Swartberg Hotel

HOW THE SWARTBERG HOTEL GOT IT'S NAME

The Swartberg Hotel has been in use as a hotel for over 150 years, and today, is a National heritage site- but it wasn't always known as the Swartberg Hotel, so we've put together this brief and definitely incomplete chronology of how it got it's name.

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1864
Founded by local resident John Dyason, who's records show, bought a large building between Church St and Market St, which became the first hotel in town.

1878
Dyason dies, but according to his will allows his widow to continue living on at the hotel.

1881
After 3 years, the hotel is finally sold to Mrs M. E. Eksteen, who renames it the 'Exteen Hotel'.

1885
The hotel is acquired by Jan Haak, who changes it's name to the 'Prince Albert Hotel', although locally it was known as 'Haak's Hotel'.

1919
The hotel is sold to a Mr L. Levenson, who renamed it 'The National Hotel'.

1947
The hotel is sold to Mr. M. D. J. Odendal and Mr. I. D. du Plessis.

1952
Odendal and du Plessis build the rondavels (our garden cottages) behind the hotel, gave them each the name of a pass or kloof in the Swartberg mountain range. The hotel's name is also changed to what it is today, 'The Swartberg Hotel'.

Bread Service

Milk Rolls, Melba Toast, Butter, Crushed Fig

Starters

Traditional Pumpkin Soup R 75

Pickled Fish, Dressed Leaves, Country Loaf R 85

Baked Snails, Parsley and Garlic Puffs R 70

Gay's Dairy Cheese Soufflé, Prosciutto R 80

WHY PRINCE ALBERT

Many visitors to our peaceful little town wonder how we acquired our name. In fact, it was by accident! In 1842 a church was built on the farm De Kweekvallei, creating the Parish of Zwartberg.

Houses and businesses sprang up and in 1845 the residents got together to ask the Governor of the Cape Colony, Peregrine Maitland, for permission to name their village Albertsburg, after HRH Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, who had married Queen Victoria in 1840.

The Governor misread their letter and proclaimed the village would be called Prince Albert. In fact he did us a favour, for in 1867 Queen Victoria sent a beautifully bound copy of her late husband's collected speeches to the village which bore his name. You can see the book, with a dedication written in her own hand, in the Fransie Pienaar Museum.

Mains

250g Sirloin Steak, Peppercorn Sauce R 205

1/2 Deboned Chicken, Mushroom Sauce R 185

3 Lamb Loin Chops 300g, Chermoula R 265

Lamb Shank, Creamy Mashed Potatoes R 295

Tomato Bredie, Rice R 180

Sole Meunière, Lemon, Parsley R 265

Lentil Curry, Roti, Spiced Roast Pumpkin, Rice (V) R 160

Sides

(Served with every main course)

(Varies – your waiter will inform
you which sides are available)

Crispy Baby Potatoes with Parmesan /
Roasted Butternut / Green Bean Fritters

Creamy Potato Bake / Pumpkin Fritters /
Creamy Spinach with Feta

Pommes Dauphine / Smashed Marrows / Pickled Beet

Desserts

(Your waiter will inform you
which desserts are available)

Any Two Desserts – R85
Any Four Desserts – R140

Chocolate Mousse

Crème Caramel

Fig Tart, Vanilla Cream

Swiss Roll, Custard

Malva, Custard

GHOSTLY PAINTINGS

Our Hotel has many beautiful paintings and prints. Those in the Victoria Room were bought in London by the hotelier Jan Haak in 1902 for 2 £/10c. The artist, Frank Hider (1861 – 1933) painted many landscapes but few featured people, so these are well worth viewing, not just for their curiosity value but because one holds a ghostly tale. It is said that the young lady, pictured walking near a stream in rural England, found her lover had betrayed her – so she murdered him! When guests dine by candlelight, especially in winter, with a flickering fire adding its shadows, there is a chance they might see his ghost in the painting and the stream run red with his blood. Or perhaps they will notice the lady has moved a little towards them along the path... In the second painting the same lady, some years older, gazes across a pool, a beautiful valley forms the background. No ghost here, just a tranquil scene. Both paintings were restored by local resident and artist Tim Rowson in 2012.