

Spring fever breaks out in Haenertsburg

Lindsey Sanderson

Spring fever is breaking out in Haenertsburg. Azaleas, Japanese flowering cherries and crab apples are bursting into bloom and the local artists and crafters are putting the finishing touches to their creations in preparation for the annual Spring Festival.

The festival runs from September 24 to October 2 and will showcase a splendid variety of art and crafts in Haenertsburg Village and at the Magoebaskloof Hotel. An ideal chance to do all your Christmas shopping.

The Spring Fair at the Magoebaskloof Hotel will offer a wide variety of hand-crafted items, including work from three local potters, boutique-style clothing, delightful Christmas decorations, handcrafted furniture, wooden toys, tin art, beadwork from Bolobedu and stained glass lampshades and decoupage as well as bags, notebooks, kitchen and tableware created from screen-printed textiles with an African flavour.

The Food Hall has a huge variety of delicacies to tempt the palate, ranging from organic cheeses to spicy pickles, tongue-tingling preserves, jams, marmalade, nuts, fruit and biscuits. There will also be various types of biltong to tickle the taste buds.

Under the Eaves you will be able to participate in craft demos and workshops where you can learn to make glass beads, mosaics, resin jewellery, pewter art and how to use a potter's wheel.

Blind basket makers will also show off their skills and have beautifully made baskets, dog baskets, lampshades and cane furniture for sale.

A magnificent display of indigenous and exotic orchids, Bonsai, home-grown coffee and hand-painted orchid panels will be on show in two marquees on the hotel lawns.

Delicious steak and boerewors rolls will be on sale and tea, coffee and a special Spring Menu will be available at the Coffee Bean coffee shop. The Phoenix and Fireman pub will be buzzing with two flat-screen televisions for Rugby World Cup fans.

At a nearby farm venue, Mountain Action Challenge will have some great goodies for men, including clay pigeon shooting, fishing tackle for sale, and a stand where micro-brewers will display their special beers and offer tastings. There will also be bratwurst, olives and mustards to enjoy with the beer, a 4X4 display, a 4x4 course and wood huts.

The Village Hall in Haenertsburg will be packed with an amazing array of handmade items ranging from exquisite glass art to furniture, jewellery, Kilim rugs, organic Persian sweetmeats, soaps, herbal lotions and potions and handmade cards.

Stock up on reading matter at the second-hand book stall and find delightful children's books at the "Traveling Library".

There will be a yummy pudding table, homemade fudge, preserves, pesto, nuts, dried fruit and olives, vetkoek and koeksusters and cooking demonstrations.

A jumping castle and other fun stuff will keep the children entertained.

The local Marimba band will be performing at the hall and Magoebaskloof Hotel.

Cont page 4.....

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