TRAVEL
LOCAL

# FRENCH LIVING IN HOUT BAY

## Experience the Charm of Hout Bay at dk villas RivervieW

The bespoke accommodation portfolio of dk villas now extends to the Atlantic Seaboard, where their luxurious RivervieW apartment presents *un petit* slice of French countryside living in the shadow of Table Mountain.

**Text by Bernie Hellberg Jr / Photography © DK Villas**

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At the foot of the most scenic seaside drive in South Africa, Hout Bay embraces the Atlantic Seaboard, 20 kilometres South of the central business district of Cape Town. Surrounded by mountains and ocean, this haven for travellers is bordered by Table Mountain National Park to the North, to the Northwest by the Twelve Apostles, known as the Oranjekloof, and to the West, by Little Lion's Head, Karbonkelberg, Kaptein's Peak, and The Sentinel. Finally, to the East, the Vlakkenberg, Skoorsteenskopberg, and Constantiaberg envelop the valley.

By all accounts, Hout Bay offers an escape to sanity for city-weary travellers; balancing the breath-taking beauty of its contiguous natural landscape and the opulence of a Riviera-style seaside village, with the contemporaneousness that makes the region a continental favourite.

With all of its charm, finding a place to stay in Hout Bay is the easiest thing in the world to do. Here, lavish villas and budget B&Bs exist side-by-side, with every possible taste catered for. Yet, finding a breakaway spot that truly embraces the "home-from-home" concept, while adding a generous amount of flair, is a much rarer gem…

### Detail is Everything

Secluded from the bustle of the Hout Bay main street, RivervieW is set in a leafy security enclave that is a short walk from some of the most inimitable eateries and attractions offered by the town. Greeted with a complimentary bottle of the finest bubbly found in the Cape, prepare to be enthralled by the one-bedroom ground floor apartment that recently received a top-to-toe refurbishment that transformed what must have once been a simple dwelling, into a slice of French-inspired delight. Re-imagined with an open-plan feel, the cosy *appartement* lets the sun shine into the delicately appointed living space from a raised, bougainvillea-ensconced, balcony.

Whether preparing light snacks to enjoy on the couch while watching your favourite movie on the large flat screen TV, or serving a full-on gourmet meal for up to four, the fully-kitted SMEG kitchen is an absolute delight. Designed with the needs of a actual chef in mind, the kitchen is

more than a study in optimal space utilisation. It forms the delightful centrepiece to the RivervieW apartment offering.

To keep in line with the distinctive dk villa touch – paying careful attention to detail – is perhaps even more evident in the exquisitely appointed master bedroom, where elegant, Egyptian cotton bedding, electric blankets, and a top range mattress system welcome you for the night. The adjacent bathroom in turn boasts a deluxe walk-in shower where you can enjoy the complimentary organic amenities, plush towelling, and dedicated beach towels for those fearless enough to brave the icy waters of the Atlantic, or if you decide to take a dip in the small communal pool situated in the RivervieW complex.

**Take a Stroll, Fall in Love**

Outdoor living is part of the Hout Bay experience, and, as is to be expected, the town is awash with seaside eateries, a selection of quaint shops, and a seemingly endless and pristine beach that is just perfect for an early morning stroll. If you are so inclined, why not grab a cappuccino at the local favourite Sentinel Ocean Alliance at the Eastern end of the beach, or enjoy a hearty ocean-inspired lunch at Dunes Beach Restaurant & Bar – where the calamari is certainly not to be missed!

However, if staying in is your preference, the rustic French décor, luxuriously comfortable furnishings, and cosy living spaces at the RivervieW apartment makes for an enchanting, secluded getaway for couples or business professionals looking for a stylish base in this corner of the Western Cape.

*For more information, or to explore any of the other dk villas properties, make your way to www.dkvillas.co.za.*




*Le chêne*

By Darren Badenhorst

A PARTNERSHIP OF
EXCELLENCE

*Le chêne* forms part of award-winning chef Darren Badenhorst's portfolio of fine dining restaurants. Nestled in the glass observatory dining room in the Manor House of the five-star Leeu Estates, *Le chêne* offers a selection of two or three course dining experiences in true French style. Here, amidst the scenic gardens of Leeu Estates and the majestic mountains of Franschhoek, a preeminent estate and a chef extraordinaire share a vision of delighting the palette and enticing the senses cultivated from mother nature's kitchen.

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