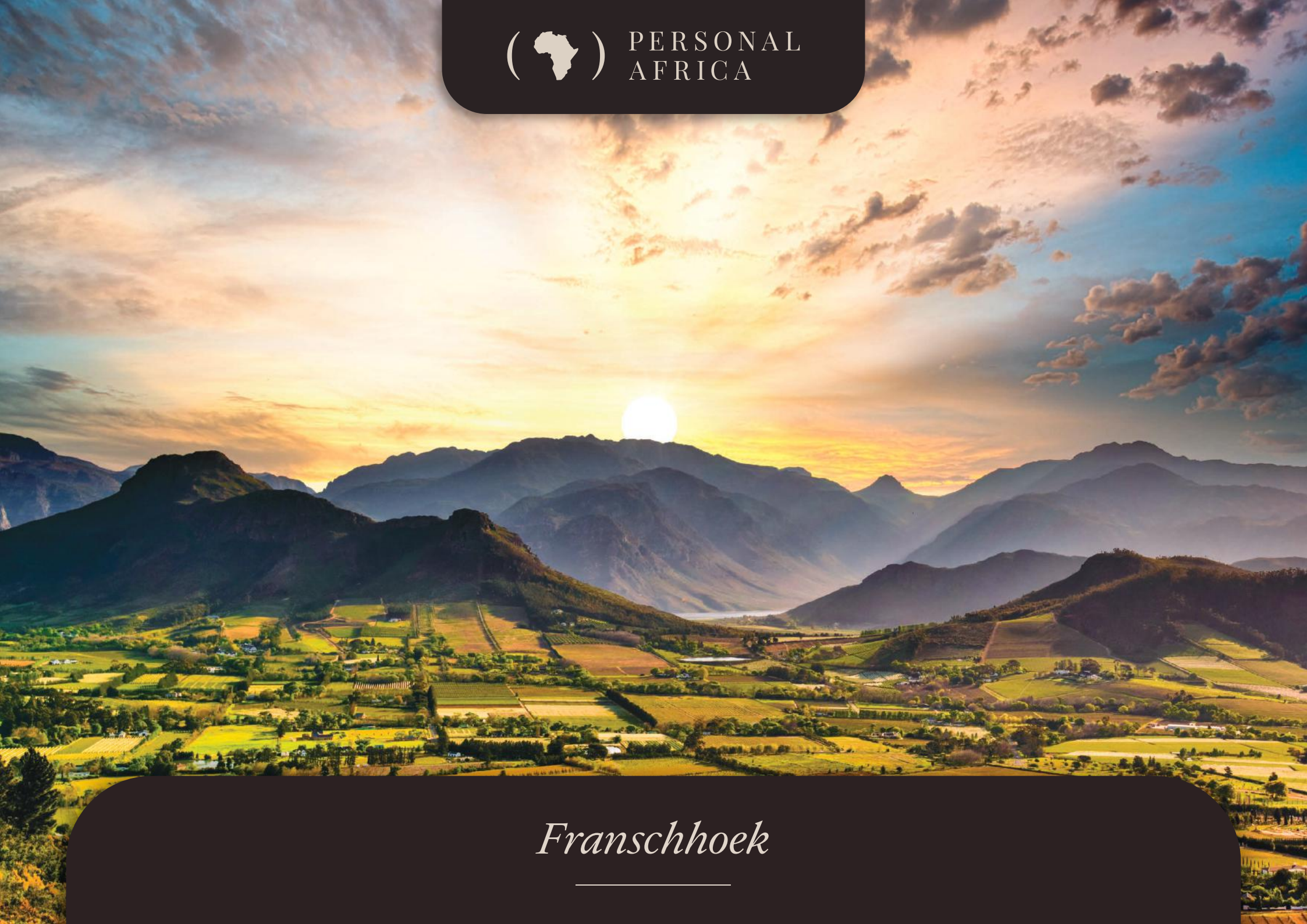




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Franschhoek



Description

Nestled in the captivating landscapes of the Cape Winelands, just over an hour away from Cape Town, lies Franschhoek. This enchanting heritage town has gained worldwide recognition as a premier destination for food and wine enthusiasts. Whether visitors choose to immerse themselves in nature, indulge in culinary delights, or delve into the rich cultural heritage, Franschhoek offers a plethora of activities to keep them engaged.

Renowned for its vineyards, the estates in Franschhoek allure wine connoisseurs from across the globe with their exceptional varieties, such as Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cap Classique sparkling wine, amongst others. In addition to the exquisite wine, the town boasts five-star restaurants nestled amidst breathtaking valley vistas, captivating the senses just as they have inspired artists and writers for centuries. The annual literary festival held around May adds to the town's charm, complemented by the captivating Cape Dutch manor houses, intriguing museums, and delightful boutiques. Franschhoek is truly a splendid destination to explore during the winter season.

