

STELLENBOSCH VISTO

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TOP 10
INSPIRING WINEMAKERS
FOR 25 YEARS

ISLAND OF PARADISE
WINE TASTING IN MAURITIUS

Picnics & Pinotage

Celebrate the
taste of autumn



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DE WAALE | BELLINGHAM | BEYERSKLOOF | DE WAAL WINES | LANZERAC | LE VIN DE FRANÇOIS | WARWICK

10 PLACES TO SEE THIS AUTUMN

A weekend away keeps the doctor at bay! We bring you some of our favourite spots for energy-boosting short breaks from the wealth of wine estates, wilderness destinations and country escapes in the Cape.



1. FARM BLISS AT BABYLONSTOREN

Babylonstoren's Fynbos Cottages feature much more than glorious vineyard views. Elevated above the farm dam and in tune with nature's soundtrack, they offer guests a welcome sense of privacy. Here understated elegance is key: oregon pine floors, organic decor tones and textures, and four-poster king-size beds draped in fine linen. Sleek glass extensions present additional views of the mountains and flora. The one- and two-bedroom cottages are newly built in the Cape Dutch style and adjoin vineyards and orchards. "A stay at Babylonstoren's Fynbos Cottages is one of the best quick getaways this farm girl has ever experienced. With the farm's five-star hospitality and all-round stylish touch, time stands still. Simply put, Babylonstoren is a piece of heaven," says *Stellenbosch Visio* editor Francé Beyers. **GOOD TO KNOW:** Enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner at Babel or a picnic-style feast at Greenhouse or visit the bakery for La Dolce Vita dinner experiences. Visitors can also indulge in spa treatments, farm shop offerings, garden and cellar tours, olive oil and balsamic tours, and wine tastings. Book now at www.babylonstoren.com or send an email to reservations@babylonstoren.com. *Instagram @babylonstoren*

PHOTO SUPPLIED; BABYLONSTOREN; ERILO BROWN

02 VINEYARDS AND MOUNTAINS

Think vineyard sunsets, incomparable vistas and the scent of fynbos. Add a captivating self-catering cottage tucked away in the Hemel-en-Aarde Ridge region and you'll have found Creation Wines' sublime Voormanshuis. Set in the midst of a gentle wilderness, it embodies ethical creativity: an asymmetrical design coupled with sustainably sourced elements such as eucalyptus timber. Owners Jean-Claude and Carolyn Martin have created something spectacular: a destination that's truly in harmony with its natural surroundings. Adventurous overnighters can look forward to various walking and cycling trails. Seasonal rates include accommodation for two, linen and towels, a fully equipped kitchenette, fresh fruit, purified still and sparkling water sourced from the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, a selection of Creation wines, firewood, binoculars and two mountain bikes.

GOOD TO KNOW: Creation Wines is a member of the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative (BWI) and one of only nine South African wineries to have received the coveted EnviroWines accreditation. Creation's tasting room serves breakfast, lunch and renowned food and wine pairings.

Instagram @creationwines



03 MAGIC AT THE MANOR

For larger families or groups of friends, Blaauwklippen Manor is not just ideal as a snapshot-pretty getaway to the idyllic Cape Winelands; the estate also offers the perfect backdrop to make memories. Guests escaping to Blaauwklippen Manor can choose between the Manor House Package (sleeps eight in four double rooms) or the Estate Package (sleeps 20 people in four double rooms in the Manor and six double or twin rooms in Jonkershuis). All rooms are uniquely decorated and styled, each featuring an eclectic fusion of luxurious linen, modern amenities and charming chandeliers. As the estate describes the location's attraction: "Blaauwklippen Manor is set to become the go-to escape for small groups looking for a historic sense of place and an exclusive sense of space." Features and services include a resident manager at your beck and call 24/7, private chef, professional butler, childminder, behind-the-scenes private wine tastings and more. This autumn, immerse yourself in luxury at one of the oldest wine farms in Stellenbosch. For bookings, call 021 880 0133 or send an email to stay@blaauwklippen.com.

GOOD TO KNOW: Blaauwklippen's culinary options include farm-to-table elegance at Hamm & Uys by TV chefs and creative caterers Johnny Hamman and Marius Uys, or head to the farm shop and deli for breakfast, lunch or a variety of local treats.

