

MARI DARTNALL, 47, owns and runs The Orient Hotel with her daughter, Chantel. She lives in the Francolin Conservancy near Pretoria with her partner, Cobus du Plessis, and Chantel.

"It was difficult when I discovered I was pregnant at 17, but it was also wonderful being a young mom. Chantel and I are more like sisters than mom and daughter; we grew up together.

We're incredibly close and seldom apart. When she returned from London where she'd been working as a chef, Cobus built a small hotel on the land he'd bought so Chantel could have her own restaurant.

We work together each day and never tire of each other's company. We close for two weeks every year and go to a house Cobus and I own in Nature's Valley, and just relax.

'We work together every day and never get tired of each other's company'

I'm so proud of Chantel and all the accolades she's received. She's won a number of awards, including the *Eat Out* Chef of the Year last year.

We complement each other beautifully. I'm in charge of front-of-house and the rest of the hotel, while she runs Restaurant Mosaic. Being honest with each other is the most important thing to us."

CHANTEL DARTNALL, 30, lives in the Francolin Conservancy.

"Living together works well for us. We spend so much time at work that we're not often at home to get under each other's feet.

What I admire most about her is that no challenge is ever too big. She worked in insurance for

25 years, left something she was great at and walked into new territory.

We understand each other. We often communicate without talking, something that only happens when two people know each other really well. If it weren't for my mom, I wouldn't be where I am today. She gives me confidence and self-assurance." the-orient.net >>

