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FREE EDITION 13

Cape Winelands

Places to see and experience

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Cover Photograph: Rust en Vrede

'Great wine requires a mad man to grow the vine, a wise man to watch over it, a lucid poet to make it, and a lover to drink it.'

Salvador Dali

Paarl 1

The valley of Paarl on the banks of the Berg River was first inhabited by Khoi-na and San. Europeans first visited this area in 1657, but the first farm was granted only in 1687, making Paarl one of the oldest towns in South Africa. In the early days, it was renowned for its wagon-building but, today, it is the headquarters of the South African wine industry. There are many historical wine farms to visit. It boasts the longest main road in South Africa (12 km) along which are some of the finest historical buildings in the country. **Location:** About 65 km from Cape Town on the N1 **Information:** http://showme.co.za/paarl/tourism/history-of-paarl/

Paarl Museum 2

This museum will take you back to the lives of the early settlers and the development of the Paarl valley. Displays span early local history through to contemporary Paarl. It is housed in a beautiful Cape Dutch manor house that dates back to 1699; the present restored house was rebuilt in 1787, which is confirmed by the fine neoclassical front gable. The two end *holbol* gables are replacements built in 1939. **Location:** 303 Main Road **Information:** Tel: 021 872 2651 • http://showme.co.za/paarl/tourism/paarl-museum-2/ **Price:** fee

Paarl Rock 3

The Khoi-na called it Tortoise Mountain but this was later changed to Diamond and Pearl Mountain by Abraham Gabemma in 1657. It is the second biggest rock in the world, made up of granite which is about 500 million years old. It lies within a nature reserve; day visitors are welcome. The summit (Bretagne Rock) is reached by a chain handrail. **Location:** Access from Jan Phillips Mountain Drive, off the Main Road **Information:** https://showme.co.za/paarl/tourism/history-of-paarl/ **Price:** small fee

Dekkersvlei Vineyards 4

Founded in 1693 as Dekkersvlei by Willem van Wijk, the estate was renamed Mellasat Vineyards under the Richardson family in 1996. History was made when they created the world's first white Pinotage in 2007. In 2025, the Aquila Collection purchased Mellasat and restored its original name, Dekkersvlei, honouring centuries of heritage. Today, the vineyard is celebrated for its historic legacy, innovation, and world-class wines. Visitors can explore the Taste the Original wine tour, going behind the scenes of the famous white Pinotage. Enjoy wine tastings, Cape Potstill brandy experiences, gourmet pizzas, milkshakes, and family-friendly activities against the stunning Paarl mountains. **Location:** Keerweder Rd, Paarl **Information:** www.dekkersvlei.com • 021 862 4525 **Price:** free to visit

Taal Monument 5

A unique monument, designed by architect Jan van Wijk and built in 1975, is dedicated to Africa's youngest language, Afrikaans - it is a fusion of European, African and Asian languages. Located on Paarl Mountain, this living sculpture's design is rich in symbolism. Discover the monument and tranquil natural surrounds with a multilingual audio tour or take a guided tour. The family restaurant has incredible views, and wonderful events are frequently hosted at the monument. There is also an informative Taalmuseum in Paarl itself, filled with beautiful historical artefacts. **Location:** Follow the signs from Main Road. **Information:** www.taalmuseum.co.za/english • 021 863 0542/3 **Price:** small fee

Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve 6

This reserve, perched on the top of the mountain, is part of a UNESCO-declared Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve with breathtaking views and fauna and birding to match. There are a number of set trails, from an easy two-hour trail to a strenuous seven-hour trail that takes you up to 1575 metres. Remember to purchase a permit and map in Franschhoek from the Huguenot Museum shop, Franschhoek Tourism Office, Protea Hotel or Winelands Experience. **Location:** Top of Franschhoek Pass on the left **Information:** www.montrochellehiking.co.za
Tel: 021 876 2861 **Price:** small fee

The Alpaca Loom 7

Visit South Africa's biggest alpaca herd! Watch weavers at work, join an Alpaca barn tour to see the youngest cria, enjoy a walk with an alpaca and interact with all the animals in the petting zoo. Delicious coffee and cake is available and exquisite alpaca scarves, shawls, ponchos, blankets and knitwear, produced locally, can be purchased. **Location:** Suid Agter Paarl Rd (off the R44) **Information:** Open daily 9am-5.30pm. Alpaca Barn Tours every hour on the hour. Alpaca Walks 10am & 4pm (by appointment only). • www.alpacas.co.za **Price:** free entry to the coffee shop and weaving studio. Small fee for the petting zoo and the tour or walk.

Drakenstein Prison 8

Once named Victor Verster Prison, it would not have been on the tourist map except for one reason: many people stop to view the larger-than-life statue at its entrance. It was from here that Nelson Mandela walked free in 1990 after 27 years of incarceration, the last three years of which he spent here. Tokyo Sexwale commissioned sculptor ,Jean Doyle, to create the bronze statue. Behind the statue, towards the gate, there is a ceremonial flagpole and, on the ground, lie 27 rocks, one for each year that Mandela was in prison. **Location:** Between Paarl and Franschhoek, on the R301 **Information:** http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2003/jan/19/southafrica.observerescapesection **Price:** free to view from the entrance, booking for tours of Mandela's 'gilded cage'.

