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# Cultural Treasures Amidst the Vineyards

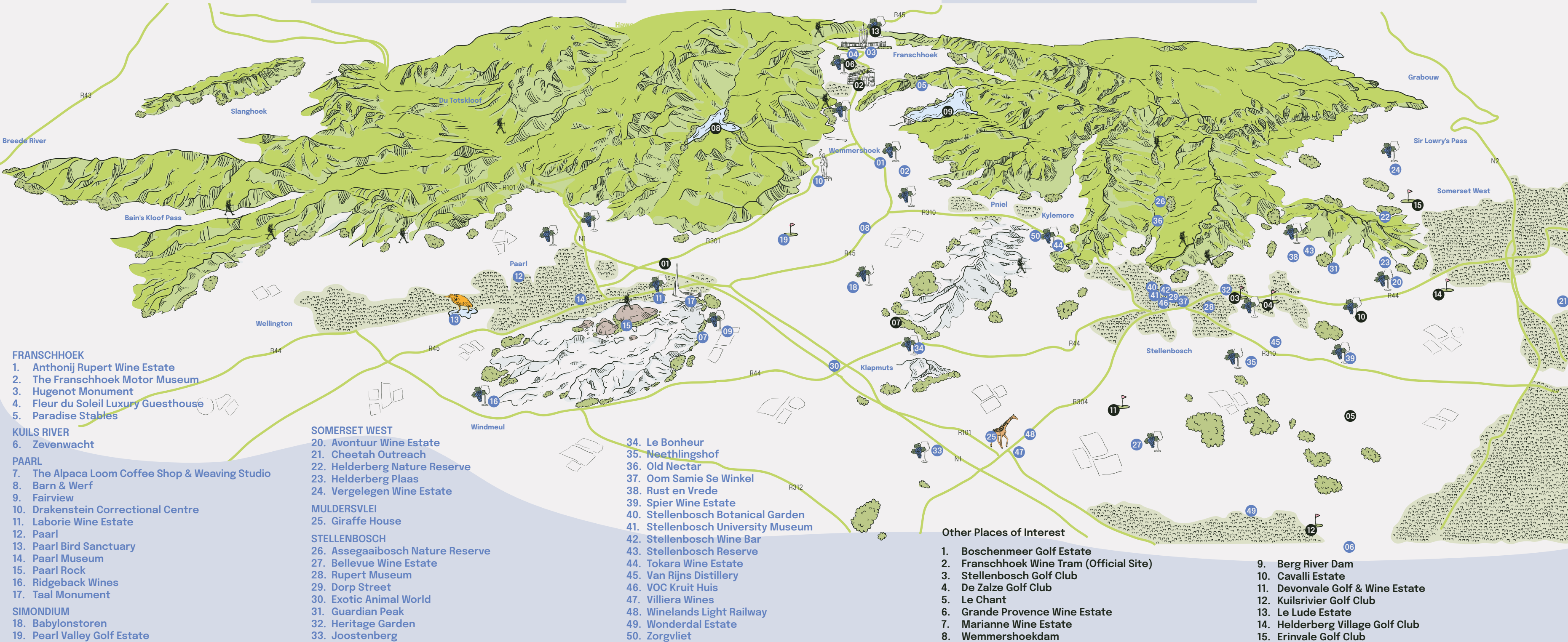
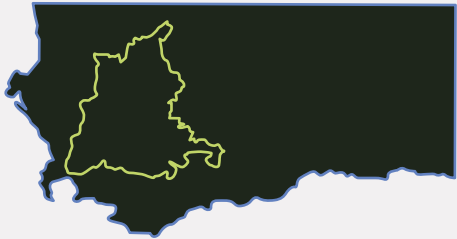
"Where there is no wine, there is no love."  
- Euripides

According to Euripides, then, the region known as the Cape Winelands is brimming over with love. Certainly, love can be seen in the tender care bestowed upon the budding vines during the growing season, and in the gentle hands that pick the plump bunches in the harvest season. There is a saying among viniculturists: if you don't take care of the vine, then no-one will care for the wine. Certainly, in the Cape Winelands, the lush and plentiful vines speak of modern science and old-fashioned love-of-the-vine coming together in equal measure to produce superb wine.

After the harvest, comes the crushing and pressing of grapes, fermentation, clarification, and then aging and bottling – all stages that occur under the watchful and tender care of the winemakers. Winemaking has been described as a craft that combines science, art and intuition. Since every wine is unique, there is no single recipe for producing a great wine, but the common ingredient found in most great wines is love – the love of the winemaker for his or her craft, the alchemy that turns grape juice into wine. In short, in the Cape Winelands, winemakers are driven by their love of wine.

This legacy of love can be traced back as far as 1655 when Jan van Riebeeck of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), together with his chief gardeners, planted the first vines in the Company's Garden. Four years later, van Riebeeck captured a historic moment in his diary on 2 February 1659: "Today, praise be to God, wine was made for the first time, from Cape grapes." This marked the birth of South African wine, and that single vineyard has grown far beyond the Cape Peninsula. The Cape Winelands now embraces the three towns of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl, and most of the surrounding areas as well.

Love of wine is well documented throughout the ages, especially among writers and the literati. Robert Louis Stevenson described wine as "bottled poetry" and Ernest Hemingway admitted "my only regret in life is that I didn't drink more wine." British poet, Lord Byron, had this to say: "Wine cheers the sad, revives the old, inspires the young, and makes weariness forget his toil." But perhaps this tongue-in-cheek quote by an anonymous lover of wine says it best: "Ask not what wine has done for you, but rather what you're willing to do for wine."



