

6. Brakdakkie, Prince Albert



Photo by Christopher List

When Lance and Kerrigan Speirs bought a 3 800-square-metre section of a smallholding on the outskirts of Prince Albert, the previous owner, a hoarder, left them with rooms full of junk. However, to the Speirs, the rusted meat grinders, tools and soap tins weren't junk, but things to collect and use to decorate the house, garden and three guest cottages.

Previously a donkey shed, tool room and dairy barn, the cottages carry their past only in the small windows and thick walls. The interiors are entirely refurbished in white for a bright, fresh feel. Each cottage has a private patio and splash pool, so it never feels like you're on top of your neighbour.

Take a moment to appreciate the windmill. Lance spent years collecting all the pieces needed to build it, and when he finally climbed down to look at his handiwork, the entire structure fell over, almost killing him. His second try at erecting it was more successful.

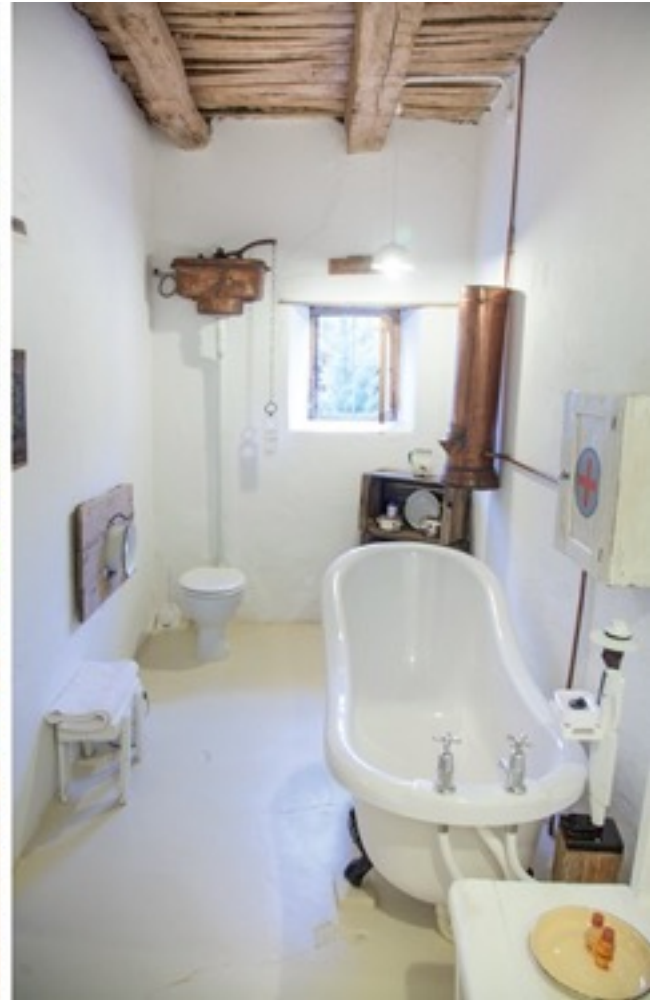


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Walk around to the back of the main house and you'll find the veggie garden. During summer you can see anything from pumpkin, pomegranate, chillies, baby marrow, lettuce or apricots growing here, but it's only for making jams and preserves for the local Saturday market.

Two of the cottages sleep two people each and the third sleeps four. They have only kitchenettes, but you'll find a list of Prince Albert's restaurants (all about a 10-minute walk down the road) on the table when you arrive. Follow the map or simply walk down the town's broad main road and pick one along the way.

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22 August 2014