Instagram @blaauwklippen





04 UNWIND IN PATERNOSTER

A trip up the West Coast is a chance to adopt nature's pace and re-set your equilibrium. Located in Bekbaai, a quiet cove to the south of Paternoster, Gonana Guest House is situated at the top of the dunes that lead down to the beach and offers uninterrupted views. The guest house is a member of Cape Country Routes and everything about it encourages you to slow down and become aware of the beauty around you. The rooms open onto the indigenous garden and at the front of the house you can sit on your veranda and look out at the sea. Or you can go upstairs and, seated at a long wooden table, you'll enjoy the same sea view. Leather couches and comfy chairs form cosy nooks where you can sit with a book or simply gaze out the window. The aesthetic is very different to the traditional beach look that's associated with the West Coast. As you might expect from a Swedish owner, the guest house's interiors have a Scandinavian feel; blonde wood and neutral colours characterise the airy, light-flooded spaces. And yet, the environment remains wholly African, with woven decorations and handcrafted pots. Owner Jonas Sandström believes in the motto 'think global, buy local' and Gonana's decor is testament to this. The guest house is virtually off the grid, thanks to solar panels, rainwater collection tanks and a greywater recycling system. Gonana's approach to touching the Earth lightly helps you tune in to nature. It's a style that Jonas and his partner, Martin, call 'barefoot luxury'. Call 076 719 2538 or send an email to stay@gonanaguesthouse.com for more information.

Instagram [@gonanaguesthouse](#), [@capecountryroutes](#)



05 GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Located along the longest wine route in the world, The Robertson Small Hotel was established in 2011 and is Robertson's only five-star hotel. In the winter of 2016, owner Tim Rands entrusted his daughter, Abigail, with the task of renovating the hotel from top to bottom. Curated by Studio Ashby in London, the redesign saw local designers and collaborators tasked with creating bespoke items to form part of a brand-new look while enhancing this country gem. Renovations to the manor house (built in 1909 and now a national monument), the Stable and Poolside suites, gardens and wellness room, were carried out by a team of local designers and artists, including Alexis Barrel, Michael Chandler, Renée Rossouw, House of Gozdawa, Lisa Firer and René Botes. Elements of the renewed design can be found in every detail of the hotel: artistic textiles, a carefully curated in-room publication called *The Small Guide*, fine wine, signature perfume for rooms and halls, hand-selected decor and even unique room key chains. Legendary chef Chris Erasmus, of Foliage fame in Franschoek, is head chef at The Small Restaurant.

GOOD TO KNOW: In 2021, The Robertson Small Hotel formed a partnership with Art Gazette and Norval Foundation in supporting and celebrating contemporary South African art. The hotel's latest collection is curated by South African artist and Art Gazette co-founder Morné Visagie.

Instagram [@therobertsonsmallhotel](#), [@art_gazette](#), [@norvalfoundation](#)

PHOTO SUPPLIED, PARIS BRUMMER



06 SPECTACULAR STEENBERG

Did you know that Steenberg Farm, established in 1682, was originally named Swaaneweide, meaning 'the feeding place of swans'? Today, the five-star destination, comprising a hotel and spa, two fine restaurants, an award-winning winery and a championship 18-hole golf course, is still home to birds – but spur-winged geese, not swans. Set in the picturesque Constantia Valley, Steenberg Hotel is an art lover's heaven, with an inspirational art collection that includes sculptures by Edoardo Villa in the garden and contemporary South African art in the restaurants and reception areas. In its 24 rooms guests enjoy understated luxury, spectacular views and discreet, personalised service. Until 31 March 2022, Steenberg offers South African residents an exclusive one-night package from R6 500 per couple sharing. The package includes breakfast at Bistro Sixteen82, Tryn Restaurant or in the comfort of your room; two 60-minute bespoke herbal oil massages; evening tapas at Bistro Sixteen82; wine tasting at Steenberg Tasting Room; a welcome bottle of mineral water; complimentary Wi-Fi across the hotel property; and the use of mountain bikes to explore the 300ha farm. Book online at www.steenbergfarm.com, call 021 713 2222 or send an email to reservations@steenberghotel.com.

GOOD TO KNOW: Recently refreshed and revitalised, Steenberg's tasting lounge is open daily from 10am to 6pm, with last wine tastings conducted at 4.30pm.

