

Top 10 Smart Casual

Bon Appétit – Simon's Town
Bread and Wine – Franschoek)
Jardine – Cape Town La Madeleine – Pretoria
Megu – Paarl
Ritrovo – Pretoria
Spice on Florida – Durban
Terrior – Stellenbosch
Umami - Salt Rock, KZN
Yamato – Johannesburg

Yamato

Illovo – Classic Contemporary
196 Oxford Road, corner of Oxford and Chaplin, Illovo.
Tel 011 268 0511. Open Sun-Fri for lunch and dinner, Sat for dinner.

Food genre: blue-chip Japanese

Wine list: Well described, with vintages listed and food pairing suggested; food-friendly SA selection complemented by Sake; several by-the-glass options; BYO at R20 corkage

Service: Informed and quick but with a tendency to be stony faced

Price: Approximately R150 for two courses excluding drinks

Child friendly: Suitable for well-behaved, quiet, older children only; cutlery can be requested instead of chop sticks; no kids menu.

Wheelchair access: Venue accessible; toilets inaccessible

Smoking: Fully enclosed smoking section.

This multi award-winning eatery is located on the ground floor of an office block flanking a busy arterial road. It is the food rather than the view that draws the crowds. Once inside, owner Yasue Cristina Sato oversees a team of Japanese chefs in an environment of calming monochromatic splendour. Don't be put off by the seemingly formal nature of the space – you can wander in for something as simple as a warming bowl of miso and disappear half an hour later. Everything on the menu is authentic and delicious. Tofu is freshly made on the premises and doesn't taste anything like the shop-bought variety. The superior sushi and sashimi have clarity of flavour and freshness seldom seen outside of Japan. Even simple broths and udon, ramen and soba noodles are delicately perfect. The place is regularly packed with Japanese diners, and no one has yet managed to find anything to criticize, other than the view.