



IMAGE COURTESY OF LEOPARD'S LEAP

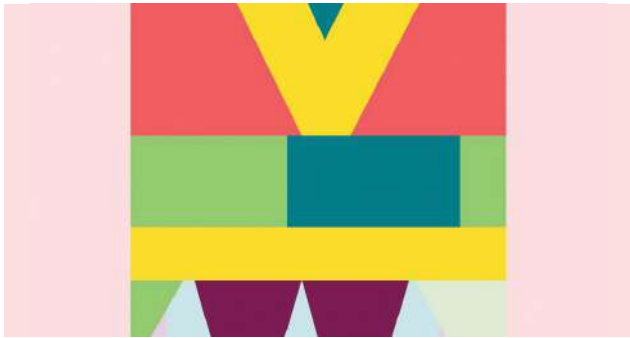
indulge

Savour summer at La Roche Estate with elegant picnics amidst vineyards and mountains, featuring curated menus, sparkling wines, and serene, sun-drenched escapes for all ages.



explore

KAMERS in the Winelands at Allée Bleue celebrating SA creativity with fashion, décor, and accessories crafted by local Makers—thoughtful, stylish, and proudly homegrown, blending world-class design with unmistakable local flair.



discover

Mark your calendar: international polo is back at Val de Vie Estate. South Africa faces England in a spectacular day of competition, hospitality, and celebration.



holden manz



holden manz wine estate - www.holdenmanz.com - t 021 876 2738
tasting room | picnic | spa | 5* country house | worldwide delivery | family run



MANZ ART



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ONE- AND TWO-BEDROOM LUXURY
SUITES *Starting from R2 105 000*

ELEGANT TWO- AND THREE-BEDROOM
HOMES *Starting from R5 400 000*

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Embark on a culinary
journey at Ōku

**MODERN ASIAN DINING,
IN THE HEART OF FRANSCHHOEK**

Ōku offers a calm, welcoming space where seasonal ingredients and Asian-inspired flavours come together.

The à la carte lunch menu is relaxed and flexible, perfect for a casual yet thoughtful midday experience.

In the evening, choose between a 4-course set menu with options in each course, or the full 11-course kaiseki menu—a slower, more immersive way to explore the season's best.

Open seven days a week.

Bookings 021 023 4695 | reservations@eat-oku.co.za
www.eat-oku.co.za | @oku_eatery

Le coin Français
By Darren Badenhorst

SPRING MENU IS OUT

group bookings and exclusive functions are welcome
reservations@lecoinfrancais.co.za | 074 126 0022
or book online via www.lecoinfrancais.co.za



*An Afternoon Tea
at La Residence*

WHERE ELEGANCE MEETS
DELIGHTFUL FLAVOURS

Email info@laresidence.co.za
to reserve your table

Amura by Ángel León

A MARINE DINING ODYSSEY DEBUTS AT MOUNT NELSON, CAPE TOWN

Where Oceans Meet, a New Culinary Destination Emerges Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town, presents Amura, a bold new dining experience by Michelin-starred Chef Ángel León. Opening December 2025, Amura is León's first restaurant outside Spain and his African debut—an immersive journey inspired by the ocean's biodiversity and the Cape's dramatic coastline.

Blending Spanish heritage with South African ingredients, the menu celebrates overlooked **ocean treasures**—like plankton, halophytes, and by-catch—transformed through techniques such as open-fire cooking and fermentation. Guests can choose à la carte or a tasting menu that explores **wild herbs**, kelp, and spices from both continents.

Designed by Tristan du Plessis, the moody, cinematic interior evokes Cape Town's kelp forests, with an open kitchen as a **theatrical stage**. In line with Mount Nelson's sustainability ethos, Amura champions marine conservation, local sourcing, and purposeful dining.

Expect curated wine pairings from Cape terroirs and Andalusian sherries, plus garden-inspired cocktails. Amura is a celebration of the sea, culture, and craft—for curious travellers and local epicureans alike.

Reservations open December 2025 via restaurantreservations.mnh@belmond.com.



Two Sporting Giants, One Polo Showdown

International polo returns to the Western Cape for the first time in 15 years. On Saturday, 15 November 2025, the Standard Bank Polo Test Match will see South Africa face England in a high-speed, high-precision clash that reignites one of the world's most iconic sporting rivalries—this time on horseback.

Long celebrated on rugby and cricket fields, these two nations now compete where **agility**, horsemanship, and strategy rule. Val de Vie Estate, one of Africa's premier polo clubs, will host the event, bringing world-class players and an audience of discerning sports enthusiasts together for a day of **excitement** and sophistication.

With Volvo as Presenting Partner, Pommery as Champagne Partner, Stella Artois as Beer Partner, and chart-topping South African band GoodLuck providing live entertainment, the event offers a seamless blend of sport, hospitality, and celebration. Guests can enjoy everything from intimate picnics to full VIP experiences, all designed to **showcase** polo in style.

TICKET OPTIONS

- STELLA ARTOIS PICNIC: R695 per ticket; welcome drink, complimentary beer, gourmet food trucks, live entertainment, unreserved seating on the grass.
- SUNSET GARDEN: R2,250 per ticket; cocktail-style seating, interactive food stations, polo viewing on the grass, welcome drink, and complimentary Stella Artois beer.
- VOLVO VIP TABLES: R39,500–R49,500 per 10-seater; shaded tables, private lounges, dedicated service, curated food and drinks, prime polo views, and networking opportunities.

Tickets are available online for picnic and Sunset Garden options, while Volvo VIP reservations are via marketing@valdevie.co.za. Follow updates on Instagram @standard_bank_polo_test_match or visit valdevie.co.za/polo-test-match.

