

# **MY KIND OF TOWN** is Cape Town: Its beauty never ceases to amaze, says author **Alexander McCall Smith**

## **Why Cape Town?**

It is a place of astonishing natural beauty. There is also a great sense of being at the end of a continent. The city has an extraordinary history and is culturally complex. I try to go every other year. I usually combine work with pleasure.

## **Anything special I should pack?**

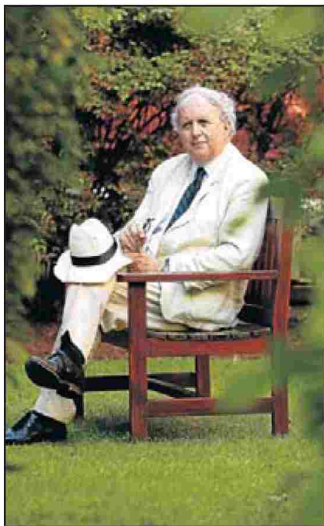
Binoculars. Even if you aren't a bird-watcher there will be plenty of interesting birds watching you.

## **What do you miss most when you are away?**

The light, which is bluish and quite extraordinary. The winds and the sea atmosphere make it a very romantic place in many ways.

## **What's the first thing you do?**

I look at Table Mountain. In the past I have climbed and walked across the top, and explored the national park.



Alexander McCall Smith

## **And the best place to stay?**

Cape Cadogan (021-480-8080; capecadogan.co.za). It has marvellous staff and beautiful large bedrooms, some with a view of Table Mountain.

## **Where would you meet friends for a drink?**

The Planet Bar, in the Mount Nelson Hotel (021-483-1000; mountnelson.co.za). Definitely the place to go and soak up the atmosphere.

## **The best place for lunch?**

Moyo, at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens (021-762-9585; moyo.co.za) on the lower slopes of Table Mountain. Try the bobotie, a Cape Malay dish made from lentils and raisins, with a savoury egg-custard topping.

## **And for dinner?**

We discovered 95 Keerom



Pictures: BRETT ELOFF AND SHELLEY CHRISTIANS

(021-422-0765; 95keerom.com), which is a wonderful place, really fantastic. The Italian food is very impressive.

## **Public transport or taxi?**

Taxis are terrifically cheap, reliable and worth using. — © *The Sunday Telegraph*