

LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Condé Nast Traveller

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

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HOT HOTELS

32 COOL NEW
PLACES TO STAY

PLUS
Normandy
Florence
Stockholm
Namibia
Mexico
Barbuda
Mongolia
Auckland



'Cruise residences'
at Soneva Gili, Maldives,
where canoes are the
main mode of transport



A bedroom in Hemingway House. Above, the courtyard swimming pool

HEMINGWAY HOUSE CAPE TOWN

With just four sensational bedrooms that can be booked individually or all together, Hemingway House isn't exactly a hotel. But B&B is far too bland a description for this gem in Cape Town's central City Bowl. Once a Masonic lodge, it was bought by the convivial Josie Hemingway who, after working with some of South Africa's best-known interior designers on a comprehensive overhaul, welcomed her first guests in July 2001. En-suite bedrooms are stationed at the four corners of the house around a courtyard, which contains a swimming pool, sitting area, informal bar and vine-shaded arbour. Two bedrooms give directly on to the courtyard; the others are accessed from the beautiful open-plan living, reception and dining area with its hand-painted floors and eclectic, Afro-colonial decor. Continental breakfasts are served outside with views of Table Mountain, and for dinner Hemingway will book you a table at one of Cape Town's finest restaurants. She is on hand to ensure the smooth running of your stay; but she also knows when to clear off and let you get on with it. Should you wish to order in, the dining room, kitchen, housekeeper and maid are at your disposal.

WHEN TO GO February, when the weather is perfect and the crowds have left after the Christmas and New Year rush
WHICH ROOM TO BOOK The west bedroom at the front of the house is the largest, with a curtained four-poster bed and views of Table Mountain

Hemingway House, 1 Lodge Street, Oranjezicht, Cape Town 8001, South Africa (00 27 21 461 1857; www.hemingwayhouse.co.za). Doubles R1,100–R1,600 (about £70–£100); whole house, which sleeps eight, about £380–£400 per night, with staff

Photographs: Annabel Elliott; Stephen Inge