



## Road-building pioneers, wagon builders and diamond diggers



If you've entered Ceres via Wolseley and Michell's Pass, you had the privilege of travelling on a beautiful stretch of road of which the ground work was laid by well-known South African road-building pioneers like Jan Mostert (late-1700's) and Andrew Geddes-Bain (mid-1800's).

The first access road to Ceres, the old Mostert's Hoek Pass (1765), was constructed by Mostert, one of the earliest European settlers this side of Tulbagh. The 13km stretch of road was even then still very rugged. Wagons passing through had to be unpacked and dismantled at the uitspanplek next to the Breede river, under and around the bridge some 300m from here. They then had to be carried by ox over the rugged terrain leading to what is Ceres today. This road was in use for about 80 years and traces of it can still be seen today.

In 1830, Charles Michell surveyed Mostert's Hoek Pass with the aim of improving access to Ceres. Michell's Pass was constructed by Andrew Geddes-Bain in 1846, with the assistance of 240 convicts. The new pass followed along the bank of the Breede River, all the way to the Warm Bokkeveld. The pass reduced the travel time from Cape Town to Beaufort West from 20 to 12 days, and also made it possible to do the route by horse-drawn carriages.

It was during World War II that the road was widened and re-surfaced. It withstood the effects of the 1969 earthquake that hit the Tulbagh-Wolseley-Ceres area and destroyed most of the buildings in these towns. The road was rebuilt between 1988 & 1992.

The valley of Ceres, the Koue Bokkeveld and the open plains of the Tanqua Karoo were first inhabited by the San and Khoi, thousands of years ago. The San rock painting sites in the area are some of the best preserved in the country. The first Europeans crossed the Witzenberg Range from the Tulbagh Valley in 1729 and established stock farms from Tulbagh right up into the Bokkeveld. The first plots in Ceres were sold a year after Bain and his team finished Michell's Pass.

The road through Ceres became the main route to the north after diamonds were discovered in Kimberley in the late 1800's. Diamond magnate Barney Barnato frequented the town regularly *en route* to the diamond fields. In those days the town was a bustling trade stop for passers-by en route to the gold and diamond fields. It boasted at least five hotels and was especially known for its wagon makers and repairmen.

Today this route is known as the 'Forgotten Highway' and is fast developing as a popular tourist attraction. It played a crucial part in not only the development of Ceres, but also many a town between here and Kimberly.

Winterberg Mountain Inn is owned and operated by business partners Reint Grobler and Karien Potgieter. The guest house was reopened as Winterberg Mountain Inn and Harvest Table Bistro after being known as Mill & Oaks for 13 years. The inn, which is said to have, among others, once accommodated union president Paul Kruger, stands proud on the original foundation of a wheat mill known as the Old Ceres Mill (see etch by 19th century artists Thinus de Jongh in reception). Traces of it being run as a hotel/inn can be found back as far as 1901.

The mill was part of Jan Mostert's original house and is believed to have been built in the late-1700's. The milling stone of its "bakkiesmeul" can still be seen in the inn's garden and its cog work has been preserved partially and can be seen inside the bistro.



## BREAKFAST

### Winterberg Breakfast 87

bacon, sausage, 2 eggs, potato hashbrown, seasonal fruit and home-baked bread / Add Chips 20

### Mexican Breakfast Bowl 87

two fried eggs and bacon on a mix of mildly spice bean, corn and baby spinach, topped with feta and cheddar. Served with home-baked bread.

### Vegetarian Option (no bacon) 77

### Shakshuka 85

A North African breakfast of two eggs, poached in a spiced tomato Sauce with bacon and chorizo, topped with feta cheese. And served with freshly baked bread

### Health Breakfast 70

muesli, fruit, greek yogurt and honey

### Breakfast Pizza 95

three fried eggs, bacon, sausage & cheddar on a wood-fired pizza base

## STARTERS

### Dutch Kroketten 85

Hand-rolled, served with a portion of French fries, salad and mustard

### Snails in a creamy cheese sauce 79

## MAINS

### Chicken Schnitzel 110

Served with cheese sauce, salad and french fries

**Grilled Hake 125**

Grilled in lemon butter, served with rice or chips and salad

**Mississippi Pork Ribs 165**

Southern-style ribs (500g) in a special basting containing, among other, espresso, molasses & garlic, served with coleslaw & chips

**Sirloin Steak (250g) 155**

With cheese or pepper sauce, chips and onion rings included

**COMFORT BOWLS**

**Seafood & Corn Chowder 85**

A creamy, cheezy soupy bowl of goodness, served with freshly baked bread

**Feijoada 99**

A tomato-based Brazilian peasant dish with smoked pork neck, chorizo and beans, served on a bed of rice (mildly spicy)

**Traditional Tamatiekos 125**

Slow cooked, on-the-bone mutton & tomato stew, served with rice

**Boeuf Bourguignon 125**

French red wine-based beef stew with mushrooms, onion and bacon, served on a bed of rice

**Cape Malay Beef Curry 125**

Mildly spicy, served on basmati rice, with sambals

**HAMBURGERS**

**Bacon & Cheese Burger 105**

Pure beef patty, aioli and all the frills, topped with onion rings

**Blue Cheese Burger 105**

Pure beef patty, blue rock, aioli and all the frills, topped with onion rings

**Grilled Chicken-Mozzarella Burger 105**

Grilled chicken fillet, mozzarella, aioli, topped with onion rings

**Witels Survivor Burger 140**

Two patties with caramelised onion, cheese sauce, bacon & onion rings

**WOOD-FIRED PIZZAS**

**Italian Flatbread** (mozzarella, garlic & herbs) 69

**Margherita 75**

Thin base with tomato and cheese

**.Vegetarian (v) 95**

Roasted butternut, beetroot, garlic and feta

**Flammkuchen 95**

Southern German "pizza" with greek yoghurt, thinly sliced onion, bacon and mozzarella. No tomato on base

**Anchovy, capers & feta 110**

**Mediterranean 99**

Feta, bacon, olives, caramelised onion, spinach

**Pulled pork 115**

Southern-style pulled pork, tomatoes and onion

**The Winterberg 125**

Bacon, grilled chicken, smoked pork neck and diced tomato

**Grilled Chicken 125**

Grilled chicken, peppadew & blue cheese

**SWEET TREATS**

**Home-baked carrot cake 50 / Malva pudding 55**

**KIDDIES MENU (all R60)**

Fishfingers, Chicken strips or burger & chips/  
Kiddies pizza (bacon & cheddar)/ kids' breakfast