio which is pleasant in good weather. The menu highlights fresh produce and is interesting.
Tues-Sun breakfast & lunch C: R35

GREEN MANGO (Oriental ☆)

Avonmore Centre, 9th Avenue, 031 312 7054
Chef-owner Roger VWatchara Siravajanakul dishes up stylish fresh sushi, sashimi and other more unusual Japanese fare in modern surrounds. There are also authentic Thai dishes with a kick.
Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R35

HASHTAG

85 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, Greyville, 031 837 8762
Steak burgers and build you own pizzas feature at this trendy Bollywood-style wine bar.
Mon-Thurs 7am-10pm, Fri-Sat 7am-1am C: R40

HOUSE OF CURRIES ON FLORIDA

275 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 303 6076
Reasonably-priced local curries served mostly on a deck area. The roti wraps are enormous.
Mon-Sun 10am-10.30pm C: R40

INDIAN CONNECTION

485 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, 031 312 1440
A revamped, redecorated old home with an eastern theme. Chefs from India produce mostly northern dishes, with a good vegetarian selection. Kids' menu.
Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

JOOP'S PLACE

Avondale Centre, 9th Avenue, 031 312 9135
Popular steakhouse cum bistro that's a cut above most, with former butcher Joop Mol fanning the flames in an open-plan kitchen. Try his meat croquettes and oxtail.
Fri lunch (Wed-Fri in December), Mon-Sat dinner A/B: No BYO

LUNA BLU

427 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, 031 312 4665
Tiny venue with a pavement area, turning out unusual pizzas and pastas. Blackboard specials. No alcohol allowed.
Mon-Sun from 11am C: Halaal

MALI'S

77 Smiso Nkwanyana Road (Goble Road), Morningside, 031 312 8535
Wide ranging Indian restaurant from Mali, the man who brought us Palki, featuring the full-flavoured dishes of north and south and a small Indo-Chinese menu. Vegetarians well catered for.
Tues-Sun lunch and dinner C/B: BYO

MAMMA LUCIANA'S

52 Florida Road, Greyville, 031 303 8350
An offshoot of Marco's, and sharing its kitchens, this is a casual venue spilling on to the pavement and offering light fare and good pastas like prawn panzerotti.
Mon-Sun from 8am C/B: R40

MARCO'S

48 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, Greyville, 031 303 3078
Modern trattoria with a bright, fresh look. Dishes include interesting pastas, pizzas and mains.
Mon-Fri & Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B: R40

9TH AVENUE BISTRO (Fine dining, Innovation ☆)

Avonmore Centre, 9th Avenue, 031 312 9134
Chef-patron Graham Neilson has elevated this modern bistro to new heights. The menu changes regularly, but expect the likes of roast quail breast with wild mushrooms and pea puree. A five-course tasting menu offers exceptional value. The Bistro menu features popular dishes and there are lunch specials.
Tues-Fri lunch, Mon-Sat dinner A: R55 WF

PL8

Signature Life Hotel 64, 64 Gordon Road, Morningside, 031 312 8907
Functional boutique hotel with a dining area and open kitchen. An interesting menu changes regularly.
Mon-Sun all day C: R35

QUARTERS BRASSERIE (Breakfast ☆)

101 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 303 5246
Classy boutique hotel with a cool restaurant. The courtyard is ideal for lingering over excellent eggs Benedict or lunching lightly on a salad.
Mon-Sun breakfast, Mon-Sat lunch & dinner B: R45

MARK

GOLD in Innes Road is a jewellery shop stroke coffee outlet offering award winning coffees, simple salmon sandwiches and views of the park.
031 303 4417

SPIGA D'ORO

200 Florida Road, 031 303 9511 / 303 2231
Buzzing family-run venue spilling out on to the pavement, offering mostly pizzas and pastas, and open till the wee hours. Be prepared to queue, but a lot of people are there to see and be seen.
Mon-Sun from 7am B/C: R35

TACO ZULU

237 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 303 9584
Young, vibey venue with an upstairs bar area, offering Mexican-themed dishes. There is also mainstream fare.
Mon-Sun noon until late C: R30

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THE ADDRESS

cnr Innes and Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) roads, Morningside, 031 303 8822

Simple corner venue with a menu focusing on grills, but also featuring pasta and pizza. Friday lunch buffet (R70) from 1.15pm offers good value
Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: Halaal

THE SAINT JAMES

100 Vence Road, Morningside, 031 312 9488

An old Morningside home has been turned into a little boutique hotel with an airy dining room and courtyard. The menus are limited, but attractive. High tea.
Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, Mon-Thurs dinner B/A: R35

VICKY CRISTINA'S

275 Florida Road, Morningside, 031 561 1000

Offshoot of the uMhlanga venue, offering a range of tapas and Spanish-style pizzas in a vibey atmosphere with dramatic decor.
Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R35

VINTAGE

20 Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, Greyville, 031 309 1328,

Long-established restaurant in an old house that covers the cuisines of north and south India in an extensive menu ranging from Goa to Rajasthan. Vegetarians have a field day.
Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R25

ZACK'S

Windermere Centre, Lilian Ngoyi (Windermere) Road, Greyville, 031 312 0755

Cafe with a pleasant terrace area. The menu ranges from the light to more substantial. Live music Friday and Sunday.
Mon-Sun from 7.30am C: R20

BEREA**2GO**

141 Musgrave Road, Berea 031 202 1911

Huge selection of meals with an international flavour in a pavement cafe atmosphere. No alcohol. Kids' menu.
Mon-Fri from 9am, Sat-Sun from 8.30am C: Halaal

315

Coastlands on the Ridge, Ridge Road, 031 271 8200

Hotel aimed mostly at the corporate market, with a restaurant opening on to a terrace. Extensive halaal menu.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C/B: No BYO Halaal

ADEGA

534 Peter Mokaba (Ridge) Road, 031 207 8353

This popular Portuguese inspired chain offers all the usual

seafood options, plus it's halaal.

Mon-Sun lunch and dinner B: Halaal WF

BERTUOA

Musgrave Centre, Berea, 031 828 1979

Vibey venue with a big terrace area, open from breakfast till the wee hours. The menu is wide-ranging and it's a popular place for a late-night snack.

Mon-Sun 9am-2am C/B: R65 WF

CAFE 1999 (Casual Dining, Innovation ☆)

Silvertown Centre, cnr Silvertown and Vause roads, Berea 031 202 3406

A range of dishes is offered in starter-size or slightly bigger portions in this buzzy, casual venue. Menus change regularly, but always show style and imagination. Think of the likes of chorizo poached in cider and served with feta and dates. Chocolate brownies highly recommended.
Mon-Fri lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B/A: R40 first bottle per couple, then R70, bubbly R55 per couple.

CAFE ABYSSINIA

77 Problem Mkhize (Cowey) Road, 031 836 4777

Charity Asfew warms local hearts with the dishes of her homeland. Expect spicy dishes, where everyone breaks bread and dips in. Simple, messy and a lot of fun.
Mon-Sat 11am-9pm C: BYO

FUSION WORLD FOOD CAFE

Silvertown Centre, cnr Silvertown and Vause roads, Berea, 031 202 6182

Small venue with a menu leaning towards the east and molecular gastronomy. Liquid nitrogen ice-cream a hit.
Tues-Sat lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B/A: R25

GREEN WITH ENVY

281 Vause Road, 031 201 3779

Casual eatery attached to a charming local nursery. Enjoy simple home-made quiches under the trees, or a decadent eggs benedict. Good abking.
Mon-Sun 7.30am to 4.30pm C: R40

LA BELLA

199 Steven Dlamini (Essenwood) Road, 031201 9176

Former power station turned vibey restaurant, with a view over the park. The menu is Italianate in flavour, strong on pastas and pizzas. A little bar is popular with locals.

Thursday quiz nights a hit.

Mon-Sat 6.30am till late, Sun, public holidays 7am C: R25

**LITTLE INDIA**

155 Musgrave Road, 031 201 1121

First-floor venue overlooking the street and an enticing list of north and south Indian dishes. The prawn curry, dosa and spicy chickpeas are exceptional. Extensive veg selection.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R25

MARKET (Casual Dining ☆)

The Courtyard, 40 Gladys Mazibuko (Marriott) Road, 031 309 8581

This has evolved from a cool place for breakfasts and light lunches into a classy fine-dining destination with innovative seasonal menus that change regularly. Laid back jazz on Friday afternoons.

Mon-Sun all day, Tues-Sat dinner C/B/A: R45

MEI XIN CHINESE RESTAURANT

213 Musgrave Road, 031 201 5433

Simple range of Cantonese dishes. Crispy duck and salt and pepper prawns are notable.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

PALKI

225 Musgrave Road, 031 201 0019

Member of a worldwide chain, with chefs from India and a comprehensive menu. Snacks like puri with potato masala and mince dosas are tops. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R30

ST CLEMENTS

191 Musgrave Road, 031 202 2511

Appealing array of fresh light bites, but Thai dishes are the tops. Delightful garden setting (if the weather's fine), with room for children to play. Regular live music evenings.

Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm, Sat 8.30am-4.30pm, Sun 8am-3.30pm C: R20

TONG LOK

136 Problem Mkhize (Cowey) Road, 031 309 3467

An array of Cantonese dishes that is interesting if you steer away from set menus and predictable items like chow mein. Peking duck can be ordered in advance.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

UNITY (Casual Dining, Frank ☆)

Silvertown Centre, cnr Silvertown and Vause roads, 031 201 3470

Casual venture from the Cafe 1999 team, aiming at a wider market, with mainstream fare like steaks and pub grub, but with their trademark flair.

Mon-Sat noon-11pm or midnight B/C: R30

GLENWOOD**ARTS CAFE**

KZNSA Gallery, 166 Bulwer Road, 031 201 9969

Indoor-outdoor venue attached to a gallery, with leafy surrounds and fresh light menu options. Breakfasts popular.
Tues-Sun 8am-4pm C: R30

BEAN GREEN

147 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, 031 201 8122

Unpretentious venue with award-winning coffee and a simple range of home-made sandwiches and muffins. Chill to the 60s and 70s vinyl spinning on the decks.

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 8am-1pm C: Not licenced

CAKE AND SATAY HOUSE

Albert Dloomo (Willowvale) Road, Umbilo, 082 716 3793

Very basic room attached to a kitchen which turns out a selection of authentic eastern dishes like nasi goreng and satay. No frills – fun for the adventurous only. Take your own wine - and wine glasses.

Mon-Sat dinner C: BYO

EARTHMOTHER ORGANIC

Brand Road, 031 202 1527

Funky cafe focusing on organic food, salads and sandwiches. Everything squeaky fresh but sinfully delicious. Also deli options.

