

WINE AND GOURMET TOUR WESTERN CAPE REGION SOUTH - AFRICA



Situated on the southwestern tip of Africa, Cape Town and the Western Cape is recognised as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Offering a range of attractions, breathtaking sights and endless activities, it is a year-round holiday destination with friendly people, a mild climate and rich cultural heritage.

Of course our tour specialises in the wine and gastronomic extravaganza which is the Western Cape and takes in the hallmarks of both these. Over the 13 Days that we are together we will sample and savour some of the best that the area has to offer. From award winning wines that get John Platters stamp of 4 and 5 star approval to the finest restaurants that ooze comfort and culinary delights from the foothills of Franschoek to the wave swept shores of Hermanus.

The whole tour is led by a local expert guide and promises a relaxed approach to the art of wine. We don't do the wine snob route we do the wine lovers route! We also make use of Sommeliers and local Estate specialists to add depth and differing perspectives to the experience of the wines at hand. This combination of guide also offers you the benefit of an in depth look at the socio-economic position of the country its history as well as a critical and at times flattering analysis of the vineyards and their offering. As far as possible we ALWAYS attempt to get the wine makers or owners of the farms in question to lead our tastings which offers the authentic feel of the area.

The route is specially designed to incorporate 5 of the distinct growing and terroir regions of the Western Cape which allows for a comfortable journey regarding drive time but still incorporating the "tourist" highlights of the area.

We hope to welcome you to our country of sunshine promise and wine!

And remember:

Let your boat of life be light, packed with only what you need - a homely home and simple pleasures, one or two friends, worth the name, someone to love and someone to love you, a cat, a dog, and a pipe or two, enough to eat and enough to wear, and a little more than enough to drink; for thirst is a dangerous thing.
Jerome K. Jerome

It is well to remember that there are five reasons for drinking: the arrival of a friend; one's present or future thirst; the excellence of the wine; or any other reason.

Latin saying

Day 1: Cape Town – Lady Hamilton ***

On arrival in Cape Town you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Here light snacks and a glass of wine will be awaiting you to welcome you to The Mother City. Depending on your touchdown time we may have the opportunity of doing a brief orientation tour of Cape Town by foot and bus.

Our first wine tasting and welcome dinner will be had at Steenberg, Inventive and talented Executive Chef Garth Almazan's cuisine epitomizes sophisticated contemporary South African cuisine in Catharinas on the estate. The excellence of its award winning cuisine and the superb wine list will make your dining experience one to be long remembered. American Express Platinum Award for Fine dining 2008, Diners Club Award of Excellence Winelist of the Year 2008



Tour Departs: N/A – Flight landing Dependant

Activities: City Orientation, Wine Tasting at Steenberg in Constantia Valley.

Lunch: N/A

Dinner: Steenberg Estate at Catharinas @ 18:30.

Notes: Please ensure you have a copy of your medical insurance and passport for your guide.

Welcome to Cape Town and the Western Cape, an area considered one of the most beautiful in Africa, and whose character results from the cultural melting pot of Indonesian, French, Dutch, British & German settlers, the local Khoisan (Bushman & Hottentot) tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north.

The paternal presence of Table Mountain, the pristine coastline with its white sandy beaches, the magnificent countryside with its bountiful rivers, vleis and dams, and the unique flora kingdom, together with the warm summer climate and friendly community, makes the Western Cape perfect for any vacation.

Day 2: Cape Town – Lady Hamilton ***

This morning weather permitting we make our way up to Table Mountain. This will take about 1-2 hours, from the symbol of Cape Town one has panoramic views of the twelve apostles, Robben Island and of course Cape Town City bowl cradled in her shadow, the geological importance of Table mountain and of course the legends and myths that go with the beauty. We make our way back down the mountain and onward toward Groot Constantia for our first wine tasting.



The story of **Groot Constantia**, the finest surviving example of Cape Dutch architecture and one of South Africa's foremost historical monuments and tourist attractions, dates back to 1685. In that year Simon van der Stel, the popular commander and later governor of the Cape, was granted land for a farm, which he named Constantia. When he died in 1712, the property was divided and a smaller farm created around the homestead and its outbuildings. The dessert wine produced by later Groot Constantia winemakers, in the 1700 and 1800's, became the toast of Europe's nobility and put Constantia on the map. Members of the British Royal House, Napoleon Bonaparte, King Louis Phillipe of France, Frederick of Prussia, the Here Seventeen of the VOC and 'polite' society in general, all toasted on the famous Vin de Constance.



