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Newsflash

A charming father and son combination of André and Johan Kruger won a prize recently for their Sterhuis Chardonnay 2004 for the "Best kept Secret". It's a secret no more.

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Haiku

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In its original form, Haiku is a Japanese verse form consisting of three unrhymed lines which usually speak of nature or the four seasons.



In its Cape Town incarnation it is a superb restaurant in Burg Street offering some of the finest Oriental food I have ever eaten - and I include some of the London greats like Hakkasan, Ken Lo's Memories of China and the curiously named Elvis Gracelands Palace if you can put up with the Chinese Elvis impersonator who is also a karaoke master - raucous entertainment indeed, but fantabulous food.

Haiku is the epitome of silence and oriental grace. It's cool dark interior a refuge from a hot blustery Cape spring day. Enchanting curly touseled waiter takes us through the menu explaining that there are four kitchens and the food comes out as it is ready. Her service was there always and unintrusive.

And it comes on square white plates, each a taste serving for four. Embroidered napkins and all earthy brown plates, spoons and chopsticks.



Crispy crusty-edged rare beef with shiitake mushrooms. Crunchy prawn toasts with chili sauce. Pekin duck, complete with a little steaming basket of hand-sized pancakes, plum sauce and julienne of cucumber and celery. Superb sushi, some vegetarian with the avocado in it reaching the point of perfect ripeness as it hit the table. Salmon sashimi covered in sesame seeds and set on a frilly salad. Fat juicy deep-fried prawns in a light batter. Steamed spinach and cheese in rice flour wrappers. Each with its own unique sauce.



There were desserts as well, but we never got there. Had I, the coconut ice cream would have been my first choice.

The food is of the best I have eaten in Cape Town. Just plan your detour well ahead to ensure a table.

Haiku, Upper Burg Street, Cape Town [021]
 424 7000 <http://www.haikurestaurant.com>