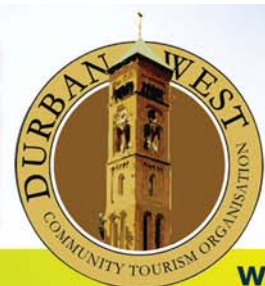
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm C: R20

GLENWOOD BAKERY (Frank ☆)

398 Esther Roberts (Frere) Road

Artisanal bakery with a simple lunchtime menu of sandwiches made with the best of breads. The rosemary sweetpotato bread is tops and cheese straws never make the journey home. Monday nights is pizza night, get there early or join the queues.

Mon 5pm-8pm, Mon-Fri 6am to 3.30pm, Sat 6am-1pm 072 614 6081 C: Not licenced



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JACKIE HORNER PUB AND GRILL

cnr Helen Joseph (Davenport) and Esther Roberts (Frere) roads, 031 202 9192

Local with an English pub vibe. There are daily specials and a Sunday roast. Live music on Sunday and Wednesday is quiz night.

Mon-Sun 11am-late C: Pub

JULIO'S

Stella Sports Club, 175 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, Glenwood, 031 201 3133

Simple venue popular with locals offering mainly Portuguese-style fare. Good value line fish, calamari and peri-peri chicken or any combination of them.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

MAAN HING

Glenwood Village Centre, Che Guevara (Moore) Road, Glenwood, 031 201 0115

Simple shopfront venue with a few tables, mostly concentrating on takeaway Cantonese fare.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

MOOKI NOODLE BAR

Brand Road, Glenwood, 031 811 9199

Small, fun, no-frills venue offering a range of noodle dishes, from soups to stir-fries, and spring rolls to fishcakes.

Tues-Sat 11am-9pm, Sun 11am-3.30pm C: R15

O'BRYAN'S

131 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, 079 638 8574

Popular sports bar offering a range of hearty pub grub.

Tues-Thurs 11am-9pm, Fri-Sat 11am-10pm, Sun 11am-5pm
C/B: R30

OLIVE AND OIL

cnr Helen Joseph (Davenport) and Bulwer roads, Glenwood, 031 201 6146

Wide range of Mediterranean fare. Pasta, linefish and prawns are good bets. There is a separate room for children to play and watch videos. Also a vegetarian selection. New lunch menu

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R35

PARC CAFE

394 Ester Roberts (Frere) Road, 031 205 7285

Fresh, buzzy and contemporary venue run by Brett Gentles, formerly at 9th Avenue Bistro. Big on unusual combinations, exotic salads and light lunches. Breakfasts might include banana bread French toast.

Mon noon-4pm, Tues-Fri 7.30am-4pm, Sat 8am-2pm C: R35



The **COFFEE TREE**, from the Corner Cafe team, offers organic coffees and a range of veggie sarmies. Davenport Place, off Cato Road
031 201 0219

PIZZETTA

139 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road 031 201 1019

Simple, funky little meeting place with a veranda overlooking the road. The focus is on good, unusual pizzas, but there are also salads and pastas.

Tues-Sun 11.30am-9.30pm C: R30

STELLA SPORTS CLUB

175 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, 031 201 7717

This simple clean-lined restaurant attached to a sports club offers exceptional value. You don't have to be a member to enjoy good prawns or chicken curry. Home-made burgers have developed a reputation. Get involved in the soccer action on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Mon-Sun 9am-9.30pm C/B: R30

THE SUSHI CORNER

127 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, 073 274 8649

Simple, fun sushi outlet squeezed into an alley between Yossis and O'Bryans. Tuna sashimi and salmon roses are star performers.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm C/B: Not licenced

THE CORNER CAFE

197 Brand Road, Glenwood 031 201 0219

Friendly, trendy "green" cafe with a small menu that changes daily, offering wraps, salads, pizzas and heartier dishes like gnocchi or pasta. A little outside area is fun. Great coffee.

Mon-Thurs 6am-4.30pm, Fri 6am-4.30pm, Sat 8am-2.30pm
C: R25

THE FACTORY CAFE

369 Gale Street, Glenwood, 031 205 3283

Cool coffee in the old Columbo warehouse where hip young things hang out and quaff award winning coffees with gourmet sandwiches and custard tarts.

Mon-Fri 7.30am-4.30pm, Sat 8.30am-2pm C: BYO

YOSSI'S

127 Helen Joseph (Davenport) Road, 031 201 0090

Vibey little coffee shop-cum-restaurant with a menu ranging from breakfasts to dinner. Influences from Mozambique and Morocco.

Mon from 4pm, Tues-Sun 11am-10pm
C/B: R50

WESTVILLE TO PINETOWN**AROY THAI**

Engen Centre, Roger Sishi (Blair Atholl) Road, Westville North, 031 262 1299

Thai food and sushi, served in simple surrounds. Apart from all the curries, there are items like minced beef salad. Takeaways available.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

A TASCA

Engen Centre, Roger Sishi (Blair Atholl) Road, Westville, 031 262 2305

Tasty Portuguese food in a suburban setting with a loyal clientele. A buzzy bar area adds to the vibe.

Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C: R35

BLACK FOREST TAVERN

55 Glenugie Street, Pinetown, 031 702 2908

Family-run restaurant and pub that has become a landmark after more than 25 years. Mostly Germanic food is served at reasonable prices. Lunch specials.

Mon-Sat lunch & dinner C: R15 WF

CHEZ NOUS

Blue Heights shopping centre, Westville, 031 266 7011

This popular family restaurant offers a good selection of fish and seafood, as well as homely food like lamb shank,

pot pie and steaks.

Mon-Sun lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C: R25

FOON LOK NIEN

Village Market, Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville, 031 266 2921/31

Simple, family-run restaurant in a shopping centre offering Cantonese dishes.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

LE THAI

Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville, 031 266 7368

Thai food from a proven formula. A platter is a good way to start. Kids' menu, sushi and lunchtime specials.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R30

SHADOWS TAVERN

A512 Clermont, 083 553 7898

Upmarket spot fashioned as the home of jazz, fusion and R&B. Lots of movers and shakers, playground for serious players. Sunday jazz sessions.

Events based, check for opening hours. C: Pub

TATE'S KASI GRILL

cnr North Road and Seventh Avenue, Clermont, 082 833 1810

Meat braai while you wait, bring your own drinks. You might even bump into the odd local celeb.

Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun 8am-2pm. C

THE BLOCKMANS GRILL

40 King's Road, Pinetown, 031 702 9010

Top-quality meat at a reasonable price, but there are a number of options for those who don't eat red meat.

Children's menu.

Mon-Sun lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C/B R35

MARULA'S

at 112 Maryvale Road, Westville, offers light meals, coffees, a petting zoo and places for the kids to roam. Popular with young families.
031 266 7600

WAXY O'CONNOR'S

124 Jan Hofmeyr Road, Westville, 031 266 2565

Irish-theme pub with a warm, homely feel, and good meals including home-made pies. Ladies' night Tuesdays.

Mon-Sun noon-midnight C: Pub

WOODCUTTER'S GRILLHOUSE AND BAR

48 Buckingham Terrace, Westville, 031 266 1843

Casual family steakhouse with a deck area. Kids' menu.

Live music on Sundays and a pub area that buzzes throughout the evening.
Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R30

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BAZARUTO'S

Maytime Centre, Lyngarth Road, Kloof, 031 764 4406

Suburban venue with an adjoining pub and a traditional line-up of Portuguese dishes. A faithful clientele has ensured this is a stayer, open now for nearly 20 years. Mon-Sat lunch & dinner C/B: R29

BELLEVUE CAFE (Casual Dining ☆)

Bellevue Road, Kloof, 031 717 2780

Casual but stylish venture from Chris Black of Aubergine and Guy Cluver (who now also have Lupa Osteria). This is not fine dining, but honest food, prepared with panache, at a reasonable price. Slow-roasted lamb ravioli stars.

Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B: R40 (first bottle, then R55)

4PRAWNS RESTAURANT

Heritage Market, Old Main Road, Hillcrest & Kloof

Village Mall, Old Main Road, Kloof, 031 765 2480

Big restaurant offering reasonably priced fare for both seafood lovers and carnivores, with daily specials.

Mon-Sun 11.45am-9pm C: R30

KEG AND TROUT

Heritage Market, Hillcrest, 031 765 2070

Pub food like pies in a bar-restaurant with a cosy vibe.

Mon-Sun 11am-late C: Pub

LA PIZZA PAZZA

Del Cairn Centre, Village Road, Kloof, 031 764 0749

Attractive venue with a menu strong on pizza and pastas, but also offering risotti, veal, fish and seafood.

Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner, B: R35

LA TALA

Tala private game reserve, Eston Road near Camperdown, 031 781 8013

Game-watching can be followed by lunch at this big restaurant, which has views over the reserve. Buffet on Sundays, à la carte meals the rest of the time.

Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B/A: R40 WF

LUPA OSTERIA (Casual Dining ☆)

Lillies Lifestyle Centre, Old Main Road, Hillcrest, 031 765 3059

Venture from Chris Black of Aubergine fame, and Guy Cluver, who also have Bellevue Cafe. The feel is modern Italian, with clean lines and strong colours. The menu ranges from carpaccio and risotto balls, to fillet with porcini mushroom sauce.

Mon-Sun lunch and dinner B: R50



MO-ZAM-BIK

9 Inanda Road, Hillcrest, 031 765 6556

Spin-off of the Ballito venue, with a rustic vibe. The fare is, obviously, Mozambican in flavour. Check for special offers.

Tues-Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B: R30

NONNA

Makaranga Garden Lodge, 1a Igwababa Road, Kloof, 031 764 6616

Clean-lined Italianate venue with wonderful views over lush botanical gardens from a big deck. Wheelchair friendly, with picnics available from the deli area.

Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C/B: R30 WF

OLIVE AND OIL

Lillies Lifestyle Centre, 12/16 Old Main Road, Hillcrest, 031 765 6214

Mediterranean menu for the whole family, strong on pastas and seafood. The linefish and prawns are hot sellers. Deck looking over the suburban surrounds.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B: R35

PAPA GIOVANNI'S

11 Hillcrest Centre, Old Main Road, Hillcrest, 031 765 3617

Small venue with pavement cafe vibe, serving modern Italian fare strong on pastas and wood-fired pizzas. There are also grills, oven-baked chicken and oxtail.

Mon-Sun from noon till late C: R25

QUO (Innovation, Frank ☆)

Gillitts Shopping Centre, cnr York and Clifton roads, Gillitts, 082 320 7906

This stylish venture from Jonathan Jones has moved into larger airier premises across the courtyard. The style is Mediterranean with eastern influences, like wasabi and

ginger buttered prawns and fresh snapper on Asian noodles in a mirin sauce. Chocolate bread and butter pudding is notable. Pleasant courtyard area to sit outside. Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C: R40

SPRIGS

Field's Centre, Kloof, 031 764 6031

The ultimate in coffee shops, frequented by yummy mummies, offering items like a great baked cheesecake. Appealing pay-as-you-weigh lunchtime buffet and deli.