The beautiful **Kirstenbosch** gardens covers an area of 528 hectares with 36 hectares of cultivated garden. The gardens are a celebration of South African flora - showcasing only indigenous South African plants. Fynbos, proteas, cycads and rolling lawns are intermingled with streams and ponds and well-laid out pathways for easy walking. A great variety of birds inhabit the gardens and the sweeping views from the upper slopes are spectacular. The gardens are a must-see when visiting Cape Town.

Tour Departs: 08:30

Activities: Table Mountain (Weather Dependant), Constantia Wine tasting at 11:00, Kirstenbosch.

Lunch: Simons at Groot Constantia @ 12:30

Dinner: N/A

Notes: Your guide will assist you in recommending a restaurant for your evening meal on request.

Day 3: Cape Town – Lady Hamilton ***

Today we start off our tour travelling along the Atlantic Seaboard via Sea Point, Clifton and Camps Bay, stopping at a Llandudno look-out point before continuing to Hout Bay, a quaint village and fishing harbour with magnificent mountain views and beach.

On through Chapman's Peak, one of the world's most breathtaking coastal drives, to Cape Point and the Good Hope Nature Reserve, which has magnificent fynbos vegetation, birdlife, endemic antelope species and zebra, historic lighthouses and shipwrecks. Cape Point is perceived to be the meeting point of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.



After lunch at **Two Oceans or Seaforth** restaurant, we go on to historic Simon's Town, a village with charming Victorian architecture, a naval base and a large penguin colony at the beautiful Boulders Beach. And let us not forget Just Nuisance shall we?

Simon's Town owes its name and original importance to Governor Simon van der Stel, who personally surveyed False Bay in 1687. He recommended Simon's Bay as a sheltered safe winter anchorage - but it was only in 1741, after many shipwrecks in Table Bay, that the Dutch East India Company decreed that their vessels anchor in Simon's Bay from May to August.

Situated at the south-western tip of Africa, the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) encompasses the incredibly scenic Table Mountain Chain stretching from Signal Hill in the north to Cape Point in the south and the seas and coastline of the peninsula. The narrow finger of land with its beautiful valleys, bays and beaches is surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the warmer waters of False Bay and has within its boundaries two world-renowned landmarks - majestic Table Mountain and the legendary Cape of Good Hope. The Park is recognised globally for its extraordinarily rich, diverse and unique fauna and flora - with rugged cliffs, steep slopes and sandy flats - is a truly remarkable natural, scenic, historical, cultural and recreational asset both locally and internationally. Nowhere else in the world does an area of such spectacular beauty and such rich biodiversity exist almost entirely within a metropolitan area - the thriving and cosmopolitan city of Cape Town.

Tour Departs: 08:30

Activities: Full Day Cape Point Tour.

Lunch: Two Oceans or Sea – Forth Restaurant @13:00

Dinner: N/A

Notes: Chapmans peak is often closed due to unstable soil, in this event we divert via Ou Kaapse Weg.

Day 4: Cape Town – Lady Hamilton ***

Today is a free day for you to either relax in the sun at the pool go shopping or partake in one of hundreds of activities available in town and the surrounding areas. We always recommend the full day Robben Island / Township experience which gives a very real and frank look at the other side of life historically and even at present in our democratic and vibrant society. For more details on this tour please speak to your guide or request a day tour dossier from your agents.

Tour Departs: N/A

Activities: N/A

Lunch: N/A

Dinner: N/A

Our morning starts with loading up our bus as we are saying goodbye to the city lights and moving on. We head North today to the scenically stunning Tulbagh and Riebeek West region. Of course our reason for the visit isn't limited to scenery, the terroir in this valley provides the Western Cape with some of the finest wines on offer. We will visit what is considered in South Africa to be the flagship of quality red wines from the area. Our first stop takes us to Rijks



Elegance, finesse, complexity and concentration of fruit are the hallmarks of the wines of **Rijk's Private Cellar**. Situated in the picturesque valley of Tulbagh, we "strive to produce fine food wines to satisfy the sophisticated palate of wine enthusiasts." All wines spend 12 to 20 months in the barrel, are then bottle aged for 2 to 3 years and only released when winemaker Pierre Wahl is content.