- FRANSCHHOEK**
1. Anthonij Rupert Wine Estate
  2. The Franschhoek Motor Museum
  3. Hugenot Monument
  4. Fleur du Soleil Luxury Guesthouse
  5. Paradise Stables
- KUILS RIVER**
6. Zevenwacht
- PAARL**
7. The Alpaca Loom Coffee Shop & Weaving Studio
  8. Barn & Werf
  9. Fairview
  10. Drakenstein Correctional Centre
  11. Laborie Wine Estate
  12. Paarl
  13. Paarl Bird Sanctuary
  14. Paarl Museum
  15. Paarl Rock
  16. Ridgeback Wines
  17. Taal Monument
- SIMONDIUM**
18. Babylonstoren
  19. Pearl Valley Golf Estate

- 1-Anthonij Rupert Wine Estate**  
Anthonij Rupert Wynne was founded on the farm L'Omarins in Franschhoek. Originally owned by the late Anthonij Rupert, who passed away in 2001, the farm was taken over by his brother Johann Rupert in 2003. It was Johann Rupert who constructed a state-of-the-art winemaking facility on the estate and the beginnings of what was to become a sprawling enterprise with a focus on terroir-specific wines. Anthonij Rupert Wynne's portfolio of wines includes some of the country's most iconic brands, such as Anthonij Rupert Optima, Protea and L'Omarins ranges. The company also produces several premium, small-batch wines under the Anthonij Rupert and Cape of Good Hope labels. These wines are known for their complex flavour profiles, refined elegance, and balance, and are prized by wine lovers and collectors around the world.  
LOCATION R45 wine route  
CONTACT 021 874 9000 | info@rupertwines.com
- 2-The Franschhoek Motor Museum**  
The Franschhoek Motor Museum offers visitors a special opportunity to look back at more than 100 years of motoring history with its unique and exciting collection of vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles and memorabilia in the magnificent setting of L'Omarins. Across the length and breadth of Southern Africa, only one place can adequately portray the evolution of the automobile – The Franschhoek Motor Museum. Admission is by appointment only, with convenient online booking available on our website. Ticket prices are R80 for adults, R60 for pensioners and motorclub members, and R40 for children aged 3-12. Large buses and motorcycles should enter via the Anthonij Rupert Wynne gate, with tram transport provided to the museum.  
LOCATION L'Omarins Wine Estate, R45, Groot Drakenstein  
CONTACT 021 874 9002 | frmm.co.za
- 3-Hugenot Monument**  
The Hugenot Memorial Museum in Franschhoek recounts the persecution of the Hugenots in France and the settlement of 1659 in the Cape. Housed in the reconstructed 18th-century Saasveld building, the museum's exhibitions link Hugenot history with global issues like persecution, exile, and social identity. The site also features the Hugenot Monument, old coachman's house, sundial, and Perfume Museum. A visit to this historic precinct is a must for tourists.  
LOCATION Lambrichts Street  
CONTACT 063 758 1623 | museum.co.za/monument/
- 4-Fleur du Soleil**  
With Fleur du Soleil Luxury Guesthouse, as an indulgent refuge during your stay, your visit to this part of the world is nothing but rarified. The luxurious, boutique guest house is in the heart of Franschhoek in a tranquil, quiet area, yet only few minutes' walk to everything the Village has to offer. Here guests don't just find hospitality. You experience rejuvenation of self and reclamation of time. To Fleur du Soleil, true service is an experiential sense of belonging. Wankelekle ahkaya – welcome home.  
LOCATION Van Riebeeck St  
CONTACT fleur-du-soleil.com | 060 808 8905
- 5-Paradise Stables**  
Their signature and most popular trail is Wine-Tasting on Horseback or on their Arabian horses. This scenic 12km round-trip showcases the Franschhoek valley. The ride meanders through indigenous fynbos and magnificent vineyards while the varying terrain and elevation deliver extraordinary views. At approximately 4 hours in total with 2 and a half hours in the saddle and two wine farm stops of thirty to forty minutes each; this adventure is perfectly crafted to keep our guests entertained and enchanted by world class wines and sublime scenery. We also offer short wine-tasting rides, and per hour trail rides by arrangement. From complete beginners to professionals, all standards of riders are welcomed at Paradise Stables.  
LOCATION Robertsville Rd  
CONTACT paradisestables.co.za | 084 586 2180
- 6-Zevenwacht**  
Zevenwacht Wine Estate, within Stellenbosch's wine region, offers a perfect blend of wine tasting, luxurious lodging, and contemporary dining. Guests can savour a full wine tasting experience in the atmospheric barrel cellar. Accommodation choices range from an elegant Country Inn with luxurious suites, to 7 charming vineyard cottages and a Self-Catering Chalet perched on vineyard slopes. The Manor House Restaurant, overlooking a serene lake, serves exquisite dishes paired with estate wines made from fresh, local ingredients. Activities like cellar tours, nature walks, picnic, and the Bakewena Day Spa ensure a relaxing retreat for wine lovers and leisure seekers alike.  
LOCATION Langverwacht Road  
CONTACT 021 900 5700 | zevenwacht.co.za
- 8-Barn & Werf**  
Between the best of wine farms in the Franschhoek Valley, you will find Barn and Werf Décor. In this beautiful barn you will find an eclectic blend of handpicked antique and retro furniture, lighting and décor items.  
LOCATION Groot Drakenstein Handelshuis, R45 Franschhoek Road, Simonium  
CONTACT www.facebook.com/barnandwerf/ | 084 670 6099

- SOMERSET WEST**
20. Avontuur Wine Estate
  21. Cheetah Outreach
  22. Helderberg Nature Reserve
  23. Helderberg Plaas
  24. Vergelegen Wine Estate
- MULDERSVLEI**
25. Giraffe House
- STELLENBOSCH**
26. Assegaaibosch Nature Reserve
  27. Bellevue Wine Estate
  28. Rupert Museum
  29. Dorp Street
  30. Exotic Animal World
  31. Guardian Peak
  32. Heritage Garden
  33. Joostenberg
- 42. Stellenbosch Wine Bar**
- 43. Stellenbosch Reserve**
- 44. Tokara Wine Estate**
- 45. Van Rijs Distillery**
- 46. VOC Kruit Huis**
- 47. Villiera Wines**
- 48. Winelands Light Railway**
- 49. Wonderdal Estate**
- 50. Zorgvliet**