Mon-Fri 7.30-5pm, Sat 8am-3pm C: No corkage WF

STRETTA CAFE (Italian ☆)

Colony Centre, 50 Old Main Road, Hillcrest, 031 765 8862

Italian cafe with industrial chic decor, offering light meals like panini and a more formal menu with pasta, pizza, steaks and fish. The focus is on simple, fresh and exceptional value. Coffees from SA's top barrista.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R30

SU THAI

Delcain Centre, Village Road, Kloof, 082 744 9955

Tiny venue with just a few tables and a busy takeaway trade. The favourites are there, but for something a bit different try the northern Thai chicken curry.

Tues-Sun 11am-8pm C: BYO

THE POT & KETTLE

168 Old Main Road, Botha's Hill, 031 777 1312

Long running pub and restaurant with spectacular views

over the Valley of 1000 Hills, serving everything from breakfasts, light lunches, teas to hearty dinners. The Pot and Barrel sports bar is popular on match days.

Mon-Sun 8.30am-4.30pm

THE OLIVE GARDEN

Dieter's Nursery, off Kassier Road, Assagay, 031 768 1314

Family-run venue with a deck overlooking gardens and a seasonal Mediterranean menu. Sunday roast (R130) and sundowner specials Thursday to Saturday. Booking essential at weekends.

Mon-Sun 8am-4pm C: R35

THE RAINBOW RESTAURANT

23 Stanfield Lane, Pinetown, 031 702 9161

A live music mainstay, this is one of South Africa's oldest jazz venues and the first in a so-called white suburb to get a licence to serve a multiracial clientele. Offers traditional cuisine and classic comfort food.

Mon-Sun 10am-7.30pm C: Pub

WAI THAI

Hillgate Centre, Old Main Road, Hillcrest 031 765 5019

Authentic Thai food and sushi, served in simple surrounds.

The menu is extensive, the flavours true.

Mon-Sun 11.30am-9pm C: R30

YANG

Heritage Market, Old Main Road, 031 765 5114

Simple first-floor, family-run venue offering a range of Cantonese dishes including Shanghai-style seafood.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R35

Breakfast on eggs benedict at the **TREAT CAFE** in the stylish Talloula Conference Centre and take in views of the valley below. 161 Old Main Road, Botha's Hill. 031 777 1586

KWA MASHU/INANDA

KWAHLABISA

KwaMashu section E

Cool, laid-back venue. Braai, drinks, not a bad place to unwind. Authentic township experience popular with international tourists.

SBU'S LOUNGE

Road MR 93, Amatikwe Phase 2, Inanda, 083 726 0251

Humble, chilled, safe, increasingly popular township spot. Braai prepared while you wait. Sometimes features A-list artists and DJs. Great vibe.

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DURBAN NORTH AREA

AL FIRENZE (Italian ☆, Seafood ☆)

21 Ray Paul Drive, La Lucia, 031 572 5559

This favourite of locals has kept to a winning formula with a wide-ranging Italian menu that extends from risotto and pasta to good seafood and quail. Pizzas are excellent and daily specials are a treat.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner B/A: R40

BITE YOUR TONGUE

62b Astra Centre, Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 563 4419

Eastern venue offering a sushi carousel and Chinese dishes like sizzling beef, dumplings, belly of pork and Singapore noodles. The sushi is half-price on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Mon-Sun 10.30am-9.30pm C: R30

BOMBAY BLU

Astra Centre, Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 564 7914

Casual, small Indian restaurant. The menu covers the range from north to south, with dishes like lamb sagwala, tandoori chicken and Goan prawns.

Mon-Sun 11am-9.30pm C: R20

CAFFE ITALIA

Sunningdale Centre, Umhlanga Rocks Drive, Durban North, 031 572 5670

Unassuming little Italian shopfront venue. There are starters like bruschetta, solid mains like slow-cooked lamb shank and good pastas and pizzas. Takeaways and specials.

Mon-Sun noon-9pm (Fri 10pm) C: R30

CAFFE ITALIA EXPRESS

Park Boulevard, Browns Drift Road, Umgeni Park, 031 563 0333

Branch of the Sunningdale venue, with much the same menu. The main focus is takeaways, with just a few tables.

Mon-Sun noon-9pm (Fri 10pm) C: R30

CHINA PLATE (Oriental ☆)

Park Boulevard, Browns Drift Road, Umgeni Park, 031 564 6437

Long-established suburban shopping centre venue run by George Hu. Tastes are fresh and authentic, especially if you ask for guidance. Great roast pork and crunchy garlic langoustines are musts.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R35 WF

CONNOR'S

Mackeurtan Avenue, Durban North
031 563 4462

Vibrant family-run pub offering live music at weekends and good pub grub like liver with onions. A deck overlooking the road is popular.

Mon-Sun 10am-midnight C: Pub

GREEDY BUDDHA

59 Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 563 1919

A novel menu of Asian-style "tapas", designed to be shared and including steamed and fried dumplings, and some fusion fare. Favourites are Szechuan chicken with candied cashews and fried spinach with a prawn "sugar".

Tues-Sat noon-8.30pm, Sun noon-2.30pm

B/C: R35 WF

HOPS

Riverside Hotel, Kenneth Kaunda Road (Northway), Durban North, 031 573 1657

Fare ranging from seafood to steak, salads, pizza, burgers and tacos. Live music on Friday and Saturday. Gets busy at weekends.

Mon-Sun noon-2am C: Pub

INDIAN SUMMER (Anne's pick, Indian ☆)

Shop 17, Sunningdale Centre, Umhlanga Rocks Drive, Sunningdale, 031 562 1234

Simple, unprepossessing shopfront venue serving really good South Indian food. Chat, the snacks sold on Mumbai's beachfront, are a great way to start and unusual in these parts. Try the masala dosa, chicken lollipops and Goan prawn curry. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun 11am-9pm C: R20 WF

JACK SALMON FISH HOUSE (Seafood ☆)

Glenore Centre, Glenashley, 031 572 3664

The fare in this venue overlooking the M4 to the beach is, surprise, surprise, fishy, with winning dishes ranging from seared tuna and grilled prawns to a gourmet fish and chips. Sushi on offer from Tuesday to Saturday.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm C/B: R35

JAIPUR PALACE

131 Waterkant Street, Durban North, 031 563 0287

Well-established, upmarket operation serving food in the traditions of north and south India. A buffet is a good way to test a variety of dishes.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/C: R30



KEG AND THISTLE

Glenore Centre, Glenashley, 031 562 9018

The format at this venue is one that won custom in Florida Road more than 20 years ago, with an English pub atmosphere, home-made pies and staples like bangers and mash and grills.

Mon-Sun 11am-10.30pm B/C: R35

KUNG THAI (Oriental ☆)

59 Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 564 5458

Wide-ranging menu of Thai dishes from a highly competent kitchen. The flavours are authentic and the style more upmarket than similar venues, presented with a little more panache.

Mon-Sat noon-9.30pm, Sun noon-8pm B: R35 WF

MAMMA LUCIANA'S

Glenore Centre, Glenashley, 031 562 1405

Buzzy venue with a long room brightened by murals and a view of the sea. The menu is strong on pizzas and pastas and there are daily specials. A spacious deli section next door offers a value-for-money harvest table at lunchtime, and also serves breakfasts (deli shut on Mondays).

Mon-Sun noon-10pm C/B: R40, R60 for bubbly

NEO CAFE (Continental ☆)

12a Mackeurtan Avenue, Durban North, 031 563 5546

A new branch of the popular Portuguese eaterie on the beachfront. The speciality is the flame-grilled chicken, but look also at grilled calamari tentacles with peri-peri, prawn rissoles and Mozambican-style curries.

Mon-Sat noon-9pm C: R25

PANAJI

68 Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 564 0828

Simple venue offering a range of Indian dishes, from the kormas of the north to tandoori items, Indo-Asian fare and some local curries and bunnies.

Takeaways.
Mon-Sun 11am-8.30pm C: R20

PASHA'S

Newport Avenue, Glenashley, 031 562 0564/7

Tiny venue with a menu that covers just about every angle, but is strong on pizzas and pastas. The welcome is warm. A fish, seafood/flame-grilled chicken outlet, Pasha's Bistro, operates under the same management a couple of doors down.

Tues-Sun 10am-9pm C: R25

RIVERSIDE CAFE

Riverside Hotel, Kenneth Kaunda Road (Northway), Durban North, 031 563 0600

Airy restaurant opening on to the palm-fringed pool. The menu is contemporary cafe, with an à la carte selection.

Mon-Sun 6.30am-11pm C/B: No BYO WF

SPEAK SUSHI

54 Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 563 6464

Sushi and teppanyaki in an airy venue opening on to tables on the pavement. There are also salads, stirfries and tempura. Half-price sushi Tuesday and Thursday.

Mon-Sat noon-9pm C: R30 WF

SPIGA D'ORO

17 Mackeurtan Ave, Durban North, 031 303 9511

Branch of the popular Morningside spot, with a menu that repeats all the old favourites like penne with salmon and a creamy feta sauce. Breakfasts, pizzas from a wood-fired oven and cocktails too.

Tues-Sun 11am-10pm C: R40

SPLASHES AND FAT BAZ

Glenashley Views Centre, 36 Newport Avenue, Glenashley, 031 572 3152

Views over suburbs in the sea give the edge to this airy venue which features two eating destinations under the same management. Splashes has a Mediterranean menu; Fat Baz features pub fare and is aimed at the younger set. Tues-Thurs lunch & dinner, Fri, Sat & Sun noon-9pm/10pm C/B: R30

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SUN SUN

63 Umhlanga Rocks Drive, Durban North, 031 564 4548

Hearty Japanese and Chinese dishes served at a few tables at the side of an Oriental supermarket. Authentic tastes but absolutely no frills.

Mon-Sun 11am-8pm C: BYO

THE LOOKOUT

Glenashley Views Centre, Newport Avenue, Glenashley, 031 562 1415

A popular haunt of locals, this venue with a great view over suburbs to the sea offers items like peri-peri chicken, oxtail, lamb curry and grilled seafood. Lunchtime specials. The bar is open from 10.30am. Deck area.

Mon-Sat lunch & dinner, Sun noon-8pm C/B: R30

THE MAD ITALIAN

66 Adelaide Tambo (Kensington) Drive, Durban North, 031 573 2938

Italian menu, strong on pizzas and pastas, in a family-run restaurant. Dishes like fresh fish with pesto are augmented by daily specials.

Tues-Fri & Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner C/B: R30

THE WOK BOX

Mackeyurtan Ave, Durban North, 031 564 2939

Sean Beatt is back in the business with a very casual Thai restaurant that has a strong takeaway trade. Aside from the favourites, there are interesting daily specials like slow-cooked five-spice pork shank.

Mon-Sat lunch & dinner, Sun 11am-5pm C: R25

TON HOI

Newport Ave, Glenashley, 031 562 9933

Simple venue offering a mix of Cantonese standards with some more exotic items like dumplings, whole steamed fish, Peking duck and hotpots. Sushi bar with specials.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

UMHLANGA**ADEGA**

Palm Court, Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 584 6311

Casual halaal venue which offers traditional Portuguese fare. No alcohol permitted.