The **Allesverloren** vineyards creep up the imposing Kasteelberg in the picturesque Riebeek Valley of the Swartland, the vineyards ranging from 170m above sea level to well over 350m with a variance in rainfall of 200mm. These various meso-climates provide the ideal conditions for creating big, robust red wines. Cold, wet winters are followed by warm, dry summers when the grapes ripen easily with high concentrations of sugar. Yet the prevailing westerly winds, cool summer afternoons and the shadows of the mountain refresh the vines by late afternoon. The soils on this Swartland farm are a mixture of shale and weathered sandstone - a stony structure which is crucial to the particular character of Allesverloren's wines. It accounts for the extraordinary depth which vine roots reach here, thus sustaining strong, healthy vines and resulting in deeply coloured, powerful wines with an excellent concentration of fruit.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Rijks @11.00, Wine Tasting at Allesverloren @ 16:00

Lunch: Rijks Country House

Dinner: N/A

Notes: We will be checking into the Stellenbosch Hotel tonight.

Tulbagh is a charming historic town with a wealth of Cape Dutch Architecture. Set in a beautiful landscape, Tulbagh is famous for its heritage, magnificent country living, scenic beauty and majestic mountain ranges. Crisp clear wintery days, cold nights, mountain peaks topped with snow and the beauty of the valley to surround you. Warming sherries, log fires, cosy restaurants offer wild range of cuisine, accommodation to suit you and your family. Drive and see Tulbagh looking its best as the seasons change - blossoms bloom, mountain streams and water falls and the beauty of the Witzenberg. Tempt your palate in one of Tulbagh's famous restaurants and indulge in traditional, country and global cuisine and enjoy the hospitality of the valley. Take a drive through the mountain passes in the area and enjoy sites that remind one of a different country, a dream on travels, but the beauty of this all is on our doorsteps. Nature has graced this basin with bountiful supplies of water, wild flowers, fertile soil and plenty of sunshine, making an ideal environment for top class vineyards, orchards groves, wheat farming and holidaying. Summers are hot and dry, which is an ideal condition for the grape harvest, which is the start of excellent wines that get produced. 70% of all prunes are dried in the Tulbagh Valley.

With its oak lanes and historic waterways Stellenbosch exudes a charm few South African Towns can compete with. The town was founded in 1679 by the Governor of the Cape Colony, Simon van der Stel, who named it after himself — Stellenbosch means "(van der) Stel's forest". It is situated on the banks of the Eerste River ("First River"), so named as it was the first new river he reached and followed when Jan van Riebeeck sent him from Cape Town on an expedition over the Cape Flats to explore the territory towards what is now known as Stellenbosch. The town grew so quickly that it became an independent local authority in 1682 and the seat of a magistrate with jurisdiction over 25 000 square kilometers (9,700 sq mi) in 1685.

We leave this morning after breakfast and head directly to **Fairview** for a wine and cheese pairing. The home of Fairview wines is a 300ha farm on the south-west-facing slopes of Paarl Mountain, a granite rock outcrop in the heart of the Paarl wine district, viticulturally among the most historic and influential areas of the Cape winelands. Standing among the lavender beds in the terraced front garden of the winery, you'll look out across rolling fields and see distant flat-topped Table Mountain, a world-famous landmark standing guard over the city of Cape Town. As famous as their wines (which carry the Goats do Roam name) are the actual goats and their steeple.



Following our tastings here we make our way to the top the Taal Monument and then back down into Paarl for our lunch extravaganza at **Bosman Grande Roche**. The recently renovated manor house at Grande Roche is the heart of the hotel and home to the award-winning Bosman's Restaurant. A fusion of imaginative and innovative epicurean delights will tantalize the most discerning of palates.

