

'Z' IS FOR ZONNEBLOEM

THIS REJUVENATED PRECINCT EAST OF CAPE TOWN'S CBD IS ALL ABOUT INDEPENDENT INNOVATION. FIND OUT WHERE THE COOL KIDS EAT, DRINK AND PLAY

By Nick Dall

(Eat)

NEW YORK BAGELS

This hole-in-the-wall gem has variety, but focuses on one thing.

Their handmade boiled bagels come with a delectable variety of toppings, but it's hard to beat the smoked salmon trout, avo, red onion and fresh tomato combo.

44 Harrington Street
021 820 4359
facebook.com/NYBCT

DOWNTOWN RAMEN

You'll have to pick your way through the ever-popular watering hole that is Lefty's Dive Bar to find this place, but it's well worth the effort. The menu is short, but delicious: two varieties of hot ramen (Japanese noodles) and bao (steamed buns) with three different fillings.

103 Harrington Street
021 461 0407

(Shop)

THE BOOK LOUNGE

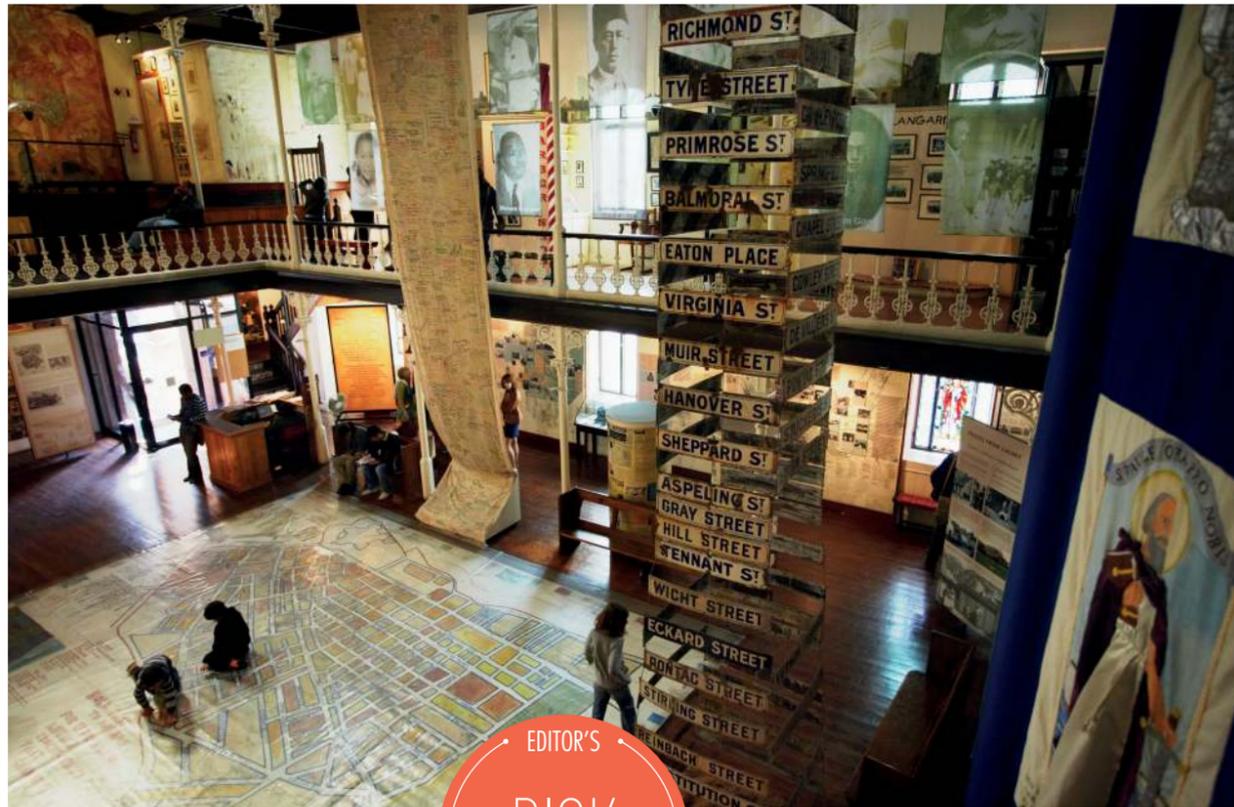
If there's a better bookshop in Cape Town, we haven't found it. Home to a wide selection of books ranging from mainstream to esoteric, it is the epicentre of the city's literary scene and regularly hosts events and book launches.