- 7-The Alpaca Loom Coffee Shop & Weaving Studio**  
We love alpacas! Do you? These creatures with their big eyes, long eyelashes and super soft fleece enchant both young and old. Visit us to meet alpacas up close and personal. A bit of feed will get you the attention of David, Cosmo and their friends in the petting zoo. They often come running to gently muzzle the feed out of your hands. Wander through the shop and watch the weavers at their craft. Browse our luxurious selection of hand-made goodies, ranging from hand-woven scarves, shawls, ponchos and blankets to knitted beanies and mittens lovingly crafted one at a time. Meet some of our 350 alpacas, including our youngest crias on one of our Alpaca Barn Tours or explore the farm accompanied by an alpaca on a halter on an Alpaca Walk.  
LOCATION info@alpacas.co.za | 084 793 3686 | alpacas.co.za
- 9-Fairview**  
Fairview offers something for the whole family. Savour our daily tasting selection of artisanal cheeses and wines in the casual general tasting room or venture to the Beryl Back Master Tasting Room, ideal for small groups wanting tutored tastings and pairings of Fairview's award-winning wines and cheeses. Pop in at the deli and stock up on a variety of interesting farm cheeses, freshly baked breads, cured meats and other farm delicacies. End your visit with a Mediterranean-style meal at the Goatshed Restaurant. Enjoy the hospitable rustic ambience while enjoying views of our iconic goat tower and the Paarl Winelands.  
LOCATION Suid-Agter-Paarl Rd, Sulder  
CONTACT 021 863 2401 | info@fairview.co.za
- 11-Laborie Wine Estate**  
Established in 1691, Laborie Estate, tucked beneath the majestic Paarl Rock, is a testament to enduring history. This heritage wine estate seamlessly blends old-world charm with modern amenities, offering wide-open spaces and stunning scenery. Steep, bistro-style eatery, offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, emphasizing the finest local and seasonal ingredients, which can be shopped right there at Laborie's Farm Grocer. Embrace Suzanne, a welcoming and relaxing space serving breakfast bites, easy lunches, small plates, and coffee to cocktails. Laborie is perfect for weddings, conferences, or a weekend escape, offering luxury accommodations for up to 34 guests. Enjoy wine tasting at the historic Manor House or unwind on the shaded steep beneath the oak trees to experience Laborie's true enchantment.  
LOCATION Taillefer Street, Laborie Wine Estate  
CONTACT 021 807 3095 | laboriestate.co.za
- 12-Paarl**  
Paarl Rock, or Paarlberg (Paarl Mountain), rises 842 metres above ground, possibly the world's second or third largest granite outcrop, formed about 500 million years ago. Comprising three interconnected outcrops, it overlooks Paarl with stunning vistas. Trails span 2.5km to 10km, popular for hiking and rock climbing. Dubbed Paarlberg by settler Abraham Gabeira for its pearl-like shine at dawn, it was sacred to the Early Khoisan as Tortoise Mountain.

- Other Places of Interest**
1. Boschenmeer Golf Estate
  2. Franschhoek Wine Tram (Official Site)
  3. Stellenbosch Golf Club
  4. De Zalze Golf Club
  5. Le Chant
  6. Grande Provence Wine Estate
  7. Marianne Wine Estate
  8. Wemmershoekdam

- 13-Paarl Bird Sanctuary**  
This sanctuary is set in 45 hectares of pools and ponds and it's one of Africa's best birding sites for waterfowl. Of course, the diversity of birdlife doesn't stop at waterfowl, so visiting birders can expect to add more than 140 different species to their list, among them, the Protea Canary, Cape Weaver, African Purple Swamphen, Black Drake, Little Bittern, Three-banded Plover, Common Sandpiper, African Jacana, Green-backed Heron, American Purple Gallinule, Greater Painted Snipe, Squacco Heron, Malachite Kingfisher, flamingos, ducks and many more. Incidentally, the collective noun for a gathering of flamingos is a "flamboyance" of flamingos. Isn't it perfect? Visitors can travel along the gravel road at a sedate pace, or stop off at one of the numerous benches and hides along the route. It is a place of sublime peace – a sanctuary for the soul as well as the birds. Entry is free.  
LOCATION Yvonne Weiss lookout facility inside the Waste Water Treatment Works  
CONTACT (Gilbert Reinhardt) 079 130 7876
- 14-Paarl Museum**  
Paarl boasts a diverse cultural tapestry woven from Dutch East India Company settlers, French Huguenots, 19th-century farmers, and today's vibrant wine industry. The museum, housed in the 17th-century De Oude Pastorij, embodies this history with exhibits showcasing vintage wine-making tools, a replica winery, and exquisite Cape Dutch furniture. Located at 303 Main Road, Bertville, Paarl, the museum welcomes visitors weekdays from 9am to 4pm. Its architecture, with gables and a thatched roof, evokes the region's past, offering a captivating journey through Paarl's evolution from colonial settlement to modern wine-making hub, preserving its rich cultural heritage for generations to come.  
LOCATION 303 Main Rd, Bertville  
CONTACT 021 872 2651
- 16-Ridgeback Wines**  
Ridgeback Wines thrives in the challenging terrain of the northern Paarl Mountains, ideal for producing exceptional wines. Named after the resilient Rhodesian Ridgeback, known for its courage, their full-bodied reds age gracefully, promising up to a decade of maturation if cellared optimally. Notably, wines like the acclaimed 2001 Ridgeback Shiraz have earned prestigious five-star ratings in Platter's Wine Guide. The wine-tasting center offers scenic views of a tranquil duck pond, inviting guests to enjoy tastings outdoors on the decking or indoors with panoramic vistas through expansive plate-glass windows.  
LOCATION Ridgeback Wines, Noord Agter Paarl Rd, Windmeul  
CONTACT info@ridgeback.co.za | 021 869 8068 | ridgebackwines.co.za