Exotic Animal World 9

They care for over 700 small animals, from fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates. No matter your interest, there is something to see. A large section of the unique sanctuary is a specially designed enclosed tropical garden (good for a rainy day). Here you can walk freely and engage with the roaming animals. With the exception of the owls and lemurs, all animals at the sanctuary were confiscated by the authorities and handed over or were previously owned pets that have been surrendered. There is also a restaurant. **Location:** R44, Adam Tas Street **Information:** www.exoticanimalworld.co.za **Price:** small fee

Huguenot Monument 10

This monument in Franschhoek is dedicated to the Huguenots who emigrated from France to escape religious persecution and settled in the area in the late 1600s and early 1700s. This small group of refugees had a lasting influence on South African history and its wine industry. The monument was built in 1945 but the official opening only took place on 17 April 1948. The monument complex is made up of the Saasveld building (with its own unique story), Annex, Perfume Museum and the Monument itself, which is full of rich symbolism. **Location:** East end of Huguenot Road (the main road through Franschhoek) **Information:** www.hugenoot.org.za **Price:** small fee

Franschhoek 11

This little corner, tucked away in the Cape Fold Mountains, has become one of the most sought-after addresses for the rich and famous, and a must-visit for any tourist. It was first called Olifantshoek (Elephants' Corner) because of the herds that roamed here. In 1688, it became home to 176 French Huguenots so the name changed to Franschhoek (French Corner). The town is famous for its wine farms, Cape Dutch architecture, scenery, cultural events and old-world charm. **Location:** 75 km from Cape Town **Information:** www.franschhoek.co.za

Tokara Wine and Olive Estate 12

Tokara Wine and Olive Estate is situated at the crest of the Helshoogte Pass in Stellenbosch and has uninterrupted views of Stellenbosch, False Bay and Table Mountain. With various dining spaces, wine tasting, and art, interlinked by gentle walks between olive groves and vineyards, Tokara is the perfect day out. Book a wine tasting experience and indulge your appreciation for fine wines, brandy and Extra Virgin Olive Oils. Book a table at Tokara Restaurant and experience contemporary South African cuisine inspired by the local countryside and farm produce or, for something a bit more informal, pop over to the child-friendly Tokara Delicatessen which offers a seasonal menu and other locally produced goodies to take home. Leave some time to take a relaxing stroll through the picturesque sculpture garden and take in the natural beauty that surrounds you. **Location:** Helshoogte Rd, Stellenbosch **Information** www.tokara.com • 021 808 5900 **Price:** free entry

Anthonij Rupert Estate 13

This estate is the result of the coming together of the historical L'Omarins Wine Estate and the neighbouring property purchased from Graham Beck. Jean Roi established the first vineyards on L'Omarins in 1694 and named the farm after a village in Provence. It was only late in the 1700s that the magnificent H-shaped homestead was built. The manor house, furnished in mid-nineteenth century style, is home to one of the estate's two tasting rooms, in which their excellent wines can be sampled. The second, the impressive modern Terra del Capo tasting room, is situated near the entrance to the property. **Location:** R45, Franschhoek **Information:** www.rupertwines.com **Price:** fee for tasting

Franschhoek Motor Museum 14

Situated on L'Ormarins Estate, the Franschhoek Motor Museum is one of the gems of the Franschhoek valley and a must for all car enthusiasts. The impressive collection of over 220 vehicles (consisting of bicycles, motorcycles and automobiles) spans the last 100 years. The collection is the best display in South Africa highlighting the evolution of the automobile. The selection of 80 cars on view at any one time is rotated every 6 months. A complimentary San Francisco-style tram transports guests to the neighbouring Anthonij Rupert Estate for wine tasting and lunch. **Information:** www.fmm.co.za **Price:** Adults: R90, Pensioners: R70 and Children (3-12 yrs): R50

Golf Courses in the Winelands

1. Boschenmeer Golf Estate
2. Pearl Valley Golf Estate
3. Devonvale Golf Estate
4. Kuilsrivier Golf Club
5. Stellenbosch Golf Club
6. De Zalze Golf Estate
7. Helderberg Village Golf Club
8. Somerset West Golf Club
9. Erinvale Golf Estate

* 7 to 9 shown on page 2 map

Franschhoek Cycles 15

Franschhoek Cycles is a well established family business in the heart of the valley and were one of the first to offer bicycle tours and rentals to Winelands visitors. With their knowledge and love for the valley, they have designed a number of flexible rides which take visitors through the historical town and vineyards, on a countryside adventure or thrilling mountain trails. These rides cater for the whole family from kids bikes, road bikes, mountain bikes and E-bikes. Let the adventure begin! **Location:** Shop 6 le Rue des Roses Building • 2 Main Street, Franschhoek **Information:** 074 307 1995 081 401 5352 • info@franschhoekcycles.co.za **Price:** fee