Mon-Sun noon-9.30pm C/B: Halaal

ADEGA

uMhlanga Plaza, Lagoon Drive, 031 561 4794

New venue with a menu of mostly traditional Portuguese fare but also the likes of sushi.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm or 11pm C/B: R50

ANGELO'S

Granada Centre, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 3245

Dependable trattoria that spills out into a courtyard with a menu of pasta, pizza, risotto and other traditional dishes, plus seafood.

Mon-Fri & Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner C/B: R30 (R22 at lunchtime) WF

AURELIA'S

The Square, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 2725

New Italianate venue from the owners of the Square boutique hotel next door. Opening on to the courtyard, it has a wood-fired pizza oven, pastas and mains like lamb chops grilled with garlic and rosemary.

Sun-Thurs noon-10pm, Fri & Sat noon-2am C/B: R35

BAMBOO LOUNGE

Protea Mall, Ridge Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 2705

Recently renovated, open-fronted room dominated by a sushi carousel. The full range is there, at very reasonable prices. There are a few options to sushi and specials.

Mon-Sun noon-9pm C: R25

BAR BA COA

Lighthouse Mall, Chartwell Drive, 031 561 4106

Fun, modern, vibey "Argentinian grill". Steaks with chimichurri sauce rule supreme, but there are options like a good deboned, flame-grilled chicken and slow-cooked lamb shank.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/A: R40

BARRIO (Continental ☆)

12 on Palm Boulevard, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 7456

The former Plaka still offers Greek and Mediterranean flavours, in an airy, summery venue. The focus is on a wide range of good mezze, with mains ranging from moussaka to seafood. Try the prawns with tomato and feta.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm B: R40, R60 for local bubbly, R150 Champagne

BELUGA (Eastern ☆)

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 584 7430

Huge double-tiered venue with wine cellar, bar and boulevard terrace, a place to see and be seen. The menu ranges from duck liver creme brulee to sesame-crusting tuna, but the winning features are great sushi and an array of dim sum (dumplings).

Mon-Sun 11am-10pm A/B: R40 WF

BLU

Breakers, 88 Lagoon Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 2271

Clean-lined room overlooking the pool area. Menu of contemporary fusion fare and a kids' selection. Catering mostly for hotel guests.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B: No BYO WF

BUTCHER BLOCK

Express Holiday Inn, cnr Ncondo Place & Ntusi Road, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 3547

Member of the franchise, with great sea views and light wood decor. There are appealing meaty options to the standard grills.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/A: R38

CAPE TOWN FISH MARKET

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 4432

Franchise operation open from breakfast, with the focus later in the day obviously on seafood. Colour-coded sushi carousel and teppanyaki. There is another branch at King Shaka airport (032 436 3018).

Mon-Sun 11am-10pm C/B: R30 WF

COL'CACCHIO

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 584 6822

Franchise operation extending into the main hall of the centre, offering a wide range of really good thin-based pizzas, pastas and salads in big portions. Takeaways.

Mon-Thurs 11am-9pm, Fri-Sun 10am-10.30pm C: R20 WF

COSMOPOLITAN

Square Hotel, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 1814

Restaurant off the lobby of a boutique hotel, with an appealing menu which changes seasonally and offers the likes of gnocchi with butternut in a creamy blue cheese sauce. Light lunches.

Mon-Sun 6.30am-10pm C/B: R85

COSMOPOLITAN

Urban Park, 60 Meridian Drive, uMhlanga Ridge, 087 350 4662

New venue in a new development, with the focus on Indian food in a menu that covers most bases.

Mon-Sun 6.30am-10pm C/B: R25

COTTON FIELDS

McCausland Crescent, uMhlanga, 031 561 3371

Reincarnation of the popular pub, here on three floors with terraces overlooking the sea. There is occasional live music and Sunday lunches on the roof. The kitchen closes at 10pm.

Tues-Sun noon-2am C: Pub

FERRUCCI,
in Granada Centre
in Chartwell Drive,
uMhlanga, is a vibey little
cafe and bakery, offering
interesting breakfasts and
gourmet sandwiches.
031 561 4140

DISH

1st floor, Royal Palm Hotel, 6 Palm Boulevard, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 581 8181

Signature restaurant of a stylish boutique hotel, with a circular bar, open kitchen and modern dining area opening on to a piazza with tables.

Mon-Sun breakfast, then noon-10.30pm A/B: R40 WF

ELEMENTS (View ☆)

Beverly Hills Hotel, Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 2211

Airy venue opening out on to two terraces with great views of the pool and the ocean. The menu is imaginative, and some dishes are available in smaller portions. Sit outside on a balmy evening.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm A/B: No BYO WF

FISH (Seafood ☆)

Protea Mall, 100 Ridge Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 2912

Unpretentious fish shop cum restaurant, which is always busy, so book. There is fresh seafood on sale, with the likes of oysters, tuna and calamari served at the table. Good battered hake, scampi and calamari.

Mon-Sat noon-9pm, Sun noon-8pm C/B: R35

GATEWAY TO INDIA

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 5711

Lovely restaurant, with saffron-orange silk panels and stone lions. Chefs from India serve up mostly north Indian dishes. Good tandoor and vegetarian selection.

Mon-Sun 11.30am-9.30pm A: R45

GRINGO'S

Lighthouse Mall, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 811 4258

The flavour is Mexican, with enchiladas, tacos and the like, but the focus is on tapas-like snacks and platters. Pavement cafe vibe.

Mon-Sun 11.30am-10pm C: R35

HARVEY'S (Fine Dining ☆, Innovation ☆)

uMhlanga Centre, Ridge Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 4977

Andrew Draper's elegant venue (relocated from Morningside) bears his trademark innovative style, with dishes as imaginative as the decor. Menu's change regularly with what's in season. Harry's Bar next door offers the likes of gourmet pizzas and burgers from lunch until 10pm (also available in restaurant). Regular wine pairing dinners feature some of South Africa's top wine makers.

Tues-Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B/A: R60

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DURBAN
THE WARMEST PLACE TO BE

HOOTERS

2 Lagoon Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 2744

Bright decor, perky waitresses in short shorts, and American-style food like burgers and chicken wings. Popular with the younger set.

Mon-Sun 11.30am-midnight C: Pub

FILE MAURICE (Anne's pick, Fine Dining ☆)

9 McCausland Crescent, uMhlanga

Special venue which is one of the longest-running class acts in town with a mix of French and Mauritian dishes like crab soup, rack of lamb and octopus curry. The atmosphere is colonial, with a cool veranda. Notable wine list. There's a new menu.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner 031 561 7609 A: R50 for local wines, R100 for imports

JOITA'S (Continental ☆)

Protea Mall, uMhlanga, 031 561 3577

Family-run Portuguese venture in new premises in the mall. Great peri-peri chicken and grilled prawns make it a favourite of locals.

Mon-Sat 11am-10pm C: R40

KAI THAI

Umhlanga Plaza, uMhlanga, 060 633 9325

Lavishly decorated in black and gold, this offshoot of the Suncoast Casino venue offers a wide selection of Thai dishes in more formal surroundings than most.

Mon-Sun 12.30-10pm B: R40

KASHMIR

McCausland Crescent, uMhlanga, 031 561 7486

Smartly appointed restaurant with a view of the sea, specialising in the rich dishes of north India, but also offering a taste of the south.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/C: No BYO

KUNG THAI (Anne's pick, Oriental ☆)

Shop 13, Lighthouse Mall, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 2050

A thriving branch of the successful venue in Durban North. The menu is more upmarket than found in most Thai outlets and tastes are true. Pavement cafe vibe. Lunch specials attract locals.

Mon-Sun 10am-10pm C/B: R35

LITTLE HAVANA (Grills ☆)

Granada Centre, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 7589

A classy venue voted one of the country's top



LIGHTHOUSE CAFE in the Cabana Beach complex offers stunning views of uMhlanga beachfront from a big deck area and serves light meals. 031 561 5752

steakhouses. The decor is lush and fare equally appealing. Think of the likes of Norwegian salmon and prawn fishcakes – and the best of steaks.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner A/B: R50

LORD PRAWN

Umhlanga Plaza, uMhlanga, 031 561 1133

This venture started more than 30 years ago on the Durban beachfront and has loyal followers. The retro menu caters for just about every taste. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B: R35

LUIGI'S

Shop 5a, Lighthouse Mall, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 3988

Under new ownership, this trattoria has widened its scope to become a "Mediterranean" restaurant. Tables set out under cover on the pavement are ideal for people-watching.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm (Sun 9pm) C: R30 WF

MARCO PAULO (Anne's pick, Casual Dining ☆)

Accord House, 2 Golf Course Drive, Mount Edgecombe, 031 502 2221

This venue offers modern, Italian-style fare, with strong, true flavours. The menu is inventive, with daily specials adding interest. Lunches are reasonably priced. An industrial chic bar next door; **Frank's Speakeasy**, offers craft beers and the likes of gourmet burgers.

Mon-Fri lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B/A: R40 WF

MARITIMO'S

Cabana Beach, Lagoon Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 5672

A big, covered deck looking over the beach, sea and promenade provides an idyllic setting. The once-standard menu has been expanded and enlivened by the arrival of experienced chef Andras Fenyves, who provides dishes like prawn cakes and Hungarian goulash, along with fresh fish.

Mon-Sat 11am-10pm, Sun 11am-9pm B/C: R30 WF

MING BOW

Protea Mall, Ridge Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 3789

Months after having to close in Lighthouse Mall, this long-running Chinese restaurant has found new premises. The venue is smaller, but the menu stays close to the Cantonese staples. Four set menus and à la carte fare.

Mon-Sun noon-till 9pm C: R25

MO NOODLES

Beacon Rock, 21 Lighthouse Road, 031 561 1722

Funky and popular venue in a new centre offering fusion food with noodles and more noodles mostly the call, from soups to stirfries, with dishes available in half portions. Indoor and outdoor eating areas. The calamari is notable.

Mon-Sat 11.30am-9.30pm, Sun 11.30am-4pm B/C: R30

MO-ZAM-BIK

Level 2, Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 836 1574

An offshoot of the popular venue of the same name in Ballito, this no-frills venture offers Mozambican-style dishes like pregos and espetada in very casual surrounds.

Mon-Sun noon-9pm or later, depending on trade B: R30

OCEAN TERRACE (Curries ☆, Views ☆)

Oyster Box Hotel, 2 Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga, 031 514 5000

A casual, busy room overlooking the lighthouse and sea. Breakfasts are served and there is à la carte fare, but the highlight is an extensive, quality curry buffet. Sit outside on the terrace to make the best of the view.