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#### 17-Taal Monument

This beautiful sculpture celebrates one of Africa's youngest languages, Afrikaans. Rich in symbolism, it highlights the languages diverse origins and current forms, and serves as a cultural melting pot with exciting music events, courses, sports and an open-air gallery. Located on the Paarl Mountain in a natural park, it also offers visitors multilingual audio guides and incredible views of the peninsula, valleys and mountains. For the children, playgrounds and outdoor games beckon. Guests can picnic in the indigenous gardens or enjoy the bistro's lekker food. The monuments sister institution, the historic Taal Museum in Paarl, is well worth a visit. Welkom! Wamkekele! Bienvenue! LOCATION Follow the signs from Main Road to Gabberna Doordrift St. LOCATION Gabberna Doordrift St. CONTACT admin@taalmuseum.co.za | 021 863 0543 | taalmuseum.co.za



#### 19-Pearl Valley Golf Estate

Pearl Valley, part of Val de Vie Estate, features the acclaimed Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, ranked 3rd in South Africa for 2023 by the country's top golf course ranking authority. Designed by Nicklaus Design with his personal touch, the 18-hole championship course is nestled in a wide valley surrounded by mountains. Its challenging water features double as serene habitats for local birdlife, offering a tranquil backdrop for outdoor enthusiasts—whether golfers, walkers, hikers, runners, bikers, or horse riders. Indoor options include a health spa, swimming pool, and gym for relaxation amid stunning natural surroundings. LOCATION R301 Wemmershoek Rd CONTACT 021 887 8000 | pearlvalley.co.za | golfshops@pearlvalley.co.za



#### 41-Stellenbosch University Museum

The museum hosts numerous art collections, cultural-historical artefacts, and an anthropological section spanning 150 years. Featured in the Scholtz Collection are works like Irma Stern's 'Die Masker' (1953) and Alexis Preller's 'Die Eierdoois' (1952), alongside pieces by local artists such as Moses Kotler and Karine Harries. With over 3000 pieces, the museum boasts treasures like an August Rodin sculpture, a Salvador Dali etching, and a Pablo Picasso ceramic vase. Its Anthropology section showcases a priceless Southern African collection, depicting cultural adaptation, economic practices, and social dynamics influenced by kinship, age, and gender. LOCATION S2 Nyneveld St, Stellenbosch Central CONTACT www0.stellenboschmuseum.co.za



#### 43-Stellenbosch Reserve

Stellenbosch Reserve is nestled on the lower slopes of the Helderberg mountain, neighbouring Rust en Vrede. Our Tasting Room & Restaurant overlooks the rolling vineyards of the winelands and is embraced by the surrounding mountains. Situated next to the cellar, the space has rustic contours which add character to the clean, contemporary décor, with a nod to the winery's ties to Stellenbosch town and its viticultural heritage. The flagstone patio covered in dappled shade invites visitors to linger and enjoy a refreshing glass of Stellenbosch Reserve wine while soaking up the views of the winelands. On the menu, the sophistication of Mediterranean cuisine is combined with the rustic charm of home cooking. LOCATION Annandale Rd CONTACT 072 480 0073 | stellenboschreserve.com | restaurant@stellenboschreserve.com



#### 18-Babylonstoren

An authentic farm experience: Dating back to 1892, Babylonstoren is a historic Cape Dutch farm, nestled at the foot of Simonsberg Mountain, near Franschhoek. Its garden of wonderment informs every aspect of this working farm, from the Farm Hotel and Garden Spa to the Farm Shops and farm-to-fork restaurants. Guests are invited to an enchanting experience that celebrates the unhurried farm lifestyle, and the abundance in each season and embraces the magnificent surroundings. Opening Times: Mon-Sun 09h00-18h00 in summer 09h00-17h00 in winter LOCATION Babylonstoren Road CONTACT enquiries@babylonstoren.com | 021 863 3852 | babylonstoren.com



#### 20-Avontuur Wine Estate

Avontuur Estate is the home of fine wine, fast horses, fabulous food, fantastic hospitality and fun activities. With a magnificent backdrop nestled against the Helderberg Mountains between Stellenbosch and Somerset West, one can expect to be captivated by the exquisite views over False Bay and the iconic Table Mountain whilst being positioned in a vista graced with our prided racehorses to offer you a picture-perfect and unforgettable setting on your visit to our Estate.

Come and experience the taste, smells and tastes. Stay over in luxurious accommodation or enjoy the recreational offerings immersed in the natural environment. The beauty of Avontuur awaits you! LOCATION R44, Somerset West CONTACT 022 855 3450 | enquiries@avontuurstade.co.za | avontuurstade.co.za



#### 42-Stellenbosch Wine Bar

Stellenbosch, the heart of the Cape Winelands, finds its focal point at the Stellenbosch Wine Bar. Here, visitors enjoy a diverse selection of quality wines paired with food and service reflecting our town's renowned hospitality. The bar proudly features the Stellenbosch Collection, showcasing wines like Rust en Vrede, Guardian Peak, Stellenbosch Reserve, Donkiesbaai, Cirrus, and Afrikaans. Emphasizing wine, with shared plates inspired by Mediterranean dining, it's an ideal spot for a quick business lunch or a relaxing pre-dinner drink, embodying the essence of Stellenbosch's vibrant wine culture. LOCATION Church St, Stellenbosch Central CONTACT 083 646 3207



#### 44-Tokara Wine Estate

Tokara Wine and Olive Estate is situated in a magnificent setting near the historic town of Stellenbosch. Framed by vineyards and olive groves, Tokara is a highly regarded tourist destination that offers visitors a variety of experiences from wine- and olive oil tastings to various dining experiences. When GT and Anne-Marie Ferreira purchased the farm on the foothills of the Simonsberg mountain in 1994, all they had in mind was to build a lovely family home amongst the beautiful old trees. The Ferreira's soon realised that Tokara was situated on some of the best wine grape-growing soils in the region they made the decision to venture into the wine industry in 1999 and created one of the most breath-taking wineries in the Cape Winelands. The single-minded vision from the outset was to establish Tokara as a producer of world-class wines. LOCATION Helshoogte Pass R310 CONTACT 021 808 5900 | wine@tokara.com | restaurant@stellenboschreserve.com



