

SHUCKING ON SHOW

With the party season upon us, the Oyster King and his queens show us how entertaining food service can be



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT (from left) Kebone Bolofo, Thomas Dreyfus and Mischka Langeveldt; entertaining guests; Oyster King offerings; a variety of macarons; the Bubbly Queen serves owner Patrick de Bree



‘May I tempt you with an ocean delicacy?’ asks the Oyster King, Thomas Dreyfus, as he shows off his bucketful of oysters fresh from Saldanha Bay. He proceeds to shuck and season one oyster after another as he entices guests with fascinating facts behind his fare – like the legend that Casanova ate 40 oysters a day off the breasts of a desirable woman to increase his libido.

Patrick de Bree, head of the Oyster King company, explains that it’s more than simply serving. ‘The trick is to entertain and educate guests,’ he says of the service that’s available countrywide. ‘We don’t just hire models; we hire characters.’

The Oyster King’s theatrical show, accompanied by that of the Bubbly Queen and Macaron Queen – who’ll offer you a macaron with a white-gloved hand – is a fun take on presenting food and drinks.

The uniforms add to the effect – high heels, fascinators, statement jewellery and leather storage pockets. Kebone Bolofo, the Bubbly Queen, agrees. ‘We provide an experience that’s different to one you’ll get from a waiter. Our unique Champagne glasses make the experience that much more memorable.’ These baseless flutes are placed in special holders on the tables when not in use. ‘Or you can just dig them in the grass if you’re at a picnic,’ adds De Bree.

It’s a concept started in the Netherlands, by a man who’d helped fishermen sell their oysters on the beach in Venezuela and taken the interactive concept back home. With De Bree’s kings and queens having joined the party, South Africans can now also have a royal good time.

■ *Oyster King* ☎ 0860 697 837;
 🌐 www.oysterking.co.za