Mon-Sun 7am-10.30pm A/B: No BYO WF

OLIVE AND OIL

Chartwell Centre, Chartwell Drive, 031 561 2618

Bustling venue with a wide menu of Mediterranean fare from pizzas to Greek specialities. Suitable for the whole family and booking is advisable.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B: R40

OYSTER BOX GRILL

Oyster Box Hotel, 2 Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga, 031 514 5000

Fine-dining spot with elegant decor and a classic menu that includes an old-style hors d'oeuvre trolley. Menus change regularly. Saturday night dinner-dance.

Mon-Sun dinner A: No BYO WF

PALM COURT

Oyster Box Hotel, 2 Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga, 031 514 5000

Lovely, high-ceilinged room with rattan fans and delicate chandeliers, open for light meals 24 hours a day and a lavish high tea from 2.30pm to 5pm. Live piano music and an air of yesteryear.

Mon-Sun all day B: No BYO WF

PRIMI

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 5102

Vibey venue with a large menu ranging from snack items to pastas, steaks and good pizzas. The style seems to have morphed into Italian-Indian fusion.

Mon-Sun 8am-10pm B/C: R25 WF

PONTA D'OURO

Granada Centre, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 7849

Casual venue in the square, with a pavement cafe vibe. The fare is (obviously) Mozambican in style, and the prawns and flame-grilled chicken very good.

Mon-Sun 11am-9.30pm C/B: R40

REMO'S (Casual dining ☆)

Shop 5, Flanders Mall, 14 Flanders Drive, Mount Edgecombe, 031 539 5955

Bright, buzzy, casual venue with an Italianate menu from breakfast to dinner. Pizzas and pastas are good, main courses offering dishes with home-cooked flavour.

Mon-Sun 7am-3pm B/C: R50 WF

REMO'S VILLAGIO (Casual dining ☆)

Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 7143

Buzzy, stylish cafe-style bistro set in the heart of the village, with a curved bar, covered terrace and a bakery to one side. A branch of the Mount Edgecombe venture, it has a similar Italianate menu, full of interesting items.

Mon-Sat 7am-11pm, Sun 7am-3pm B/C: No BYO

SAFFRON

Coastlands Hotel, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 514 6500

Upmarket venue primarily aimed at hotel guests, which offers a buffet as well as à la carte fare.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A/B: R70

SHOP UP A STORM
AT DURBAN'S VIBRANT LIFESTYLE MARKETS

SIMPLY ASIA

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 584 7518

Thai food and sushi from the second KZN outlet of a national franchise.

Mon-Sun 11am-9pm or 10pm C/B: BYO

STEAK AND ALE

Chartwell Centre, Chartwell Drive, 031 561 7234

Steakhouse-bar, with a terrace sheltered by glass panels, ideal for watching the world go by. The menu obviously focuses on meat, but there are options for non-carnivores. Popular for after-work drinks.

Mon-Sun 9am-9.30pm C/B: R30

TASHAS

Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 5209

Attractively decorated, modern, vibey, noisy venue with a comprehensive menu that runs from breakfast through to dinner. Think of the likes of quesadillas, fishcakes and chicken pie – all served in huge portions.

Mon-Sat 7.30am-9.30pm, Sun 8am-8.30pm B/C: R30

THE DROS

Palm Boulevard, Gateway, uMhlanga Ridge, 031 566 4111

Mainstream venue on two levels, with bars on both.

Mon-Sun 9am-10.30pm B/C: R30

THE GEORGE

Lighthouse Mall, Chartwell Drive, uMhlanga, 031 561 5850

Buzzy, popular local venue with pavement tables and a wide range of freshly made dishes. Try the home-made pies and burgers. Sporting events are a draw and a younger set moves in the evening.

Mon-Sun 10am-midnight C: Pub

THE PRESS CLUB

Umhlanga Centre, Ridge Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 7117

More than just a coffee shop, this venture from veteran proprietor Selwyn Sklarchick and his son Brett offers fare from breakfast to dinner, from Eggs Benedict to oxtail – all hot off the press.

Mon-Sat 7am-9pm, Sun 7am-4pm C: R25 WF

THE SUGAR CLUB

Beverly Hills Hotel, Lighthouse Road, uMhlanga, 031 561 2211

A formal room opening out on to the terrace, with a great sea view. Although more contemporary than the surrounds, the menu stays true to the classics. Breakfasts are an experience to be savoured.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner A: No BYO WF



Italianate venue offers a wide selection, including pizza and pasta. Light lunch selection and children's menu.

Mon-Sun 11am-late C/B: R35

AQUA

Sibaya Casino, uMhlanga-eMdloti road, 031 580 5601

Fun, retro restaurant with central, cylindrical fish tank, underlit bar area and kitsch decor. Raised teppanyaki

section, sushi and an interesting à la carte menu.

Mon-Sun dinner B/A: No BYO WF

BEIRA ALTA

Ballito Lifestyle Centre, Ballito, 032 946 2388

Attractively appointed venue offering traditional Portuguese dishes such as bacalhau and pork belly with clams. There is also a selection of mainstream

items.

Mon-Sun noon-10pm B/C: R35 WF

BEL PUNTO (Views ☆, Seafood ☆)

Umdloti Beach Centre, 1 South Beach Road, Umdloti, 031 568 2407

An upmarket offshoot of La Casa Nostra, also family-run, offering beach and sea views from a covered deck area, and a modern Italian menu strong on seafood. Try specialities like crab soup and grilled quail. Good wine list.

Wed-Sun lunch, Tues-Sun dinner A/B: R50, Champagne R100

BISTRO 98

Dunkirk Estate, Salt Rock, 032 525 8187

This casual venue in the stylish clubhouse at a gated estate, has a wonderfully green outlook. The menu focus on fresh produce with a classic approach.

Tues, Thurs, Sun 8.30am-4.30pm, Wed, Fri, Sat 8.30am-9.30pm C: R40 WF

CLAY OVEN

2 Hely-Hutchinson Road, Mtunzini, 035 340 1262

Family restaurant with a deck and view over a nature reserve to the sea.

The menu is strong on pizzas and pastas. Also a children's selection.

Wed-Mon 11am-10pm C: R20

CORAL TREE

Fairmont Zimbali Resort, 032 538 5000

Plush room with a sea-view terrace. International à la carte selection with different-themed buffets.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner A: No BYO

CRAWDADDY'S

16 Compensation Beach Road, Ballito, 032 946 1858

Franchise offering an extensive menu, from seafood to burgers and ribs. Aimed at the whole family.

Tues-Sun 10.30am-10pm (9pm Sun) C/B: No BYO

CRAYFISH INN

La Montagne resort, 100 Compensation Beach Road, Ballito, 032 946 2121

Upmarket resort restaurant in a resort complex, offering seafood specialities, steaks and a good winelist. Caters mostly for locals.

Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C/B: No BYO

DON CARLOS

Tuzi Gazi Waterfront, Richards Bay, 035 788 0312

Italianate venue overlooking boats in the small craft harbour. Great on a sunny day. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun 10am-10pm B/C: R35 WF

FAT CAT

1 Station Road, Mtunzini, 035 340 2897

Alfresco eating with a view of the sea. The extensive menu ranges from breakfasts and pancakes to pizzas, with fresh fish and chicken and prawn curry specialities.

Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 8am-2pm C: R20

FENSUI

Balvista Centre, 23 Sandra Road, Ballito, 032 946 1588

Chinese food and sushi, either to eat in or take away.

Mon-Sun 10.30am-9pm C: R30

FIG TREE (Coastal escapes ☆)

Simibith estate, north of Ballito, 032 946 5405

Restaurant in the country club, offering a wide range of dishes. The concept and style show panache, with an experienced executive chef at the helm.

Tues-Sat 6.30am-10pm, Sun 6.30am-6pm B/A: R30 WF

CAPTAIN FINE'S FISH FACTORY in the Home and Decor Centre, Douglas Crowe Drive, Ballito, offers fresh and cooked fish to take away and a range to eat in. 032 946 3933

NORTH COAST & ZULULAND

A2A

Sibaya Casino, uMhlanga-eMdloti road, 031 580 5900

Buffet of dishes with Asian, Arabian and African influences. No booking on weekends. Deck with views.

Fri & Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B: No BYO WF

AL FRESCO'S

Basil Hulett Drive (next to hotel), Salt Rock, 032 525 7792

Italian venue with an extensive wine list. Dishes include prawn ravioli and lamb shank, along with pizzas. Busy bar.

Mon-Sun 10am-10pm B/C: R30

AL PESCATORE

14 Edward Place, Ballito, 032 946 3574

With great sea views from windows and deck, this

WALK, CYCLE, RUN, SWIM, SURF AND PLAY ON
DURBAN'S GOLDEN MILE!

FRANCO'S

Valente Centre, 16 Compensation Beach Road, Ballito, 032 946 1588

Mainstream trattoria with the accent on pasta and pizza.

Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C: R50 during season, no corkage out of season

GIANNI'S RISTORANTE

17 Compensation Beach Road, Ballito, 032 946 3217

With spectacular views overlooking the beach, this Italianate venue offers a wide range from pizzas and pastas to grills, including quail grilled with chilli.

Mon-Sun 7am-9pm B: R40 WF

GIGI'S BRASSERIE

Hotel iZulu, Ballito, 032 946 3444

Luxury hotel with a matching menu featuring items like Greek-style marinated rack of lamb. Light lunches by the pool and monthly gatherings with wine, food and music.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B: R40 WF

IMPULSE BY THE SEA

167 Seaview Drive, Tinley Manor Beach, 032 554 4626

Fine home-style local curries at reasonable prices. The prawn and mutton ones are more complex than most in KZN and the crab and prawn versions are notable.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R30

IN THE REEDS

Protea Imvubu Lodge, cnr Hibbert Drive and Krewelkring, Richards Bay, 035 753 4122

Upmarket venue overlooking Lake Menywa. The international menu covers all bases. Pub meals on deck.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner B/A: R45 WF

LA CASA NOSTRA (Italian ☆)

Whitesands Centre, Main Road, eMdloti, 031 568 1996

Appealing, casual, family-run trattoria with an outside area that dishes up excellent wood-fired pizzas and pastas, as well as main dishes like risotto. The grilled quail is memorable, the fish grilled to perfection.

Wed-Sun lunch, Tues-Sun dinner A/B: R50 WF

LA FIAMMA ITALIAN GRILL

Coco de Mer Hotel, Ballito, 032 946 1029

Upmarket, contemporary Italian venue offering pizzas, pastas and items grilled or cooked in a wood-fired oven.

Upper pool deck and koi pond. Lunch menu with specials. Wed-Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner B/A: R40



ZARA'S, in the Lifestyle Centre, Ballito, is the very model of a high-end cafe with interesting menu. 032 586 3204

LA MERCY BEACH HOTEL

Beach Road, La Mercy, 032 941 6221

The menu in this hotel restaurant over the road from the beach, and offering good views, should cover most tastes, but curry and prawns are specialities.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: No BYO WF

LA PIAZZA CAFE

The Well centre, Ballito, 032 946 1527

Trattoria manned by Italian chefs, and featuring a wood-fired pizza oven, deli and bakery.