This return of international polo to the Cape promises a **spectacular** day where sporting excellence, culture, and hospitality meet against the stunning backdrop of Val de Vie Estate.



Savour Summer

PICNICS AT LA ROCHE ESTATE

Celebrate the beauty of summer with a refined picnic experience at La Roche Estate, situated in the heart of the Robertsvlei Valley. Framed by rolling vineyards and majestic mountain vistas, the estate offers a serene and picturesque setting for a leisurely escape into nature.

Choose from two thoughtfully curated picnic menus, presented in a stylish yet relaxed setting. Soft blankets and cushions, shaded cover, and an ice cooler with sparkling water ensure comfort and ease, allowing you to simply unwind and savour the moment.

Enhance your experience with the estates limited-edition wines, available for purchase on the day. Enjoy a selection that includes an Unwooded Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Vintage Reserve Cap Classique, and the signature Bacchus Cap Classique, perfectly paired with the tranquil surroundings.

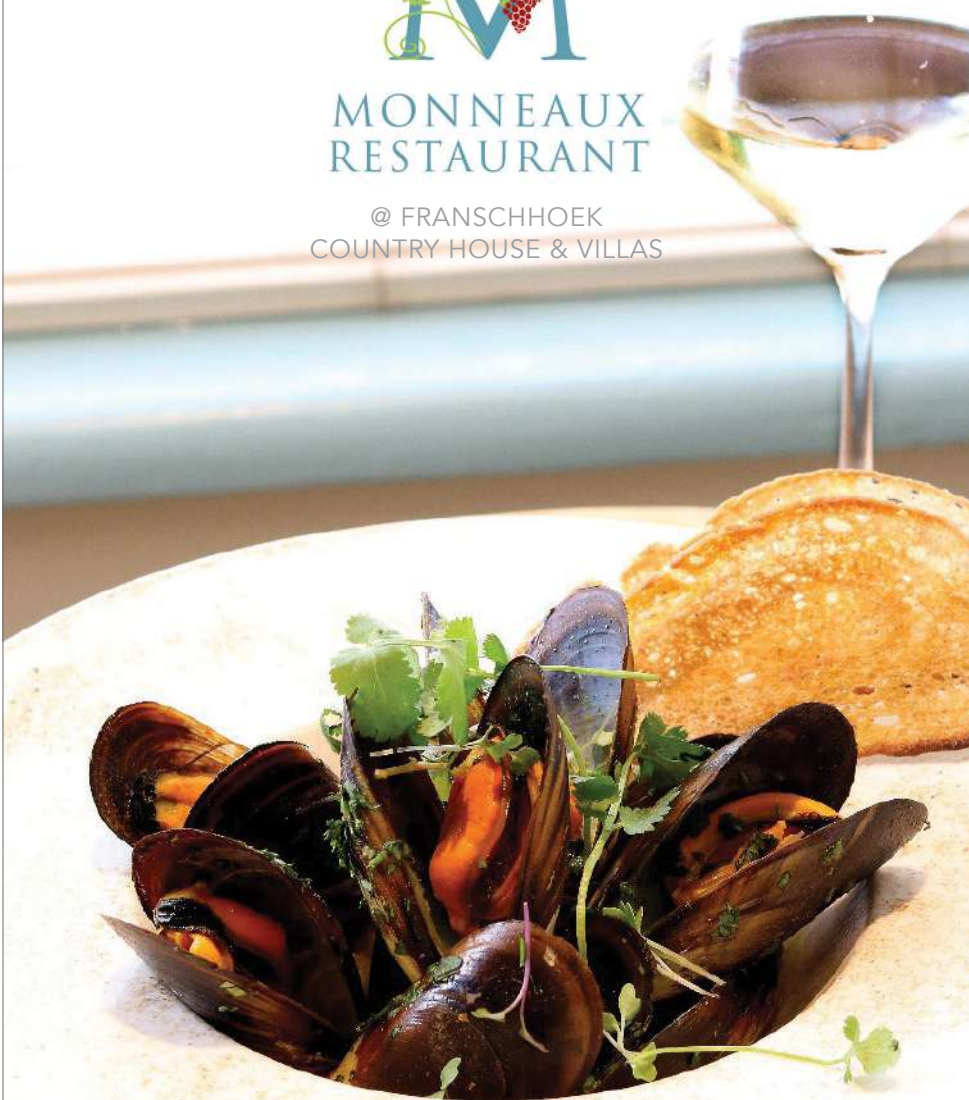
La Roche Estate welcomes guests seven days a week, offering an idyllic summer escape for friends, couples, and families alike.

Bookings: 071 761 1354 | info@larocheestate.com



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RESTAURANT

@FRANSCHHOEK
COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS



OPEN DAILY LUNCH & DINNER
www.monneaux.co.za | +27(0)21 876 3386

4

OCTOBER



GOLDA SCHULTZ AT ARTSCAPE

Golda Schultz, internationally acclaimed South African soprano, stars in the Duet Endowment Trust Gala on Saturday at 18h00. Presented by Cape Town Opera and the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, the concert features operatic gems by Mozart, Verdi and Stravinsky. Schultz is joined by baritone Jacques Imbrailo and a superb CTO line up. The gala supports the future of classical music through the Duet Endowment Trust. Tickets from R250 pp.

BOOKINGS [webtickets](#)

11

OCTOBER



TRIOLOGIE CLASSIQUE – PRELUDE, A CELLAR CONCERT

You're invited to Triologie Classique—a series of three exquisite concerts supporting the Franschhoek Hospitality Academy. Enjoy music paired with fine wine and cuisine at Haute Cabrière, The Conservatory, or La Cotte. Proceeds uplift local youth through hospitality training. Space is limited. Book one concert or all three and support a meaningful cause. Prelude: 18h00, R1600 pp at Haute Cabrière, Lambrechts Road.

