

↓ COCKTAIL HOUR

# Cocktail Hour at The Westcliff

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**B**uilt on a hillside, in exquisite surroundings, is the Westcliff, and a place to meet there is the Polo Bar, reminiscent of a professor's study, a room for the erudite, a place where old traditions rule the day with impeccable service and an air of dignity. Crossed polo sticks and old photographs line the walls, and a fireplace is ready for cold weather. The chairs are deep and comfortable. From a window facing the infinity pool, the view of the city is magnificent, and as dusk settles the twinkling lights of Joburg reflect the stars. Around the bar you are likely to notice famous faces - The Westcliff is the hotel of choice for presidents, diplomats, celebrities and superstars, so it is not unusual to see a 'name' sipping a cocktail or drinking a beer.

The cocktail menu is extensive and the

choice tempting and delicious. My first cocktail was a 'Big City, Bright Lights'. The ingredients are currant vodka, triple sec, lime juice and cranberry juice. Served in a martini glass with a deep red cherry at the bottom, it was simply exquisite and just dissolved in my mouth. The pink-coloured drink lived up to its name - think 'Sex and the City' in a classy establishment - it was decadent and luscious. The Polo Dream was also divine: gin, apple sours and sugar syrup, tasting like a liquid apple lollipop! The always popular Strawberry Daiquiri was perfectly frozen. Another fabulous option is The Westcliff Warmer consisting of Tia Maria, Frangelico, Grand Marnier, amarula, and hot chocolate, while the Egoli Water is gold tequila, triple sec, cranberry juice and fresh lime juice. There is an extensive selection of single malt whiskies,

and cocktails, and the Polo Bar is the ideal rendezvous before dinner at La Belle Terrasse, or later for a nightcap or specialty coffee. Waiters wear polo shirts (naturally) and your every need is catered for with personal attention. Our waiter was Calvin, an absolute superstar.

If you are hungry, a delicious bar menu is available which includes a choice of tapas, all-day dining, burgers and snack baskets. As darkness sets in, the pool shimmers ice-blue in the blackness, Joburg pulses, and here, in the heart of The Westcliff on Jan Smuts Avenue you feel nurtured and at peace. Cocktails at The Polo Bar are essential - you cannot get better than this. ■

*\*The Westcliff is located on Jan Smuts Avenue in Johannesburg. Contact details: Tel: +27 (11) 481 6000 or visit [www.westcliff.co.za](http://www.westcliff.co.za)*

