



## TRENDS

### Blossoming Hotels

#### WESTERN CAPE AND GARDEN ROUTE

##### BOTANICAL DIVERSITY



**BABYLONSTOREN** is one of the best preserved werfs (farm yards) in the Cape Dutch tradition. Not only the manor house from 1777, but pioneer structures date all the way back to the founding of the farm in 1690. The property is situated in the Drakenstein valley between Franschhoek and Paarl and offers a Farm Hotel, Restaurant and fully functional garden.

The garden is at the heart of the farm. It was inspired by the Company's Gardens of the Cape, where for centuries ships would replenish with sweet water, vegetables and fruit at the halfway station between Europe and Asia. It also hales back to the mythical garden of Babylon. Spanning eight acres, the Babylonstoren garden is formal in structure. Every one of over 300 varieties of plants in the garden is edible and it is grown as biologically as we can. Fruit and vegetables are harvested year round for use in our restaurant. The garden is divided into fifteen clusters spanning vegetable areas, berries, bees, indigenous plants, ducks and chickens and includes a prickly pear maze. Gravity feeds water into waterways from a stream into the garden as it was done for 300 years.

Whatever the season, there is always something happening in this garden. Guests are invited to join in the harvesting, pruning, planting or picking of the many fruit, herbs, nuts, spices and vegetables. Walks span over three kilometers in the garden and the gardeners would love to give guests a guided tour every day at 10h00.

##### MOUNTAIN SIDE PARADISE

**DELAIRE GRAFF** is situated overlooking the Stellenbosch vineyards. Here you will find a botanical paradise in a dramatic mountain setting. Discover acres of tranquil colour planted to reflect the changing seasons, spectacularly in bloom every day of the year. Flora and fauna play a very special role on the Estate as an incredible living backdrop for art and sculpture – a fragrant, peaceful garden retreat. To encourage biodiversity, over 350 indigenous plants and other imported, non-invasive species nestle amongst art, sculpture, rippling water features and reflective pools that work in harmony to create the ultimate tranquil garden setting. The greenhouses and dynamic gardens give the lodges and restaurants on the estate fresh organic produce year round for their kitchens whilst the spectacular floral gardens play their unique role as well. Layered colour greets guests from the very first moment and continues across every facet, planted to bloom 365 days a year.





## ROMANTIC COUNTRY SIDE

Nestled at the foot of Bainskloof Pass in a beautiful long valley, the exclusive **GRAND DEDALE ESTATE** is set on 380 hectares of vineyard, forest and fynbos and is surrounded by three dramatic mountain ranges.

Guests are invited to experience the mystical Doolhof Valley at Grand Dedale. Entering the romantic country road leading into the Estate, guests are surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery, vineyards and mysterious forests. The gates with the great "D" lead past manicured horse paddocks and rows of white roses, revealing the beauty and elegance of the Estate. Being the last Estate on a "cul-de-sac", tranquility and privacy are guaranteed. "Doolhof" is the Afrikaans word for labyrinth and was given to the Estate by the early settlers in 1709, due to the many hills and vales which allowed only one way in and out. Grand Dédale translates into "Great Labyrinth". Today, this labyrinthine topography is put to use in the placement of their vineyards, thereby taking advantage of the many micro-climates and terroirs which are ultimately expressed in the Doolhof Estate wines.



## CITY LUXURY

Set in the vibrant heart of Cape Town, the **BELMOND MOUNT NELSON HOTEL** offers easy access to all that's happening in this dynamic city. Enjoy a superb location at the foot of Table Mountain, and just a short stroll from downtown, the hotel offers the perfect combination of leafy tranquility and contemporary buzz. Set in the beautiful gardens of the hotel guests will find the Garden Cottage Suites. A row of eight restored, historic cottages, adjacent to the secluded pool, make up the Garden Cottage Suites. A luxurious home away from home, each cottage sits behind a scented rose garden, enclosed by a picket fence, ensuring a haven of peace and privacy. Light woods and airy fabric combine with bold splashes of colour to create an inviting, contemporary atmosphere. They also feature four-poster beds and glamorous marble bathrooms, making them ideal for honeymooners and couples.





## A MYRIAD OF DELIGHTS

**THE CELLARS-HOHENORT** is located in "Cape Town's Vineyard", the historical Constantia Valley on the breathtaking slopes of Table Mountain. All 48 rooms and suites boast panoramic views of the iconic mountain or over the 9.5 acres of beautifully manicured gardens. The award-winning gardens contain myriad delights for guests, and garnered the Relais & Châteaux Garden Award in 2010 for their exceptional appearance.

The gardens around the hotel declare the property's long history, too, with trees dating back hundreds of years, while the more recent Rose Gardens formed part of Liz McGrath's 20-year vision for the hotel. Currently there are more than 2 500 roses in the gardens, with the most recent addition being that of the Relais & Châteaux Rose, named for the 60th anniversary of the collective. Annually the rose beds require about six tons of compost.