BOOKINGS [quicket](#)

11

OCTOBER



MUSIC RETURNS TO LA MOTTE

Inspired by La Motte owner and well-known mezzo-soprano, Hanneli Rupert-Koegelenberg's love for the classical music, the 2025/2026 summer series of light classical music commences on 11 October with a seasonal concert entitled, Spring is in the Air by acclaimed pianist and friend of La Motte, François du Toit. Concert starts promptly at 18h00. Welcome hospitality between 17h00 and 18h00. Price R350 pp.

BOOKINGS [la-motte.com](#)

19

OCTOBER



TRIOLOGIE CLASSIQUE – CRESCENDO, AFTERNOON SOIREE

You're invited to Triologie Classique—a series of three exquisite concerts supporting the Franschhoek Hospitality Academy. Enjoy music paired with fine wine and cuisine at Haute Cabrière, The Conservatory, or La Cotte. Proceeds uplift local youth through hospitality training. Space is limited. Book one concert or all three and support a meaningful cause. Crescendo: 15h00, R1600 pp at The Conservatory.

BOOKINGS [quicket](#)

25

OCTOBER



SUNSET SMOOTH AT LEOPARD'S LEAP

We are kicking off our summer-time Sunset Smooth series and invite you to bask in the beauty of a Franschhoek sunset and enjoy some laid-back tunes, your favourite glass of wine and a nibble or two. Do you feel like a well-deserved glass of wine and a little snack on a Friday afternoon after work? Or perhaps before going out on a Saturday evening? From 25 October, we are open until 19h00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

VISIT [www.leopardsleap.co.za](#)

FRIDAYS



A TASTE OF MONNEAUX AT FRANSCHHOEK COUNTRY HOUSE & VILLAS

Embark on A Taste of Monneaux this spring and savour chef-crafted small bites that capture the artistry and spirit of Monneaux Restaurant.

Every Friday this October — enjoy a new tasting menu each week — a fresh culinary journey every time you visit. R600 per person.

BOOKINGS [info@fch.co.za](#) | 021 876 3386

WED-SUN



FRANSCHHOEK THEATRE

Subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with the latest showings and events at our theatre.

Register and book online at: [www.franschhoektheatre.co.za](#)

BOOKINGS [www.franschhoektheatre.co.za](#)

MON-SUN



HELLO SPRING AT DUSK

Join Chef Callan as he and his fine team celebrate the new season.

Spring Menu
R1195 pp
Supplementary wine pairing experience at R595 pp
Reserve your DUSK table online.

[www.duskrestaurant.co.za](#)

BOOKINGS WHATSAPP 071 942 3724

MON-SUN



ELEVEN FRANSCHHOEK

At Eleven, dining is about enjoying great food on your own terms.

Situated in the heart of Franschhoek, our à la carte menu blends global inspiration, seasonal produce, and chef creativity. Available for lunch and dinner, it offers flexibility for anything from a quick bite to a relaxed, leisurely meal—effortlessly suited to your day. Open seven days a week.

[reservations@eleveneats.co.za](#)

BOOKINGS 021 023 3755

MON-SUN



PICNICS AT GRANDE PROVENCE

From October, the much-loved Grande Provence Picnics are back, inviting guests to relax under the oaks and savour the beauty of the Franschhoek Valley.

Each curated basket brims with fresh, seasonal estate fare — perfect for a leisurely afternoon with family, friends, or someone special. R600 per double or R300 per single, picnics must be booked 24 hours in advance with pre-payment.

BOOKINGS

reservations@grandeprovence.co.za

MON-SUN



ORANGERIE AT LE LUDE

The Orangerie Restaurant is a culinary gem offering a refined dining experience, where exquisite dishes are crafted from the finest ingredients.

Lunch: Tuesday – Sunday
Dinner: Thursday – Saturday

restaurant@lelude.co.za

BOOKINGS 021 876 2961

MON-SUN



LEVANTE LUNCH AT LYNX

Experience Levante-inspired cuisine at Lynx, where fresh, seasonal ingredients shine in vibrant, shareable dishes. Relax with estate wine, take in the vineyard and mountain views, and enjoy a leisurely farm lunch in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Book your table today and savour the perfect blend of wine, food, and scenery in Franschhoek.

Tasting Room/Bodega: Mon-Sun 10h00-17h00
Restaurant: Wed-Sun 12h00-15h30 (last seating)
Dinner Thurs-Sat 18h00-19h30 (last seating)

BOOKINGS 021 876 0406 | 066 378 5398

MON-SUN



LEISURELY LUNCHES AT MONT ROCHELLE'S MIKO

Overlooking the Franschhoek vineyards, MIKO offers a refined yet relaxed setting, indoors or alfresco. Head Chef Terence crafts dishes with the freshest seasonal ingredients, celebrating bold local flavours with a modern touch. Pair your meal with a glass of Mont Rochelle's award-winning wine for a perfect afternoon treat.

12h00-15h30 daily, bookings recommended.

reception@montrochelle.virgin.com

BOOKINGS 021 876 2770

MON-SUN



YAMA FRANSCHHOEK

A relaxed, family-friendly favourite in the heart of Franschhoek. Gather the family and enjoy comforting bowls of ramen, flavour-packed dumplings, fresh signature sushi rolls, and more.