Mon-Fri 7am-10pm, Sat & Sun 8am-10pm C: R40

MAMMA G'S

Ballito Junction Centre, Ballito, 032 946 2214

Italian venue with pizzas from a wood-fired oven and a wide range of pastas using imported ingredients. Child friendly, with breakfasts also served.

Mon-Sun 7am-10pm C: R30

MO-ZAM-BIK

Cnr Jack Powell Street & Compensation Beach Road, Ballito, 032 946 0979

Portuguese food as it is cooked in Mozambique, with unusual options. A deck-bar area upstairs is fun.

Mon-Sun noon-about 9.30pm C/B: R30

MUNDO VIDA (View ☆, Seafood ☆)

Shop 8, Umdloti Beach Centre, 1 South Beach Road, eMdloti, 031 568 2286

The focus at this family-run venue has moved to fresh fish and seafood, with a menu that ranges from the exotic, like

Thai-style beach-garden salad, to favourites like seared tuna with wasabi mash. Great views of the beach from a large covered deck.

Mon & Wed-Sun lunch, Mon & Wed-Sat dinner B/A: R40, bubbly R50

OSA

Fairmont Zimbali Resort, near Ballito, 032 538 5000

Striking, modern restaurant in the Fairmont complex, specialising in steak and game dishes. Bar on upper level and an award-winning winelist. Not suitable for children.

Tues-Sat dinner A: No BYO WF

PRINCE'S GRANT

N2 near Stanger, 032 482 0005

Set on a links course, with views of the sea and sugarcane fields, this colonial-style golf lodge serves dinner in a cosy diningroom and in a pub which is open for lunches too.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner B/C: R30

RIVERMILL RESTAURANT

Umfolozzi Country Club, Club Road, Mtubatuba, 035 550 0178

A la carte restaurant with a mainstream menu. Steaks are the big sellers. Children's menu.

Separate bar.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner B/C: No BYO WF

ROYAL COURT GRILL

ibaya Casino, uMhlanga-eMdloti road, 031 580 5302

Intimate à la carte venue with a deck overlooking gardens and water features. The menu features dishes like vegetable mille feuille with chive goat's cheese, balsamic syrup and pistachio froth.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner A/B: R45 WF

SAGAWAT

27 Sandra Road, Ballito, 032 586 1384

Venue specialising in the dishes of North India. Mon-Sun 10am-10pm C: R30

SAGE (Coastal escapes ☆)

Sage Centre, Old Fort Road, Umhlali, 032 525 8059

Delightful venue with verandas, outside tables and a playground for children. The fare is sophisticated and wide-ranging, from pizzas and pastas to panini and salads. Try the aubergine cakes and risotto balls.

Mon-Sun 8am-4pm, dinner Friday and during holiday season C: R30

SEA-BELLE (Curries ☆)

Seabelle Hotel, Beach Road, Desainagar, 032 941 5551

After 44 years, this establishment is part of KZN's history. There are few frills, but generously portioned local-style curries. The prawn and mutton ones are tops, but there are also grills, pastas and pizzas on an extended menu. Mon-Sun noon-9.30pm C: R20

SENHUI

522 Sandra Road, Ballito, 032 946 1588

Comprehensive menu of sushi, Chinese and Thai food. Mon-Sun 11am-9pm C: R30

SIGGI'S

65 Basil Hulett Drive, Salt Rock, 032 525 7460

German-style restaurant and pub offering traditional food and live music every Sunday. Kids' playground. Mon-Sun lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C: R25

SIMPLY ASIA

Ballito Junction Centre, Ballito, 032 586 3461

Franchise outlet offering sushi and a wide range of Thai food, with a few fusion items.

Mon-Sun 11am-9.30 or 10pm C: R25

SPICE (Anne's pick, Casual Dining ☆)

Beach Road, Westbrook Beach, 032 943 3558

Linda and Russell Burger have moved their acclaimed Morningside restaurant up the coast, to a venue with a more laid-back feel, with wonderful beach views. The fare is still delectable, ranging from prawn tempura to rack of lamb, with an affordable lunchtime selection.

Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner B: R35 WF

THAI WOK

Shop 5, Mzigazi Esplanade, Richards Bay, 035 788 0525

The tastes of Thailand looking over a small craft harbour. Tues-Sun 10am-9.30pm C: R35

ZANJ

Main Road, Mtunzini, 035 340 1288

Little family-run gem offering value-for-money favourites alongside imaginative dishes given a touch of the spice. Menus change regularly. Monthly theme evenings. Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C/B: R30 WF

ZIMBALI LODGE

M4 near Ballito, 032 538 5000

Indonesian-themed five-star resort with an airy diningroom opening out on to the pool area where lunches are served with a view of the sea. Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: No BYO WF

USHAKA MARINE WORLD
AFRICA'S NO.1 THEME PARK!

BLUFF

CHICKENSHACK

41 Old Mission Road, Bluff, 031 467 9461

Friendly suburban restaurant serving a wide range of mainstream fare. Specialties are (you guessed it) chicken dishes and pizzas.

Tues-Thurs 8am-9pm, Fri-Sat 8am-9.30pm, Sun 8am-4pm
C: R20

EL-ARISH

899 Bluff Road, Bluff, 031 467 9576

Palatial suburban restaurant and conference centre that covers all bases, from seafood to grills. But the drawcard has always been good local-style curry.

Tues-Sun lunch & dinner C: R35 WF

GREEN DOLPHIN

17 Foreshore Drive, Bluff, 031 467 4063

Meals all day, from breakfasts to steaks and seafood, with a view of the beach from a popular suburban venue.

Mon-Sun 7am-8pm C: R25

LORDS AND LEGENDS

148 Foreshore Drive, Bluff, 031 4671677

Relaxed family venue with great views of the ocean offering home comforts and steakhouse-type specials.

Sun-Mon 9am to 8:30pm, Tues-Sat 10:30am to 9pm

SOUTHERN SUBURBS

EYADINI LOUNGE

Mbhe Road, Umlazi, 031 906 1395

Cool hang-out spot ideal for the weekend chill. Top DJs in the mix, meat braai while you wait. African and Western cuisine.

Open Weekends only C: Pub

GIORGIO'S

The View, 9 Hillside Road, Amanzimtoti, 031 903 1556

A five-star boutique hotel and spa has an attractive upmarket restaurant, with views down to the coastline and tables under the trees. The fare is mostly Italian in flavour, with light lunches and interesting breakfasts.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B/C: R40

LINCOLN STEAKHOUSE

Kingsburgh Centre, Kingsburgh, 031 916 7588

Family venue with steaks and grilled sole the top sellers. Relaxed pub area and regular gigs. Sunday nights karaoke is popular.

Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-7pm C: R38



LORDS AND LEGENDS

1600 Riverside Road, Amanzimtoti, 031 903 4534

Mainstream family venue.

Mon-Sun 11am-9pm C: R25

MAX'S LIFESTYLE

V1328 Mbhe Road, Umlazi, 031 906 1393

Durban's original big-time township lounge. Impressive, large, double-storey Tuscan-style venue. Full bar, braai meat, tripe, mogudu and other African dishes.

Sun-Thur 7am-8pm, Fri-Sat 7am-midnight C/B Pub

MIA'S

Chatsworth Centre, Chatsworth, 031 403 5621/
084 403 6321

Local-style curry in a shopping centre setting. Halaal and no alcohol permitted.

Mon-Sun 7am-6pm C: Halaal

SERGIO'S

Andrew Zondo Road (Kingsway), Amanzimtoti
031 903 7390

Steakhouse fare and sushi for the whole family in this large venue with pub and outside terrace.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: R25

ZANZIBAR

149 Kings Road, Warner Beach, 031 916 3611

Set in an old house, this popular venue specialises in seafood. But there are also steaks and chicken dishes.

Tues-Fri & Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner C/B: R30

PIETERMARITZBURG

033 LIFESTYLE

2272 Thwala Road, Unit 3, Imbali Township,
033 398 7098

Relaxed ambience. Also boasts a car wash, bottle store and restaurant. "Hungry? We've got the goods with more meat than a presidential wedding" goes the pay-off line.

C Pub

COFFEEBERRY CAFE

Cascades Centre, McCarthy Drive, 033 347 0708

Wholesome meals, as well as snacks and coffees. Waffles are popular with the younger set.

Mon-Sun 8am-5pm C: BYO

CUBANA

Shop 12, Invesco Centre, Boshoff Street,
033 342 1058

A heady mix of cocktails, high flyers, Latino music and light meals make this a popular nightspot and eatery.

Mon-Thurs 8am-midnight, Fri-Sun 8am-2pm
B/A: R50

JUST LAVENDER

10 Gough Road, Wembley,
033 342 6425

Comprehensive lunch menu in a quirky ambience in a charming old home.

Mon-Fri 8-4.30, Sat 8.30-12.30 C: Not licenced

LAKESIDE CAFE

9 Armitage Road, Maritzburg, 033 345 0125

Idyllic setting around the old bird sanctuary in the middle of the city. Lunches include sophisticated pastas.

Mon-Fri 7.30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 7.30am-3pm C: R25

LA VITA

Shop 10 Invesco Centre, cnr Sanctuary and
Armitage roads, 033 342 0024, 072 518 0395

Popular Italian restaurant offering everything from hearty pastas just like Mamma used to make, to more upmarket fare with a modern twist. Good seafood selection.

Mon-Sun 10am-10pm B/C R30

MAMMA MIA'S

101 Roberts Road, 033 342 2778

Wide-ranging Italian menu with some unusual dishes like wood-fired pizza with roast lamb and mint, and sundried tomato and feta ravioli. Deck and kids' menu. Pizzas only available on Sundays.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C: No corkage

OLIVE AND OIL

Cascades Shopping Centre, 23 McCarthy Drive,
033 347 1131

Another offering from this Durban concern that specialises in good value Mediterranean food for the whole family. Emphasis on seafoods.

Mon-Thurs noon-3pm, 5pm-9pm, Fri-Sat noon-10pm, Sun noon-7pm B: R35 if not in stock

REDLANDS LODGE AND HOTEL

1 George McFarlane Lane, Wembley, 033 394 3333

Comfortable, small hotel on the outskirts of the city, which offers light lunches and à la carte fare in the evenings. Booking essential.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R45 WF

ROSEHURST CAFE

239 Boom Street 033 394 3833

Treat yourself to gourmet breakfasts or delicious light lunches in a beautiful Victorian garden. Relax in this secret hideaway amid the hustle and bustle of the city.

Mon-Fri 8.30-4pm, Sat 8.30am-2pm C: BYO

The
**PAINTED
LADY COFFEE
SHOP** at Butterflies For
Africa offers light lunches
and delicious teas in an
inviting and quirky setting.
37 Willowton Road,
033 387 1356

SAKI PACIFIC GRILL

Victoria Centre, 151 Victoria
Road, 033 342 6999

Funky decor, a sushi bar and à la carte menu of Pacific Rim dishes, stretching from Thailand to Samoa.

