



Image: www.istock.com

The little customer is the 'new' king

Hi everyone

I think you get two kinds of people when it comes to restaurants and kids.

One: Those who feel that kids need to be segregated into something similar to a smoker's section - preferably with a play area that is soundproofed.

Two: Those who 'feel' for the parent's pain and let the little monsters run wild because when they had kids they most definitely didn't sign a contract in blood that they'll only eat at the Spur forever and ever.

I fall into the second category – primarily because I have two little nephews that I adore and because I REFUSE to eat at the Spur. So, I am always looking for restaurants with a decent menu, kid-friendly management and a play area where I don't feel like bathing them in Dettol afterwards, because it was so dirty.

Kids inni bos

So I was very eager when I got an invitation to [Stellenbosch](#) on Sunday to check out their 'child-friendly' restaurants. Let me tell you, Stellenbosch has come a VERY long way since I was a Matie. The old grubby student town has had an extreme makeover with a new slick coffee-shop culture set in a very 'Eurocentrifed' environment – definitely giving Franschoek a run for its money. Especially the area around Church Street interlacing with Andringa and Ryneveld Streets.

Currently the town has over 120 restaurants – not including the many, many wine farm restaurants. Honestly, you could throw a rock and hit a restaurant, it seems.

The little customer is king

I found it so refreshing that someone had the very bright idea of working the 'child-friendly' angle. Restaurants really need to try anything (with budgets tightening as we speak) to ensure that customers keep on coming through their doors – even if they have small tummies.

[Stellenbosch Tourism](#) has a nifty map listing of child-friendly restaurants, wine farms (over 42 of them) and even accommodation that doesn't mind the odd breakage here and there. (How smart is that!)

We had lunch at [Eagleview](#) – I was so surprised by this place. Lovely setting, stylish designed restaurant, with a big lawn front and back and they're very relaxed about people parking off for a picnic as long as you buy your wine from them.

The management also has no problem with children running around in the restaurant.

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restaurant. But not so close that the screaming kids, having loads of fun, will bother you while you're trying to be a grown up. I can't wait to take my two nephews there when they come to Cape Town again.

If you've discovered some child-friendly gems – [drop me a line](#).

Till next time

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Chew on this

Whatever they grow up to be, they are still our children, and the one most important of all the things we can give to them is unconditional love. Not a love that depends on anything at all except that they are our children.
Rosaleen Dickson



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