

SOUTH AFRICA - CAPE GOURMET WINE TRAIL

ITINERARY

Day 1

The Cape Winelands Riding Centre is about 40 minutes from Cape Town airport and about 1 hour 15 minutes from Cape Town city. Transfers (extra cost) are arranged to suit your flights and other plans.

If you are already in Cape Town you are collected from your hotel after lunch so that you reach the stables at around 14:00 in time for an afternoon ride.

If you are arriving into Cape Town airport in the morning you can be collected from the airport. If you wish it, you can pay a supplement to have a morning ride and full lunch on the arrival day.

The itinerary ends with breakfast on the last day. You are then transferred to your accommodation in Cape Town. If flying that evening you can pay a supplement to ride and have lunch prior to your departure to the airport.

Meet your guides and horses at 14:00. Lunch is not included on the first day, but light snacks will be served during the ride briefing.

Set off on a two-hour introductory ride around the vineyards and orchards that surround the farm.



Guests are expected to untack their horses at the end of each ride. Help is always at hand should you need it.

A welcome drink is served in the yard after the ride, then there is time to freshen up and change prior to dinner.

Get to know your fellow guests over dinner at a local restaurant. A special event, with wine and local cuisine.

Overnight Cape Winelands Riding Centre. The following is the proposed itinerary, but please note that changes to the itinerary, riding route and overnight stops are possible due to weather and other local conditions. Any changes are made with your best interests in mind.

When the group size is less than 4 guests, evening meals may be at local restaurants rather than served at the wine estates.

You stay in farm accommodation at the horses' base, as well as a range of guesthouses and wine estates along the route. The wine estates used, and the sequence is flexible. The following is a selection of possible accommodation, but this should only be used as a guideline of the kind of overnight stops that feature on this trail.

The on-site farm rooms are simple, with nice views overlooking the paddocks.

There are two double rooms and one twin room, with en-suite shower rooms.



Twin room at the riding centre

There is a small swimming pool, perfect for cooling off in between rides.

Day 2

After breakfast, set off on horseback. This morning's ride starts on the Plasir De Merle Wine Estate. The route takes you through mountain scenery, orchards and vineyards.



Stop at Babylonstoren for lunch and wine tasting at Niel Joubert Wines.

After lunch, continue riding to your overnight stop. There is time to relax and freshen up before supper, which could be a traditional 'braai' (barbeque).

Overnight Le Bonheur Wine Estate. Le Bonheur dates back to the 1700's. Set in a beautiful location, between the Simonsberg Mountains and Klapmuts Hill.



Le Bonheur Wine Estate

Day 3

After breakfast, set off on horseback. This morning, ride towards Klapmuts Kopje, where there are sweeping views towards Table Mountain in the background.

There are some steep ascents and descents today. Depending on the ground conditions it may be necessary to dismount and lead your horse on foot for some sections of the trail.



Follow rural trails to Mitre's Edge Wine Estate, where you'll be served lunch and wine in the home of the wine maker.

After lunch, re-mount and continue riding to Kanonkop Wine Estate.



Here, you will leave the horses and take a short road transfer to your accommodation.

Recount the day's adventures over sundowners. Dinner will be a feast of South African home cooking, with wine from the farm.



Overnight Knorhoek Wine Estate. This 200-hectare wine farm dates back to 1793. It produces three wines and has a deli with products straight from the farm.



Accommodation is in en-suite guest rooms, with a lovely country style.



Typical room at KnorHoek

Day 4

Set off on horseback to explore sweeping views, forest trails and vineyards. Lunch will be at Warwick, where a lovely local picnic will be served.

Continue riding into a beautiful secluded valley.



Overnight Marianne Wine Estate. Two boutique wineries, producing hand-crafted wines. Influenced by French heritage this wine estate strives to make French style wines with South African vibes.



Day 5

After breakfast, head out of the mountains. There are wonderful views of the vineyards below and the chance for some lovely canters.



A traditional lunch and award-winning wine await at Anura Wine Estate.

After lunch, set off on horseback for your final stop of the trail to toast the end of your adventure. Leave the horses and transfer a short distance by road to your accommodation.

There is time to shower and freshen up before the farewell dinner.

Overnight Plaisir De Merle Wine Estate. Plaisir Wine Estate is situated at the foot of the Simonsberg Mountain between Paarl and Franschhoek.



Double room at Plaisir De Merle



Plaisir De Merle Wine Estate

Day 6

The itinerary ends with breakfast.