As the summer season arrives, Franschhoek transforms into a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Endless opportunities for hiking, cycling, and various other outdoor activities await visitors amidst the lush farmlands and majestic mountains that define the region. Whether exploring the scenic trails or immersing oneself in the vibrant natural surroundings, Franschhoek in summer offers an unforgettable experience for adventurers and nature lovers alike.

<https://franschhoek.org.za/>



Attractions

Wine Estates

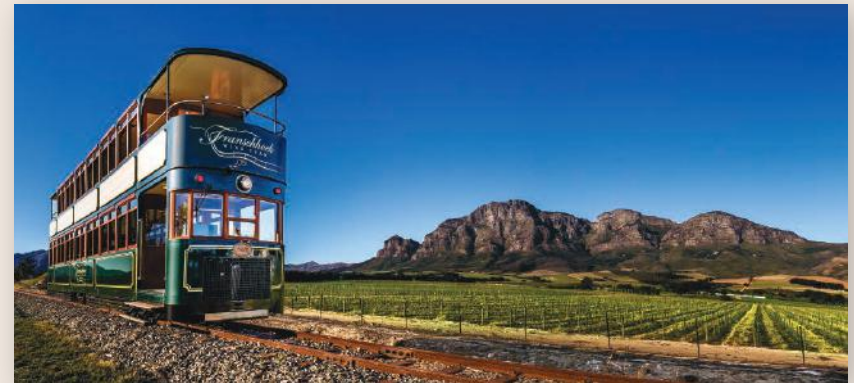
Franschhoek is famous for its world-class wine estates. Explore the vineyards, enjoy wine tastings, and learn about the winemaking process. Some popular wine estates include La Motte, Haute Cabrière, Boschendal, and Grande Provence.



Franschhoek Wine Tram

Hop aboard the Franschhoek Wine Tram for a unique way to explore the region's wineries. This hop-on-hop-off tram takes you on a scenic journey through the vineyards, allowing you to visit multiple wineries and enjoy wine tastings along the way.

<https://winetram.co.za/>



Huguenot Memorial Museum

Learn about the rich history of Franschhoek at the Huguenot Memorial Museum. Discover the town's French Huguenot heritage through exhibitions and artefacts that showcase their influence on the area.

<https://museum.co.za/>



Franschhoek Motor Museum

Car enthusiasts will enjoy a visit to the Franschhoek Motor Museum, which houses a remarkable collection of vintage cars, motorcycles, and memorabilia. Explore the extensive display of classic and rare vehicles from different eras.

<https://www.fmm.co.za/>



Franschhoek Art Route

Immerse yourself in the vibrant art scene of Franschhoek by exploring the various art galleries and studios. The Franschhoek Art Route allows visitors to discover local artists and their diverse works, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and more.

<https://franschhoek.org.za/art/>



Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve

Escape into nature at the Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve. Enjoy hiking trails that wind through the picturesque mountains, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. Keep an eye out for indigenous flora and fauna along the way.

<https://montrochellehiking.co.za/>



Gourmet Dining

Franschhoek is known as the culinary capital of South Africa. Indulge in a dining experience at one of the many award-winning restaurants, where renowned chefs create innovative and delectable dishes using locally sourced ingredients.



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Huguenot History & Heritage

<https://huguenotsociety.org.za/>

Description



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The Franschhoek Valley in South Africa is rich in Huguenot history and heritage.

Huguenots in France: The Huguenots were French Protestants who faced religious persecution in France during the 16th and 17th centuries. They were followers of the Reformed Church and sought freedom of worship.

Edict of Nantes: In 1598, King Henry IV of France issued the Edict of Nantes, granting limited religious toleration to the Huguenots and ending years of persecution. However, this edict was revoked in 1685 by King Louis XIV, leading to a renewed wave of persecution.

Huguenot Migration: As a result of religious persecution, many Huguenots sought refuge in other countries, including South Africa. A significant number of Huguenots fled to the Cape Colony, which was then a Dutch settlement.

Settlement in Franschhoek: In 1688, a group of Huguenots, numbering around 200, arrived in the Cape Colony under the leadership of Pierre Joubert. They were granted land in the picturesque Franschhoek Valley, where they established farms and vineyards.

Influence on Winemaking: The Huguenots brought with them their winemaking expertise, which had been honed in France. They introduced new grape varieties and winemaking techniques to the Cape Colony, making a significant contribution to the development of the South African wine industry.

French Influence in Franschhoek: The name "Franschhoek" itself means "French Corner" in Dutch. The town and the surrounding area still bear a strong French influence today, with many of the original Huguenot surnames still present in the region.