With a dedicated kiddies menu and à la carte options for every appetite, Yama is perfect for locals, visitors, and little ones too.

reservations@eat-yama.co.za

BOOKINGS 021 023 4695

7

NOVEMBER



FRANSCHHOEK'S GOT TALENT SEASON 2 AT BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE

Sing a song and save an animal! Join Uncorked and special guests for an unforgettable evening of music, fun, and giving back. 18h30, R400 pp – includes a welcome glass of bubbly and a mouthwatering meal. Wine, beer & soft drinks available at our donation bar. Dress code: Festive Bling! A thrilling auction and raffle prizes.

BOOKINGS Whatsapp 083 212 8827

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NOVEMBER



TRIOLOGIE CLASSIQUE – GRAND FINALE, SUNSET ARIA

You're invited to Triologie Classique—a series of three exquisite concerts supporting the Franschhoek Hospitality Academy. Enjoy music paired with fine wine and cuisine at Haute Cabrière, The Conservatory, or La Cotte. Proceeds uplift local youth through hospitality training. Space is limited. Book one concert or all three and support a meaningful cause. Grand Finale: 17h30, R1600 pp at La Cotte, 24 La Cotte Rd.

BOOKINGS quicket

15

NOVEMBER



POLO AT VAL DE VIE ESTATE

For the first time in 15 years, international test match polo is returning to Val de Vie Estate.

On Saturday 15 November 2025, guests will be able to experience action-packed polo alongside live entertainment, gourmet food, refreshing drinks and exclusive hospitality options to relax, connect and celebrate.

VISIT

www.valdevie.co.za/polo-test-match/



FRANSCHHOEK
VALLEY OF DREAMS

SAVE THE DATE

For November Events

1-15 November
Franschhoek Creates

7-9 November
Franschhoek Open Gardens

29-30 November
Franschhoek Cap Classique & Champagne Festival

franschhoek.org.za

WELCOME TO Franschhoek Cellar

Inspired by over 350 years of winemaking tradition and heritage, Franschhoek Cellar is home to a vibrant and celebrated range of wines.

Join Franschhoek Cellar for specially curated wine tastings, perfectly paired with **artisanal** chocolates and cheeses, or enjoy a delicious deli-style lunch beneath the shade of the oak trees. With a supervised kiddies' playground on-site, it's an experience the whole family can enjoy.

For those looking to extend their stay, two **luxury** cottages on the property provide a stylish and comfortable base from which to explore the picturesque Franschhoek Valley and the greater Cape Winelands this winter.

Franschhoek Cellar also offers a range of distinctive event venues, ideal for every occasion—from elegant weddings, milestone birthdays, and anniversaries to year-end corporate functions and intimate private gatherings.

As a proud gem of the Franschhoek wine route, the Cellar blends the relaxed charm of country living with the **sophistication** of a world-class destination designed to meet every expectation.

The team look forward to welcoming you.

For enquiries or bookings, please send an email or call
franschhoekcellar.co.za
fhccellardoor@dgb.co.za | 021 876 2086



Fynbos, Florilegium & Fine Art

WILDERNESS LAUNCHES BOTANICAL SAFARI AT GROOTBOS

A full-day excursion to the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, offering travellers a unique way to explore the Cape Floral Kingdom through science, art, and nature.

Just 2.5 hours from Cape Town, Grootbos is home to over 922 fynbos species and is a global leader in floral **conservation**. Guests enjoy a private 4x4 flower safari with a Wilderness guide, followed by exclusive access to the Hannarie Wenhold Botanical Art Gallery. The gallery **showcases** the Grootbos Florilegium—one of only five botanical art collections of its kind worldwide.

Timed with Cape Town's **spring bloom**, the tour also includes a scenic drive through the Elgin and Hemel-en-Aarde wine valleys, with the chance to spot southern right whales along the Whale Coast.

The experience includes private transfers, in-vehicle Wi-Fi, refreshments, a guided safari, and an exclusive lunch at Grootbos. More than a day trip, it's a celebration of biodiversity, fine art, and conservation—an enriching addition to any South African journey.

Book at: wildernessdestinations.com

Where Sun, Sea & Safari Meet

COUNTDOWN TO CLUB MED SOUTH AFRICA – OPENING JULY 2026

Club Med South Africa Beach & Safari will be the brand's first resort in the country, located on the unspoiled Dolphin Coast north of Durban. This all-inclusive escape uniquely combines golden beaches with private Big Five safaris at Mpilo Safari Lodge, set on an 18,000-hectare reserve.

The resort features 411 contemporary rooms, blending with the natural surroundings through light wood, local stone, and **expansive** windows. The Exclusive Collection Ilanga offers 66 private suites, plus access to a dedicated pool. Guests can enjoy tropical gardens, terraces, and four pools—including a Zen pool for adults.

Dining highlights include Oceana and Nguni Gourmet Club, where global and South African flavours meet, plus multiple bars like the breezy Dunes Beach Bar and Injabulo Lounge. Daily activities range from surf lessons and flying trapeze to yoga, padel, and family adventures. A wellness centre with spa and hammam adds to the experience.

A minimum five-night stay unlocks the Mpilo Safari Lodge **experience**—offering guided game drives, panoramic views, and family-friendly amenities in the bush.

Rooted in **sustainability**, the resort features solar power, water-saving systems, partnerships with local farmers, and community upliftment projects.

Just 30 minutes from King Shaka International Airport, Club Med South Africa offers a seamless blend of beach, bush, and barefoot luxury—marking a bold new chapter in African travel.





Discover the Finest in South African Fashion + Design

This October, KAMERS/Makers returns to the Winelands with a brand-new show at Allée Bleue Wine Estate.

For six unforgettable days, more than 160 carefully selected Makers will transform the estate into a vibrant showcase of creativity – from cutting-edge fashion and timeless jewellery to artisanal décor, lifestyle treasures and gourmet delights.