La Motte 16

This land was acquired in 1695 by a German immigrant but it was only in 1709 that it was named La Motte by its new owner. The first vines were planted in 1752, but it did not reach global wine-producing status until 1970 when the Rupert family bought the estate and began a vast restoration project, set up conservation programmes, started producing award-winning wines and making the estate a sought-after tourist destination. The estate is still in the Rupert family, through Hanneli Rupert-Koegelenberg and her husband, Hein Koegelenberg. This estate offers the visitor fine dining, music, history, hiking trails and art. A purpose-built gallery houses one of the best collections of Pierneef's works as well as visiting collections. **Location:** R45, Huguenot Road (before entering the town), Franschhoek **Information:** www.la-motte.com • 021 876 8000 • **Price:** free to visit

Stellenbosch Wine Tractor 17

This has to be one of the most unique ways to explore several of the top wine farms and boutique wine producers in one day. Perfect for the whole family and wine lovers alike. Touring through the farms with a tractor and trailer provides a way to travel between farms along backroads and vineyards to gain a perspective that is not possible in any other way. Enjoy the ride and everything these hand-picked wine farms have to offer. **Location:** Eikendal Vineyards, R44, Stellenbosch **Information:** winetractor.co.za **Price:** from R300pp

Franschhoek Pass 18

This pass was once called Oliphants Pad because it was first used by elephants. It was one of the earliest passes used by the Europeans to get over the 'Mountains of Africa'. The first rudimentary pass was built by a local contractor in 1819 and named Cats Pass after himself. A later pass was commissioned by Lord Charles Somerset and was built by 150 soldiers of the Royal Africa Corps. Opened in 1825, it is the oldest engineered pass in South Africa. On the Villiersdorp side, you can still cross over the oldest stone arch bridge in South Africa. **Location:** Over the mountain between Franschhoek and Villiersdorp **Information:** www.samountainpasses.co.za • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olifantskop_Pass **Price:** free

Grande Provence 19

The story of this classic Cape wine estate started when Pierre Joubert, with a Bible hidden in a loaf of bread, fled religious persecution in France and, in 1694, made Franschhoek his new home. He acquired other farms in the valley and died a rich man in 1732. It was left to Pieter de Villiers and, later, his widow, Anna Kriel, to finish the magnificent homestead. There is an art gallery showcasing the works of new and established artists. It offers world-class wines, dining and boutique accommodation. **Location:** R45, Huguenot Road, Franschhoek **Information:** www.grandeprovence.co.za **Price:** free to visit

Haute Cabrière 20

The historical roots of this estate go back to Pierre Jourdan, the French Huguenot who, in 1694, was granted land which he named Cabrière after his home town. Owned today by Achim von Arnim and known as Haute Cabrière, the estate grows only chardonnay and pinot noir grapes from which are produced a number of wines including methode cap classiques (the local equivalent of French champagne). What this estate lacks in historical buildings is made up for by other features such as an underground wine cellar cut into the mountainside. **Location:** Lambrechts Road (First right-hand bend on Franschhoek Pass) **Information:** www.cabriere.co.za • Tel: +27 21 876 2630 **Price:** free to visit

Boschendal 21

Dating back to 1685, this is one of the oldest still productive wine farms in the new world and, today, one of the favourites with visitors to the winelands. The manor house was built in 1812; its gable is a fine example of the transition from baroque to neoclassical. Boschendal is one of only a few original Cape farmhouses that have been restored and furnished according to their period. In 1887, about the time when phylloxera destroyed vineyards around the world, Cecil Rhodes bought Boschendal and started the well-known Rhodes Fruit Farms. Have a meal in their restaurants or order a picnic to enjoy against one of the most beautiful backdrops in the winelands, provided by Hutchinson's Peak and the Devil's Tongue. **Location:** 1 km up the road to Pniel from the T-junction with the R45 **Information:** www.boschendalwines.com **Price:** free to visit

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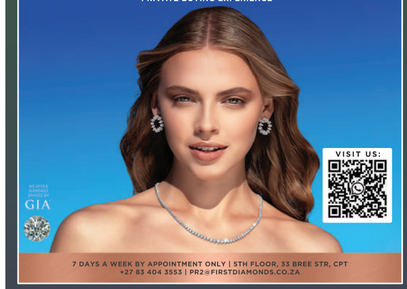

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Franschhoek Village Market 22

Head to the Cape Winelands for a market experience like no other in the heart of Franschhoek. Explore the market with family and friends, enjoying the authentic experience of what the beautiful community has to offer. Browse an exceptional selection of local fresh produce, delicatessens, craft beers, coffee brewers and other treats, or shop for unique crafts, art, vintage clothing and decor - all carefully curated. Let the live music serenade you as you sit back and enjoy the vibrant village atmosphere under the trees, and remember to bring your furry friends along (on a leash please). **Location:** 29 Huguenot St, Franschhoek **Information:** Saturday 9am-3pm, occasional Sundays 10am-3pm (weather permitting). www.franschhoekvillagemarket.co.za **Price:** free to visit