The picturesque town of Paarl is cradled between Paarl Mountain with its magnificent 50 million year old granite boulders and towering Du Toitskloof Mountain range which signals the perfect time to enjoy sundowners by blushing. The balmy summers call for outside entertaining: a light lunch in the shade, glasses of chilled wine. Restaurants offer culinary delights that cater for every taste and fit any budget. The arboreal giants of Paarl provide shade on hot summer days. Meander down Main Street and be inspired by the décor and gift stores, enjoy good South African art at the galleries or lose yourself in antique shops. Pack a picnic and enjoy the Paarl Mountain Nature Reserve and Wild Flower garden. The array of endemic bird species will keep ardent birdwatchers happy. Paarl is indeed a town to visit for all reasons; we look forward to welcoming you to our Valley in the Cape Winelands. Paarl proudly bears the title of the third-oldest town in South Africa. A trip down the 11-km long Main Street, the longest in the country, is a trip down memory lane. The Berg River that flows through the Valley is its life artery. Nestled between the neighborhood are historic farms, contributing to the refreshing country atmosphere and lifestyle of this valley making this town the perfect getaway. Standing tall on Paarl Mountain and celebrating the birth of Afrikaans is the Afrikaans Language Monument, the only one in the world to honor a language.

The Taal monument, on Paarl rock, is one of the most famous Afrikaans monuments erected in South Africa and dedicated to the Afrikaans language. It was designed by the architect Jan van Wijk and inaugurated in 1975. The monument is shaped in several tall obelisks style columns erected on the granite of Paarl Rock. The monument, atop Paarl rock, is visible from a great distance as one approaches **Paarl**.

Tour Departs: 09:30

Activities: Wine and Cheese Tasting at Fairview @10.30, Afrikaans Taal Monument.

Lunch: Bosman Grand Roche @ 13:15

Dinner: N/A

Notes: N/A

Our day for sampling wines from Stellenbosch area and we begin with a Cellar Tour and Premium / Ultra Premium wines on offer. **Neethlingshof** lies in the very heart of the Cape's winelands in the Stellenboschkloof, flanked by the Bottelary Hills and Papegaaiberg Mountain just outside the town of Stellenbosch. There are many natural advantages contributing to the production of the fine, characterful wines at Neethlingshof: a variety of high potential soils derived from decomposed granite, gentle slopes and valleys offering a choice of aspects, the cooling effect of the nearby Atlantic Ocean on the vineyards during the ripening season, and an altitude which varies between 85 and 250metres. Of the Estate's 273 hectares, 165 are under vines. The variety of cultivars grown on Neethlingshof gives the winemaker, De Wet Viljoen, an enviable opportunity to craft fine varietal wines and exciting blends which are winners of numerous awards.



Our second tasting a **Saxenburg** Situated on the hills above Kuils River between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, the vineyards enjoy ideal soil and climatic conditions aided by the cool breezes from False Bay during the summer months. Combined with this is our policy of summer pruning which results in low-yield vineyards and consequently grapes of the highest quality. Saxenburg farm is over 200 hectares, with some 90 hectares planted to vineyards. The largest plantings are denoted to Shiraz, followed by Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Pinotage. The balance is made up of Chardonnay, Viognier, Cabernet Franc and Malbac, respectively.

Nico at Saxenburg is the only South African winemaker to be responsible for two vintages a year. Since 1996 to 2004 he managed one harvest in South Africa in February – March and one in September – December at Saxenburg's sister property, 16th century Château Capion, in the South of France. Operating on two continents, gathering invaluable experience of different "terroir" and working with different cultivars, has enabled Nico to increase the overall finish of the Saxenburg wines

The Stellenbosch Wine Route is arguably the country's most famous, and the Stellenbosch Wine of Origin area includes 106 cellars - most of which are open to the public. Enjoy a day's wine tasting, and wine buying and you'll sip more than our great South African wines - you'll taste our South African way of life.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Cellar tour and Tasting at Neethlingshof. Tasting at Saxenburg.

Lunch: At The Guinea Fowl

Dinner: N/A

Notes: N/A

Our day starts off with a drive over Hellshoogte Pass descending into the Franschoek valley. Our first stop is Boekenhoutskloof, Founded in 1776, Boekenhoutskloof is one of the oldest farms situated up the "Valley" in the Franschoek foothills. Marc Kent is the winemaker, cellar master, and part owner of this homestead and wine farm, its quality and vision can best be summed up by Marc - *Boekenhoutskloof has opted out of award seeking. "We simply don't have the volume to enter shows," he says. "Anyway, we'll find the people who appreciate our wines, or they'll find us and that is all that matters."* This is echoed by an average of 4.5 stars from John Platter, and this without any solicitation.



We will then stop off briefly at the Huguenot Memorial and then stroll down the main road toward our lunch venue at French Connection - The French Connection is a charming bistro-style restaurant with a welcoming and unpretentious atmosphere. Chef Patron Matthew Gordon (owner of the renowned Haute Cabriere), has created a simple, yet enticing menu, guaranteed to suite all palates.