71 Roeland Street
021 462 2425
booklounge.co.za

WOODHEADS

It's hard to decide whether the Cape's oldest leather merchant is a shop, a factory or a museum, but it is definitely worth a visit. Woodheads is particularly well known for its Karu sheepskin slippers, but it also stocks leather bags, belts and wallets.

29 Caledon Street
021 461 7185
woodheads.co.za



EDITOR'S PICK

DISTRICT SIX MUSEUM

See that patch of empty land a few streets away? That's where Cape Town's most vibrant and controversial neighbourhood once stood. The museum may not be able to recreate all of the sights, sounds and smells, but it has a very good stab at it ... especially if you fork out the extra 45 bucks for a local guide.

25A Buitenkant Street
021 466 7200
districtsix.co.za

(Drink)

THE SHACK

This no-nonsense watering hole has served cheap drinks in an unpretentious setting for as long as anyone can recall. It's open until very late and the kitchen serves surprisingly tasty pizza. There are pool tables too.

45 De Villiers Street
021 461 5892

TRUTH COFFEE

Truth is about as hipster as it gets – their Probat roaster was made in the 1940s and there are more beards here than in the whole of Bloemfontein – but none of this matters when you taste the purity of bean in cup.



(Do)

CASTLE OF GOOD HOPE

The oldest building in South Africa is replete with stories of ghosts, prisoners, mistresses and murderers. The free guided tours of the castle are highly recommended, and the firing of the surprisingly tiny cannon at noon is something to listen out for. Be sure to check out the colourful prisoners' graffiti in the Garrison Cells.