Babylonstoren 23

This Cape Dutch farm, with vineyards and orchards, dates back to the 1600s and is set against the backdrop of the majestic Simonsberg Mountain. The main attraction, besides the historical buildings and well-preserved *werf*, is the large, formally laid out fruit and vegetable garden, inspired by the original Company's Garden at the Cape. A conducted tour of the garden, arguably unique in the country, can be booked. Other attractions are the Green House Restaurant, the 'puffadder' housing a collection of plants and with attention to detail everywhere. **Location:** Simondium Road, Klapmuts **Information:** www.babylonstoren.com • 021 863 3852 **Price:** fee

Hazendal 24

This estate is one of the oldest wine farms in the Cape dating back to 1699. It was named after Hazenwinkel, a German immigrant who worked as a messenger of the court for Willem Adriaan van der Stel. He obtained the farm as a result of forfeiture. By 1728, the farm became a half-way stop for visitors to Stellenbosch. In 1994, the farm was bought by a Russian entrepreneur, creating a unique blend of South African and Russian culture. Experience Hazendal's premium wines, a restaurant serving local and traditional Russian dishes, a deli, a vodka collection, a gallery housing a unique collection of Russian art and the finest holbol baroque gable in the Cape. **Location:** M23, Bottelary Road, between Kuils River and Stellenbosch **Information:** www.hazendal.co.za **Price:** free to visit

Devon Valley Road 25

Part of the pleasure of visiting the Winelands comes from turning up roads that take you off the beaten track and may lead to interesting discoveries. Look out for side roads marked with signs that end with *pad* (Afrikaans for 'road'): to start, try the area around Devon Valley Road, Stellenrust Road and Stellenbosch Valley Road. **Location:** Devon Valley Road (see map) **Price:** free

Zevenwacht 26

Tucked away in a secluded valley on the Cape Town side of the Bottelary Hills, one finds a picturesque Cape Dutch homestead. Zevenwacht (Seven Expectations) was first called Zevenfontein (Seven Springs) in 1793. In the 1790s, a simple cottage was transformed into a T-shaped house. The perfect neoclassical gable, with triangular pediment, was added in 1800. Since then, the T has become an H shape. This wine estate became one of the first to incorporate a restaurant, hotel, spa and cheesery. **Location:** Langverwacht Road, Kuils River **Information:** www. zevenwacht.co.za Tel: 021 903 5123 **Price:** free to visit

Le Bonheur Crocodile Farm 27

This is a commercial crocodile breeding farm that is geared towards visitors. The farm offers daily tours of the crocodile enclosures where you can hold baby crocodiles and view massive crocs that you would never want to get up close to. To help entertain the whole family, the farm also offers pre-booked picnic baskets on the lawns, bass and tilapia fishing, a kids playground and a restaurant. After a tour, you can go one step further and eat crocodile pie or purchase a crocodile fashion item. **Location:** Babylonstoren Road, Franschhoek **Information:** www.lebonheurcrocfarm.co.za **Price:** fee

Rupert Museum 28

The Rupert Museum is home to a superb collection of modern South African art collected from 1940 to the early 2000s by the late Dr Anton Rupert and his wife, Huberte Rupert. The museum also manages the Rembrandt van Rijn collection of more contemporary South African art and the Huberte Goote collection, featuring modern French tapestries and Italian paintings and sculptures. The MakerStudio and event lawn, active library and vibrant Museum Café are open for all to enjoy. **Location:** Stellentia Road, off Dorp Street, Stellenbosch **Hours:** Tue -Fri: 10am -5pm, Sat-Sun: 10am -4pm **Information:** www.rupertmuseum.org • 021 888 3344 • info@rupertmuseum.org **Price:** free

Rust en Vrede 29

Since 1694, Rust en Vrede has stood peacefully among the vineyards of Stellenbosch. The focus on Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah allows them to produce the highest quality, full-bodied wines that reflect the Stellenbosch terroir. All their wines are estate-grown, made and bottled. The full range of wines is available for tasting at their Tasting Room. They also offer visitors to the estate two food and wine experiences. Join them for a casual alfresco Winemaker's lunch at the Tasting Room. Alternatively, visit their fine dining restaurant for a six-course menu with wine pairing for authentic Winelands hospitality. **Location:** Annandale Road, Stellenbosch **Information:** rustenvrede.com • 021 881 3881 **Price:** free to visit

Jonkershoek Nature Reserve 30

Just above Stellenbosch is a deep valley flanked by Jonkershoek Mountain on the left and Stellenboschberg on the right. This valley was named after Jan de Jonkheer who was granted the use of the land by Simon van der Stel in the 1600s. Today, this area is run by CapeNature. Part of the valley is under plantation with numerous trails and forestry roads; the rest is nature at its best with peaks, valleys, waterfalls, rivers and Afromontane forests. The main attractions are hiking and finding a mountain pool for a well-deserved swim. **Location:** 10 km from Stellenbosch up the Jonkershoek valley **Information:** 021 483 0190 **Price:** small fee

