

INSIDE
GUIDE

THE HOTTEST
CAPE TOWN
2025



INSIDE GUIDE

Top 10 Destination Wine Farms

We suggest starting your journey into Cape wine with a visit to these outstanding estates. They offer the whole package: excellent tastings, wonderful cuisine, blissful scenery and activities for the whole family.

1. Boschendal

Established in 1685, the estate's past is palpable; ancient oaks and sprawling gardens (both manicured and wild) enhance its bucolic appeal. Everything on this regenerative farm centres around The Werf and the Cellar Door overlooking the heritage rose garden.

The wine Tastings (six on offer) can include platters, bubbly and oysters, or chocolate, cheese and charcuterie pairings. Come early for the breakfast canapés wine-pairing at The Cellar Door. **The food** Enjoy farm-picked sharing plates at The Werf Restaurant (in the original cellar, with a lovely verandah). The Deli does breakfasts, casual fare like pizzas and picnics (in summer).

There's more Head to the Trail Centre for mountain-biking (bikes for hire), hiking trails and horse-riding, plus there are garden tours, the Farm Shop & Butchery, a bakery, art exhibitions and Friday night markets in summer.

For kids It has what might be the best jungle gym in the Cape (the Tree House), an Outdoor Experience for true farm-style adventure, a bike pump track and grape juice or cordial pairings.

Stay Book a garden suite (close to The Werf), a variety of cottages in private corners of the farm, or splash out on the historic villa.

Franschhoek 021 870 4200, boschendal.co.za

2. Spier

The archetypal Stellenbosch wine farm, with Cape Dutch buildings and a river running through it, the focus here is on ethical farming and creativity.

The wine There are eight ranges, including organic and vegan-friendly. Enjoy a tasting on the deck beside the dam, with platters or chocolates, or seasonal garden-to-glass food pairings. **The food** Vadas Smokehouse & Bakery is beloved for its *pastéis de nata* and hearty meals; pre-book a picnic or pick up something at the Picknickerij to enjoy on the lawns or beside the river. There's also a Bubbles & Braai pop-up on weekends, plus monthly winemakers' dinners. **There's more** Explore the farm on a Segway, mountain-bike or self-guided walk. Browse the craft market, Cowshed Shop and art exhibitions. Also look out for Spier's signature events, such as LightArt, open-air theatre, concerts and nature-led workshops.

For kids The Elemental Garden is an adventure to explore, the Segway tours can be done by children over age 10, plus there are grape-juice tastings. **Stay** Spier Hotel is getting a makeover and reopening in early 2025. Look forward to a world-class spa, Cape Herbal Bath House, three new restaurants, a rooftop bar and a nature-inspired kids' club.

Stellenbosch 021 809 1100, spier.co.za

3. Babylonstoren

With its world-famous fruit, herb and vegetable garden, this extraordinary farm is a celebration of nature's bounty. Every beautiful detail is an impeccable curation of heritage and modern style.

The wine Try the wines in the glass-walled tasting room next to the old wine cellar (tours available, plus a Story of Wine museum). **The food** For farm-to-fork fare, head to Babel (in the old cow shed). The Greenhouse does picnic-style daytime meals, while The Old Bakery offers Italian feasts and "carnivore" (braai) evenings on selected nights.

There's more Enjoy garden tours, an olive-oil tour or the Garden Spa (with its authentic hammam). Visit the past at Soetmelksvlei museum, a recreation of a 19th-century farmstead with artisan workshops. There's also a wonderful Farm Shop with a cheesery, butchery, roastery and homeware space.

For kids Farm animals, gardens with mazes and water features will delight. **Stay** For full immersion, book a room in the hotel, a farmhouse suite, a family house or a cottage.

Franschhoek 021 863 3852, babylonstoren.com

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