Instagram [@steenbergfarm](#)



07 QUICK ESCAPE TO KRUGER

Five-star Tintswalo Safari Lodge and CemAir have joined forces to offer fly-in safaris from Cape Town to Hoedspruit with a 45-minute road transfer to the lodge. Effectively, this gets travellers from Cape Town to the lodge – in the heart of the Greater Kruger National Park – in less than 3½ hours. For Joburg folk, the same fly-in safari packages are available from OR Tambo, with non-stop flights to Hoedspruit in under an hour. Sharing an unfenced boundary with the Kruger National Park, the pristine and privately owned Manyeleti Game Reserve is home to Tintswalo Safari Lodge, recently named one of the Top 20 Resorts in South Africa in the 2021 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. From Cape Town, a three-night fly-in safari costs R22 999 per adult sharing an Explorer Suite, and R13 999 per child aged 6–15. From Johannesburg, the three-night safari costs R20 899 per adult sharing and R11 899 per child aged 6–15. Located on a riverbank, Tintswalo Safari Lodge radiates safari with soul: expect thrilling Big Five viewing, warm hospitality and understated luxury. For groups of between six and 10 guests, book the Manor House at Tintswalo Safari Lodge. This private villa boasts five bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a private chef and a guide, and game-viewing vehicle on an exclusive-use basis. From Cape Town, the three-night fly-in safari with exclusive use of the Manor House costs R18 399 per person sharing; from Johannesburg it costs R15 999.

GOOD TO KNOW: The special offer is available to South African residents only for travel up to 30 April 2022. Rates include non-stop return flights, return road transfers between Hoedspruit and Tintswalo Safari Lodge, three nights' accommodation with all meals and two game drives per day.

Instagram [@tintswalo_safari_lodge](#)



08 SPEND TIME AT SPIER

In the Cape Winelands, relaxation and out-of-the-ordinary experiences are a given. At Spier Hotel, for example, a cluster of village-style buildings echo the ambience of Cape Town's historical Bo-Kaap and pedestrians and cyclists can explore without the intrusion of cars. A total of 80 rooms surround six tranquil courtyards, each with its own swimming pool. Set next to the scenic Eerste River, Spier Hotel guarantees simplicity, quality and comfort, plus adventure and leisure options for the whole family. Tuck into a farm-inspired picnic under a tree, settle in at Spier Hotel Restaurant or Vadas Smokehouse and Bakery, be inspired by the Spier Art Collection, tackle your tension at the spa, visit the farm's vibrant craft market, meander through Spier's food garden – or simply breathe.

GOOD TO KNOW: The fourth instalment of Spier Light Art takes place from 17 March to 18 April 2022. A night-time adventure for the whole family to enjoy, this annual event features an array of interactive artworks scattered around the estate. Created by talented artists and designers from South Africa and beyond, the artworks use light, sound and video to illuminate the present and future.

Instagram @spierwinefarm



09 AMID NATURE'S BLESSINGS

The De Hoop Collection, a member of Cape Country Routes, opened in the De Hoop Nature Reserve in 2007. The reserve, situated in the Overberg region, is a popular holiday destination for families, couples, groups, honeymooners, wedding parties, family reunions and birthday weekends. Synonymous with unparalleled peace and tranquillity, the De Hoop Collection has a wide range of accommodation designed to suit all budgets. Overlooking a vlei with spectacular birdlife, the Fig Tree Restaurant with the adjacent Silo Wine Cellar welcomes diners throughout the day. The reserve itself, a World Heritage Site, is renowned for world-class whale-watching and is a birdwatchers' paradise, with more than 260 bird species, including the endangered Cape vulture. As almost 200 of these rare birds roost and nest at Potberg within the reserve, exciting vulture hikes and viewing opportunities are offered. Other activities include interpretive marine walks, hiking and mountain-biking trails, boat cruises and nature drives, as well as tennis and boules. For accommodation options, visit www.dehoopcollection.com, call 021 422 4522 or send an email to res@dehoopcollection.co.za.

Instagram @dehoopreserve, @capecountryroutes



10 ESCAPE, RELAX, FOCUS

A fully serviced, luxurious and off-the-grid private retreat in the heart of the mesmerising Klein Karoo? Yes. Cabine du Cap's mountaintop eco-property, Caracal, has won rave reviews. And for good reason. Surrounded by 175ha of rolling hills, this four-bedroom masterpiece encompasses 360° Karoo views, a swimming pool, off-the-grid living thanks to reverse osmosis-purified water and solar power, an outdoor bath under the African stars, a professional masseuse and the attention of cabin staff at the touch of a walkie-talkie's button. All this on the edge of a cliff. With breathtaking architecture by Drew Architects, landscaping by Tone Alexander and interiors by Malawi Cane, Caracal is one for the books. As one visitor, Daniel Fabre, puts it: "Cabine du Cap is a genuine game-changer. I feel more refreshed after one night there than I do after a long weekend. You guys have put together something spectacular. What an experience!"

GOOD TO KNOW: Rates include breakfast and full catering is available on request. Book online at www.cabineducap.com, call 063 627 1399 for more information or send an email to info@cabineducap.com.

Instagram @cabineducap

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