These gardens slope up Table Mountain's side and are spectacular throughout the year, with different blooms revealing themselves across the seasons. The different sections of the gardens display some of Constantia's best indigenous flora, and guests are encouraged to spend time experiencing an all-encompassing affair with the natural surrounds of The Cellars-Hohenort.

From the fresh, epicurean smells of the Herb Garden through to the cool climate of the Fern Walk, the gardens are immaculately maintained. Different seasons, in turn, reveal the beauty of each garden; from the vibrant greens of the rainy winter season to the colourful blooms in spring, there is always something to see here.





## FLORAL KINGDOM JEWEL



The 2500 hectare **GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE** is a jewel in the crown of the Cape Floral Kingdom offering guests a complete immersion into the wondrous and magnificent world of fynbos. The rolling hills, mountains and valleys of Grootbos are home to a wide variety of fynbos types as well as pockets of afro-montane and ancient milkwood forests. The air is filled with the sweet, heady scent of seasonal flowers; the landscape sings with the sound of a million insects and birds; and the vast sky puts on an ever-changing display of colour and light.



With over 765 flower species, 6 of which were discovered at Grootbos, and over 2500 hectares of pristine wilderness, the 4x4 Flower Safari is the perfect way to discover the scale and splendour of the Grootbos Private Nature Reserve. With the wind in your hair and the sun on your skin, join a specialised guide on an open-top Land Rover for an interactive and sensory adventure that will bring the fascinating story of fynbos into radiant life.

## LIFESTYLE ESCAPE

Positioned on 613 hectares in the Garden Route, **FANCOURT** is South Africa's premier lifestyle estate with mountains, forests and the warm Indian Ocean in close proximity. 133 luxury rooms and suites including The Manor House, Spa, restaurants, three Gary Player designed golf courses and family facilities including a Kids Club. Guests can appreciate the magnificent gardens anywhere on the property and explore it further by taking any one of the walking trails scattered across the reserve.





## GAUTENG AND SURROUNDS

### URBAN RETREAT



**THE FOUR SEASONS HOTEL THE WESTCLIFF** is a stylish urban resort, elevated on a hillside with panoramic views across the Johannesburg Zoo. Four Seasons The Westcliff resembles a chic village woven with courtyards, fountains and gardens.

Guest rooms and suites are located within the collection of nine buildings, ranging from two to four levels each all with views focusing on the gardens and lush treetops.

The best spot to appreciate the tranquility of the gardens is the Botanica spa. The hotel's spa is tucked away amidst cascading gardens of the hillside village with the soothing sounds of birdsong and gently tinkling fountains. The Botanica Spa Suites is an oasis of indulgence, pleasure, relaxation and radiant transformation in Johannesburg.

### CULLINARY OASIS

It sounds like a paradox, but an organic rooftop food garden in the tree-lined suburb of Sandhurst, Johannesburg is an essential ingredient in one of the country's best fine dining establishments, Five Hundred, located at the multi-award-winning **SAXON HOTEL, VILLAS AND SPA**. The 450 square metre rooftop garden that contains produce such as tomatoes, mint, pumpkin, spinach, beans, zucchini, aubergines and a number of other vegetables, flowers and herbs, was developed specifically to feed diners at Five Hundred and was the idea of Executive Chef of the Saxon Hotel, David Higgs.



### METROPOLITAN TRANQUILITY



**THE PALAZZO MONTECASINO** is a luxury hotel located in the central suburb of Fourways, Sandton and surrounded by landscaped gardens and water features creating a tranquil and secure environment. The Tuscan inspired garden is the perfect place to sip a cocktail or drink some tea and refresh from a long day of touring.



## A LOST EDEN

The Jungle of the Lost City contains more than 1.6 million plants, trees, shrubs and ground covers. Built in 1992, the 5-star **PALACE OF THE LOST CITY** is inspired by the myth of an African kingdom that was lost to the surrounding jungle. As the story goes, an archeological party discovered the ruins of a magnificent royal palace, and brought the tale to life in what is easily one of Southern Africa's greatest architectural achievements. Conceived from man's incredible imagination, the setting is both fantastical and sublime: a 25 hectare manmade exotic jungle, complete with murmuring streams and gushing waterfalls that are crisscrossed with hiking trails. Even a cursory exploration into the Lost City's jungle will enfold you in exoticism and mystique.



## OTHER

### DELIGHTFUL RETREAT

Summerfields Farm comprises 100 acres of rolling hills running down to the river, with orchards of macadamia and litchi trees and granadilla plantations. **SUMMERFIELDS ROSE RETREAT AND SPA** takes up only a small portion of the farm. The owners had a vision to create an environment where active farming and hospitality can happily co-exist. Summerfields is the realisation of that dream. They established a greenhouse for the cultivation of long stem export quality, hybrid tea roses from French cultivars. The different rose varieties are cultivated with the utmost precision and tedious dedication to perfection. Tours of the Rose Farm are offered on weekdays, where you can learn every aspect of rose growing and about the many hybrids that we cultivate.

