

Pub inside ancient tree is a great place to get trunk and disorderly

Make mine a double, bartender

BY JOEL TAYLOR

INSTEAD of popping out to your local for a drink, why not branch out and try something different?

A pub housed in the trunk of an ancient 22metre-high (72ft) tree is attracting more than 7,000 thirsty visitors every year.

The bar, in Limpopo, South Africa, boasts four-metre-high (13ft) ceilings and comfortably seats up to 15 people.

It even has its own cellar, with natural ventilation to keep the beer cool. Heather van Heerden and her husband, Doug, started the bar after finding the hollow inside the Baobab tree which is in the grounds of their farm.

Mrs van Heerden said: 'One year we had a party and squashed 54 people inside, but I wouldn't recommend that.'

The tree is so wide it takes 40 adults with outstretched arms to encircle its 47metre (154ft) circumference.



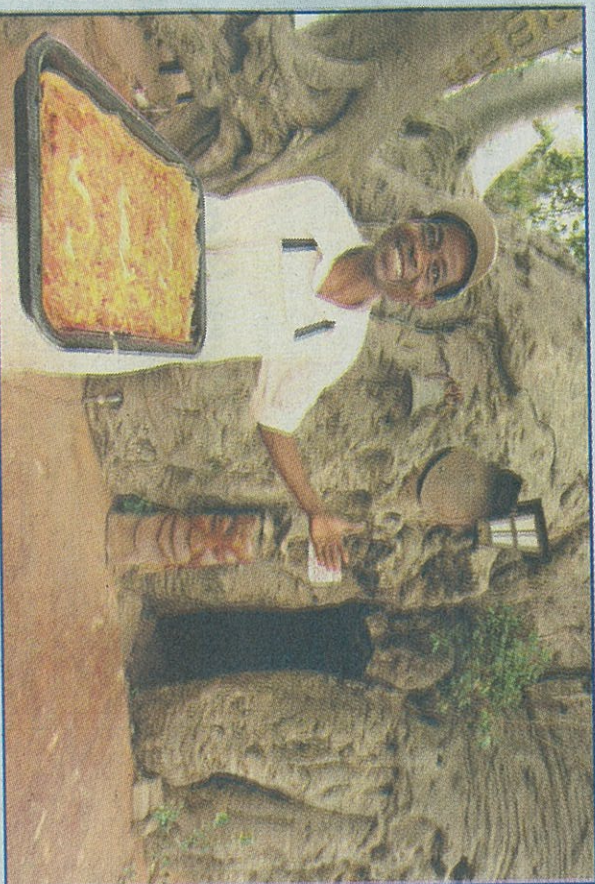
Snug: The interior bar seats 15

Carbon-dating has shown the tree is about 6,000 years old. Baobabs hollow naturally when they are more than 1,000 years old. 'This tree is likely to be older than the Giza Pyramids of Egypt,' said Mrs van Heerden. 'It is phenomenal to have such a magnificent tree in your back garden.'

'It is possibly the biggest living thing on Earth.'

The Baobab is also called the Tree of Life because it is capable of providing shelter, food and water for the animal and human inhabitants of the African savannah.

The species has spawned numerous myths and legends in the region. Mrs van Heerden added: 'The Baobab is a sacred tree in African culture. If a baby drinks a mixture of its bark and water, it is said to grow up mighty and powerful.'



Grub's up: A bartender serves local delicacies as snacks

Pictures: Barcelona



Open plan: The tree, at 6,000 years old, attracts visitors from all over the world

METRO weather

London Today

Another dry albeit chilly day. Following a locally frosty or foggy start, it will be dry with a fair amount of sunshine. Gentle easterly winds. High 5C (41F).

| | | |
|-------------|--|----|
| Thursday AM | | 2° |
| Thursday PM | | 4° |
| Friday AM | | 1° |
| Friday PM | | 4° |

Outlook

Dry tomorrow but with extensive areas of low cloud and some patchy mist. Saturday will also be rather cloudy with rain possible later.

South-East and the Home Counties



Today

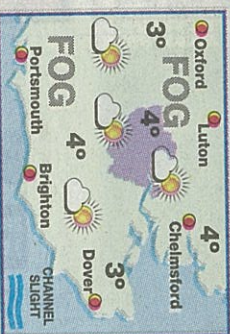
Another chilly day with patchy frost and fog clearing to leave it dry with some decent spells of wintery sunshine. Gentle easterly winds. High 2-5C (36-41F).

Sunset: 3.54pm Air pollution: Low

TOMORROW

Generally dry with some brightness. However, it will be cold again and mist and low cloud may be reluctant to clear. Light southerly winds. High 1-4C (34-39F).

Sunrise: 8.02am Air pollution: Low



Britain Today

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------|
| North | MIST 3° | South | 6° |
| N.West | MIST 1° | S.Wales | 4° |
| Yorks | FOG 2° | N.Wales | 2° |
| W.Mids | FOG 2° | Scotland | FOG 2° |
| E.Mids | FOG 1° | N.Ireland | 6° |

Around Britain yesterday

| | | | |
|------------|---------|------------|-----------|
| Aberdeen | 3° Fair | Leeds | 5° Cloudy |
| Belfast | 6° Fair | Liverpool | 5° Fair |
| Birmingham | 4° Fair | London | 5° Fair |
| Cardiff | 4° Fair | Manchester | 6° Sunny |
| Edinburgh | -1° Fog | Newcastle | 5° Cloudy |
| Glasgow | 2° Fair | York | 5° Cloudy |

Europe Today

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Amsterdam | -1° Mist | Madrid | 8° Cloudy |
| Athens | 8° Sunny | Miami | 23° Cloudy |
| Barcelona | 15° | New York | 2° Fair |
| Berlin | -1° | Paris | 2° |
| Brussels | 4° | Sydney | 24° Cloudy |
| Dublin | 8° | Tokyo | 8° Sunny |

Around the World yesterday

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Amsterdam | -1° Mist | Madrid | 8° Cloudy |
| Athens | 8° Sunny | Miami | 23° Cloudy |
| Barcelona | 15° | New York | 2° Fair |
| Berlin | -1° | Paris | 2° |
| Brussels | 4° | Sydney | 24° Cloudy |
| Dublin | 8° | Tokyo | 8° Sunny |