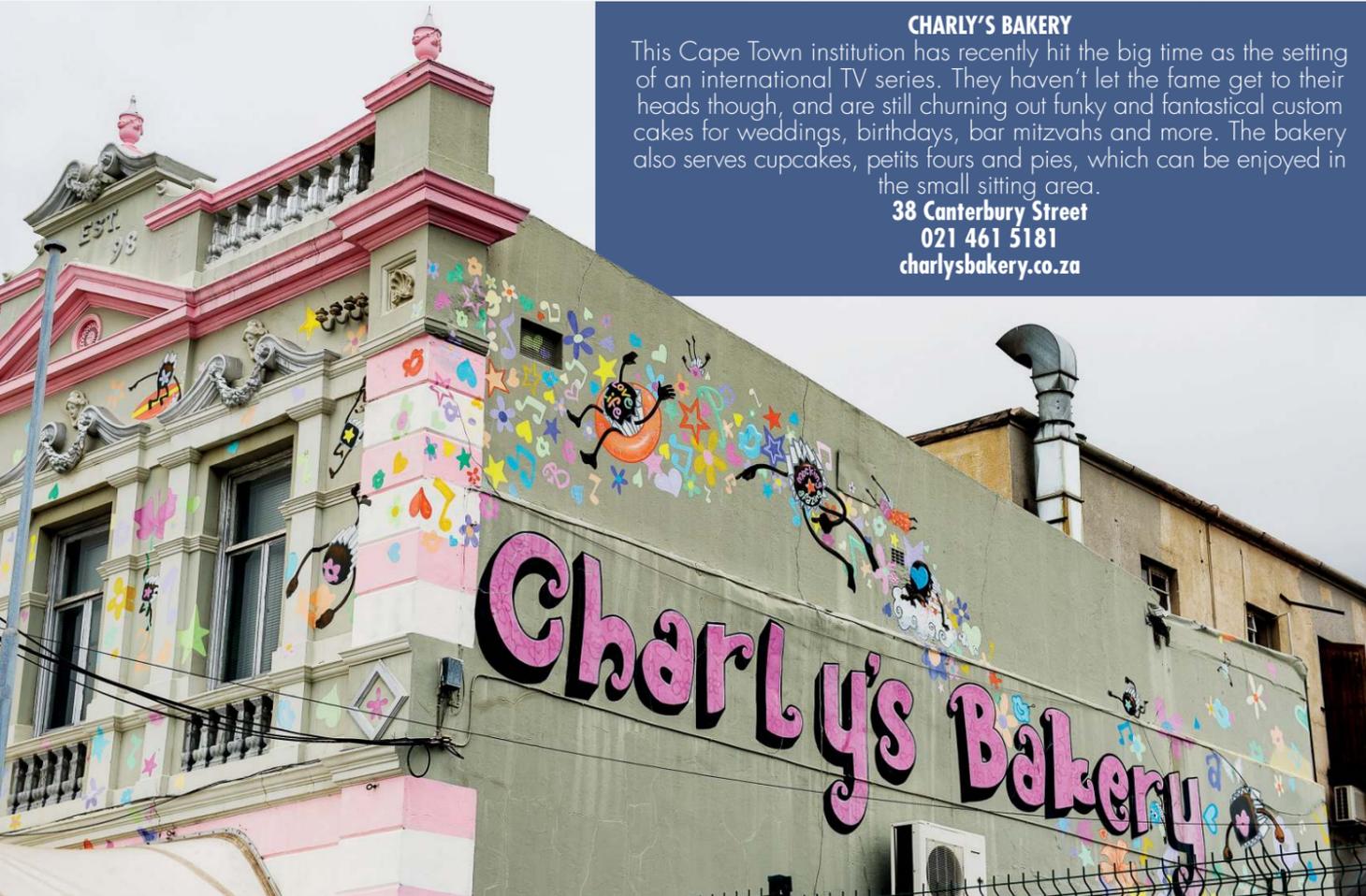
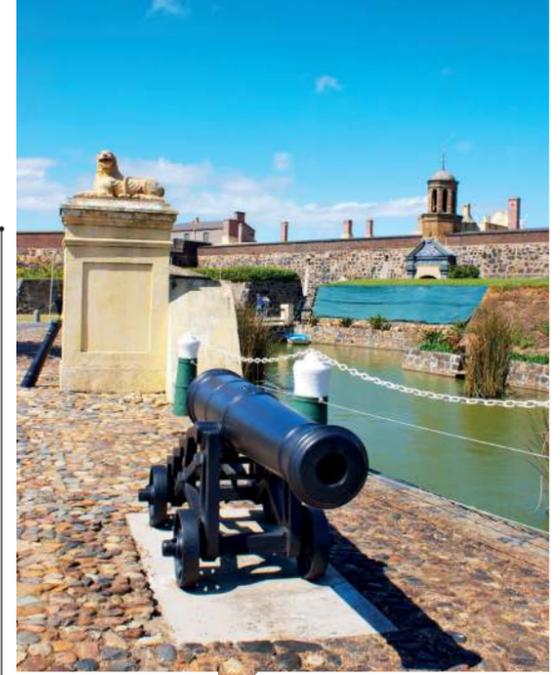
36 Buitenkant Street
021 200 0440
truthcoffee.com

Cnr Darling & Buitenkant streets
021 787 1260

TUNNEL TOURS

By the 1830s, Cape Town's open canals were so full of rubbish, rats and even hyenas that the water couldn't flow anymore. The city decided to close them, thus creating an underground labyrinth that criss-crosses the whole of Cape Town. Self-confessed tunnel rat Matt Weisse's fascinating tours start and end at a manhole cover next to the Castle.

Castle of Good Hope
082 482 4006
goodhopeadventures.com



CHARLY'S BAKERY

This Cape Town institution has recently hit the big time as the setting of an international TV series. They haven't let the fame get to their heads though, and are still churning out funky and fantastical custom cakes for weddings, birthdays, bar mitzvahs and more. The bakery also serves cupcakes, petits fours and pies, which can be enjoyed in the small sitting area.

38 Canterbury Street
021 461 5181
charlysbakery.co.za

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