#### 21-Cheetah Outreach

Cheetah Outreach was founded in January 1997 to promote the long-term survival of cheetahs through awareness, education and delivery of in-situ conservation programs. The facility focuses on eco-tourism and offers a unique experience in order to raise awareness, ensure financial sustainability of the Cheetah Outreach Trusts conservation program and educate our youth on biodiversity issues facing South Africa and its natural wildlife heritage. The Trusts mission statement is to promote the survival of the free-ranging Southern African cheetah through Environmental Education and In-situ Conservation. Cheetah Outreach is well known in South Africa for demonstrating the ancient partnership between cheetah and man through our eco-tourism, school and community programs. LOCATION De Beers Ave, Fingrove CONTACT 082 972 4027 (WhatsApp) | 082 623 9960 | bookings@cheetah.co.za | cheetahoutreach@cheetah.co.za



#### 23-Helderberg Plaas

Helderberg Farm is a lovely family friendly farm with lots of different activities for the whole family. Lovely MTB trail, hiking trail, 4x4 and viewpoints trail leading up to a deck in the vineyards. A spectacular Tea Garden to enjoy some coffee, cake and scones, situated close to the Kiddies play park and animal farmyard. The sweetest strawberries available in season, as well as self picking available in November. Beautiful outdoor picnic and braai spots for small families and big private venues for bigger groups to host functions such as birthdays, baby-showers, year end functions and weddings. LOCATION Helderberg Farm, Klein Helderberg Road, R44 CONTACT helderbergplaas.co.za



#### 45-Van Rijns Distillery

The Distillery lies in the heart of the Stellenbosch Valley on the banks of the Eerste River. The legendary brandy-making history dates to 1845 when Jan van Ryn arrived at the Cape. It boasts an impressive variety of copper stills—one of which dates to more than 200 years. It is a living testament to the age-old art of crafting fine brandy and South African brandy culture. Just outside Stellenbosch, visit and experience the essence of brandy-making. Join our Distillery tours and sample multi-award-winning products in our tasting room. Host your meeting for up to 30 delegates in one of our stylish meeting rooms. LOCATION Van Ryns Road, Votterburg CONTACT info\_vannyns@heikeken.com | vannyns.co.za



#### 47-Villiera Wines

Villiera is renowned for its exceptional bottle-fermented sparkling wines, ranking among the finest Cap Classiques in South Africa. This achievement stems from a collaboration with a French champagne specialist in the mid-1980s. Beyond its winemaking prowess, Villiera has set aside 230 hectares for a Wildlife Sanctuary, emphasizing its commitment to conservation. This is complemented by a tree-planting project that has seen over 100,000 indigenous trees planted to restore land and reduce the winery's carbon footprint. Villiera's sustainability efforts extend to both environmental and human resources, focusing on improving the working and living conditions of its farm workers and addressing local community needs. These elements are key to Villiera's holistic approach to sustainable agriculture. LOCATION Over R304 & R101 Koelenhof Near CONTACT 021 865 2002 | villiera.com



#### 22-Helderberg Nature Reserve

Nestled on Helderberg Mountain overlooking False Bay, this nature reserve is rich in fauna and flora, offering a tranquil escape from city life. Explore various nature walks and picnic spots. Note, no braai fires or gas equipment are allowed. Wildlife includes diverse birdlife, mammals like kudu, baboon, leopard, and caracal, and reptiles such as Leopard Tortoise and Cape Dwarf Chameleon. Beware of camouflaged puff adders; sturdy hiking boots are advisable. The reserve showcases nearly every fynbos variety and is affectionately dubbed 'our corner of paradise' by Friends of Helderberg Nature Reserve. LOCATION Verster Ave. CONTACT 021 851 4060 | info@helderbergnaturereserve.co.za | helderbergnaturereserve.co.za



#### 24-Vergelegen Wine Estate

Discover Vergelegen wine estate, an exquisite gem in Somerset West celebrated for its stunning gardens, fine wines, and culinary delights. Stroll through our captivating gardens, explore the historic manor house and library, and delve into our winemaking heritage at the Tasting Room, where every sip narrates a tale of craftsmanship and commitment to perfection. Enjoy the Stables Restaurant's diverse menu, chilled wines, and a grassy play area for children, or indulge in decadent cakes, scones, and savories at The Rose Terrace Tea Room. Relax under the Camphor trees on striped deck chairs with a good book—an invitation awaits at Vergelegen, where nature meets excellence. LOCATION Vergelegen Estate CONTACT 021 847 2111 | vergelegen.co.za | customerservices@vergelegen.co.za



#### 46-VOC Kruit Huis

The VOC Arsenal, completed on 5 May 1777, is a unique historic building in Stellenbosch. It houses a fascinating collection of 17th-century signalling cannons and other military artefacts. Originally used to store cannons, guns, and ammunition to defend against potential attacks, it still bears the date and VOC (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie) letters on its walls. The VOC Kruithuis is singular in Stellenbosch as the only surviving structure from the East Indian Company era, retaining the VOC badge. Despite its military history, Stellenbosch has remained peaceful, having never heard the sound of gunfire in its 300-year existence. Open Times: at 9am Monday to Friday. LOCATION Mark St, Stellenbosch Central CONTACT 021 887 2837



#### 48-Winelands Light Railway

Winelands Light Railway is an interactive family park that accommodates all ages, including your furry friends. What makes this venue unique is that they have real working steam engines over weekends, as well as allow outdoor picnics inside their park (no braais or alcohol). Enjoy their spacious lawns and picturesque backdrops while watching the trains go chugging past. A must do activity for you and your family. LOCATION R304, Koelenhof (Diagonally across from Koelenhof Wine Cellar) CONTACT 060 586 5490 | winelandsrail.co.za | info@winelandsrail.co.za