Huguenot Memorial: In honour of the Huguenot settlers, a Huguenot Memorial was erected in Franschhoek. This monument, featuring a sculpture of a woman holding a Bible, pays tribute to the perseverance and faith of the Huguenots.

Huguenot Museum: Located in the heart of Franschhoek, the Huguenot Museum provides a glimpse into the history and heritage of the Huguenots in the region. It houses artifacts, documents, and displays that tell the story of the Huguenot settlers and their impact on the area.

Today, the Huguenot heritage is celebrated in Franschhoek, with the town being renowned for its wine production, culinary delights, and charming French-inspired architecture. The Huguenot legacy is an integral part of the cultural fabric of Franschhoek, serving as a reminder of the enduring spirit of those who sought religious freedom and made a lasting contribution to the region.





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Recommended Accommodation

Recommended Accommodation

Franschhoek offers a variety of accommodation options to suit different preferences and budgets.

Luxury Hotels and Resorts: Franschhoek is home to several luxurious hotels and resorts that provide top-notch amenities, elegant rooms, and exceptional service. These properties often feature on-site restaurants, spas, swimming pools, and beautiful gardens. Examples include Leeu Estates, La Residence, and Mont Rochelle Hotel & Vineyard.

Boutique Hotels and Guesthouses: Franschhoek has a selection of charming boutique hotels and guesthouses that offer a more intimate and personalized experience. These establishments often have unique decor, comfortable rooms, and friendly hosts. Some popular choices include Franschhoek Country House & Villas, Le Quartier Français, and Akademie Street Boutique Hotel.

Wine Estates and Vineyard Accommodations: Many wineries in Franschhoek provide accommodation options on their estates, allowing guests to stay amidst the vineyards. These accommodations offer a tranquil setting and often provide wine-tasting experiences. Examples include La Petite Ferme, Grande Provence Wine Estate, and Babylonstoren.



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La Residence

Welcome to La Residence, where you can immerse yourself in a serene sanctuary of breathtaking natural beauty, indulgent opulence, and absolute seclusion in the picturesque Franschhoek Valley. Situated on a private 30-acre estate, encompassed by majestic mountains and sprawling vineyards, La Residence sets the standard for luxurious accommodation in the renowned Cape Winelands of South Africa.

Prepare to be captivated as you enter a world where tranquillity reigns, where every detail has been meticulously crafted to create an unparalleled experience of refined luxury amidst the splendour of nature.

<https://www.theroyalportfolio.com/la-residence/>

Franschhoek Country House & Villas

Step into a world of unparalleled luxury and comfort at Franschhoek Country House & Villas, an exquisite five-star hotel nestled in the idyllic Franschhoek valley. Here, you will discover exceptional accommodation that exceeds all expectations.

As you embark on your stay, prepare to be enchanted by the renowned Monneaux Restaurant, where culinary delights await. Immerse yourself in a realm of world-class guest services that cater to your every need. Situated on the outskirts of the charming Franschhoek village, our hotel serves as the perfect base from which to indulge your passion for fine wines, savour world-class cuisine, and explore the unique attractions that make this Cape Winelands town so renowned. Welcome to a truly extraordinary experience at Franschhoek Country House & Villas.

