

# Double culinary delight

Rachelle Breed

Asking for the chef may have you thinking you have had one glass too many with your scrumptious cuisine, because you are now seeing double.

Relax and take another bite - you have been the guest of dynamic twins Stacey and Wendy Botha who gives a whole new meaning to having an extra pair of hands during dinner rush hour.

Hailing from Richards Bay, the sisters are also joined at the hip in their endeavours to carve out a name in history chronicles as the Chefs from the Bay.

Too many cooks usually spoil the broth, unless the Botha twins are in the kitchen.

And this is no hot air puffery.

The sisters were a hit when they cooked side-by-side at Admiral's Cove in Florida as line chefs, with Stacey on the pantry side and Wendy at the buffet station.

'It was an open kitchen and patrons would stop and chat when they saw two identical chefs in the kitchen,' says Wendy.

She has just arrived back in South Africa after spending two and a half years in America.

The twins completed their studies at The 1000 Hills Chefs School.

Wendy started working in Richards Bay, while Stacey left for America to work at Ballen Isles Country Club through Workaway International.

But the sisters could not stay apart for long and Wendy followed.

Here she had the opportunity to work with Charles

Rosselli, Pastry Chef of the Year 2007 and US TV celebrity.

She also learnt new skills, gained vital experience and traveled to Hawaii, Maui, Vegas, Tennessee and North Carolina.

'It was the most amazing experience,' she says, jet lagged but happy.

The twins say a highlight was the diverse mix of people they met, including fellow recruits from all over South Africa.

'We formed a really close knit group and it was great to have a support system when the inevitable homesickness set in!'

Skype conversations with their parents also helped.

Stacey, who is also back on home ground, loves

shopping and has a weakness for shoes.

'The online shopping was great - every time I would come home with overweight luggage.'

Stacey is now working at Protea Hotels as a Junior Sous Chef, while Wendy is heading back to America in six months.

Head of Workaway International, Charlotte Quenet-Meintjes, said, 'Stacey and Wendy are both outgoing and diligent women.'

'The fact that they were invited to complete additional seasons is testimony to their hard-working and friendly nature.'



PHOTO:  
ADELE KRUGER

'Watch out Nigella, we are armed and dangerous!' - Stacey Botha, Kwazi Hlela, Wendy Botha and Sergio Anders