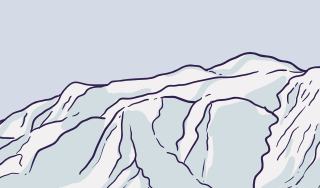
#### 25-Giraffe House

The park opened in April 2007 as an educational hub for local schools and visitors to experience wildlife they might not see in the wild. We recognized our role in protecting wildlife for future generations and aim to develop future African conservationists through our education programs, fostering an appreciation for wildlife. We chose the Giraffe as our iconic species due to its status as the tallest land mammal and a symbol of Africa. Unfortunately, the wild giraffe population is declining; in the 1980s, there were over 155,000 giraffes in Africa, but now fewer than 11,000 remain. Our facility houses 9 giraffes who serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, helping educate people about their plight and their importance to the African ecosystem. LOCATION R304 & R101 Corner of, Old Paarl Rd CONTACT 073 808 2670 | giraffehouse.co.za



#### 27-Bellevue Wine Estate

Bellevue Wine Estate has been nestled in the prestigious wine-growing region of Stellenbosch since 1701. The first Pinotage plantings made their way onto Bellevue soil in 1953, making this one of the oldest commercially farmed Pinotage vineyards in the world. Pioneering excellence was recognized in 1959 when this block produced South Africa's very first award for Pinotage, winning the Genl. Smuts Trophy for the best young wine at the Cape Wine Show. We take utmost care of this Pinotage block, which is still in production today and remains the pride and joy of Bellevue. A state-of-the-art tasting room has been furnished inside one of the historical wings of the cellar. With modern finishes, comfort, and a child-friendly environment, Bellevue is not to be missed! LOCATION Bottelary Rd, Koelenhof CONTACT 021 865 2055 | info@bellevue.co.za



#### 26-Assegaaibosch Nature Reserve

This is a small boutique nature reserve, only about 204 hectares in size, and now a World Heritage Site, managed by CapeNature. It lies in the Jonkershoek Valley with the main entrance about 9km from Stellenbosch. It boasts various hiking trails which, at intervals, are closed to the public to allow essential trail maintenance. Phone 087 087 4118 during office hours to ascertain whether the trails are open. The 4.5km Wildflower Walk is one of the more popular walks and is described as moderate. The 9km Stellenboschberg hike is obviously tougher. Even when the hiking trails are closed, visitors are welcome to use the very well-maintained picnic and braai area. Please note, however, that alcohol is strictly forbidden here. Gate times are from 08h00 to 16h30. LOCATION Jonkershoek Rd



#### 31-Guardian Peak

Guardian Peak takes its name from the majestic peak on Stellenbosch Mountain, where wine is a way of life. We embody our passion for wine, food, and winelands culture at Guardian Peak. The philosophy of 'Live with Wine' extends from our winemaking to our restaurant and beyond—into your kitchen, living room, and braai area, where our wines are meant to be enjoyed with food and friends on any occasion. At Guardian Peak Winery & Grill, we offer a relaxed dining experience focused on pairing wine with food. Enjoy stunning views of Stellenbosch mountains and vineyards while savoring our wines and a selection of delicious dishes—an ideal setting for an unforgettable culinary journey. LOCATION Annandale Road CONTACT 021 881 3869 | info@guardianpeak.com



#### 29-Dorp Street

Before this thoroughfare was called Dorp Street, it was simply referred to as 'the wagon road to the Cape,' which might explain why it is so long. The first thing you notice about Dorp Street is the oak trees that line both sides of the road. Early settlers in Stellenbosch were asked to plant as many oak tree as possible, all over town, so the town became known as Eikestad (Oak City). The Street exudes an old-world charm, especially in the architecture, which reflects both the Cape Dutch and the Victorian eras. Cape Dutch thatched roofs loudly display 'no smoking' signs while Victorian facades proudly display their brookie lace. Experience Dorp Street up-close to see the harmonious blend of heyday and history, coffee shops and boutiques, museums and galleries.



#### 30-Exotic Animal World

Exotic Animal World is dedicated to caring for previously kept exotic and wild pets. Our facility houses hundreds of small animals ranging from fish and amphibians to reptiles, birds, and mammals. We also feature a diverse collection of invertebrates, including freshwater crustaceans, tarantulas, and giant African land snails. Explore our unique tropical freshwater aquarium with up-close views of Piranhas. Meet adorable mammals like Lemurs, Marmoset Monkeys, Meerkats, Chinchillas, and Ferrets. Our reptile bay hosts Non-venomous Snakes, Skinks, Plated Lizards, and Tortoises, while our large aviaries showcase over 40 bird species, from budgies and Macaws to Owls and Turacos. LOCATION Route 44, Klipmuts CONTACT 080 646 1048 | info@exoticanimalworld.co.za | exoticanimalworld.co.za



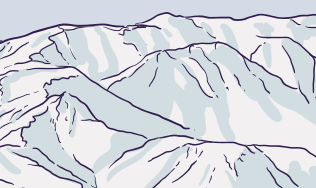
#### 33-Joostenberg

Joostenberg Wine Estate, nestled in South Africa's Paarl region and owned by the Myburgh family, has produced wine since the 1750s. Tyrrel Myburgh, the 5th generation farmer, oversees vineyard management and winemaking. The estate's 30 hectares of organically certified vineyards focus on Chenin Blanc and Syrah, perfectly suited to the terroir. They also experiment with new varieties like Touriga Nacional and Alvarinho to adapt to climate change. Emphasizing traditional, minimal-intervention winemaking, Joostenberg aims to create pure, authentic wines that reflect their unique site, minimizing oak and additives to let the terroir speak through each bottle. LOCATION Klein Joostenberg, R304, Muldersvlei CONTACT 021 200 9903 | winery@joostenberg.co.za | joostenberg.co.za



