

# SOUTH AFRICA SPECIAL INTEREST TOUR

## “Wines of the Cape”

This specialist wine tour to the Cape winelands offers a comprehensive introduction to the wines of South Africa. The tour includes visits to a variety of different wine producing regions, presentations by local experts, tastings of premier wines and a unique insight into South Africa's wine industry. Information is offered in a light and interactive way by knowledgeable and entertaining experts and the itinerary is diluted with general interest visits and gourmet meals, making it ideal for wine buffs or anyone with a natural curiosity and a certain 'joie de vie'.



**Day 1: Welcome, Cape Town** - Visit the nearby Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens for a guided walk around these famous and picturesque gardens. In the early evening gather for pre-dinner drinks, a welcome address and an introductory lecture on the history of South Africa followed by dinner at the hotel.

**Day 2: History of Wine in SA, Cape Town** - Ascend Table Mountain for a guided walk and orientation. Visit the Cape's oldest wine estate, Groot Constantia, and hear about the early history of wine-making in the Cape. After lunch enjoy a guided tour of the house. Afternoon visit to Klein Constantia, a beautiful privately owned wine estate, including a tasting of prized wines made on the estate.

**Day 3: The Art of Tasting, Cape Town** - After breakfast take the scenic drive to the Cape Point Vineyards, winner of the International Award for the best Sauvignon Blanc in the world in 2008 and many other accolades. Enjoy an introduction to the art of wine tasting accompanied by some of Cape Point's premium wines. A picnic lunch at Cape Point Nature Reserve then continue to Simon's Town and visit the Jackass Penguin Colony at Boulders Beach. This evening enjoy a private dinner at Rodwell House hosted by one of South Africa's foremost wine experts

**Day 4: Day at Leisure, Cape Town** - Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore some of the many attractions on offer in Cape Town.

**Day 5: Wine Making, Stellenbosch** - Drive to the second most important historic estate in the Cape, Vergelegen. Descend underground to learn all about the wine making process and inspect the workings of the cellar with the cellar master. After a tasting explore the manor house and gardens and then enjoy lunch at the estate's restaurant. Continue to Stellenbosch, the traditional heart of the Cape Winelands. Stop en route to taste Ken Forrester's superlative award winning chenin presented by the wine maker.

**Day 6: Terroir / Food & Wine Pairing, Stellenbosch** - Board the coach to visit the wonderful Mediterranean inspired cellar of Waterford Estate. Taste superlative wines augmented with exquisite hand-made chocolates – something different for the taste buds. Continue the scenic drive up the mountain to De Trafford wine estate, an old established cellar making remarkable wines, particularly Chenins and Shiraz. Visit Hidden Valley Vineyards with its magical vistas and listen to an in depth chat about food pairing with the chef and cellar master followed by lunch paired with wines from the estate in the contemporary restaurant, Overture, recently voted amongst South Africa's Top Ten restaurants. After lunch enjoy some free time in Stellenbosch.

**Day 7: Retail / Viticulture, Stellenbosch** - Board the coach for the scenic coastal drive to the seaside holiday town of Hermanus and the beautiful Hemel en Aarde (Heaven & Earth) valley. Taste the premium wines of Bouchard Finlayson vineyards. Continue to the Wine Village in Hermanus – one of the country's best wine shops – a one-stop indulgence in wine browsing and tasting. Listen to an informal talk on wine retailing and exporting. Lunch in the village followed by time to explore the shops and galleries. Enjoy whale watching in season. Return to Stellenbosch via the apple-growing country of Elgin and stop at the privately owned farm of Shannon Vineyards on the banks of the Palmiet River. Stroll through meticulous vineyards with the owner while he talks about viticulture (planning, grafting, trellis, pruning, enriching soil, pest control, irrigation, canopy control). In season taste the fruits of their labours in the vineyards.

**Day 8: Farewell to the Cape, Stellenbosch** - Scenic drive to the picturesque town of Franschhoek. Visit Boekenhoutskloof, one of the regions privately owned cellars for a special tasting of premium wines, with the wine maker. Time at leisure to explore Franschhoek followed by lunch. En route back to Stellenbosch stop at Thelema for an informative talk on the estates wines, and those of neighbouring Tokara - similar terroirs – different, but fabulous, wines. The evening is spent at the private estate of Rust-en-Vrede. Enjoy a private wine tasting followed by a superb paired farewell dinner in the restaurant of the estate – another of South Africa's Top Ten restaurants.

### Day 9: Flight Home

Late morning check out of your hotel and transfer to the V&A Waterfront. A last opportunity to send wine back home at Vaughan Johnson's Wine Shop. Enjoy the shopping and attractions of the Waterfront before returning to the airport in time for your flight home.

This tour itinerary is a sample only and can be adapted to suit the needs of your particular group. Contact us with details of your group size (we find from 15 - 30 is usually best) and preferred travel dates and we will research the best possible package for you. Individuals in the group who wish to stay longer, perhaps to add a few days safari in a malaria-free zone, may be accommodated.

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