Mon-Sun from 11am to 10pm C: R25 WF

TANDOOR

319 Bulwer Street, 033 342 8853

Mainly north Indian dishes, including tandoori chicken, stuffed paratha and vegetable korma in an old double-storey house.

Mon-Sun lunch & dinner C/B: R25

THE OLIVE TREE

McDonald's Nursery, Boshoff Street, 033 394 7033

Nursery featuring dishes like oxtail and pot pies. Light lunches and good baking also feature.

Mon-Sat 7.30am-4pm, Sun 8am-3.30pm C: R35

TRAFFORD'S AT 43 MILLER

43 Miller Street, 033 394 4364

Victorian home built in the 1870s turned into an upmarket venue with Forties and Fifties decor, offering fine dining. Small menus reflect competent cooking and change regularly. Lovely garden setting and accommodation and breakfasts available.

Tues-Fri lunch, Tues-Sat dinner B: R35 WF

THE BEST VIEW IN DURBS, ADRENALIN
AND SPORTING ACTION AT
MOSES MABHIDA STADIUM

MIDLANDS

ABINGDON (Country Outings ☆) Near Lions River, 033 234 4335

A rare KZN wine estate where you can sample dishes that complement the wines. The emphasis is on fresh, home-style cooking. Eat outside under trees or in the cosy interior when it's chilly. Or grab a picnic basket.
Sat-Sun & public holidays 9am-5pm C: No BYO WF

BIERFASSEL Main Road, Nottingham Road, 033 266 6320

Hearty Germanic fare like eisbein and sausages in an attractive setting, with outside tables for fine weather, and a cosy pub with fire for winter days. Child-friendly with a playground and special menu for them.
Mon-Sun 9am-9pm C: R30

CAVERSHAM MILL Near Lidgetton, 033 234 4524

Overlooking a waterfall, the terrace of this little restaurant is the place to sit on a good day, but the bright interior is cosy. Imaginative menus change regularly. Child-friendly with a kids' menu.
Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch, Wed-Sat dinner B: R40

CAFE BLOOM Country Courtyard, Old Main Road, Nottingham Road, 033 266 6118

Delightful, quirkily decorated, family-run cafe in a barn-like building attached to a nursery. The focus is on vegetarian dishes and the freshest of produce. One of the owners is noted potter Michael Haigh.
Wed-Mon 7.30am-4pm C: R25

CORNER POST 124 Main Street, Howick, 033 330 7636

The style is modern comfort food and the focus is on local, seasonal products. Affordable daily specials and light bar meals.
Mon-Sun 10am-Midnight C/B: R55

ELS AMICS Fort Nottingham, 082 487 0922

With forest and country garden views, the best place to sit is on the veranda. A small menu offers the likes of tomato and basil soup, and fillet with Bearnaise sauce. By booking only. No credit cards.
Sat & Sun & public holidays lunch B/C: R20

GOSH 55 Caversham Road, Lidgetton, 079 619 8442

The former Cooking Bear, set in English-style gardens, now



serves Mediterranean-style food with weekly specials. Child friendly, with pub meals.
Wed-Sat lunch & dinner, Sun lunch 079 375 9795, B: R50

GRANNY MOUSE COUNTRY HOUSE Lidgetton, 033 234 4071/4523

This upmarket country hotel has long been renowned for its good table. Casual bistro fare and light meals are served on the terrace, with a lovely view over a river and valley. Fine dining is an option in the Eaves restaurant, with a seasonal menu. Booking is advised.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B/A: R70

GUNTHER'S Caversham Road, near Lidgetton, 083 600 0923

Set on the side of a green hill, this relaxed venue, complete with big St Bernard, oompah music and great views, is as close to Switzerland as you are going to get in this country. Think bratwurst and lots of beer.
Mon-Sun 10am-5pm, closed Tues and Wed except in season C: BYO

HARTFORD HOUSE (Fine dining ☆, Innovation ☆) Near Mooi River, 033 263 2713

Acclaimed chef Jackie Cameron has shone at this upmarket country inn for 12 years, cooking her way into the country's top 10. Now she is moving on to an exciting new venture with the opening of a cooking school in Hilton. Her legacy is being passed on to Travis Finch, who has worked at several leading European eateries and at The Greenhouse in Cape Town. Finch is joined by another Greenhouse graduate, Brendan Ryan, who moves from Singita. So what to expect? Stylish and imaginative five-course dinners (R430) that change daily. A la carte lunches on the veranda overlooking the gardens. Booking essential.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: Corkage at manager's discretion

IL POSTINO, Dargle Valley Popular trattoria with a wood-burning pizza oven and menu that covers favourites from xxx to xxx. Wed-Sun lunch, Tues-Sun dinner 072 905 9390 C: R30

JAXX
Upper Quarry Centre, Hilton, 033 343 2226
Good value restaurant, coffee shop and eatery focusing on fresh ingredients and good service. Full breakfast selection, salads and light meals for lunch. The humble fish and chips recommended. Kiddie friendly.
Sun-Mon 8am-4pm, Tues-Sat 8am-9pm C: BYO

LA LAMPARA (Country outings ☆) Caversham, 082 416 0195

With its warm terracotta hues and views over a valley, this restored brick dairy is as close to Tuscany as you'll get without leaving SA. Pizzas come from a wood-fired oven and there are log fires in winter. The menu changes every week.
Thurs-Sun lunch, Thurs-Sat & public holidays, dinner A: R45

LITTLE MOCAMBIQUE Greendale Centre, Old Main Road, Howick, 033 330 3284

The tastes of Mozambique and mainland Portugal served in a room with a seaside vibe, or out on the veranda. Think of dishes like trinchado, chicken curry with coconut milk and prawns.
Mon-Sun 11am-9pm C: No corkage

LORDS OF THE MANOR D487, Hidcote, Mooi River, 033 263 2733

The Robinsons, who had Afton in Howick, run this sandstone country house which has been turned into an upmarket boutique hotel.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner by reservation only B: R30 WF

MIRROR 38 Hilton Avenue, Hilton, 033 343 4289

Bistro-style Continental cuisine, with fare ranging from open sandwiches to beef fillet. Under new management.
Tues-Sun lunch, Mon-Sun dinner C/B: No Corkage

MULBERRY HILL BISTRO Main Road, Curry's Post, 082 691 9064

Little bistro set next to a guesthouse on a hill, with views over green valleys. It's classic country fare, like gourmet duck and cherry pie, with a Sunday roast. Child-friendly, with a kids' menu.
Fri-Tues lunch, Thurs-Sat dinner C: R25 WF

MIDLANDS & BERG

Blueberry Hill, R103 Nottingham Road, 033 266 6899:
Stunning modern complex set high on a hill, with panoramic views.
Barbs Cafe, Gowrie Village, Nottingham Road, 033 266 6773:
Great coffee, good lunches and teas and goodies to take away.
Chinwag Cafe, Main Street, Howick, 033 330 6432:
Hearty breakfasts and staples.
Piggly Wiggly, R103 Lion's River 033 234 4323:
Farm stall and cafe, looking out over green fields.
Snooty Fox, Fern Hill hotel and hotel school, Midmar 033 330 5071: Popular restaurant and pub with a Sunday carvery.
Sue Tarr's Summerhouse, Folly Hill, Dennis Sheepstone Drive, Hilton 033 343 1448:
Country meals in a pretty setting.
Terbodore, The Coach House, 87 Old Main Road, Currys Post 033 330 2380:
Fresh-roasted coffee and cheesecake, light meals.

NICOLSON'S COUNTRY CAFE Garlington Estate, Hilton, 033 329 5200

Bistro lunches and gourmet dinners from an experienced team, in a country setting. The menu changes frequently, but think of the likes of Dargle duck pie and smoked trout with horseradish aioli and crumbed new potatoes. Tapas deck and bar (open Tues-Sat from 5pm).
Tues-Sun lunch, Thurs-Sat dinner B: R35 WF

NOTTIES PUB Nottingham Road Hotel, 033 266 6151

The pub at this legendary old hotel, established in 1854, is a great spot for a light bite – especially when it's chilly and the fire is lit. In addition to the usual fare like bangers and mash, you'll find items like lamb shank with rosemary. Kids' menu in the dining room.
Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C/B: R25 or at management's discretion

OLD HALLIWELL Curry's Post, 033 330 2602 / 071 942 4130

This 1830s staging post between the Rand and the coast, turned upmarket country inn, has a cosy bar with fireplace and attractive restaurant, Lemon and Lavender, looking over the green landscape.
Mon-Sun breakfast, teas, lunch & dinner C: R40

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RAWDONS

Old Main Road, near Nottingham Road,
033 266 6044

Imposing thatched hotel which serves contemporary food like chicken stuffed with spinach and feta, wrapped in phyllo. Kids' menu and specials. There is also a cosy pub with lighter meals.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C/B: R45 WF

SAPORE

Meander Square, Nottingham Road, 033 266 6921

Lively little venue offering a selection of sushi, pastas and pizzas, as well as items like baby chicken, burgers and brandy pudding. Look for specials.

Mon-Sun 11am till late C: R40, R80 Champagne

SKYE

Fordoun Hotel and Spa, Nottingham Road,
033 266 6079

Upmarket boutique venue which has a fine dining restaurant overlooking lovely gardens. The fare at lunchtime is lighter, moving into more indulgent territory in the evening.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: R45 WF

TRUTH CAFE

R103, Mandela capture site, Lions River,
079 971 3074

Bistro-style venue with light meals like burgers, ploughman's lunches, salads and cheese platters.

Tues-Sun 8.30am-4pm B: R35

TUMBLE DOWNS CAFÉ AND RESTAURANT

Currys Post Road, 8km from Howick, 033 330 8099

Family venue in a rural setting with views of Karkloof valley. Think of dishes like Moroccan beef curry with chickpeas and butternut, and herb-crust sole.

Wed-Sun 11am-4pm, Thurs-Sat dinner C/B: R30

YELLOWWOOD CAFÉ

1 Shafton Road, Howick, 033 330 2461

A historic farmhouse built from local stone in 1872 has been renovated with gleaming wood and chandeliers. Wholesome country food is served, there is room for children to play and a distant view of the falls.

Tues-Thurs & Sun 8am-4.30pm, Fri & Sat 8am-8.30pm Open on public holidays C/B: R25

**DRAKENSBERG & BATTLEFIELDS****BINGELELA**

Olivershoek Pass road, near Bergville,
036 448 1336

Restaurant, bar and function facility with an extensive, imaginative menu. Much of the produce is sourced locally and there is a pizzeria. Child friendly.