#### 32-Heritage Garden

In Herte Street, lies a horticultural oasis, a garden that was bequeathed to future generations by its previous owner, Dorothy Johman, when she died in 1995. The garden is much bigger than you might expect, given that it is in the middle of Stellenbosch, and it has been restored to its former glory so the original layout has been retained. The garden still has access to leiwatier from the Eerste River which enables irrigation furrows that divide the garden into several different sections. The colourful variety on display includes a Virginia creeper that turns bright crimson in autumn, trees whose autumnal leaves burn orange, and magnolias that bloom a delicate pink and ivory in winter. Open on the first Thursday of every month. LOCATION R44, Klipmuts Rd CONTACT 021 881 3869 | (Book before visiting)



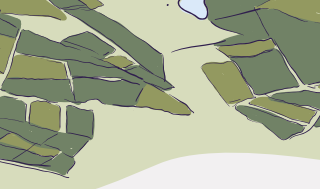
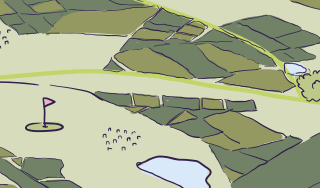
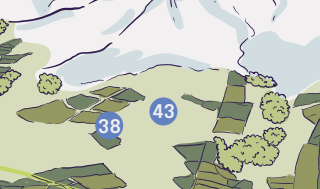
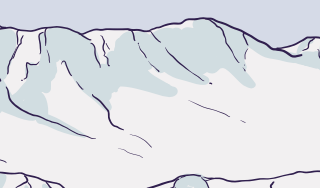
#### 37-Oom Samie se Winkel

Oom Samie se Winkel is an assault on the senses – sensory overload. You will see it from a distance, since it boasts one of those older-world Victorian facades, complete with brookie lace and vintage signage. It's an old-fashioned trading store dedicated to the preservation of yesteryear. The shop offers vintage finds, local handicrafts and a potpourri of ingredients and products from Oom Samie's pantry. Depending on which entrance you use, you will be led by the nose towards aromatic spices, or soaps and bath oils, or pastries and pies, or bakkoms and biltong, or buchu and barmal, everything from saucy seafood curries to scented candles. And Oom Samie does business the old-fashioned way. Spices are sold by the gram, while Rooibos and Honeybush are sold as loose-leaf tea in soft fabric bags. The most difficult thing to do once you're inside is to walk out. LOCATION R44 Dorp Street CONTACT 021 887 2372 | 021887 0797 | oomsamieswinkel.co.za



#### 35-Neethlingshof

Neethlingshof, a cornerstone of the Stellenbosch Wine Route with over 300 years of history, has honed its winemaking to perfection, earning countless awards for their red and white wines. The estate entrance, flanked by majestic stone pines, offers a grand introduction to their commitment to quality. All grapes are estate-grown, and production—from cultivation to bottling—occurs in their cellars, following vegan guidelines. The Wine Tasting Centre, open daily, invites visitors to refine their wine-tasting skills. It's the ideal setting to impress with newfound knowledge, adhering to guidelines provided in their brochure. Neethlingshof not only promises a rich historical experience but also a sustainable approach to winemaking that respects both tradition and innovation. LOCATION Polkadraai Rd CONTACT 021 863 9989 | neethlingshof.co.za



#### 49-Wonderdal Estate

A world of wonders awaits! Wonderdal offers an immersive and interactive entertainment experience, blending creative design, award-winning educational resources and world-class technology, to combine learning with play. At Wonderdal children aged 5-13 can discover the worlds of science, nutrition and nature across a variety of indoor and outdoor activity zones. With the colourful Amuki characters by their side, and trained WonderPals to supervise, young adventurers can look forward to a fun day out discovering a world of wonder and knowledge. LOCATION 60 Bottelary Road c/o Kruls and, Ronelle St CONTACT 021 205 5624 | wonderdal.co.za | bookings@wonderdal.co.za



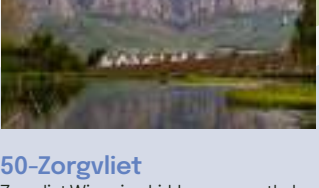
#### 34-Le Bonheur

Le Bonheur Reptiles and Adventures offers immersive experiences celebrating the African Nile crocodile and other reptiles, fostering respect and conservation awareness. Encounter over 200 Nile crocodiles, from hatchlings to 4-meter giants, attend snake awareness sessions, or swim near Africa's apex predator during croc dive season. Our passionate guides emphasize conservation education, especially for younger generations. As the first fully fledged Nile crocodile park in the Western Cape, we host popular weekend snake shows and thrilling croc cage dives, providing safe, educational entertainment. Enjoy tranquil moments in our waterfront garden with a pizzeria, picnics, waterside braais, fishing, and row boating, making Le Bonheur a perfect family destination in the Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and Paarl wine region, open daily. LOCATION LeBonheur Adventures, Babylonstoren Rd CONTACT 021 8633142 | WhatsApp: 073074004 | info@lebonheuradventures.co.za | lebonheuradventures.co.za



#### 36-Old Nectar

Old Nectar epitomizes tranquility with its four hectares of landscaped gardens, boasting diverse trees and flowering plants surrounding an ornamental dam, all framed by the Jonkershoek Mountains. Since 1941, the van der Spuy family has cultivated this haven, with Una van der Spuy personally planting each tree over 70 years. Visitors park at the entrance and stroll the 120-metre driveway to explore features like a rose garden, magnolia walk, indigenous garden, azalea woodland, and an arboretum. LOCATION Jonkershoek Rd CONTACT 060 924 9335 | info@oldnectar.com | oldnectar.com



