

LUNCH



Soup of the Day - R50

Beef Bobotie Wrap - R95
with a side of green salad
and homemade chutney

250g Sparta Sirloin Steak - R185
with hand-cut chips, fried mushrooms
and mustard sauce

Firecracker Squid - R130
with fries, green salad and sweet chilli
mayonnaise

Grilled Chicken Salad Plate - R88
with rocket, exotic tomato, cucumber,
red onion, avocado, goats feta and house dressing

Fresh Saldanha Bay Black Mussels - R90/Main R135
with white wine, cream and toasted sourdough

Coronation Chicken Wrap - R90
with tomato, avocado and sweet mango relish

Battered Local Fish & Crispy Chips - R98
with homemade tartare sauce
and fresh lemon

Chicken, Leek & Mushroom Pie - R125
with leaf salad

Oudewerf Trio - R140
braised oxtail, mini bobotie, mini chicken pie
and caramelised sweet potato

Smoked Snoek & Hake Fishcakes - R64
with green salad and Peppadew mayonnaise

Linguine - R78/R90
with sautéed exotic tomatoes, spicy chorizo (optional)
and arugula with freshly shaved parmesan

Homemade Beef/Chicken or Veggie Burger - R98
with a potato rosti, red pepper relish, guacamole
and mature cheddar on a sesame seed bun

Macaroni & Cheese made with 4 Cheeses - R120
with butter poached prawns,
chopped spring onion and truffle oil

DESSERT

Oudewerf Baked Cheesecake - R52
passion fruit coulis

Belgian Chocolate Fondant - R75
with organic chocolate ice cream

Cape Brandy Pudding - R52
with pecan nuts, dates and whipped cream

Amarula Crème Brûlée - R54
with hazelnut biscotti

*As part of our living green ethos we support
sustainable, free-range, ethical and organic
produce wherever possible, which includes
being a proud SASSI supporter*

Oude Werf
RESTAURANT

THE STORY OF A CHURCH AND A HOTEL

While you enjoy your lunch, you may be interested to know that you are sitting in much the same spot as the congregation of South Africa's first church, built in 1687 - a thatch-roofed building of "22 x 40 Rhenish feet" with a bell tower, visible in the earliest known sketch of Stellenbosch of 1710, before the Church and much of Stellenbosch was destroyed by fire.

Though attempts were made to rebuild it, a new site was chosen at the top of present-day Church Street, with much of the surviving building material absorbed into a new church begun in 1717. The 'old churchyard' (de Oude Werf) stood vacant for some 70 years, until church deacon Daniel van Ryneveld divided the site into lots for sale - an act of 'religious desecration' many believed doomed him to clatter through the old yard on horseback for eternity as Oude Werf's first legendary ghost.

Oude Werf's early history was soon forgotten however. In 1783, on deconsecrated ground, owner J B Hoffman is credited with the building of an elegant Cape Dutch gabled house. In 1802, it opened its doors as an inn. Despite the damage caused by another fire in 1803, proprietor Wolfram Hesse Kessel still ensured "amiable lodging for 3 Rix Dollars a day". "Excessive!" noted one guest, though admitting that its table always groaned with food. Later guests, like Governor Sir George Grey, accompanying Prince Albert on his travels in 1860 also praised the "generous victuals" dispensed by Wouter Wium and his wife Tant Betjie, who remains one of Oude Werf's most colourful figures.

Colourful guests there were too, including Carl Otto Hager, who would become South Africa's most prolific church architect. In 1841, still a poor painter, he gazed from the windows of the inn at the beautiful Cornelia and hatched a romantic plan. Convincing her father to be the subject of a portrait, the usually speedy Hager took no less than seven long sittings to capture the likeness of the man and eventually, the hand of Cornelia, who became his wife.

In the last few years of the 1800s, the Hotel (by then known as Wium's Inn, Arcadia and Harmonia) suffered another fire. It rose again however, this time in two-storey Georgian style as a 'parlour' boarding house for some of the first female students of the fledgling university - the origin of Stellenbosch's first women's sorority house, Harmonie.

Gerhard Lubbe bought the Hotel in 1972 and began its extension and restoration, which in 1981 saw archaeological excavations that revealed the church's granite foundation, pillars that supported its roof, the likely position of the 'preekstoel' (pulpit) and early (disinterred) graves - some elements of which are still visible beneath the restaurant and in the ground floor room wing.

Today, Oude Werf is owned by the Petousis hotelier family and the late Kitty, whose Albertyn ancestors were some of the original church's first congregants. Much grown in the 21st Century to a luxury hotel, Oude Werf still preserves its 300 year history as a national heritage site and also as South Africa's oldest continuously-running hotel.