Mon-Sat 7am-9.30pm, Sun 9am-3pm C/B: R30 WF

DRAGON'S REST PUB AND RESTAURANT

Champagne Valley, central Drakensberg,
036 468 1218

Family-run country kitchen using fresh local farm produce. A la carte menus with a buffet (R95) on Sundays. Desserts a speciality.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R20

LA GRUYERES

Alpine Heath, northern Drakensberg, 036 438 6484

A hotel and timeshare complex with an Alpine theme that offers a buffet or seasonal à la carte menu, depending on occupancy. Light lunches in the Tavern. Child-friendly development.

Mon-Sun breakfast & dinner B: R80 WF

LEMON TREE BISTRO

Clock Tower Centre, Main Road, Underberg,
033 701 1589

Intimate venue opening on to a courtyard, with a menu that leans towards the Mediterranean. Light lunches.

Tues-Sat 8.30am-9pm, Sun & Mon 8.30am-5pm C: R25

MOORCROFT MANOR

Sani Road, Himeville, southern
Drakensberg,
033 702 1967

Four-star guest house which has Swiss owners. Dishes change frequently. Light lunches and breakfasts served on the terrace. Reservations essential. Kids' menu.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: R35 WF

PINT AND PIG OUT

26 Victoria Road, Newcastle, 034 315 2468

Popular bar and restaurant serving everything from light meals to steaks and seafood.

Mon-Sun lunch, Mon-Sat dinner B/C: R20

PIONEER ROOM (Fine dining ☆)

Cleopatra Mountain Farmhouse, Kamberg,
033 267 7243

This upmarket country inn provides the ultimate in gourmet getaways, with a lounge, restaurant and deck hanging over the water of a trout dam, overlooked by mountains. Lunches are à la carte and, like Richard Poynton's five-course dinners (R350), are created from the finest ingredients. Breakfasts are exciting. Booking advised.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: R50 WF

QAMBATHI MOUNTAIN LODGE

Kamberg, 033 267 7515

Beautifully designed and decorated, this upmarket lodge in a scenic setting offers four-course meals by appointment and picnic baskets to be enjoyed on a forest deck. Booking essential.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner B: R50

THE GRIND CAFE

Underberg Village Mall, Sani Road, Underberg,
033 701 1571

All-purpose venue serving meals throughout the day, from breakfast to dinner. Dishes include pizza, pasta, steaks, lamb chops and trout. Children's menu.

Mon-Sun breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat dinner C: R35

SANDFORD PARK LODGE

Bergville, 036 448 1001

Historic 150-year-old hotel, close to the Spioenkop battlefield, with a cosy pub and deck. There is an à la carte menu for lazy lunches, featuring some South African items. Five-course set dinner menu (R140).

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R50

UPPER SOUTH COAST**BELL AND ANCHOR**

Rocky Bay, Old Main Road, Park Rynie,
039 976 0867

Laidback restaurant set among holiday chalets with a good sea view and deck. Mainstream à la carte menu. Buffet Sunday lunch. Children's menu and room for them to play.

Mon-Sun 10am-9pm (Closed Mon out of season) C/B: R30

DODO'S BISTRO

18 Cordiner Street, Scottburgh, 039 978 3550

Engaging family-run bistro in a house, serving homely French-Mauritian food and standard items like steaks. A stayer after 15 years, it also has a children's menu.

Mon-Sat lunch & dinner C: R30

ENZO PIZZERIA

1 Summer Sands Marine Drive, Scottburgh,
039 978 3674

Authentic southern Italian dishes from Enzo and his mother Lenna Tilli make this casual pizzeria a popular spot.

Mon-Sun lunch and dinner B: R30

LE RENDEZ-VOUS RESTAURANT

Crocworld, Old Main Road, near Scottburgh,
039 976 0083

A chef-patron from Normandy gives French flavour to this venue with great views of the sea. Dishes range from fishcakes to duck confit and include, of course, crocodile.

Mon-Sun 9.30am-3pm, Thurs-Sat dinner B: R35

MEMORIES

Shop 3, Alexander Court, cnr Abelia and Booth
roads, Athlone Park, 031 904 2310

Cosy 45-seater venue with the theme of memories picked up in old photographs. Extensive mainstream menu, with specials like venison potjie and seared tuna.

Tues-Fri lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C/B: R20

SABASTIANS

21 Harvey Street, Umkomaas, 039 973 2671

Casual venue with a deck, popular with divers after trips to Aliwal Shoal. Fare ranges from burgers to calamari and seafood grills. Hours extended during season.

Mon-Fri 10am-10pm, Sat & Sun 7.30am-10pm C/B: R25 (if wine is not stocked, 2 a table)

WRECKED HERON

Happy Wanderers Resort, Kelso
039 975 1226

A la carte and children's menu, focused on grills and seafood, in a setting on a wide beach. Booking essential.

Mon-Sun lunch, Mon-Sat dinner C: R35 WF

Due to continuing problems with Telkom telephone cable theft, some numbers may not be available

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LOWER SOUTH COAST

BURLESQUE CAFE

957 Marine Drive, Ramsgate, 039 314 9886

Buzzing day and night, this funky, chic venue also has an outside sitting area. An exciting menu also provides a good deal for vegetarians. good cheesecake makes it an ideal afternoon tea spot.

Mon-Sat lunch, Wed-Sat dinner C: R25

CASA TOSCANA (Coastal escape ☆)

Trafalgar (600m inland of main turnoff, follow signs), 039 313 0058

Family-run Italian venue on a hillside, with views of an estuary. Chef-owners Marisa Toniolo and Andrea Bossi serve real Italian food, using fresh produce like local porcini mushrooms and mussels from Saldanha. Sit back and relax on the lawn. Menus change regularly.

Wed-Sun lunch, Wed-Sat dinner B/C: R30

CRAYFISH INN

Marine Drive, Ramsgate, 039 314 4720

Trip back to the past in the quaint warren of this long-established restaurant with a nautical theme. The menu concentrates on seafood. Garden area.

Mon-Sun 11am-9pm C/B: R25 WF

FISH EAGLE

Estuary Hotel, Port Edward, 039 311 2675

With beautiful woodwork detail, the restaurant of this Cape Dutch-style country hotel has considerable appeal. Plus beautiful views of an unspoiled coastal estuary.

A la carte offers some old-time favourites, with a buffet Sunday lunchtime.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C/B: R35 WF

FLAVOURS

1303 Marine Drive, Ramsgate, 039 314 4370

Classic dishes from around the world, prepared by a trained couple who spent six years travelling in the Far East before settling on the South Coast. The emphasis is on fresh local produce.

Tues-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner B/C: R25

HIGHLAND FRYER AND TAVERN

8 Game Centre, Coniston Road, Shelley Beach, 039 315 6454

Views to the sea from a restaurant and pub with wide-ranging fare. Special children's menu.

Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 10am-4pm C: R20 if not stocked

LA CAPANNINA

206 Marine Drive, Ramsgate, 039 317 1078

Traditional Italian fare, strong on pizzas and pastas. But there are also mains like crumbed prawns and a T-bone with rosemary and garlic. Hours extended in season.

Tues-Sat lunch & dinner C: R30

LOBSTER POT

Main Road, Ramsgate, 039 314 9809

A long-established restaurant with a nautical theme and menu offering a range from seafood to curry. Four-course Sunday lunch (R70).

Tues-Fri & Sun lunch, Tues-Sun dinner C: R15

MARINERS

Marina Beach, 039 313 0448

Right on the beach, this is a spot to chill, get your feet sandy and eat grub strong on the seafood side. There are also steaks and curries. Children's menu.

Mon-Sun 9am-9pm C: R20



NIVONIA

Kapenta Bay Hotel, Port Shepstone, 039 682 5528

Large room adjoining the pool area, which does breakfasts, light lunches or à la carte at midday, and a full menu in the evenings. Children's menu.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R30 WF

RIPTIDE

Main beach Southbroom, 039 316 6151

You're virtually out of doors on a wooden deck with a view of the beach and lagoon. Dishes concentrate on fish/seafood, but there are also steaks and burgers.

Wed-Sun 8am till late B/C: R30

TEA@BAY TREE

Shop 61, South Coast Mall, Izotsha Road, Shelly Beach, 039 315 0015

This quirky little cafe may be inside a decor and furniture shop, but it specialises in imaginative and decadent teas, and delicious light and squeaky fresh lunches.

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.50pm, Sat-Sun 8.30-3.30 C: BYO

THE BISTRO

Main Road, Ramsgate, 039 314 4128

Well-established venue with an extensive European-based menu. Award-winning winelist. Le Petit Cafe also serves breakfasts and light lunches. Hours extended in season.

Mon-Sat breakfast, lunch & dinner C: R30

THE CELLAR (Coastal Escapes ☆)

Honeywood, 32 Abelia Crescent, Seapark, 039 695 1036

Intimate venue run by Dylan Smith, who has worked at venues like Society and Harvey's in Durban. The food is inventive and the service personal. Menus change regularly,

LIGHT FARE: SOUTH COAST

Beaver Creek Coffee Estate and Cafe,

Izingolweni Road, Port Edward 039 311 2347: Watch coffee being processed with a cuppa, or sit outside under shady trees.

Blue Lagoon, Ramsgate beach 039 314 4149:

Meals on a deck with a view.

Jaxx, Abingdon Road, Umthentweni, 039 695 1731:

Family venue with modern decor and sea views from a deck.

Mojo'z, Shelley Centre, Marine Drive, Shelley

Beach 039 315 6996: Busy venue run with a personal touch.

Pavilion, Uvongo beach, 039 315 0010: Italian family fare. Kitchen closes at 8.30-9pm.

Tight Lines, national road, near the police station, Margate, 039 312 1270: Fish and chips outside at wooden tables under umbrellas.

The Waffle House, Ramsgate Lagoon, 039 314 9424: Waffles, with a lagoon view.

Stepward Estate, 17 Peter Road, Uvongo, 039 315 5926: A la carte lunches, teas.

but are individual and imaginative. Booking is essential.

Ideal for a romantic getaway

Sat lunch, Tues-Sat dinner B: R40

THE GORGE PRIVATE GAME LODGE AND SPA

Oribi Gorge, inland of Port Shepstone, 039 687 0378

Modern boutique hotel on the edge of Oribi Gorge, with breathtaking views. The innovative menu changes every day. Booking is essential.

Mon-Sun breakfast, lunch & dinner A: R35

TRATTORIA LA TERRAZZA (Coastal escapes ☆)

Umkobi Lagoon, Southbroom, 039 316 6162

Contemporary Italian fare prepared with considerable panache in this eatery established in 1992 by Nicci and Massimo Negra. Sit outside and soak up the great view of the lagoon from the covered veranda in a relaxed setting. Thoughtful winelist. Booking essential.

Thurs-Sun lunch, Tues-Sat dinner (extended in season) A/B: R50

ZIZZI'S

Rethman Drive, Umthentweni, 039 695 0224

Attractive and popular à la carte venue covering most bases. Veranda with sea views. Booking essential.

Mon-Sat breakfast & dinner C/B: R30 WF

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