<https://www.fch.co.za/>



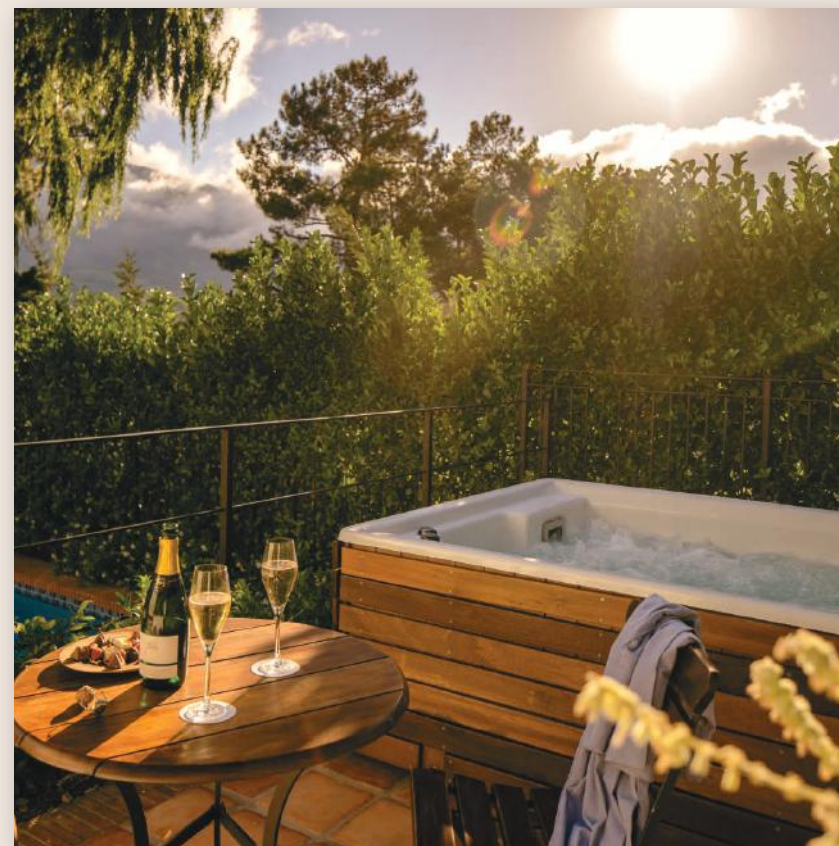
The Leeu Collection

The Leeu Collection is the manifestation of the vision of founder Analjit Singh (aka BAS) for sophisticated escapes and unique guest experiences.

Our hospitality portfolio comprises exceptional properties in South Africa's winelands: Leeu Estates, a premium 24-room country house and boutique winery in Franschhoek valley; Leeu House, an exclusive 12-room hotel in the heart of Franschhoek village; and Le Quartier Français, a romantic 25-room retreat also located in the village.

We expanded beyond South Africa with Linthwaite House, a 36-room country retreat in England's Lake District, and Collegio alla Querce in Florence, Italy, a luxury hotel with pristine gardens (opening 2024). Both Florence and the Lake District are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Situated on a sprawling estate, Leeu Estates offers stylish and spacious rooms and suites with beautiful views. Guests can enjoy top-notch facilities, including a spa, outdoor pool, and fine dining options.

<https://www.leeucollection.com/>



The Last Word Franschhoek

Located in the heart of the village, this boutique hotel offers intimate and luxurious accommodations. With individually styled rooms, personalized service, and a convenient location, it provides a tranquil and comfortable stay.

<https://www.thelastword.co.za/hotel/franschhoek>



Babylonstoren

Welcome to Babylonstoren Wine Estate | Babylonstoren is one of the oldest Cape Dutch farms, set at the foot of Simonsberg in the Franschhoek wine valley.

This remarkable estate captivates visitors with its stunning fruit and vegetable garden, boasting a remarkable array of beauty and diversity. Offering exceptional accommodations, delectable cuisine, and exquisite wines, Babylonstoren creates an atmosphere that evokes a profound sense of well-being.

<https://babylonstoren.com/>



Le Quartier Français (part of Leeu Collection)

This elegant hotel features beautifully designed rooms and suites, along with a renowned restaurant, The Tasting Room. With its central location and warm hospitality, it offers a delightful stay in Franschhoek.

<https://leeucollection.com/SA/le-quartier-francais/stay>



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Franschhoek Boutique Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Franschhoek's Main Street, the Franschhoek Boutique Hotel is tucked away behind a charming courtyard filled with cafes, galleries, and boutique shops. This prime location offers a peaceful retreat from the town's hustle and bustle while still granting easy access to an array of nearby eateries and attractions.

With its exquisite design and captivating style, this boutique hotel welcomes guests with 12 individually curated rooms. Each room is thoughtfully adorned with a blend of comfort and functionality. From vibrant and bold to understated and minimalist, every space prioritizes your comfort, providing a heavenly sanctuary to unwind after a day of exploring Franschhoek's wine estates and indulging in shopping excursions. Situated in the heart of the village, this boutique hotel combines contemporary style with historical charm. Guests can enjoy comfortable rooms, a courtyard pool, and easy access to the town's attractions and restaurants.

<https://www.franschhoekboutiquehotel.co.za/>



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Franschhoek Winery

Franschhoek is a renowned wine-producing region located in the Western Cape province of South Africa. It is nestled in a picturesque valley surrounded by majestic mountains, and its name translates to "French Corner" in Dutch, reflecting its history and heritage.

Franschhoek has a rich viticultural tradition that dates back to the late 17th century when French Huguenots settled in the area, bringing their winemaking expertise with them. Today, Franschhoek is considered one of South Africa's top wine destinations, known for its exceptional wines, stunning vineyards, and world-class wineries.

The region's cool climate and diverse terroir contribute to the production of a wide variety of wines, including red, white, rosé, and sparkling wines. Franschhoek is particularly famous for its exceptional Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines, which showcase the region's ability to produce crisp, aromatic white wines.

Franschhoek's wineries offer visitors the opportunity to explore and experience the winemaking process firsthand. Many of these estates have beautifully designed tasting rooms and restaurants where visitors can sample a range of wines and indulge in gourmet food pairings, often prepared with locally sourced ingredients.

