

Franschhoek is the best place for food and wine



Food in Franschhoek

Franschhoek likes to call itself South Africa's gourmet capital, and with dozens of award-winning wine estates and chefs creating superlative food and drink using the valley's natural bounty, it's a title they may well deserve.

Culinary tourism is big business these days, and globetrotting gourmets are hungry for much more than just a meal or a straightforward wine tasting.

So along comes the Franschhoek Wine Valley Food & Wine Route: a dig-below-the-surface invitation to 'learn-while-you-lunch' featuring the very best food and wine experiences, and local food producers, this idyllic French corner of the Cape winelands has to offer.

What makes this food and wine route special is that the recommended itineraries acknowledge that the enjoyment and appreciation of fine food and wine is part of a larger oeuvre of life's pleasures.

Art galleries, formal gardens, artisan food producers, Cape vernacular music, hands-on bread making classes, farm and microbrewery tours, and outdoor pursuits can be combined in any number of ways to guarantee foodie edutainment.

There are 6 recommended itineraries designed to whet your appetite for culinary adventure.

Choose a full day Cape Gourmet Delights tour, an 8-hour grazing extravaganza, that includes food and wine pairings, charcuterie, cheese, and chocolate tastings, and winelands lunches. Alternately, opt to ride on horseback or by mountain bike, through vineyards, before tucking into a leisurely picnic of locally sourced produce.

A map detailing the Franschhoek Wine Valley Food & Wine Route will be available by the end of March 2011 from the Franschhoek Tourism offices, route members, and selected hotels in Cape Town.