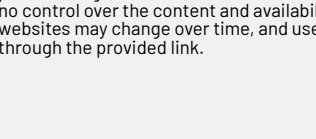
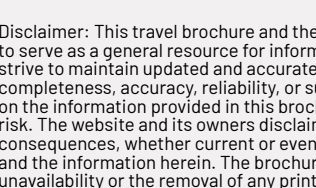
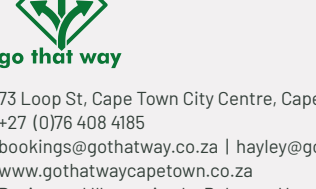
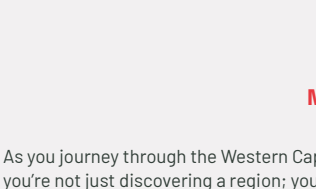
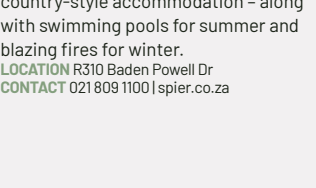
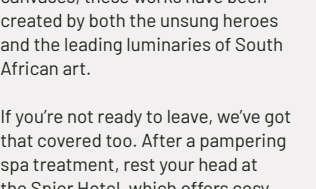
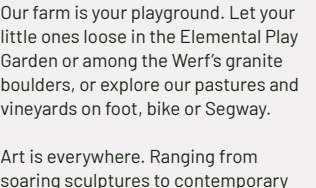
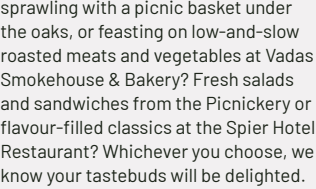
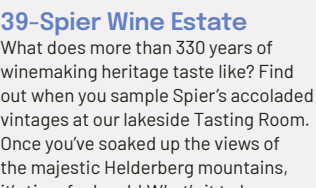
#### 50-Zorgvliet

Zorgvliet Wines is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of the Winelands, offering an unforgettable experience, with a selection of exquisite wines and a range of restaurants. For an elegant dining experience, look no further than De Herenhuys 1692 and the Banghoek Lounge restaurants. If you're seeking a more relaxed atmosphere, head over to De Vliet Country Bistro or Grapes and Greens picnics. A visit would not be complete without indulging in a wine tasting experience. Our Country Lodge offers luxurious accommodation options for an overnight stay. Zorgvliet is also the perfect venue for weddings and functions, with its idyllic surroundings providing a romantic and picturesque backdrop for your special day. Come and discover the magic of Zorgvliet Wines. LOCATION Banghoek Valley, Helshoogte Rd CONTACT 021 885 1599 | info@zorgvliet.com



#### 39-Spier Wine Estate

What does more than 330 years of winemaking heritage taste like? Find out when you sample Spier's acclaimed vintages at our lakeside Tasting Room. Once you've soaked up the views of the majestic Helderberg mountains, it's time for lunch! What's it to be: sprawling with a picnic basket under the oaks, or feasting on low-and-slow roasted meats and vegetables at Vadas Smokehouse & Bakery? Fresh salads and sandwiches from the Picnicky or flavour-filled classics at the Spier Hotel Restaurant? Whichever you choose, we know your tastebuds will be delighted.



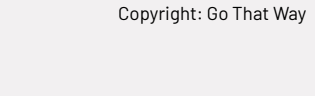
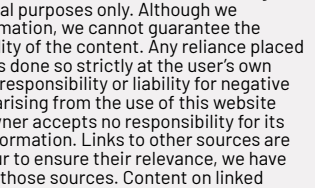
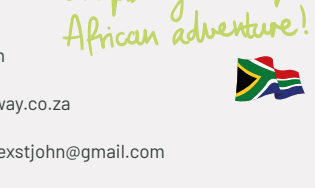
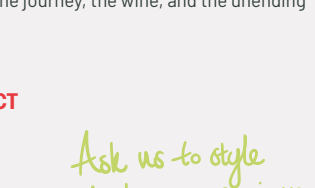
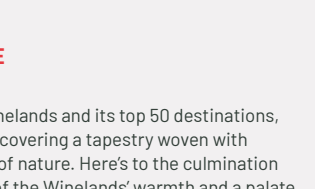
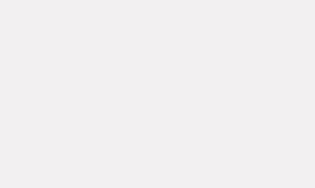
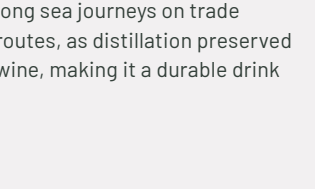
#### 38-Rust en Vrede

Since 1694, Rust en Vrede has peacefully presided over Stellenbosch's vineyards. While wine production has ebbed and flowed through the centuries, the modern era began with the Engelbrecht family in the 1870s. They've steered Rust en Vrede Wine Estate towards a future defined by quality red wines, particularly renowned for Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah. Our wines epitomize the estate's terroir, celebrated globally for their excellence. Indulge in world-class dining at Rust en Vrede Restaurant or savour a wine tasting and Winemaker's lunch at our Tasting Room, where our legacy of fine wine continues to unfold. LOCATION Annandale Rd CONTACT info@rustenvrede.com | 021 881 3881 | rustenvrede.com



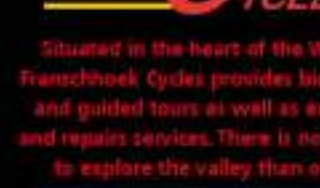
#### 40-Stellenbosch Botanical Garden

The displays and plant collections in this botanical garden support teaching and research at the University of Stellenbosch, but the garden is also open to the public. It showcases local flora in its natural habitat and addresses conservation issues. On display are South African biomes and plants, medicinal plants, as well as other taxon collections used in research in South Africa and around the world. After exploring the garden, visitors can partake of refreshment at the on-site Katjapieier Restaurant. This garden is situated in van Riebeeck Street, Stellenbosch. It is open every day from Monday to Sunday, 08h00 to 17h00 (except New Year's Day and Good Friday). Admission fee: only R15 (R10 for seniors). LOCATION Neethling St & Van Riebeeck St, Stellenbosch Central CONTACT sun.ac.za/english/entities/botanical-garden



#### Wilderer Estate, R45, Simondium-Paarl

Wilderer Estate, R45, Simondium-Paarl  
www.wilderer.co.za



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