In addition to wine tasting, Franschhoek offers a range of other activities and attractions for visitors. The town itself has a charming character, with tree-lined streets, boutique shops, art galleries, and award-winning restaurants. The Franschhoek Wine Tram is a popular way to explore the area, providing a hop-on-hop-off experience that allows visitors to visit multiple wineries without worrying about transportation.

Overall, Franschhoek is a must-visit destination for wine enthusiasts, offering a unique blend of natural beauty, rich history, and outstanding wine experiences.



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Boschendal

As one of South Africa's oldest farms, established in 1685, it has flourished over the centuries, becoming a cherished haven for nourishing produce, exceptional wines, and joyful reminiscences. Nestled within the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Drakenstein Valley, enveloped by verdant gardens, vineyards, and majestic mountains, the original farmstead complex stands today as a revered national monument with a captivating history spanning more than 300 years.

In the present day, Boschendal stands as an iconic landmark in the Cape winelands, beckoning both wine enthusiasts and culinary explorers. While our vineyards and fruit trees continue to thrive, we have also cultivated vegetable gardens and established a growing herd of free-range Angus cattle, ensuring our unwavering dedication to providing wholesome farm-to-table cuisine. Reflecting this commitment, our guests can savour the flavours of the land through exquisite dining experiences, immersing themselves in the farm's bountiful offerings.

At Boschendal, the timeless allure of agriculture, paired with a dedication to preserving the land's natural beauty, creates an unparalleled experience that captivates all who grace our farm's grounds.

<https://boschendal.com/>



Experiences

Werf & Cellar Door Wine Tasting

Spend a relaxing afternoon sampling Boschendal's award-winning wines. Savour every sip at our two beautiful wine-tasting offerings, the Werf and Cellar Door. Enjoy selections of seasonal platters and food and wine pairings that celebrate our philosophy of generosity and the best of our farm's local produce.

Garden Tours

Explore Boschendal's grounds during a guided walking Garden Tour. Gain rare and personal insights into the history of our farm, as well as our regenerative farming and sustainable gardening practices

Trails

Experience an exhilarating farm adventure at Boschendal. Take in our wide-open spaces, exquisite scenery, and picturesque trails on foot, horseback, or mountain bike. Visit the Trail Centre for a permit and route information.



PERSONAL
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Eikehof Wine Estate

Nestled beneath the shade of majestic, verdant oak trees along the R45 lies Eikehof Wine Estate, a cherished family-owned winery. Located west of the Franschhoek Village, in close proximity to La Motte, this hidden gem has been in the Malherbe family's care since 1903.

Today, after 120 years, Francois Malherbe proudly carries on the winemaking legacy as the fourth generation in his family to create wines within the very cellar his great-grandfather once did. The name "Eikehof" is derived from the splendid old oaks that grace the farm, a true reflection of the captivating beauty of the Cape Winelands region.

Eikehof has six varietals which include a Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Semillon, Merlot, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. The vineyards stretch over a 23-hectare piece of land, and peach orchards can also be found on the farm.

<https://eikehof.com/>



PERSONAL
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La Motte

This is one of the oldest estates in the valley. The estate is home to the family's Pierneef art collection and has a rotating art collection that passes through the farm. The wine tasting is done with flair, with glasses presented on a silver platter with a palate-cleansing bread roll. They are famous for their sauvignon blanc and shiraz.

Nestled in the scenic Franschhoek Valley of South Africa, La Motte is renowned worldwide for its exceptional wines of unparalleled quality. Surrounded by breathtaking beauty, the estate's picturesque setting and rich historical allure make it an enchanting destination for those seeking authentic Cape Winelands hospitality.

<https://www.la-motte.com/>



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Experiences

JAN Franschhoek

La Motte invites you to JAN Franschhoek, an exceptional food and wine experience presented from a charming historic cottage, the Veepos. This seasonal culinary encounter shares a nostalgic story with food as told by South Africa's first Michelin-starred chef, Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen.

Wine Tasting

Please join us for a tutored wine tasting in the Historic Cellar

Hiking Trail

Explore the natural beauty of the Franschhoek Valley.

Bakery

Artisanal Bakery and Garden Café.

La Motte Restaurant, Farm Shop & Museum

Closed for renovations and is due to reopen in 2024.



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Grand Provence Estate

Don't miss this one if you enjoy art. They have a wonderful sculpture garden and a great art gallery. Stop to check out the art and have some oysters and bubbly and then keep going on your wine travels!

