

Winelands

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Lanzerac Wine Estate

A beautiful hotel set in a working vineyard.

Personal Impression

An elegant hotel, the history of the buildings and winery adds to the hotel's charm. The grounds have a lot of character and the hotel is spread out giving it a feeling of space and luxury. The public rooms are inviting and comfortable. This a beautiful area of South Africa and this is among the best places to stay while visiting the wine country.



Hotel Location

The Lanzerac Manor Winery is located on a private working wine estate surrounded by the dramatic Helderberg mountains. The hotel is situated in the center of the South African wine areas of Stellenbosch, Paarl, Franschhoek and Somerset West, and about 40 minutes from Cape Town.

Accommodations

Click here for Lanzerac web page with details of the rooms available. The rooms, restaurants, bars, lounges and facilities are all located in the estate's 300-year-old Manor House and out-buildings, amidst award-winning landscaped gardens featuring huge trees, some over 160 years old. The hotel has 48 rooms of varying sizes with two large Presidential Suites. All the room are spacious, nice furnishings and excellent bathrooms. There are many unique touches here, such as monogrammed sheets.



Spacious Bathrooms | The Monogram Touch | Presidential Suite

Dining, Wines and Public Areas

The attention to detail is also evident in the dining venues and public rooms. Of course, wine is a major player in the menus as you are staying on a vineyard. The bars and lounges have wonderful architectural details and there is something to look at in every direction. The hotel makes the most of their spectacular grounds with a great cigar bar surrounded by lush gardens and tables and chairs. The hotel features multiple dining areas with the formal restaurant being The Governors Hall featuring such delicacies as Four Hour Lamb, Norwegian Salmon, Crepes Suzette and Creme Brulé.



The Courtyard | Rustic Bar | Beautiful Grounds

Internet Access

Available for guests use along with business services.

Summary

This is a gracious and elegant hotel set in mature grounds with huge trees and flowers. Lots of space between buildings and everything feels peaceful. The rooms are spacious, wonderful bathrooms and attention to detail is evident in every aspect of this hotel. I would recommend staying here without hesitation. A great place to enjoy while you savor the delights of the wine country.

Website: [Lanzerac Wine Estate](#)

La Residence | Franschhoek Wine Valley

Personal Impression

This new property must be experienced to be understood. Located on a hillside in the wonderful wine country town of Franschhoek, about 45 minutes from Cape Town, it is in an idyllic setting. On one side, is the La Residence vineyard from which the hotel creates their own personal wines.

In front of the vineyard, is a lavender garden.

On the other side, is a lake complete with Egyptian Geese. A short 5-minute drive takes you to the delightful small town of Franschhoek and the lodge provides complimentary transportation. There is really only one main street that offers many wonderful stores and galleries offering high quality and yet reasonably priced merchandise. Very few can leave Franschhoek without purchasing an item or two.



Many of the top restaurants in South Africa are located in this small town. It is my understanding that The Tasting Room restaurant was voted the world's best restaurant in 2008. Rueben's Restaurant is also very famous. There is a lot to do in this area including wine tours of some of South Africa's most famous wineries.



The Main Lodge

This is a long narrow lodge that stretches from one end of the property to the other. Three huge Crystal Chandeliers enhance this area with a massive fireplace and exquisite art work, and incredibly comfortable furniture. This allows multiple groups of people to gather with some privacy if required. Meals are served in this area and can be in many different configurations. Although a stunning property this is a casual and comfortable boutique hotel. No jackets or ties are required, just nice casual clothing is all that is needed. On a pretty evening, sitting on the patio sipping drinks in beautiful comfy chairs and watching a fantastic sunset with the birds floating on the lake. The lake turns pink with the reflection of the brilliant sunset – this experience is simply unforgettable. The picture below was taken at sunset on our last visit to La Residence. To finish off that idyllic moment, follow with a delectable La Residence dinner in very elegant but laid-back surroundings and accompanied by good wines. This is a night you will not forget.

The Suites

The 11 suites here are totally indescribable. To try would take pages of descriptions. Each room is completely different. We strongly suggest going to the [La Residence](#) and viewing the rooms. Massive space, views and huge master bathrooms; it is the total luxury. You cannot go wrong no matter which room you select.



Food and Service

This property excels in the area of food and service. Your room can be booked on an all-inclusive basis including local wines and spirits, complimentary mini bar and laundry. Or you can book on a bed and breakfast basis. The meals we have had at La Residence have been superb and accompanied by excellent wines. Breakfast is served with all accommodations. Lunch and dinner are available to be purchased if you select the bed and breakfast option.

Internet

There is complimentary wireless internet in all the rooms and it works very well.

Spa and Gym

There is an outstanding spa with a variety of treatments available.

