

GET SOME REST

GUEST HOUSE WONDERLAND

Krugerdsorp's Gastehuisie is quickly gaining popularity as a guest house with a difference. Which is no surprise when you discover that it's founder and creator is **Esma du Plessis**, the magical lady who started the immensely popular Boomhuisie. SJ van Zyl decided to discover why this guest house is in a class of it's own.

Article and photos by : SJ van Zyl

Art in all its diversified forms has always intrigued and fascinated Esma du Plessis. With no formal training in art, her passion was an innate one. Art was a hobby and she painted, sculpted and created art pieces with everything she could find or lay her hands on. Coming from an educational background teaching home economics, Esma always tried to find time to immerse herself in art. Her mother's arrival to stay with her and her family in their previous home, jump started an exciting new career for Esma and her family. This house has since blossomed into the "Boomhuisie". restaurant. "When my mother came to stay with us, I decided to quit teaching. But I knew that staying at home with not much to

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do was not an option for me. I decided to start a simple pancake restaurant at our house called the "Boomhuisie" she laughs. The restaurant with a quirky decorating theme and look quickly turned into a must-visit sensation on the West Rand. As the number of guests began multiplying Esma they had to extend the building and add to the menu. Soon the restaurant pretty much took over their living space. "We were incredibly blessed by the success Boomhuisie enjoyed, but my late husband and I longed for a bit more personal space. I was prompted to buy this house and start a small guest

house".

The dream team

After her husband's passing, Esma and her son Eksteen dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to making the guest house a fusion of their own unique tastes and talents. "People often ask us how we created a place like this and the simple answer is we don't plan anything at all. We create what our hearts tell us to and we work with what we have. Some of the most beautiful parts of "Gastehuisie" was created with articles which would be considered by some as useless, broken or unusable" says Eksteen pointing to some of the sculptures and art work surrounding him. Indeed the entire place reflects a unique artistic and expressionistic vision, of mother and son working together to create a home away from home for others. "Entertaining guests at a guest house is a calling in life. It is something that can't be taught or learnt. To be able to do this you need to be a people's person, devoid of judgment and willing to sacrifice your personal space by sharing it with others" says Esma when asked what the secret to being a good host is.

A slice of life and art

"Gastehuisie" has 10 artistically styled rooms, each with an individual look and feel. Rooms have separate entrances and private patios. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms and are equipped with

televisions, telephones, safe boxes and refreshment facilities. Each has a double bed and some an extra single bed, made up as a couch. As many of their clients are business men and women, they have included a writing table and lamp as well. There is ample, safe parking, motorized gates, a warm and homely dining room, beautiful surrounding gardens, an exquisite koi fish pond and a vintage inspired games room. Guests are also treated to a traditional breakfast of their choice including coffee, tea, juice, a wide range of cereals, fresh fruit and of course eggs, bacon, cocktail sausages, tomato, mushrooms, cheese and omelettes. Supper can be served if requested. Esma and Eksteen's flair for personalised service won them gold in the best guest house category at last year's MCCI awards. "We are incredibly grateful about the success we have enjoyed with the guest house so far which is why we decided to branch out in the near future. We will attempt to create the same magic with the next one" says a proud Esma.

Details: 33 Viljoen Street, Krugersdorp-North. Call them on 011 665 3242 or 082 878 1731 or alternatively visit their website at www.gastehuisie.co.za

