



PARKING OFF *Modo Mio*

TEXT JONATHAN CANE

Joburgers have a penchant for a pizzeria in a parking lot. Think of Luca's, which moved from a parking lot in Morningside to an even bleaker parking lot in the even bleaker Sunninghill. Or Trabella, which spills out onto Oxford Road on one side and an awkward parking lot on the other. Both serve excellent pizzas to a very loyal clientele. *Modo Mio*, however, has taken it one step further. It is actually in a parking lot.

The restaurant is a peculiar piece of architecture. Seemingly built from driftwood, precariously held together with thumbtacks, it has the tentative quality suggestive of a pop-up restaurant. There is however, nothing tentative about the food. The menu is confident and precise, and its gesture towards a refined Northern Italian palate is convincing.

The wine list is small but adequate, and after a couple of glasses you hardly worry that you're being stared at by the curious/bored tenants of the medium-rent apartments around the asphalt lot. They too must be confounded that an RDP wigwam stapled to the side of their home is serving up such excellent food.

I've eaten at *Modo Mio* quite a few times now and have yet to taste anything I didn't like. The Carbonara I had recently was made in just the right way: with egg, prosciutto and pancetta,



none of that ham and mushroom rubbish you find down the road at Pronto for instance. The salads are bright and clean, and the pizzas thin and delicious.

The inclusion of pizza is atypical for this kind of Italian style, but the relaxed family atmosphere it reflects does not detract from the high quality to which it aspires. And if it must be judged by anything, it should be according to its own standards. A risotto is a great barometer of restraint and technical ability. An insecure chef will pep up the recipe because she cannot trust the subtlety of the dish and an inexperienced chef will overcook the rice, serving up a tapioca pudding. *Modo Mio* does neither.

Now for a caveat. Unfortunately I will not be going back to *Modo Mio*, and neither, I'm told, will many of my friends. The service is unfathomably, wine-glass-smashingly, fist-fight-inducingly bad. The owner and his staff are at best incompetent, generally annoying and often downright rude. I cannot — I will not — sit on the edge of a bench, table-less, with a booking, ignored, only to be told after an hour of being stared at by lonely residents, that the kitchen is now closed. I can make my own risotto at home.

Modo Mio, Shepherd Market, 339 Jan Smuts Avenue, Craighall Park, 079 343 6729



MONKEY MANIA KIPLING

TEXT CHIPO MAPONDERA

The fashion capital of Antwerp is known as the home of those who seek to push the design envelope. It is in this very city that the iconic casual bag brand Kipling was formed 25 years ago. The brand, which is available in more than 66 countries, recently launched its first South African stand-alone store in Sandton City.

Brought to SA by retail and wholesale company The House of Busby, Kipling has previously been available at Frasers stores nationwide. However, the launch of its stand-alone store will allow for a more extensive range of product.

These include collections such as the brand's core collection, Basic, as well as the refined City range and the celebrated Gorilla Girlz range featuring electrifying prints and colours made from the light nylon fabric that the brand's founders describe as "a little simple, a little weathered and totally classic Kipling".

The unique and quirky product offering maintains Kipling's ethos of feminine, casual and stylish designs that are high quality and affordable for a smart but easy look. It also caters for every facet of a woman's lifestyle, including cosmetics and toiletry bags, cellphone and laptop covers, handbags, backpacks and luggage, accompanied by the brand's iconic monkey mascot, which symbolises the fun component of the brand which is "serious about not being serious".

Kipling, Shop U6a, Sandton City, 011 784 2752, www.kipling.com/int



Classic French sportswear label Le Coq Sportif has made a major comeback, which sees some updates on their covetable classic polo shirts and sneakers, as well as a comprehensive collection of fresh, sporty silhouettes for the season. The brand is also the official supplier for the 2012 Tour de France. These Tours 2 Tone sneakers with pinstripe and leather detailing are well suited to smarten things up or add a sportier edge to more serious office attire. Available at Le Coq Sportif retail outlets nationwide, 021 683 0200