Our final stop for the day is at Glen Carlou - To harness the farm's vast winegrowing potential, the vines are meticulously selected in terms of rootstock and clone, while every variety is carefully chosen for its compatibility to the terroir. Yields are kept rigorously low, ensuring that nature's gifts are distilled in the flavourful grapes that are harvested. And in the cellar - winemaker David Finlayson and his team join forces with nature to create three distinctive wine ranges. These we will indulge in as well as the Hess private art collection.



Mr Donald M. Hess, founder of the Swiss-based Hess Group that owns Glen Carlou, also has one of the largest privately owned contemporary art collections in the world. To reaffirm his commitment to the South African winelands, works from the Hess Collection are to be permanently displayed the Hess Museum situated in Glen Carlou's wine tasting and art facility.

After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in France in 1685, when Protestantism was outlawed, hundreds of so-called Huguenots fled their homeland, 277 of them arriving by ship at the Cape of Good Hope. Many of them were given land by the Dutch government in a valley called Oliphantshoek (Elephant Corner) - so named because of the vast herds of elephants that roamed the area. Soon after they settled here, it became known as Franschoek (French Corner). This heritage lives on today with the Huguenot monument standing proudly at the top of the village. The museum nearby chronicles the history of those brave pioneers, with each of the original Huguenot farms having its own fascinating story to tell.

As it's the gourmet capital of South Africa, you'll find yourself treated to cuisine that is delectably indulgent, ranging from gourmet to rustic with something for every palate. The village is encircled by a number of South Africa's award-winning wine farms where acclaimed winemakers create glorious wines. Tantalise your taste buds with wine tastings overlooking the vineyards where the grapes were harvested ... each one an exceptional experience heightened by the beauty of its setting.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Boekenhoutskloof @10:15, Huguenot Memorial Visit, Tasting and Art Exhibition at Glen Carlou.

Lunch: French Connection

Dinner: N/A

Notes: N/A

We leave behind the vibrant town of Stellenbosch and head inland to what is arguably one of the best wine producers in the Robertson Wine Valley, undoubtedly a pioneer in a more holistic approach to wine making and living by the motto - "To be good natural farmers we need to be observant. We can use all sorts of fancy machines to tell us how much water is in the soil but at the end of the day you need to look at the vine, see if it is under stress, and act accordingly ... We'd rather intervene in the vineyard than in the cellar." This is the type of approach we love and can guarantee that you will love what is on offer in this piece of paradise!



Other innovative wine making techniques is the use of natural yeast – " the use of natural, wild yeast that adheres to the skins of the grapes when harvested is practised to a large extent. "If the wild yeast works, it is worth it a hundred times over – even if it only happens once in three years" From the grape to the bottle with care and passion – oh yes!



Food in the valley is of course an important affair and we make our way to Fraai Uitzicht (closed between June and August) for our Lunch Menu. In the event we cannot make our rendezvous here we go to either Mimosa or Templetons in Montagu. Fortunately there is no shortage of award winning dining in the area! Well known for "lazy lingering lunches", Fraai Uitzicht 1798's country restaurant has been described as "the new princess' glass slipper if Robertson was once the remote Cinderella of the winelands".



Spectacular views across the vineyards to the distant Sonderend Mountains, informal décor with a traditional AGA stove all adds to the charm, which encourages guests to return time after time.

After lunch we slowly make our way over the mountain ranges and to the coast in Hermanus – Whale Watching Capital of the world and a retreat with the crashing of the ocean and the view of the same from your balcony overlooking Walker Bay.

Robertson in the Cape Winelands was founded in 1853. Nestled at the foothills of the Langeberg mountains, the town reflects the versatile South African society in all its diversity. Beautiful Victorian style houses set on streets with flowering jacarandas is one of the characteristics of "the jacaranda capital of the Western". The Robertson wine valley, embracing the districts Ashton, Bonnievale, McGregor and Robertson is less than two hours drive from Cape Town. Drive to the neighboring towns or visit one of the 31 wine cellars in the valley. Robertson Valley has interesting activities and attractions to offer such as, hiking the Dassieshoek trail, visiting nature reserves, horse riding through vineyards, 4X4 routes, succulent gardens and a huge maze to discover. Wine tasting, river rafting admiring the top race horses for which this area is world renown.

