



## Welcome

There's a hotel in Italy where guests can embrace their inner Russel Crowe and sign up for Gladiator style battle sessions for exercise, complete with swords and shields. Something different in a medieval way, and sure to keep the courageous guests fit. At Hippo, we'd rather your stay was free from any sort of physical battle. In fact, the only battle should be the mental one you face when deciding whether to extend your stay in Cape Town longer!



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## Tell us all

Since we want to get the New Year off to a productive start, we thought we'd find out more about the most important person in the hotel industry: you. So we've selected five questions we hope you'll answer. And to say thank you, one person that responds will win a two-night stay at the Hippo for two...

### The Hippo Survey

1. What makes you choose boutique hotels over larger chain hotels?
2. What is the best feature or service a boutique hotel can offer?
3. What is the worst part of staying in any hotel?
4. What luxury should be standard at every hotel?
5. What makes you choose Hippo hotel?

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## January Highlight

The theme for the J&B Met 2009 is "Glitz and Glam", and based on precedent this must-attend event is going to be a high-class blend of celebrities and the fashionable social set. January 31st is the big day, so be sure not to miss out. Get all the details at [jbmet.co.za](http://jbmet.co.za)



## The Black Book.....where are we going to this month.

### EAT

Masala Dosa brings a refreshing, lighter touch to Indian cuisine. A concise menu inspired by Southern India offers delicious savoury lentil donuts, small curries and other nibbles. But the dosas, crisp rice and lentil pancakes with various stuffing's, are what draws the mostly creative and media-type clientele to their two locations. A great summer-friendly alternative to the heavier Indian cuisine so commonly found. 167 Long St., Cape Town. 021 424 6772. 154 Main Rd, Seapoint. 021 434 2612.

### PLAN

It's boom time for the wedding season in the Cape. Our friendly neighbours, Wedding Concepts specialise in bringing large and exclusive destination weddings to the Western Cape. Increasingly they see more bridal parties from around the globe travel to our beautiful shores for their big day. Whether it is an intimate get-together, glamorous bash or laidback luncheon, their team will set the scene and take care of every detail in between. Satisfied clients already come from all over the world - have a look at their stylish celebrations here or stroll down the road to visit them when you next stay with us. 1 Park Road, Gardens. 021 426 5783.

### DRINK

Headquarters is the new steak-only restaurant from the Caveau team. While the restaurant menu leaves little to choice, the lounge area offers an overflowing cocktail list sure to impress any mixologist. Enjoy a Vanilla, Pear & Cardamom Mojito at the leather-clad bar where the dark, industrial interior encourages late-night imbibing. 100 Shortmarket St., CBD. 021 424 6373.

### SEE

William Kentridge must be South Africa's most famous and in-demand artist. The talented man who wanted to be an actor once said, "I was fortunate to discover at a theatre school that I was so bad an actor that I was reduced to an artist, and I made my peace with it." Lucky for us too. Have a look at his first exhibition in Cape Town in 7 years entitled "I am not me, the horse is not mine" which is on show at the Iziko National Gallery until March 8. Government Ave., Company's Garden. 021 467 4671.