

# Cooking the books

## OTHER SIDE OF THE CITY



Marie-Lais Emond

► *Each week Marie-Lais scouts another urban reach, tasting, testing alternative aspects to pique our curiosity about places and people we might have had no idea about. This week she finds the food library at the end of Route 512.*

**‘Y**ou just missed Nick!’ blurts Wehrner Gutstadt even before I reach his outstretched hand.

Pawel and I are in Lanseria, a seemingly odd place for a well-stuffed food book haven. The whole southern end of this long, hangar-like centre is devoted to logistics for the actual airport up the road. But here, near the north end, chefs visit a lot. Always wanted to meet Marthinus Ferreira, Chantel Dartnall, Philippe Wagenfuhrer off duty? This is where they love to be because the latest, greatest, most desirable pieces of kitchenware are to be had from the Culinary Equipment Company.

Everything any heart under an embroidered name could desire gleams and tantalises. While here, the chefs often purchased a hundred or so cookery books from the inter-leading emporium.

Nick Zehnder, of a Swiss family, started this impressive food book collection, buying new and old books. The Gutstadts have bought all or part of the collection but Nick frequently replenishes with more books. His collection was first housed over a few buildings behind his Parktown North dwelling.

For two years it's been in this

library or shop, in a remarkably cosy space, just one step up from the showroom but a world away in hush and comfort, with antique armoires, sofas, bookcases all around, doubled up in places. It's the place to bring a coffee or a glass of wine from the outstanding restaurant, the Culinary Kitchen, set alongside a beautiful chef's garden. You pick a few books, curl up and open ... "Hey, what's this? *The Royal Cookbook – Favourite Court Recipes from the World's Royal Families*."

I often cycled over to the Zehnders' house while researching a food book I was writing. Nick and I would haul out piles of tomes from the shelves, a tea tray between us. To go through the books, we had to stretch out on our sides in the narrow spaces between the cases.

In the collection's new abode, Wehrner's wife, Janet, also tries to find relaxing time in an armchair, book on knee. I hope this is a book feast that won't move again.

Back to this royal foods book, published in 1971, including sections about Polish royalty's dishes, even Hawaiian. And African. That's the part I want ...



### info

► Culinary Equipment Company 011-701-2200, Lanseria Centre, Pelindaba Road (R512), Lanseria.