Hermanus (originally called Hermanuspietersfontein) is a town (population 48,346) on the southern coast of South Africa and is famous as a place from which to watch whales during the southern winter and spring. It forms part of the Western Cape and is a popular retirement town. The whales can be seen from the cliffs in the town centre from as early as June. They were once hunted locally, but are now protected. The Old Harbour Museum contains several exhibitions which explain the whaling history of Hermanus.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Springfield @ 11:00, Lunch and Merlot at Fraai Uitzicht: 13:30

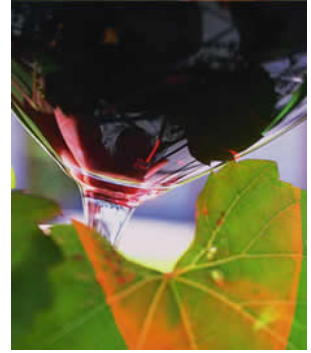
Lunch: Fraai Uitzicht

Dinner: N/A

Notes: Whale spotting best from June – November. Sightings are possible outside this time though.

Not many wine makers are keen on Pinot Noir in South Africa...then again Peter Finlayson isn't your average winemaker. The cool maritime climate and the right soil composition combine to make the Hemel-en-Aarde valley the ideal location for the fussy Pinot Noir, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay vines. In this picturesque valley wine lovers can treat themselves to a unique wine tour among the southernmost vineyards in Africa.

Bouchard Finlayson has taken quality wine making into a new era. Just a stones throw from the sea with frost free, soft, beneficial weather and the most rugged vineyard soils, Peter Finlayson makes Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc wines of great complexity and finesse. The estate is situated in the Hemel en Aarde valley



After building up an appetite we make our way to The Marine Hotel in Hermanus for lunch at Seafood @ The Marine.

The Restaurant style is informal and busy, with the emphasis on the freshness of the fish from Walker Bay, great style and friendly service. The open kitchen, with its young talented chefs, provides diners with a close-up view of the frenetic activity.



The Seafood is modern yet has a relaxed feel to it. The new floating glass wall panel with a wave design and beautiful lighting is a feature of The Seafood. The restaurant is warm, sophisticated, personalized and inviting. Subtle warm lighting, bold graphic pots, black and white photography, floating bulkhead, wave designed glass screen, glass sculpture all add up to a visual feast to pre-empt the culinary feast, make sure there are no allergies because seafood is all!!!

THE RIGHT WHALE was so named because it was considered to be the 'right' whale to catch. Rich in oil and baleen (the large food filter plates which hang from the roof of its mouth) and a whale which floated in the water when killed, this slow-moving leviathan became one of the most ruthlessly hunted of all species of whales. Today, the northern right whale is virtually extinct. In the southern hemisphere populations show a slow increase since international protection in 1935. There are estimated to be about 3 000 - 4 000 southern right whales at present, with South Africa receiving the major percentage visiting its coasts annually. Present populations of southern right whales are a fraction of estimated initial stocks. The southern right whale can be distinguished from other whales by its V-shaped 'blow' and the callosities which appear on and around its head. Although many people mistake these callosities for barnacles and although barnacles and other sea life live on these patches on the whale's head, the callosities are actual outgrowths of tough skin which form different patterns on each individual and which are a useful form of identification. To hear a whale 'blow' is like hearing the breath of life. The blow is a cloud of vapour produced largely by condensation when warm breath comes into contact with cooler air. It also contains oily mucus from the respiratory tract of the whale. Whales are large brained and sensitive creatures. Strong bonds exist between females and their calves. In normal circumstances they are non-aggressive and gentle towards man. As yet, knowledge about whales and the role they play in the marine ecosystems is fragmentary. However initial benign research indicates that whales are of greater benefit alive than dead to man. For this reason, if for no other, they need our protection.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Bouchard Finlayson or Hamilton Russel @ 11:00

Lunch: Seafood at the Marine

Dinner: N/A

Notes: Whale spotting best from June – November. Sightings are possible outside this time though.

Day 11: Hermanus – The Windsor Hotel ***

We head slightly inland today for a tasting of Paul Cluver Wines. Once a Neurosurgeon and now spearheading the family orientated run and managed business. The Cluver Estate is also part of the world's first wine and biodiversity route around the Groenland Mountain, a mentor of the Thandi empowerment wine-producing project, a provider of eco-tourism adventures, and a part of Slowine, where wines are made to accompany a leisured lifestyle.



