



INSIDE  
GUIDE

THE  
HOTTEST  
CAPE  
TOWN  
2024



INSIDE GUIDE TOP 10

# Destination Wine Farms

You might come for a wine-tasting but you'll be lured into other experiences for the whole family. Set aside a day to visit these wonderful estates – exquisite views and fantastic settings are the cherry on top.

## 1. Babylonstoren

This impeccably designed, five-hectare fruit-and-vegetable garden is world famous, but it's the impeccable details on the farm that bring real delight. Thirteen grape varieties are cultivated in the vineyards – try the wines in the glass-enclosed tasting room next to the vintage wine cellar (tours are available, plus The Story of Wine museum). **The food** For an ultra-stylish taste of what's freshly picked, head to Babel (in the old cowshed). The Greenhouse serves picnic-style daytime fare, while The Bakery offers Italian feasts and “carnivore” (braai) evenings on selected nights. **What else?** Enjoy garden tours, an olive oil and balsamic tour or the Garden Spa (with its authentic hammam). There's a fab Farm Shop (with a scented room, cheese room and meat room). Children will love the animals and gardens with mazes and water features – plus the Lekker Room! For full immersion, stay in the hotel, farmhouse or a cottage; overnight guests can go rowing on the dam, cycle and join the morning harvest. **Simondium** 021 863 3852, [babylonstoren.com](http://babylonstoren.com)

- 1. Babylonstoren
- 4. Blaauwklippen



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2. Boschendal

This estate dates back to 1685, and its heritage is palpable; ancient oaks and sprawling gardens (manicured and wild) enhance its appeal. Everything centres around The Werf and the Cellar Door overlooking the heritage rose garden. Wine tastings (six on offer) include platters, bubbly and oysters, or chocolate, cheese or charcuterie pairings. **The food** Enjoy soil-to-fork sharing plates at The Werf restaurant; or breakfast, casual fare, cocktails and picnics at the deli. The Cellar Door Eats food truck serves tacos, wings and burgers on Saturdays; or come early for the breakfast canapé wine pairing. **What else?** Head to the Trail Centre for mountain-biking (bikes for hire), farm hikes and horse-riding. There are also garden tours and art exhibitions in the Manor House and Friday night markets in summer. Kids will love the Tree House & Outdoor Experience. To extend your stay (and you will want to), there are cottages, garden suites and historic villas. **Franschhoek** 021 870 4200, boschendal.com

3. Constantia Uitsig

This organic estate – a short drive from the city centre – is an easy choice for a family day out, offering great food and wine and that feeling of being in the countryside. Part of the first wine farm at the Cape, it became its own estate in 1894. Known for world-class white wines, it also offers reds and cap classique – tastings are done at the Wine Shop. **The food** At the Heritage Market – a string of eateries housed in old farm cottages – you’ll find anything from fish and chips to eggs Benedict and pâtisserie. Plus, The Blockhouse Kitchen does “nose to tail, root to leaf” cuisine, and La Grotto serves hearty Italian fare. **What else?** The Bike Park caters for all ages, with hours of fun on skill-appropriate tracks. There’s also a kids’ playground at The Blockhouse and an ice-cream parlour at the Heritage Market. **Constantia** 021 794 6500, constantiauitsig.co.za

2. Boschendal  
8. Bosjes

4. Blaauwklippen

Complete with Cape Dutch gables and oak trees, this is the oldest (founded in 1682) and one of the most picturesque estates in the Winelands. The wide range of varieties includes a rare zinfandel. In the multi-roomed Tasting House, there’s a choice of three tastings and six pairings – with macarons, chocolate or fudge, or savoury meze, vegetarian or pizza. There’s also the estate’s craft gins, potstill brandy and apéritif to try. **The food** Sample creative small-plate meals in the Tasting House, or Italian cuisine at De Blaauwe Kitchen (in the old stables) – do try the “poptails” (cocktails with an icy popsicle). **What else?** An art gallery forms part of the Tasting House. The Bike Park boasts guided trails, a pump track (skateboarders welcome) and bike hire, plus a giant jungle gym and zipline. On weekends, there’s a popular family market under the trees. The Manor, spread over two historic buildings, offers a delightful stayover. **Stellenbosch** 021 880 0133, blaauwklippen.com



5. Spice Route Destination

With a collection of artisans celebrating Cape flavours and talent, Spice Route offers a multifaceted Winelands outing. In addition to small-batch Swartland wines, there are also tastings of premium beers, ciders, spirits or chocolates from the on-site brewery, distillery and chocolatier. **The food** Jewell’s, with charcuterie maestro Neil Jewell at the helm, serves innovative farm-to-table dishes and has a fantastic winelist. Ristorante Pasta Pasta showcases all things Italian; La Grapperia offers bistro fare, eisbein, wood-fired pizzas and *flammkuchen*. **What else?** Brendas and The Trading Co are stocked with hand-crafted delights and eclectic decor, plus you can blend your own gin or spice mix, paint ceramics or indulge in a beauty treatment. Active types can explore the farm’s mountain-biking and hiking trails, while kids can burn off some energy in the playgrounds or doing the Spies Route scavenger hunt. **Paarl** 021 863 5200, spiceroute.co.za