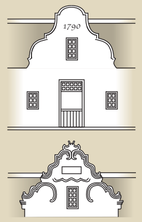
Basic Information on Cape Dutch Gables

Wolfsneus *Gable*

'Wolf's nose' gables were the first front gables to be designed and built as a functional 'eyebrow' over a dormer window (to provide light for the loft) above the front door. From this humble gable, based on the medieval architecture of the Netherlands, the style of Cape Dutch gables grew into one of the most recognisable 'settler' architectures in the world.
Example: Boekenhoutskloof in Franschhoek and the Cottage at Assegaaibosch Nature Reserve

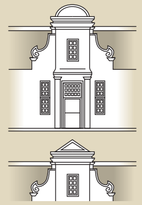
Bolbol *Gable*

By the mid-1750s, the gables at the Cape had reached their full height, a reflection of the prosperity of the time. From then on, gables would be defined by whether the edge was concave or convex in shape. In the case of the bolbol *gable, there was a distinct repeat of the rounded convex shape. Besides allowing light into the loft, gables also allowed escape from the front door if the roof caught fire.*
Example: Joostenberg near Muldersvlei (private)



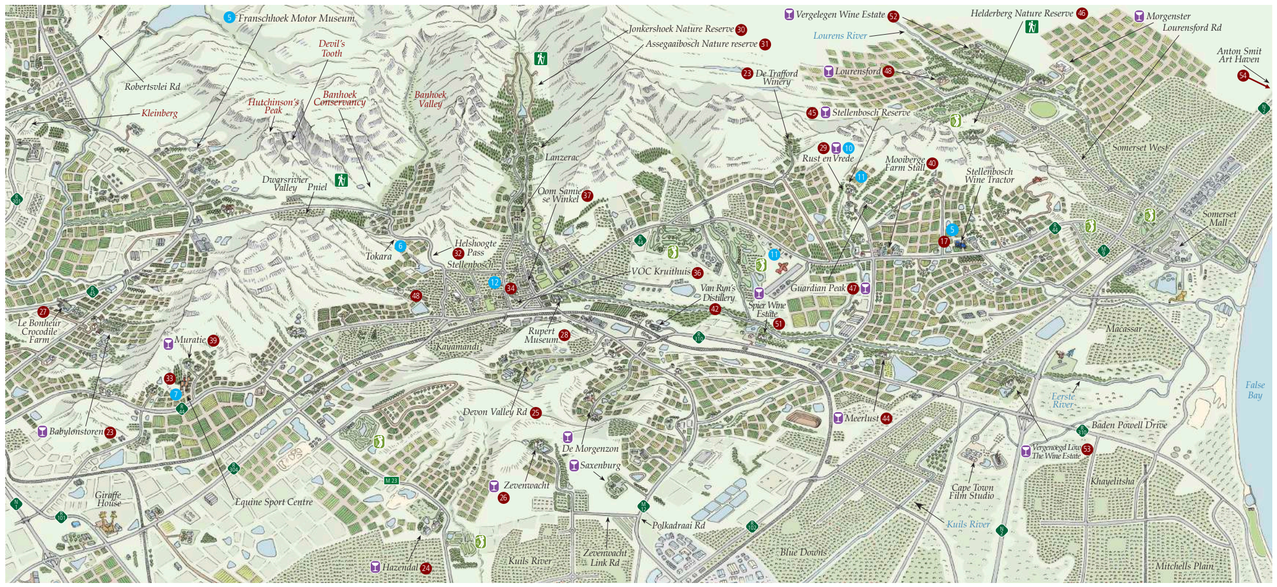
Holbol *Gable*

The holbol *gable was a natural progression from the earlier* bolbol *gable as the fashion of the day was moving towards the baroque style. Its defining feature was a mix of convex and concave edges. As this style of gable moved into the baroque style, more sweeping curves, swirls and flourishes were incorporated, ornamentation was added and moulding intruded the gable face for the first time. This style of gable defined the later part of the 1700s, crossing over into the neoclassical period. (The fashionable style used in Europe could take up to 25 years before it was used at the Cape)*
Early example: Old Wine Cellar at Spier
Late example: Hazendal on Bottelary Road



Neoclassical Gable

This was the last of the Cape Dutch gable styles before the Second British Occupation of the Cape in 1806. The style could be defined as singularly elegant, restrained and dignified, with minimal ornamentation between the gable edges. Gable-caps might contain urns. The concave shape was generally used and, in some cases, a straight edge. A strongly defined pediment and pilaster are defining features. The pediment could be triangular, rounded or sculpted.
Examples: Zevenwacht, Muratie, Vergelegen and La Motte



Assegaaibosch Nature Reserve 31

One kilometre before the main gate to Jonkershoek Nature Reserve is a delightful small getaway spot for nature lovers. The first settlers were granted land here in 1692. The attractions are oak trees planted in 1817, a historical homestead built in 1790 with a *wolfsneus* (wolf's nose) gable and the Eerste River. This is the gentler version of the Jonkershoek Reserve (in which it is actually incorporated), great for picnics, braais, easy walking trails, waterfalls and rivers to swim in. **Location:** 9 km up the Jonkershoek valley from Stellenbosch **Information:** www.capenature.co.za/reserves/assegaaibosch-nature-reserve/ **Price:** small fee

