

KATE TURKINGTON

Put Foot



## Seeking direction

I BET you've never thought of dung beetles as particularly romantic creatures with stars in their eyes.

You may have seen them determinedly rolling their balls of dung along a bush road, often with an accompanying female perched persistently on the ball, but did you know they navigate by the stars? Apparently they've become the first animals that have been proved to use the Milky Way for direction-finding.

If dung beetles can find their way by following the stars, it makes me wonder about all the hi-tech navigation aids we humans need when we travel – from Garmins and TomToms to jet pilot devices. Have we lost our innate path-finding abilities?

I visited the Bartolomeu Dias Museum in Mossel Bay (go there – it's great) and marvelled at the life-size replica of Dias's caravel which he sailed from the west coast of Europe to make landing in 1488 at the bay he called St Blaise, now Mossel Bay.

The caravel seems so small, he had few maps (and those he did have had large areas marked "There be Monsters" and other similarly unhelpful information) yet he and his motley crew sailed successfully halfway around the world, not even knowing if they were going to fall off the edge.

It has taken me more than seven decades to realise that I have no sense of direction whatsoever (so obviously I wasn't a dung beetle in a previous life). But I wonder if us modern humans have now lost that instinctive sense of direction along with our loping gait and hairy backs?

When you travel – let's say you're going on a road trip to the coast – could you imagine just setting off in the direction of where you know the sea to be, then navigating by the stars? Although in most places in South Africa we can still see the stars, can you imagine the husband/wife arguments that would rage even more fiercely because, if men won't ask directions, (all women are aware of this familiar syndrome) then how on earth will they identify the Pleiades?

Lemmings are believed to instinctively follow their mass death route. Millions of wildebeest know when to start the great migration. Monarch butterflies know when to start fluttering from southern Canada to central Mexico. Barn swallows know how to get from Dorset to Dullstroom.

But it appears we modern travellers have to rely almost entirely on external sources such as maps, cellphones and GPSes.

It makes me wonder about Darwin, the evolution of the species and the survival of the fittest.

Bon voyage.



3SIXTY liquid lounge at Montecasino is a concept venue, comprising a restaurant and bistro, cigar and cognac lounge and cheese and wine room.

HASMITA NAIR

Jozilicious



## Shooters from the hip

Jozi has a new watering hole in 3SIXTY Liquid Lounge, says **Hasmita Nair**

LET ME get this out of the way: Montecasino is not my favourite place to be. Unless I intend going to the Teatro to watch a show, I purposely avoid walking around under the faux Venetian roof, wobbling over uneven cobblestone paving with the sounds of trilling slot machines in the background.

However, many Joburgers, especially those with children, love Montecasino and consider it an entertainment destination for the whole family, as it offers a broad spectrum of quality leisure options and restaurants for all age groups.

Until now, I wouldn't have considered going especially to Montecasino to hang out with friends, but with the launch of 3SIXTY Liquid Lounge, that has changed.

3SIXTY is a concept venue, encompassing a restaurant and bistro, cigar and cognac lounge and cheese and wine room.

Upon entering, you are transported into another world and it's easy to forget that you're in Montecasino. The futuristic decor, coloured lights and solid mahogany furniture make you feel as though you're in a cocktail lounge in Hong Kong or New York.

It promises over-21s a 360° sensory journey, and delivers on this promise – with a frost-topped circular bar counter there is no need to worry about your drink getting warm while you ponder over the enticing menu.

If you're particularly interested in how the food is made, you can choose to be seated in front of the show kitchen, where you can witness your dish being cooked and plated.

The cocktail menu is almost ethereal – shooters are served in



Ice cream and shooter dessert at 3SIXTY, above, and more shooters, above right.



test tubes with popping candy, Peppermint Crisp chips and candyfloss.

Standard cocktails are inexpensive – a cosmopolitan or margarita

will set you back R34, while a mojito costs R45. Whisky drinkers will also be pleased at the prices – a shot of Johnny Walker Black is priced at just R27, and you can opt to have

your drink in the swanky cornered-off private cigar lounge.

The 3SIXTY food menu ensures