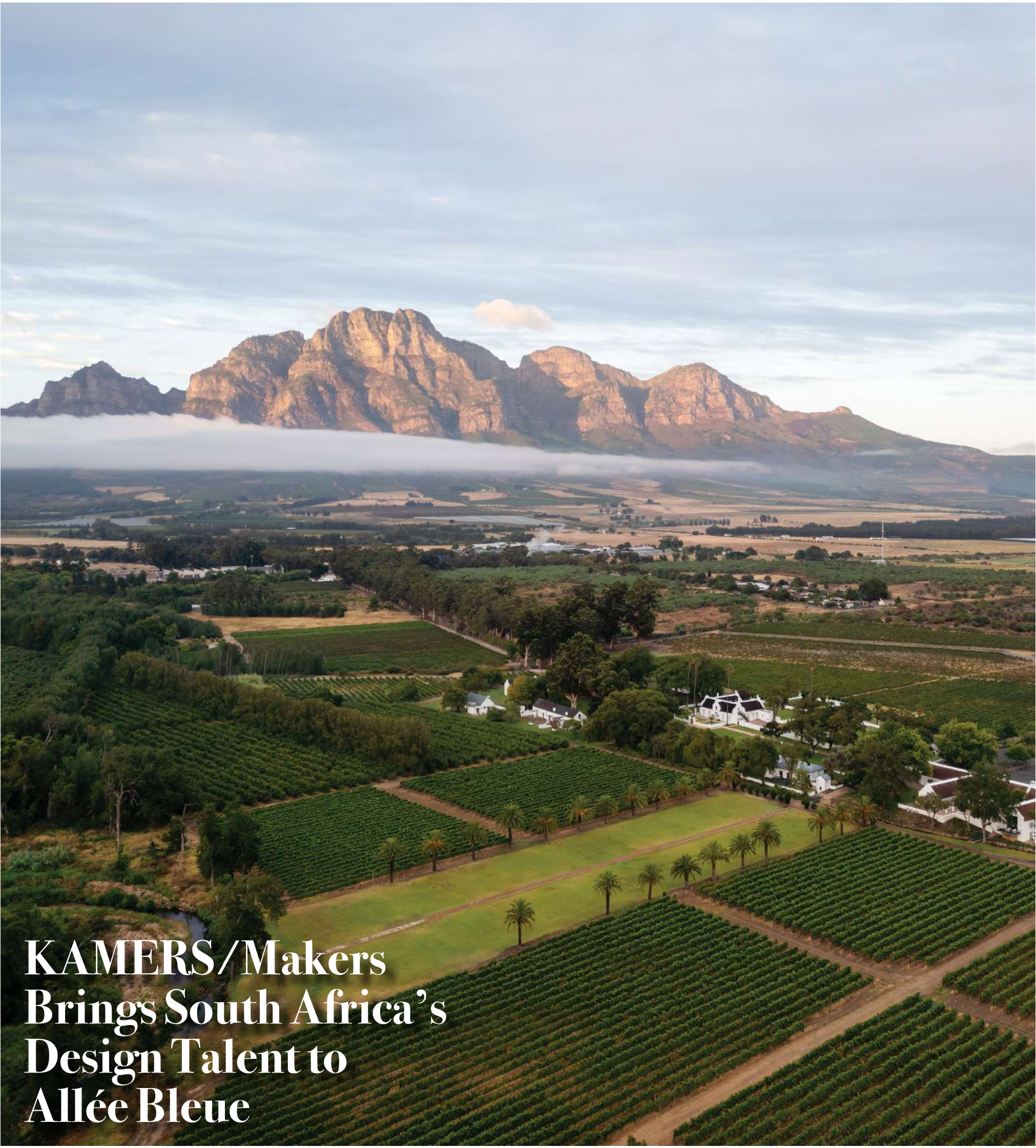
Step into a world of inspiration where every purchase tells a story of local talent, craftsmanship and sustainability. Whether you're shopping for unique pieces to wear, to gift, or to treasure, KAMERS/Makers is the ultimate celebration of South African creativity.

Allée Bleue Wine Estate
28 October - 2 November
09:00 - 17:00 daily

kamers.co.za

In partnership with





KAMERS/Makers Brings South Africa's Design Talent to Allée Bleue

Franschhoek is famed for good living — wine, food, art, and natural beauty in effortless harmony. This October, the valley adds another jewel: **KAMERS/Makers at Allée Bleue Wine Estate**. From 28 October to 2 November 2024, over 160 artisans and designers gather for South Africa's most inspiring showcase of creativity and craftsmanship.

MORE THAN A MARKET

KAMERS/Makers is not just shopping — it's a lifestyle experience. Think six days of curated design, thoughtful detail, and contemporary South African flair.

Expect:

- Fashion & jewellery that make a statement
- Homeware & décor with local design edge
- Gourmet pantry & wellness finds to indulge in
- Artisan gifts & accessories with a story

All set against vineyards, mountain views, and warm Winelands hospitality.

MEET THE MAKERS

What sets KAMERS/Makers apart? The people. Every stand is manned by the maker — the jeweller, ceramicist, distiller, or designer behind the piece. Every purchase is a story shared and a small business supported.

A DAY IN FRANSCHHOEK STYLE

Arrive on the Franschhoek Wine Tram Navy Line and enjoy free entry. Wander the pavilions with a glass of wine, pause for a farm-fresh lunch, browse at leisure. Stylish, social, rewarding.