Helshoogte Pass 32

'Hell's Heights' is one of the oldest passes in the Cape, built in 1854 to connect Stellenbosch and the Drakenstein Valley. It replaced an even older pass called Banghoek (scary corner) Pass, so named because wild animals were known to frighten local travellers. The saddle that separates Simonsberg from the Jonkershoekberge is under fruit and vineyards. The village of Pniel was established in 1842 as a mission settlement for released slaves after the abolition of slavery at the Cape. Cecil John Rhodes established the Rhodes fruit business in this area when the phylloxera epidemic in the1880s virtually wiped out vineyards across the world. **Location:** R310, between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek Valley **Information:** www.sa-venues.com/attractionswc/helshoogte-pass.htm **Price:** free

Equine Sport Centre 33

For horse-lovers visiting the Winelands, Equine Sport Centre offers all levels of horse riding, from beginners to the experienced. The centre caters to those who want a memorable trail ride through the scenic vineyards to riding lessons and activities for all levels of expertise. They also offer livery and stabling to private owners. Two of their well known highlights are the sunset trail ride and the unique wine tasting trail ride, a perfect pairing for lovers of horses and wine. ESC prides itself on being an equestrian educational and welfare centre that puts its horses first and makes sure visitors have an unforgettable and safe day out. **Location:** Slaley Wine Farm, R44, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.equinesportcentre.co.za • 082 494 7971 **Price:** fee

Stellenbosch University Museum 34

This museum was once the Bloemhof School for Girls and, thanks to Sasol Ltd., the building was restored and transformed into a cultural centre. The Sasol Art Museum houses the Stellenbosch University's permanent collection and the exhibition includes furniture and consumer items of historical value. The Anthropology Section of the museum is the holder of an irreplaceable African collection, assembled over many years. **Location:** 52 Ryneveld Street, Stellenbosch **Information:** http://showme.co.za/stellenbosch/lifestyle/stellenbosch-art-galleries/ • 021 808 3691 **Price:** donations

Dorp Street 35

Dorp Street has one of the longest rows of historical buildings in any major town in southern Africa. This quaint oak-lined street oozes history and old-world charm. There are fine examples of Cape Dutch architecture dating back to the beginning of the colony and Cape Georgian examples from the 1800s. The latter were originally Cape Dutch in style but, because of changing fashion, the gables and thatch were replaced with flat roofs and they became double-storeyed. Today, the street is geared for visitors, with boutiques, antique and souvenir shops and a number of well-known restaurants. **Location:** Dorp Street, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.sa-venues.com/attractionswc/dorp-street.php

VOC Kruithuis 36

Stellenbosch, founded as a settlement in 1679, had its own burgher commandos to protect it. Before the Kruithuis was built to store guns and ammunition, the burghers had to go to Cape Town for military training, and military supplies were delivered to Stellenbosch once a year. In 1777, the Kruithuis was built because of the political turbulence of the time (Stellenbosch was the second line of defence if Cape Town was taken). This is the only remaining powder magazine in the country dating from the days of the Dutch East India Company. Today, it is a museum housing a collection of firearms, cannons and military uniforms. **Location:** Mark Road, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.stelmus.co.za/voc_kruithuis.htm • Tel. 021 887 2948 **Price:** small fee

Oom Samie se Winkel 37

When visiting the historical Dorp Street, a visit to 'Uncle Samie's Store' is a must. This shop was one of the first trading stores in Stellenbosch, owned (from 1907) by the well-loved Oom Samie Volsteedt. This period rural trading post, set in a quaint Victorian building, stocks everything from handcrafted straw yard brooms to clothing, fruit and vegetables and arts and crafts. There is also a tea garden at the back which serves meals, coffee and wine from the region. **Location:** 84 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch **Information:** https://oomsamiesewinkel.co.za **Price:** free to browse

Stellenbosch Toy Museum 38

This one-of-a-kind toy museum is housed in an 18th-century Cape Dutch parsonage. What makes it unique is that most of the toys and settings are of South African origin, many made locally in Stellenbosch. There is a strong leaning towards Cape Winelands and Karoo themes. The highlights are many, but the working scaled-down version of the famous Blue Train and the world's smallest kitchen must be seen to believed. **Location:** 42 Market Street (behind the Information Bureau) **Information:** https://stelmus.co.za/miniature-toy-museum/ • Tel: 021 887 9433 **Price:** small fee

Muratie 39

This farm, granted by Simon van der Stel in 1685, started its history with a love story between a soldier who was its first owner and a slave girl, Ansela van de Caab, whom he married, making it the first family farm in the Cape and also one of the first to be owned by a woman. Today, many of its wines are named after someone who enriched the story of the estate. This farm's biggest attraction is, perhaps, the fact that it retains an authentic, simple and traditional feel. **Location:** R44, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.muratie.co.za Tel: 021 865 2330 **Price:** free to visit