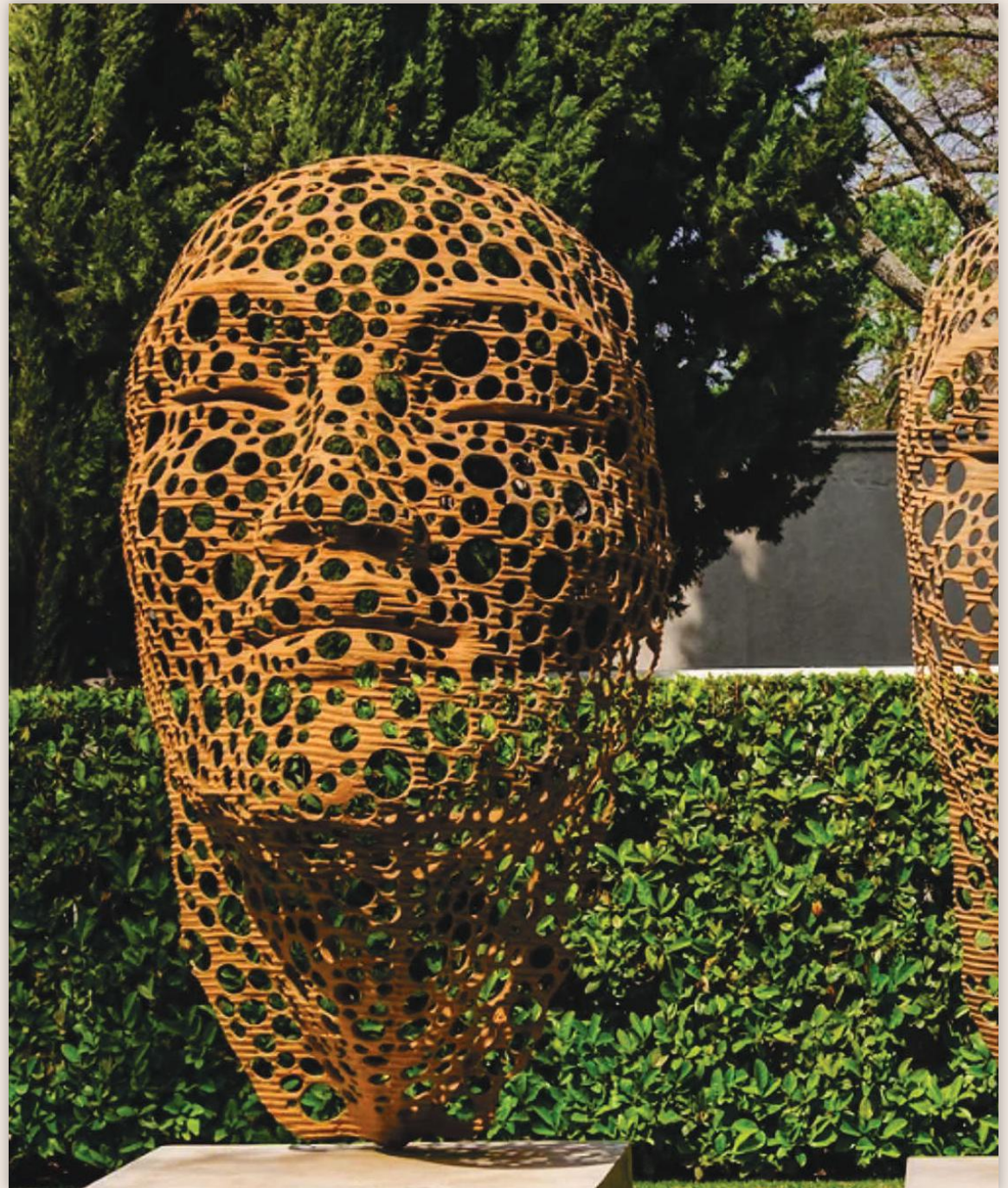
Grande Provence is a luxury wine estate located in Franschhoek, South Africa. Franschhoek is a renowned wine-producing region in the Western Cape, known for its picturesque landscapes and world-class vineyards.

Grande Provence is situated in the heart of the Franschhoek Valley and is known for its award-winning wines, gourmet cuisine, and exceptional hospitality. The estate has a rich history that dates to the late 17th century when it was established as a haven for French Huguenots fleeing religious persecution.

Today, Grande Provence offers visitors a range of experiences, including wine tastings, cellar tours, and fine dining. The estate produces a variety of wines, including Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Shiraz, among others. Their wines have gained recognition both locally and internationally for their quality and craftsmanship.

In addition to its wine offerings, Grande Provence features a boutique art gallery showcasing contemporary South African art, as well as a boutique hotel and luxury accommodations for those looking to experience the estate's beauty and tranquillity.

<https://www.grandprovence.co.za/>



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Anthonij Rupert Wyne Estate

Located in an old Cape Dutch Manor house. The Rupert estate boasts a wide range of wines – so it is a great option for everyone – especially if you have a family or friend group with different wine interests.