A SEASONAL HIGHLIGHT

Following a sell-out Heritage Day edition in Pretoria, Allée Bleue hosts the flagship stop of the Spring/Summer 2025 season. It's the biggest show of the year — and a must on the Winelands calendar.

KAMERS/Makers at Allée Bleue — not just shopping, but living beautifully for a day.

EVENT DETAILS

- Venue: Allée Bleue Wine Estate, Franschhoek
- Dates: 28 Oct – 2 Nov 2024 | 09h00-17h00 daily
- Tickets: kammers.co.za.
- Bonus: Free one-month Media24 digital subscription (R150 value). Under 18s free.

Redefining South Africa's Culinary & Creative Frontiers

Few South African chefs-turned-entrepreneurs have built as bold and diverse a portfolio as Darren Badenhorst. From the refined artistry of Le coin Français in Franschhoek to the avant-garde dining of DUSK and the intimate exclusivity of DAWN Private Dining, Badenhorst has become known for creating immersive culinary worlds ... Yet his vision extends far beyond the plate.

With playful street-food ventures like Gochu Gang and Nacho Gang, the coastal lifestyle destination The Beach House, and his creative production company Divergence Media, Badenhorst is shaping both the restaurant and media landscapes in South Africa. At the core of it all lies a single principle: consistency. "Irrelevant of the style or business model, consistency is paramount to success," he reflects. This philosophy binds together an empire that spans fine dining, casual street food, and digital storytelling.

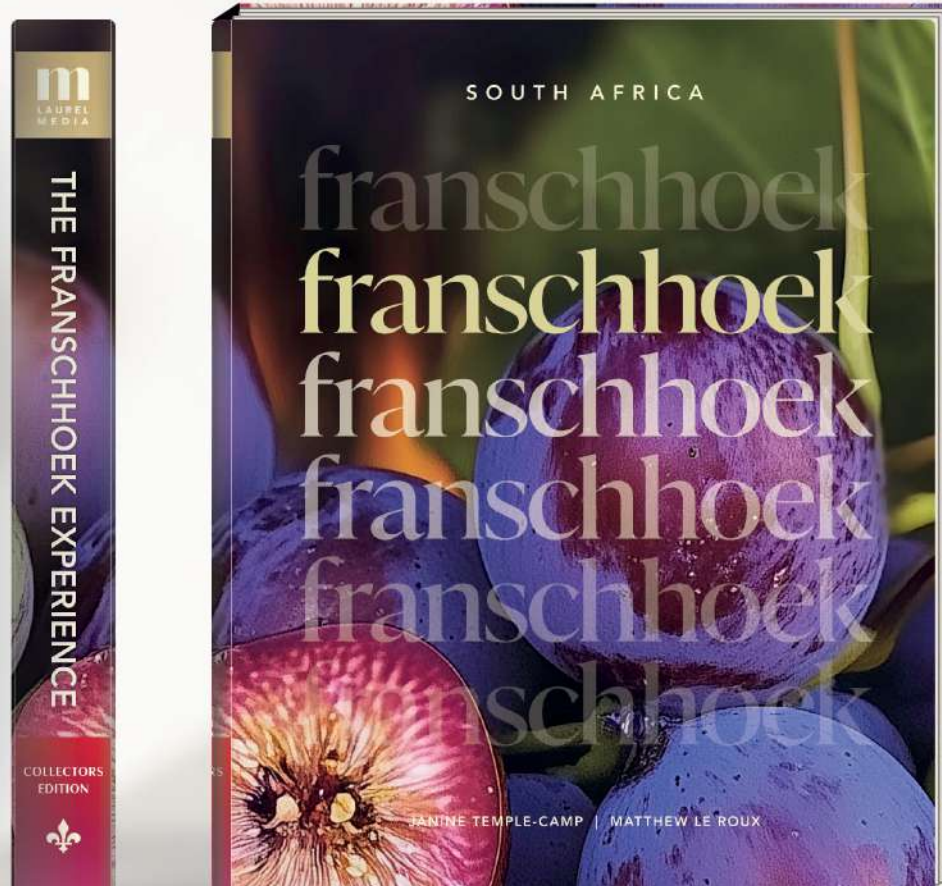
His Franschhoek flagship, Le coin Français, remains his most personal project. "It's really my baby, my first love. It's where I put my name on the culinary map, and it still holds deep

ties to both my personal and family history". But his restless creativity soon pushed him further and together with partner Callan Austin, he launched DUSK—a daring, boundary-pushing concept—followed by DAWN, an intimate dining space where an open kitchen and suspended mirror immerse guests in the theatre of cooking.

Not all his concepts are rooted in fine dining. Gochu Gang and Nacho Gang, co-created with Steven Comrie, explore a lighter, more playful side of cuisine. "It was a fantastic opportunity to relax the model and create something fun and casual, yet still high quality," and similarly, The Beach House in Yzerfontein captures lifestyle as much as food. "It's about the location—you literally feel like there should be sand between your toes while eating."

His entrepreneurial curiosity also extends into media. Through Divergence Media, co-founded with Wesley Wrigley, Badenhorst has built a creative hub for design, cinematography, social media, AI, and storytelling. "This business really exploded over the last year," with new offices, podcast, and studio space launching this month.

For Badenhorst, collaboration and people remain central. "Ideas and spaces come and go—people are what build something worth driving," he emphasizes. His advice to young chefs and entrepreneurs is simple yet powerful: "Learn as you go, invest in others, and stay the course—tough times make good businesses."



The Franschhoek Experience

COLLECTORS EDITION COFFEE TABLE BOOK

A local collaboration, featuring over 300 pages of gorgeous imagery and editorial content showcasing the history, culture, community and natural beauty of the historic Franschhoek Valley.