Summary

I highly recommend this property. Staying here is an incredible treat for the comfort, ambiance and exclusive nature of the hotel. An ideal situation would be to have five couples and take the entire place on an inclusive basis. This will be an unforgettable stay.

Website: [La Residence](#)

Sante Hotel, Resort & Spa

Cape Town, South Africa | The Winelands

Personal Impression

An incredible property. This hotel is part of a residential community surrounded by vineyards, mountains and spectacular scenery. The hotel is new and very modern but with a style and charm that instantly makes one want to stay forever. The spa is truly unique. I have visited many spas in my time but this is without a doubt the most spectacular spa I have ever seen. The second I walked in the door I knew this was something special.

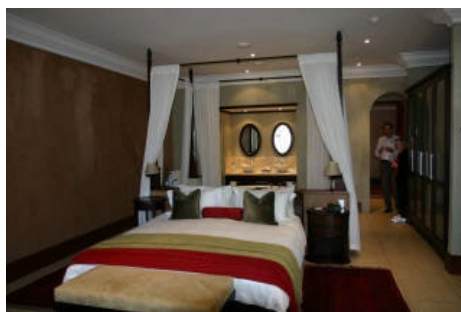
Location of the Hotel

From Cape Town, it takes about 45 minutes by car to get to the Sante Hotel. The setting in the vineyards is delightful and overlooking the mountains is spectacular. This area is full of vineyards, little ponds and is lush, green and quiet. The hotel is situated on a 160-hectare working wine estate.



Accommodations

There are different types of rooms in the complex. Manor rooms are in the main building and feature huge rooms with circular bathtubs behind the bedroom. Manor rooms would be my choice I loved these rooms. Spa rooms are in small cottages with four rooms per cottage. Very spacious and featuring walkways around herb gardens and ponds they have a wonderful feel. Vineyard Villas, the ultimate in luxury for four couples or families traveling together. Four separate bathrooms, huge living area with big fireplace, full kitchen with all appliances. A home away from home. All have every convenience, air conditioning, heated floors, TV, DVD, mini bars all the luxuries one would expect. Beautiful large outdoor swimming pool is right off the main hotel.



Internet Access

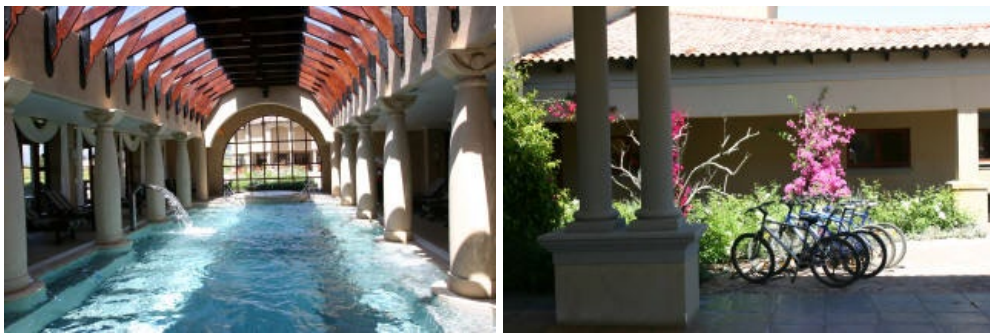
The hotel has a guest computer and offers internet access.

Dining and Wines

This property has a delightful dining room overlooking the spectacular scenery. The luxury restaurant offers a true gourmand's feast as the chef incorporates products of this fruitful valley into all meals, adding a unique local flavor. The wine list is large with all of the finest cellars in this world-famous wine region. As the hotel is also all about health, the hotel offers special dietary choices. These include the Detox Cleansing Diet, Weight Loss Diet or the Healthy Gourmet option. The Wellness Restaurant specializes in "à la Carte" health cuisine with a South African slant, while the Health Bar serves lighter meals in a casual al fresco setting. Light meals may also be enjoyed on the Hotel Pool Deck, as well as the Living Room.

Spa Spa Spa

This is the most incredible spa I have ever seen. Numerous treatment rooms all with different fragrances. Every therapy you have heard of and then many more. This is must be one of the top-rated spas in the world and you feel tranquil the minute you step into the long marble hallway that leads to the spa. Many of the facilities are available to the guests including a state-of-the-art indoor swimming pool where you can swim against the current, steam and sauna rooms, sun decks etc. There is a special treatment offered called vinotherapy that is exclusive to Sante Wellness Center. This is a spa that must be seen to be appreciated. I was impressed and I am not a spa type person.



Summary

A beautiful new contemporary style hotel in a peaceful vineyard setting offering top quality accommodations at a reasonable price. The spa is a treat for those who wish to relax and have therapy treatments. The area offers all the attractions of the wine country and would be a wonderful place to stay for a few days while checking out the wineries and small towns in the Wine Valley. I am determined to spend more time here.

Website: [Sante Retreat](#)