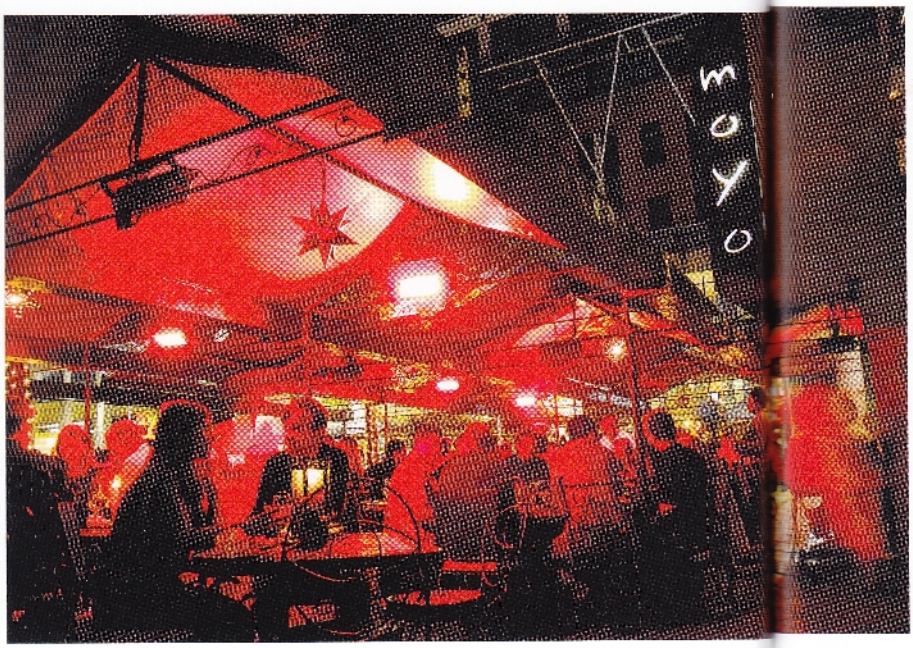
end and expansive shopping centre, for an interesting essay in people watching. Specialising in mezze-style dishes, diners can indulge on a little of everything from a wide range of Greek to Spanish mini tapas-style portions. Middle-Eastern classics also feature on the menu, as does delectable dim sum. Mezepoli offers quick and filling urban dining in a stylish setting. Given its location many see it as the perfect place to cut loose at the end of a busy working day or simply pick up some sustenance on mid-shopping or a waistline-watching lunch for those ladies who do it so well. With the clean, no-nonsense décor and a hip clientele, Mezepoli is deserving of its crowds.

Food 8, Service 8, Atmosphere 8

Mosaic *(right)*
The Orient Hotel, Francolin Conservation Area, Crocodile River Valley, Elandsfontein
Tel: 012 371 2902
www.restaurantmosaic.com
Open: 7–10am, noon–3pm, 7–9pm Weds–Sat
International **R245**

Having recently been awarded the accolade of the best restaurant in South Africa, Mosaic is definitely worth a visit. Set in the spectacular Orient Hotel 40 minutes out of Sandton the décor and gastronomy can only be described as sensational. Working from a basic international palate the cooking has been influenced from India, Morocco, Turkey and the Middle East drawing in subtle fusions while making most of the fresh and organic locally-sourced ingredients. The décor picks up the look and feel of the hotel and the food, drawing inspiration from the Silk Route, North Africa and the sub-continent, and pays attention to all the right details. The food is based around degustation tasting menus – ranging from five courses to the seven-course Grande Degustation with or without wine pairings. The food certainly isn't cheap, with the entry level two-course a la carte coming in at R245, but definitely worth it.

Food 9, Service 9, Atmosphere 9

Moyo *(left)*
Melrose Arch, Shop no 5 The High Street, Melrose Arch, Melrose
Tel: 011 684 1477 www.moyo.co.za
Open: daily, 11am–11pm
African **R240**

This African experience restaurant, set in the stylish Melrose Arch shopping centre, is far less kitsch and more stylish than you might expect. Inside, its interiors are a chaotic celebration of all things African and look to span the continent in look and feel, ranging from a North African style tent to a seemingly carved out cave. However, the terrace on a warm evening can't really be beaten. The menu follows the theme of the interior drawing in dishes from Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Mozambique and, of course, South Africa. Definitely pandering to the 'experience' diner guests are greeted by 'Wishy-Washy' ladies who introduce them to the age-old tradition of African hand-washing and face-painting; it's all slightly gimmicky, but hey you're on holiday so relax. Live music and performances sometimes accompany dinner to complete the authenticity of the African evening.