

BABYLONSTOREN, FRANSCHHOEK

Recently opened to paying guests, Babylonstoren is a 200-hectare farm dating back 300 years. The impressive formal kitchen garden was inspired by the Company's Garden planted by the Dutch East India Company in Cape Town in the 1600s, and there's also a walled bee garden, a mulberry orchard and a cactus maze. Guests stay in one of 12 immaculately restored labourers' cottages with mountain or vineyard views, seven of which have contemporary, glass-walled kitchens (for getting creative with the bounty of the vegetable patch). The interiors are by Karen Roos, a former editor of South African *ELLE Decoration*, whose trademark style is elegant simplicity with a mix of antique and designer pieces. At the top of the gardens, near the farm's reservoir-style pool, is a spa and gym, and further along there's a dam with canoes for guests' use. The restaurant, Babel, is in a former cattle shed – now a vision of white walls and floor-to-ceiling glass – and serves organic produce from the garden.

ROOM TO BOOK One of the cottages with kitchen extension.

Off the R45 on the Klapmuts-Simondium Road (00 27 21 863 3852; www.babylonstoren.com). Suites from about £250

