

## 1 Show-stoppers

Wizards and leather boys, French maids and nurses – and that's just the wait staff. Run away to the circus for dinner and a show under Madame Zingara's Spiegelent. Get up close to high-flyers, acrobats and, if you're lucky, Three Tons of Fun, **BELOW**, who belt out disco classics like angels. Part of each \$50 ticket (including four-course meal and cocktail) goes towards community projects. A hint: the house specialty is beef with a chocolate-chilli sauce so order the fish. +27 21 426 2458, [madamezingara.com](http://madamezingara.com).



## 2 Higher ground

It may have been running for 10 years, but its chi-chi facelift means Kensington Place, **ABOVE**, is still one of the top spots (literally) to stay in town. It has only eight rooms, most with dress-circle views of Cape Town and the harbour, and the dramatic backdrop of Table Mountain and Devil's Peak. Friendly staff, cool furnishings and a swath of in-room hi-tech options add up to a discreetly home-away-from-home feeling. Book Room One and order breakfast on the verandah. **38 Kensington Cres, Higgovale, +27 21 424 4744, [kensingtonplace.co.za](http://kensingtonplace.co.za).**



## 3 Animal crackers

Forget Africa's 'big five', we're here for the penguins. South of historic Simon's Town lies the appropriately named Boulders Beach and its camera-savvy colony of African penguins, **LEFT**. The sheltered coves on this stretch of False Bay are great for swimming (with slightly warmer water than the Atlantic side), but the highlight is watching these creatures potter about. +27 21 786 2329, [mnp.co.za](http://mnp.co.za).

Reality check