They offer a range of tastings such as champagne and nougat pairing and tasting of their flights of wine. You can simply book the "VISIT TO THE ANTONIJ RUPERT TASTING ROOM" option on their website and then decide what wines you would like to taste on the day.

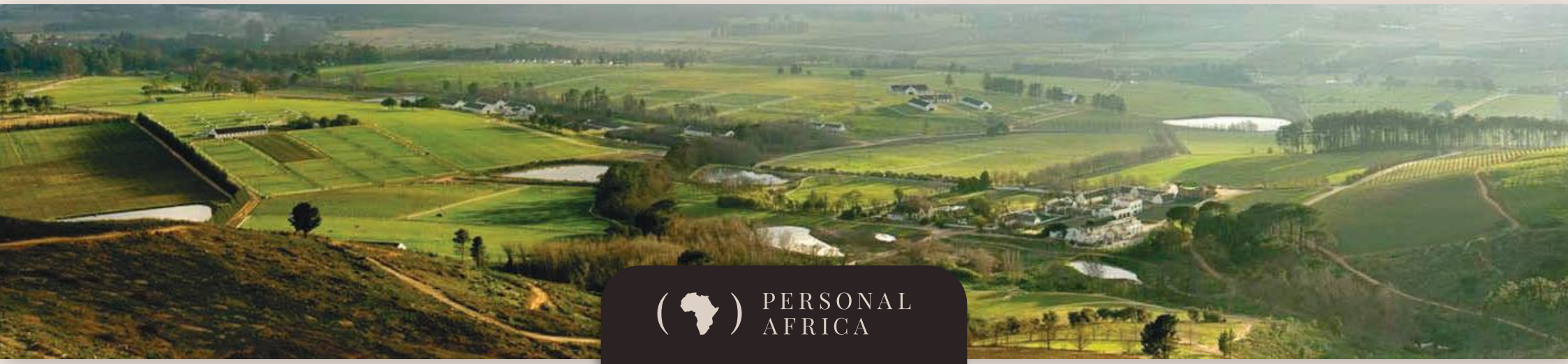
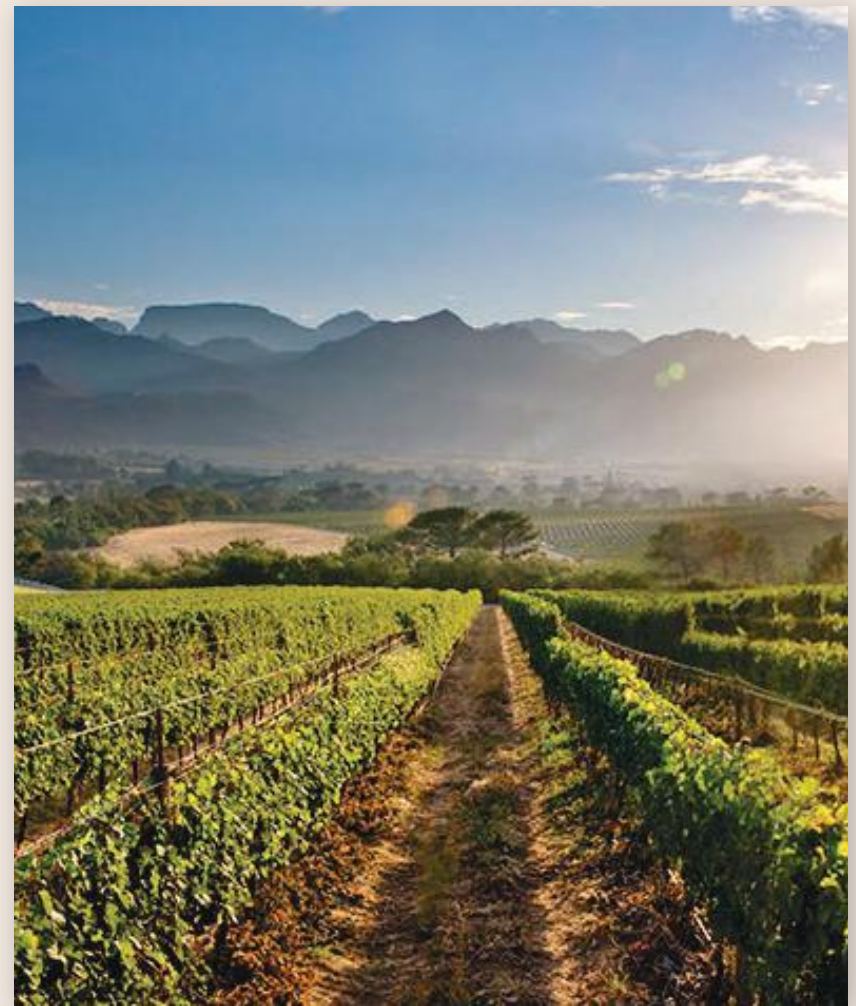
The great thing about visiting this farm is that the numbers are controlled due to the booking system. They have a HUGE LAWN next to the tasting area – so kids can run and explore and have fun. They also own the estate next door – so you can go across to their Motor Museum on the tram through their farm to the museum.