The day is a wind down with our final dinner together at the remarkable Grootbosch Private Reserve, a jewel of Cape ecotourism and luxury cuisine and accommodation. The reserve is spectacularly situated on the fynbos and forest clad hills that overlook the whale-watching haven of Walker Bay. Grootbos has carved a unique niche in the upmarket eco-lodge sector by specializing in the Cape region of South Africa's world-renowned flora and marine biodiversity. This multi-award winning 1750 ha reserve is home to more than 740 different species of plants, offers warm hospitality, excellent cuisine, fine South African wines and is a nature lover's paradise

The Cape Fynbos Kingdom is renowned as a flora biodiversity hotspot and for more than a decade Grootbos Nature Reserve has promoted its beauty, interpreted its intricate stories, researched some of its many secrets and developed a suite of projects focused on conserving this exceptional natural region. Central to the ethos of Grootbos is that guests discover the regions natural wonders and directly contribute to its conservation and upliftment of our local communities.

Although a mere hour's drive from the city of Cape Town, you'll certainly feel as though you're in a completely different world once you're here, far far away from the hustle and hassle of urban life.]

The ascent to the crest of the Hottentots Holland Mountains wasn't always this easy. The first formal road was built in 1830, but long before this the 1400m high mountain range was crossed in ox wagons. Life in the Overberg (over the mountain) was a lot tougher then, and it took real adventurers to set off and start farming in this then remote valley with its seemingly endless mountain peaks. Today the region is world-famous for its fruit trees, cool-climate wines and roses and it is an integral part of the Four Passes Fruit Route. On the city side you have spectacular views from Sir Lowry's Pass over False Bay, and then the scenic N2 highway continues into our valley, sweeping through a countryside of forests, orchards and vineyards, and out over our eastern portal, the Houw Hoek Pass.

In the mid 1980's, the Elgin Valley was identified as a cool climate wine-growing appellation with the potential to provide slow ripening grapes with resulting delicate aromas and fruit character similar to that of Burgundy. Elgin is the only wine ward in South Africa completely surrounded by mountains, a factor, which further contributes to its unique climate.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Paul Cluverl @ 10:00

Lunch: At Thani @12:00

Dinner: Goodbye Dinner at Grootbos

Notes: This is our final dinner together.

Day 12: FLIGHT HOME

We make our way slowly back toward Cape town and the international airport. However what would be a day without a little taste? En route we stop off at Vergelegen for a sample of wines and a light lunch.

Tour Departs: 09:00

Activities: Wine Tasting at Vergelegen Wines 10:30, depart for CPT International.

Lunch: Lady Philips restaurant at Vergelegen

Dinner: N/A

Notes: We recommend a evening flight to fit all activities in.

Day 13: ARRIVE IN COUNTRY OF DEPARTURE

End of Services

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS:

Inclusions:

All Breakfast for Tour Duration
10 x Lunches (3 Course and More)
2 x Dinners (Other meals your guide can assist with booking)
All Wines at Meals as per Itinerary.
All Restaurant Waitron gratuities included
All Water at Meals as per Itinerary.
Water available on bus between destinations.

Wine Tastings at: Steenberg
Groot Constantia
Rijks
Allesverloren
Fairview – Wine and Cheese Tasting
Neethelingshof
Saxenburg
Boekenhoutskloof
Glen Carlou
Springfield
Fraai Uitzicht – wine and cheese tasting
Bouchard Finlayson / Hamilton Russel
Vergelegen

Activities and Entrance to:

Table mountain National Park
Entrance fees for Cape Point Entrance
Entrance Fees For Boulders Beach (Penguins) Entrance
Entrance Fees for Kirstenbosch Gardens.
Groot Constantia Homestead Tour
Afrikaans Taal Monument
Hugenot Memorial Visit
Art Exhibition at Glen Carlou

All accommodation in 3 Star Hotels
Luxury Coach throughout
Passenger Liability and Public Insurance.
Personal Guide Services Throughout.
Porterage Services included Throughout.

Transfers to and from Airport (South Africa Only)

Exclusions:

All items of a personal nature
All visa Costs where applicable
All items, meals, drinks not expressly indicated in the itinerary.

