

WEEKEND HOT SPOT

#1 MELROSE BOULEVARD

FIND IT

THE hotel is located at the back entrance of the self-contained, quasi-neighbourhood within a neighbourhood, known as the Melrose Arch precinct, in Johannesburg. It is 30 minutes from OR Tambo International Airport and five minutes from the nearest mall.

SETTING

The building overlooks the Arch's faux street-setting, replete with sidewalk cafes spilling out onto quaint little cobbled roads on one side, and the M1 highway on the other, so the view is a little schizophrenic.

ACCOMMODATION

Each of the six luxury apartments is over 125m² — five times the size of a five-star hotel room. These vast spaces are decorated in the kind of faceless, modernist style that is as comfortable as it is unremarkable. As befits a new construction, the rooms feature hi-tech facilities such as underfloor heating, a gas fireplace, an ADSL Internet connection, a state-of-the-art automated coffee machine

and a whopper of a home-entertainment system. Rooms are available from R3 600 for a one-bedroom apartment, and corporate rates are negotiable.

FOOD

A light continental breakfast is included in the cost. However, the hotel is spitting distance away from about a dozen decent restaurants. But if you have a rarified palate, then take advantage of the concierge service instead and opt for a privately catered dinner party in the privacy of your own room.

EXTRAS

Speaking of the concierge, the staff at #1 are happy to make reservations at whatever restaurant you choose, send up a masseur after a hard day's work or sightseeing, do your laundry, arrange a cocktail party on the roof for up to 80 guests and do just about anything else you can think of. And having shared a cocktail on the roof with the general manager, Ruan, I do mean anything. — *Robert McKay*

DETAILS

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SIMPLISTIC ELEGANCE: One of the hotel rooms at #1 Melrose Boulevard