<https://www.rupertwines.com/>

Booking

You need to book before going:

<https://www.rupertwines.com/visit/anthonij-rupert-tasting-room>



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The Rupert Wines Estate

Nestled on the slopes of the Great Drakenstein Mountain range, is a picturesque destination that encompasses two historic farms: L'Ormarins and Anthonij Rupert Estate. This estate offers visitors a wide range of activities and attractions to enjoy.

Here are some of the highlights:

Tasting Rooms

The estate features two tasting rooms where wine enthusiasts can sample a variety of exquisite wines produced on-site. Visitors can savour the flavours and aromas of the estate's premium wines while taking in the scenic surroundings.

Cellars

The Rupert Wines Estate boasts four state-of-the-art cellars where the winemaking process takes place. Guests can go on guided tours to learn about the art of winemaking and gain insights into the estate's production techniques.

Rose Garden

A meticulously maintained rose garden is one of the captivating features of the estate. Visitors can take leisurely strolls through the garden, admiring the vibrant colours and fragrances of the roses.

Vineyards

The estate encompasses sprawling vineyards that contribute to the production of its world-class wines. Wine enthusiasts can explore the vineyards, soak up the breathtaking views, and learn about the various grape varietals grown on the estate.



Franschhoek Motor Museum

A prominent attraction on the Rupert Wines Estate is the Franschhoek Motor Museum. This museum showcases an impressive collection of vintage, classic, and rare automobiles, providing a captivating journey through automotive history.

Drakenstein Stud Farm

Another notable feature of the estate is the Drakenstein Stud Farm, which focuses on breeding and raising thoroughbred racehorses. Visitors can witness the beauty of these majestic animals and learn about the equestrian world.



With such a diverse range of offerings, the Rupert Wines Estate provides a delightful experience for wine lovers, nature enthusiasts, history buffs, and automobile aficionados alike. Whether it's sipping fine wines, exploring stunning gardens, or immersing oneself in the world of vintage automobiles, there is something for everyone to enjoy at this captivating estate.



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Haute Cabriere

Perched on the top of a mountain – this is a wonderful spot to pop in and enjoy an entire bottle of bubbly with a group of friends. Here you can do bubbles and wine tasting and stay for lunch.

Haute Cabrière is another notable wine estate situated in Franschhoek, South Africa. The estate is known for its production of both still and sparkling wines, with a particular focus on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir varietals.

One of Haute Cabrière's most well-known offerings is their Pierre Jourdan Méthode Cap Classique range, which features a selection of high-quality sparkling wines made using the traditional Champagne method. These MCC wines are crafted from Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, showcasing the elegance and finesse of the Franschhoek terroir.

In addition to their sparkling wines, Haute Cabrière also produces still wines, including Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and blends. Their wines often display a distinctive character, influenced by the cool climate and unique soils of the region.

Visitors to Haute Cabrière can enjoy wine tastings and tours of the cellar, which provide insights into the winemaking process and the estate's history. The winery also features a restaurant that offers a range of food and wine pairing experiences, allowing guests to savour their wines alongside delicious cuisine.

<https://cabriere.co.za/about-us/>



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Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines

On the slopes of the Dassenberg mountains, Leeu Estates is a 68-hectare wine farm home to Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines. One of the best wineries in the Cape. Famous for their chenin and shiraz. Excellent tasting experience. We would recommend booking both the Mullineux Signature tasting and the Mullineux Single Terroir Tasting.

Leeu Passant is a premium wine brand under the Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines portfolio. It is a collaboration between Chris Mullineux, Andrea Mullineux, and Analjit Singh, the founder of Leeu Collection. Leeu Passant focuses on producing terroir-driven wines that showcase the unique characteristics of specific vineyard sites in South Africa.

The Leeu Passant wines are crafted using traditional winemaking techniques and are known for their elegance, complexity, and age-worthiness. They primarily focus on old-vine vineyards and aim to express the individuality of these vineyard sites through their wines.

The Leeu Passant range includes both white and red wines. The white wines often feature Chenin Blanc as a prominent grape variety, while the red wines typically include varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Cinsault. These wines aim to highlight the potential of South African vineyards and demonstrate the country's ability to produce world-class wines.

<https://mlfwines.com/leeupassant/about/our-story/>



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