6. Hazendal

This estate in the Bottellary Hills combines rich heritage, Cape Dutch and contemporary architecture, and boutique wines. Enjoy tastings under the trees or in the old cellar’s Wine Lounge. Or step it up a few notches with a Sensory Pairing Experience in the subterranean Wine Library. **The food** The Deli does modern-classic seasonal plates, baked treats and picnic baskets; plus there’s The Eatery (in summer) for flame-grilled alfresco fare, and a food truck serving global streetfood snacks. The monthly Jazz Club dinners are a highlight. **What else?** Spoil yourself at the swish new spa, tee off at the 18-hole golf course or challenge the family to a game of putt-putt or padel. Wonderdal, a high-tech edutainment centre, will keep kids delighted for hours, while the Marvol Gallery adds a shot of art and culture. The Hazendal hotel offers refined dinners, a cigar bar-lounge and a luxe overnight stay. **Stellenbosch** 021 903 5034, hazendal.co.za

7. Muratie

A wine farm with a somewhat bohemian feel, where time has seemingly stood still, Muratie captures the Cape’s history in every nook and cranny (it was founded in 1685). The first in SA to make pinot noir, it’s still known for its characterful reds. There’s a choice of three tastings and a chocolate pairing taken in the atmospheric old wine cellar or tasting room – complete with cobwebs, old paintings and stained glass. **The food** The Farm Kitchen produces generous portions of authentic country fare beautifully executed, with wine suggestions to match. **What else?** There’s regular live music (including summer Sunset Sessions with picnics and platters), the Mok art gallery in a 1685 house, plus direct access to the Simonsberg’s hiking and biking trails. Children will love the ducks, dogs, alpacas and myriad ancient corners to explore. You can stay over in the GP Canitz Guest Cottage (a former artist’s studio) or the newly renovated Ben Prins Studio. **Stellenbosch** 021 865 2330, muratie.co.za





## 8. Bosjes

Cradled in the Bredekloof Valley, this historic farm is best known for Bosjes Chapel, a modern architectural marvel that “floats” above a pond. Landscaped gardens feature a tapestry of diverse flora, water sculptures, an elevated canopy walk and labyrinthine paths. The wine output is small but notable.

**The food** Two daytime restaurants offer delicious, seasonal dishes in designer spaces: The Kombuis (“kitchen”) is the more sophisticated offering; The Spens (“pantry”) does casual, deli-style family fare and picnic baskets.

**What else?** The Winkel (“shop”) is stocked with hand-crafted items, there’s a spa (in the former stables), and fynbos-filled spaces to explore on hiking paths and two mountain-bike trails. Children will love the nature-inspired play areas and ducks. The 1790 Herehuis (manor house) offers luxury accommodation.

**Near Worcester (R43)** 023 004 0496, bosjes.co.za

## 9. Lanzerac

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The third-oldest farm in Stellenbosch and the first to bottle and sell pinotage, this is a majestic slice of history and scenery. There are three wine ranges, including heritage limited releases, the cellar master’s unusual blends and a pinotage rosé. Two tastings are offered, plus a wine-and-chocolate pairing, in the elegant Tasting Room or on its verandah beside the vines.

**The food** Fine dinners are served in the opulent Manor Kitchen (its also offers high tea, a seven-course, wine-paired dinner on Saturdays, and Sunday lunch). For casual daytime meals and platters, there’s the Deli or Taphuis (for gourmet pub grub). Both have children’s menus and fantastic milkshakes.

**What else?** Explore the manicured gardens, do a cellar tour, or visit the exquisite spa for some hydrotherapy. The Craven Lounge does tapas, whisky tastings and a Gentleman’s Tea (with whisky). The five-star Lanzerac Hotel is one of the most beautiful in the Winelands.

**Stellenbosch** 021 887 1132, lanzerac.co.za

## 10. Spier

With age-old trees, Cape Dutch buildings, vineyards and a pretty river, the focus here is on ethical farming and creativity. There are seven wine ranges, including organic and vegan. Enjoy a tasting beside the dam (with platters or a chocolate or garden-to-glass pairing, if you like).

**The food** Vadas Smokehouse & Bakery is beloved for its *pastéis de nata* and hearty meals; or pick up a picnic at the Farm Café. There’s also a Bubbles & Braai pop-up on weekends.

**What else?** Explore on a Segway, mountain-bike or a self-guided walk (discover 31 outdoor sculptures and the Mosaic Kraal). Blend your own wine, visit Eagle Encounters bird sanctuary, or browse the craft market and art at the Old Wine Cellar. Kids roam in the Elemental Play Garden. The Spier Hotel has a spa, restaurant, wine bar and rooms around courtyards with pools.

**Stellenbosch** 021 809 1100, spier.co.za



Scan this code for the Best Wine-Tasting Farms in the Cape.





THE DESIGNER FARM STAY

Fynbos Cottages at Babylonstoren

The gardens and restaurants of Babylonstoren require little introduction, but the lodgings also enthrall visitors. Built in authentic Cape Dutch style, the eight new Fynbos Cottages adjoin the vineyards and orchards, making them a little more far-flung and private. They may look old-style but inside they reveal a splendidly spacious bathroom, contemporary glass-cube kitchen and

modern open-plan design dressed in earth-toned decor. They're also kitted out with top-end comforts – silky sarongs, L'Occitane products, sturdy wellies (for exploring), jars of deli treats and the farm's wine. Dining is all about what's freshly picked, and the farm's shop is filled with tempting delights to inspire your self-catering. Guests have access to parts of this working farm that day visitors don't,

and get to experience its full magic. There are many delightful activities to enjoy on the property (not least of which is the garden spa and its gorgeous pool), such as rowing on the farm dam, cycling, walks with the gardeners, baking bread and a sundowner mountain drive. Wherever you go, joy will follow. **Simondium** 1 hour from CT 021 863 3852, [babylonstoren.com](http://babylonstoren.com)



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