Mooiberge Farm Stall 40

Mooiberge (meaning 'beautiful mountains') was established as a farm in the early 1900s. Besides supplying fresh produce to the local market as it has done for years, it is also geared to supply visitors with an interesting Winelands experience. From quirky animal and scarecrow figures, an eclectic farm stall and Farmer's Kitchen restaurant to strawberry picking for the whole family (Nov – Jan), this is a memorable place for fun. **Location:** Corner R44 and Annandale Road, Stellenbosch **Information:** http://www.zetler.co.za/wynland.html • Tel: 021 881 3222 **Price:** free to visit

Neethlingshof Estate 41

Neethlingshof Estate lies just outside the beautiful town of Stellenbosch. An iconic avenue of imposing stone pines marks the entrance to the farm, leading to the traditional *werf* of the estate. Established more than 300 years ago, the Estate boasts some of the best restored and preserved traditional Cape Dutch buildings, leaving visitors with a distinct sense of history and old-world charm. Visit the tasting room, take a cellar tour or enjoy different culinary experiences **Location:** Polkadraai Rd, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.neethlingshof.co.za • Tel: 021 883 8988 **Price:** fee

Van Ryn's Distillery 42

This distillery dates back to 1845 when Dutch immigrant, Jan van Ryn, arrived at the Cape and started Van Ryn's Wine and Brandy Company. This is the only distillery in Stellenbosch and its brandy has been rated the best in the world. There is brandy tasting with carefully selected pairings with a range of delicacies, from confectionary and estate coffee, to cheeses and charcuterie. For those who want to learn about the full process of making brandy from watching skilled craftsmen at work at the on-site cooperage to distilling, there is a tour which lasts between 60 and 90 minutes. **Location:** Van Ryn Road, Vlottenburg, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.vanryn.co.za • Tel: 021 881 3875 **Price:** free to visit

Heritage Garden 43

This garden, in the grounds of an agricultural research centre, is not widely known but, for lovers of history and horticulture, it is a fascinating place to visit as all the trees and other plants in the garden have historical, scientific or religious associations. Some are, in fact, offspring of famous trees, such as one from Isaac Newton's apple tree, a willow that originates from Napoleon's grave on St Helena and a mulberry tree descended from one planted by Shakespeare at his home in Stratford-upon-Avon. Call at the office for entry. **Location:** ARC-Infruitec/Nietvoorbij, Banghoek Road, Stellenbosch • Tel: 021 809 3100 **Price:** free

Meerlust 44

Meerlust was established in 1756 and has been in the Myburgh family for eight generations, making this one of the longest unbroken family lines to occupy one wine farm in South Africa. The farm is steeped in history as it was a stopover for many famous people (such as Lady Anne Barnard) on their journey to the Overberg. The estate buildings, especially the famous dovecote, are fine examples of Cape Dutch architecture. Their award-winning wines are unique as the vineyards are a mere 5 km from the sea and, therefore, influenced by the ocean breezes and evening mists. **Location:** R310, Baden Powell Drive, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.meerlust.co.za • Tel: 021 843 3587 **Price:** free to visit

Stellenbosch Reserve 45

Discover Stellenbosch Reserve, nestled on the Helderberg slopes, where award-winning wines, Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, and breathtaking views come together. Originally founded in 2005 by Jean Engelbrecht, Stellenbosch Reserve produces wines that showcase the region's rich terroir. The elegant Tasting Room and Restaurant provide a serene setting to enjoy dishes like wood-fired pizzas and slow-roasted Kalahari lamb, crafted with fresh, local ingredients. Stellenbosch Reserve invites you to unwind with a wine tasting, a leisurely lunch, or a cozy dinner, embracing the finest of the region's rich heritage and culinary excellence. **Location:** Annandale Road, Stellenbosch **Information:** restaurant@thestellenboschreserve.com • www.thestellenboschreserve.com 072 480 0073 **Price:** free to visit/ fee for tours and restaurant

Helderberg Nature Reserve 46

This reserve is located on the southern slopes of the Helderberg overlooking False Bay. Close to the main gate is a lawned area where one can relax over a picnic (bring your own) and kids can play games in a safe setting, and a restaurant for visitors. Just above this area is an easy nature trail with wooden boardwalks and 613 plant species. For the more adventurous, this is the gateway to the lofty heights of the Helderberg. **Location:** Helderberg Nature Reserve Road, Somerset West **Information:** www.helderbergnaturereserve.co.za • Tel: 021 851 4060 **Price:** small fee

Guardian Peak 47

Found on the slopes of the Helderberg, with magnificent views of the towering Guardian Peak across the valley, the winery was founded in 1998 by Jean Engelbrecht, who combined his knowledge of international wine markets with his experience at his family wine estate in Stellenbosch, to create a range of everyday-drinking, fresh and approachable wines. At Guardian Peak, the Live with Wine philosophy is built on the firm belief that wine and food should be inseparable in our daily diet. They present their wines in a relaxed restaurant setting, where wine with food is their focus. Breathtaking views, along with a selection of good wine and food, provide an ideal setting for an unforgettable experience. **Location:** Annandale Road, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.guardianpeak.com **Price:** free to visit