Available on our website, at the Franschhoek Tourism Office, and at selected venues throughout the valley.

thefranschhoekexperience.co.za

When we began this project, we imagined a quiet editorial tribute to a place we love. The groundswell of local support that followed has transformed it into a true community collaboration. The farmers, winemakers, chefs, artists, and many others behind the scenes at each experience have shared their spaces and time with generosity and enthusiasm.

'The Franschhoek Experience' has evolved into a celebration of the valley's working heart, filled with beautiful settings and familiar sights, while also reflecting the quieter moments that define everyday life in this historic region.

Janine Temple-Camp and Matthew Le Roux

Janine has lived and worked in Franschhoek for over twenty years. This is her second publication. Matthew grew up on a family farm at the base of the Franschhoek Mountains, and is currently exploring the world as a dive instructor. Their family has called Franschhoek home for over fifty years.

LETAMO

QWABI
PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

BY
NEWMARK

LETAMO is QWABI Private Game Reserve's dedicated family-friendly lodge, where immersive wilderness experiences meet connection and comfort. Designed with multigenerational travel in mind, the lodge offers spacious suites with interleading options, child-friendly amenities, and tailored activities for every age. Located within one of only two UNESCO-declared savannah biospheres in Africa, guests can enjoy twice-daily Big Five game drives with expert guides and interactive bush experiences. From beautifully designed communal areas to curated kids' programmes and scenic outdoor dining, LETAMO blends luxury with laid-back adventure, inviting families to create meaningful memories in the heart of the wild.



LETAMO LODGE

NEWMARK
• HOTELS & RESERVES •

For bookings and enquiries, contact:
reservations@newmarkhotels.com
+27 21 427 5901 www.newmarkhotels.com

QWABI Private Game Reserve, Bela-Bela, Waterberg, Limpopo, South Africa, 0480

LUXURY SAFARI LIVING FOR ALL AGES



Sibuya Game Reserve

**A PRIVATE WILDERNESS ESCAPE
IN THE EASTERN CAPE**

Cape Country Routes South Africa – a handpicked collection of over 20 owner-run hotels, lodges, and guesthouses across the Cape – has welcomed its newest member: Sibuya Game Reserve. Nestled in the heart of the Eastern Cape, this private sanctuary blends barefoot luxury with bold conservation, where every journey begins with adventure.

The experience starts the moment you arrive. Guests are transported by a 45-minute boat ride up the serene Kariega Estuary – a gentle immersion into Sibuya's pristine wilderness, home to abundant birdlife and game. From there, guests can choose between four distinctive stays, each designed to echo the reserve's natural beauty.

River Camp sits on the banks of the Kariega, designed for families to reconnect with nature. Its four spacious eco-tents feature fireplaces, en-suite bathrooms, and flexible layouts for children. Wooden walkways keep the camp grounded in its setting, offering kids space to roam while parents unwind.

Forest Camp hides eight elegant tents deep in indigenous thicket. Elevated walkways weave through greenery, offering peace and privacy. A haven for couples, small groups, or families with older children, it invites slow, mindful immersion in the wild.

Bush Lodge, recently refurbished, is tucked into a forested valley for complete seclusion. Four luxurious suites offer king or queen beds, indoor and outdoor showers, private viewing decks, and a heated swimming pool that melts into the landscape.

Nel's Lodge, Sibuya's newest gem, is perched high on a plateau with sweeping views of the riverine plains and estuary below. Built from pebbles sourced on the reserve, the lodge sleeps up to eight, with a pool and expansive decks perfect for private gatherings.

Beyond the stays, Sibuya is a living example of conservation in action – from reforestation and invasive species clearing to reintroducing native wildlife like the White Rhino and Blue Duiker. Every visit directly supports these efforts, allowing guests to leave a legacy of care.

With the Cape Country Routes Loyalty Program, travellers enjoy benefits across the network, including at Sibuya. Here, every stay is more than a safari – it's a chance to connect with wilderness, wildlife, and a meaningful commitment to the natural world.

www.capecountryroutes.com





CELEBRATE THE PRESENT OF PRESENCE WITH BABYLONSTOREN'S FESTIVE COLLECTION 2025

This season, Babylonstoren invites you to celebrate the present of presence with a festive collection that turns gatherings into cherished moments.

Inspired by Delft shards unearthed on the farm, the 2025 collection blends enduring luxury with timeless charm. Expect quirky farm-inspired decorations, refined homeware and tableware designed to be treasured year after year – thoughtful pieces that slip seamlessly into family traditions.

Food, always at the heart of the South African table, takes centre stage with Babylonstoren's artisanal treats and signature hampers. Think delicately spiced confections, hand-baked biscuits, seasonal preserves and locally crafted delights – beautifully packaged and gift-ready.

With meal solutions, drinks and generous hampers delivered to your door, entertaining has never been easier.

New this year is Babylonstoren's first-ever advent calendar – a keepsake that brings daily joy for the most discerning of recipients. Heirloom-quality home accents and thoughtful lifestyle gifts round out the offering, carrying the warmth of the farm into any setting.

Available from 1 November 2025 at shop.babylonstoren.co.za, with delivery in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria, plus nationwide delivery on wine, pantry, bath & body and lifestyle ranges. Always beautifully packaged. Always free delivery. babylonstoren.co.za



FIRESIDE FEASTS AT BROOKDALE

Fire & Wine Evenings at The Bistro at Brookdale Estate are BACK through October! Join for unforgettable evenings by the fire, with exquisite wines and themed weekly menus that have become local favourites.

