

out of office

by Carl Wepener



“O’ what a beautiful morning,
O’ what a beautiful Car”

BMW 760Li

As I suppressed the urge to wave at the gawking passers by while merrily humming that tune, I realised that the BMW 760Li launch was going to be all that I expected from it – and more.

We were whisked away in our chariots and drove through Cape Town to Hout Bay. We then ventured over Constantia Neck to Uitsig Wine Estate in Constantia where we lunched at La Colombe. Here the keys to our lovely V12 Chariots were handed over to us. So instead of doing any wine tasting, we concentrated on the exquisite cuisine prepared for us.

There was an abundance of choice and as usual, I had a taste of most of the dishes in order to tell you about it.

As I sit here writing, my mouth is watering, especially for the following:

Beetroot Tarte Fine with goats cheese fondant and confit garlic, finished with raisin and balsamic

reduction, capers and black olives. The taste is out of this world and each mouthful is an experience on its own.

Being a meat lover, I could not resist the Kudu Tartare with pickled ginger, a touch of green chilli and creamy soya mayonnaise, coriander pesto, finished with a very light hoisin dressing.

For the fish and sushi lovers, the Seared Medallions of Tuna on marinated aubergine with miso cured cream cheese and yuzu dressing tantalises the taste buds.

My problem arose when I realised that that was only the starter. I still had to have main course and dessert – and then still be able to drive!

I opted for the Grilled Rack of Karoo Lamb that was finished with a lamb jus, confit lamb shoulder on



a ratatouille of chickpea, aubergine and tomato with a rosemary cream and potato dauphinoise. I was so full, I could not try any of the other dishes, being; Grilled Beef Fillet with blanched haricot beans and a creamy porcini velouté or, Pan Fried Line Fish with butternut risotto, curried smoked haddock velouté and apple salsa.

Dessert was excellent with a choice between Cashew Nut Butter Parfait, Lemon and Rhubarb Tart with berry sorbet or a selection of African cheeses with preserves.

Now back to business and our lovely new chariots. As your eyes feast over the new lines, the deeper kidney grill, the lovely profile and the coupe like flair of the roof, the chrome and body lines all work together to enhance this long slender shape. The lines flow into the longer body so well that you do not get the feeling of

I was amazed at the customer relevant technology that was available at our finger tips and very efficient programmes that are there for enjoyment while driving, or being driven, in luxury.

You find yourself cocooned in the loveliest of interiors with rich leather and wood. All of the interior fittings comply with the overall dynamic look and feel of the car. Even though the cockpit is driver orientated technology, the passengers in the back have just as much control over the vehicle's systems such as air conditioning and sound, while relaxing in the luxurious, spacious back seats, which come with foot rests!

The BMW 760Li comes standard with Dynamic Damping Control including Dynamic Driving Control on the centre console. It also features air suspension including self-levelling on the rear axle and Integral Active Steering offering speed-related adjustment of the steering angle on the rear wheels. BMW's Navigation System, automatic air conditioning with four-zone control, Cruise Control complete with an automatic brake function, Park Distance Control and Automatic Soft Close on the doors all feature as standard.

The innovative systems include: Lane Change Warning - which, once used to, you don't want to be without it again - Lane Departure Warning, BMW Night Vision with detection of individual persons, the BMW Head-Up Display, as well as a Rear and Side View camera system (which really is really state of the art), whilst Active Cruise Control with Stop-&-Go function is an available option. To supplement, the bi-xenon headlights are a further option. BMW offers the High-Beam Assistant and Adaptive Headlights including cornering lights, variable light distribution and adaptive headlight range control, setting new standards for safe driving at night.

The car drives so smoothly and powerfully that before you realise it, you are cruising leisurely at 200km/h. The 760Li is as sophisticated and silent as they get.

The route, chosen to display the car's ability in all kinds of driving, involved long straights, where the power and stability impressed, hard corners, where steering with all four wheels really made a huge difference, to just cruising in order to enjoy the great scenery along the coast.

We had to bid our chariots farewell at the newly opened Taj Hotel in Cape Town where we were the first visitors of this fascinating and historically interesting Hotel. I can only say that Michael, Theo and their team have a really great hotel, where the focus is on the client, making sure that one's stay is not only enjoyable, but unique.

The BMW 760Li is visually as good looking as any of the other well-known limousines and will be a pleasure to drive for the owner as well as for the chauffeur. □



it being too big. The front has a sporty flair that is seen throughout the vehicle, even when sitting in the back - where you are supposed to.

The new BMW 760Li has taken over the top position within BMW South Africa's model portfolio. Exceptional new standards come from the twelve-cylinder, 6.0-litre power unit with Twin Power Turbo Technology developed as a completely new engine. The superior power of 400kW comes at an engine speed of 5,250rpm, with maximum torque of 750 Newton-metres from just 1,500rpm. Acceleration to 100km/h comes in just 4.6 seconds.

Combined with the brand-new eight-speed automatic transmission with three settings, this is 'smooth' on wheels.