Lourensford 48

On this farm are traces of human life going back to about 200 000 years ago; the San and Khoi-na had made this fertile valley their home by the time the Dutch settlers arrived, soon establishing a permanent presence. Lourensford (established in 1709) was once part of Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel's magnificent but controversial farm, Vergelegen, which was split up when Van der Stel was recalled. Since taking over the farm in 1998, Dr Christo Wiese has made it one of the premier wine estates in the country, with its magnificent setting, historical buildings, picturesque fruit groves and vineyards, and 2000 solar panels on the cellar roof. **Location:** End of Lourensford Road which becomes Lourensford Avenue, Somerset West **Information:** www.lourensford.co.za **Price:** small fee

Stellenbosch Botanical Garden 49

This compact garden in the middle of historical Stellenbosch is the oldest university botanical garden in South Africa. Exotic foreign plants share the garden with indigenous varieties in a tranquil atmosphere. It is divided into several themed gardens, including a bonsai collection, bulb beds, waterlily ponds, rockeries, fern house, tropical glasshouse and succulent glasshouses. This garden serves as an open-air laboratory and as a centre for education, research and conservation. The garden also has a restaurant and shop for those more interested in recreation. **Location:** Van Riebeeck Street, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.sun.ac.za/english/entities/botanical-garden/pages/default.aspx **Price:** small fee

Stellenbosch Village Museum 50

In the heart of Stellenbosch is a complex of four houses that reflect different periods of settler architecture, furniture and lifestyle from 1680 to 1830. The Schreuderhuis, a simple pioneer house, is the oldest restored town house in South Africa. Blettermanhuis, with an H-shaped ground plan, is a gabled house reflecting the period of the 1750 economic boom at the Cape. Grosvenor House, built between 1782 and1803, is one of the best examples of a two-storey flat-roofed house of the period, while the OM Bergh House is typical of the period 1850 to 1870. **Location:** 37 Ryneveld Street, Stellenbosch centre **Information:** www.stelmus.co.za/village_museum.htm **Price:** small fee

Spier Wine Estate 51

This wine farm has to be one of the most successful tourist destinations in this area. The farm was one of the first to be established in Stellenbosch (in 1692) and is 'gable heaven' for lovers of Cape Dutch architecture as it has examples of 21 different styles. It also has the oldest dated wine cellar in the country. Highlights include wines, a restaurant, picnic fare, cycling, free walking tours and a contemporary art collection. **Location:** R310, Baden Powell Drive, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.spier.co.za **Price:** free to visit

Vergelegen 52

A visit to Vergelegen (established in 1700), with its famous row of majestic camphor trees, is testimony to the legacy and vision of Willem Adriaan van der Stel. This masterpiece, which he owned in his private capacity, rivalled any estate in Europe at the time and was created mainly with funds from the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Willem Adriaan was, not surprisingly, found guilty of corrupt practices and ordered to return to the Netherlands in 1707. The farm was then divided up to create Vergelegen, Lourensford, Morgenster and Cloetenburg. Vergelegen has seen successive owners such as Sir Lionel and Lady Phillips, the Barlow family and now Anglo America, which has invested extensively to restore it to its former glory. **Location:** Lourensford Road, Somerset West **Information:** www.vergelegen.co.za **Price:** small fee

Vergenoegd Löw The Wine Estate 53

In 1696, land was granted to Pieter de Vos beside the Eerste River which he named Vergenoegd (meaning content & cheerful). This was one of the first wine farms to be established in the Winelands. It was, in 1773, that a new owner transformed the manor house to an unusual incomplete 'H' shape and added the magnificent baroque gable dated 1773. After one more owner, it passed into the Faure family and remained this way for six generations before it was purchased by Professor Peter Löw in 2015. One of the unique experiences for visitors is 1600 Indian runner ducks that handle the eco-friendly pest management programme. This allows Vergenoegd Löw to carry WWF-SA Conservation Champion status. **Location:** Baden Powell Dr, Faure, Stellenbosch **Information:** www.vergenoegd.co.za • Tel: 021 843 3248 **Price:** free to visit

Anton Smit Art Haven 54

The Anton Smit Art Haven is a creative curated sculpture garden and home studio to the internationally renowned South African sculptor, Anton Smit. His work is instantly recognisable: bold forms, striking faces, and monumental silhouettes that explore identity, faith, silence, and the resilience of the human spirit. This peaceful outdoor art space invites visitors to walk among large-scale sculptures and experience them in a natural setting. Appointments are recommended to ensure a personal and unhurried visit for art lovers, students, and small groups exploring the Winelands. **Location:** 17 1st Avenue,Firlands Ave, Gordon's Bay **Information:** www.antonsmit.co.za • 073 674 4053 **Price:** free

www.visitwinelands.co.za • www.capewinelands.gov.za

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Distribution: Go.See.Do • **Proofreading:** Shelley Woode-Smith • Citations available on request • © Richard Smith • Gateway Guides 13th edition, 2026

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