Here's what's on the fire:

- 2nd – Burger Night – Juicy, flame-grilled to perfection
- 9th – Bistecca alla Fiorentina – Tuscan-style T-bone magic
- 16th – Prawn Night – Fresh and full of flavour
- 23rd – Curry Night – Bold spices, deep flavours
- 30th – Burger Night (Encore!) – Because once just isn't enough

Come for the food. Stay for the wine. Return for the memories.

brookdale-estate.com

LA MOTTE BLOOMS AT FRANSCHHOEK OPEN GARDENS WITH LEON KLUGE

This Franschhoek Open Gardens, La Motte proudly welcomes internationally acclaimed landscape designer and botanist Leon Kluge for two captivating talks on Saturday, 8 November. Discover his awardwinning Gold Medal Chelsea Flower Show experience, and explore the extraordinary ways South African plants adapt to attract pollinators. Don't miss this rare opportunity to be inspired by one of the world's leading garden visionaries.

Franschhoek Open Gardens is a charming celebration of diverse and beautifully curated landscapes. From 7–9 November 2025, between 09h00 and 16h00 daily, explore a selection of captivating private gardens in full spring bloom. Garden access tickets are R250 per person, granting entry to all participating gardens.

Book your seat for Leon's special talk (tickets sold separately at R180 per person) via the same link.

Book now at: www.webtickets.co.za



IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

The Pinotage Association, in proud partnership with Absa, has unveiled the 2025 Absa Top 20 Pinotage Finalists, marking a milestone year as Pinotage celebrates its centenary. Selected from 120 entries by 68 producers across South Africa's leading wine regions, the finalists embody the depth, diversity, and distinctive character of this homegrown cultivar. Judged by a panel of esteemed experts, these wines honour Pinotage's heritage while showcasing its evolving artistry. Together, they reaffirm Pinotage as a true icon of South African winemaking.

See finalists here lifebrands.co.za



MOVIES, MAGIC & STARRY SKIES THE GALILEO RETURNS

Cape Town's most enchanting outdoor cinema is back! From 15 October 2025 – 16 May 2026, The Galileo Open Air Cinema transforms gardens, wine estates, and city parks into starlit theatres. This 14th season brings fresh magic: live Springbok screenings, themed nights, dog-friendly shows, Royale dining experiences, and breathtaking new venues. From Kirstenbosch to the Winelands, expect everything from rom-coms to cult classics under the stars. Pack a picnic (or indulge in gourmet eats) and make unforgettable memories.

www.thegalileo.co.za/movies



SIP, SPARKLE, SHINE FRANSCHHOEK CAP CLASSIQUE & CHAMPAGNE FESTIVAL

Experience the sparkle of South Africa at the Franschhoek Cap Classique & Champagne Festival, presented by Capitec. Celebrate the country's finest Cap Classique producers in the breathtaking Franschhoek Valley, against the backdrop of the iconic Huguenot Monument. A feast for the senses, the festival offers sparkling tastings, gourmet cuisine, and live entertainment.

Guests can join the Best Dressed competition, matching their outfits to the year's theme, and enjoy a day of style, fun, and indulgence. Tickets include a Champagne flute and tasting tokens, with food and drinks available for purchase. Perfect for sparkling enthusiasts or anyone seeking a unique outing, this lively, elegant celebration promises unforgettable effervescent flavours.

29–30 November 2025 | Sat 11h00–17h00 | Sun 11h00–16h00

www.franschhoekcapclassique.co.za





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2026 Gets Luxe

BROOKDALE ESTATE'S PRIVATE LODGE EXPERIENCE

An Exclusive Escape in the Paarl Winelands.

Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the Paarl Winelands, Brookdale Estate is unveiling The Lodge—an intimate, private retreat opening in early 2026. Designed for friends and families seeking the **ultimate escape**, this exclusive-use lodge hosts up to eight guests, offering complete privacy within the estate's 67 hectares of vineyards and rolling landscapes.

Every corner of The Lodge exudes effortless sophistication. Four en-suite bedrooms offer serene havens, while light-filled living spaces and expansive terraces invite guests to unwind amid panoramic views of Paarl Rock and the Drakenstein Mountains. Whether sharing a meal in the dining room or hosting an evening around the built-in barbecue, every moment is crafted for connection, **relaxation**, and indulgence.

For culinary enthusiasts, the Lodge features a contemporary

kitchen to inspire creativity—where guests cook themselves or bring in a private chef. Expansive terraces blur the line between indoor and outdoor living, celebrating the region's natural beauty and tranquil charm.

Since its launch, in 2022, Brookdale Estate has earned a reputation for **elegance**, exceptional hospitality, and a deep connection to the Cape Winelands. General Manager Yvonne Coetzee describes The Lodge as a private haven where guests can reconnect with nature—and themselves. It continues the excellence of the Manor House, winner of the Great Capitals Best of Wine Tourism Awards 2024, offering an elevated, intimate experience.

Breakfast and morning housekeeping are included, with private chef and butler services available—offering a fully tailored, luxurious escape where time slows and every detail matters.

www.brookdale-estate.com

Fly Further

Virgin Atlantic Expands Cape Town Route for the 2025/2026 season, adding over 17,000 seats and extending operations from 13 October 2025 to 19 April 2026.

The route will feature optimised double overnight flights, designed for comfort and **seamless** connections to Virgin Atlantic's US destinations, including New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Orlando. A special Easter extension ensures daily flights from 29 March to 19 April 2026.

All flights will operate on the **modern** Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, offering Upper Class, Premium, and Economy cabins with in-seat entertainment, Wi-Fi, and signature Virgin Atlantic service.

This expansion makes it easier than ever for South African travellers to **connect** to London, the US, and beyond.

Tickets are on sale now at www.virginatlantic.com.



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