

HERAUSGABE [Condé Nast Traveler](#)
by [Jane Broughton](#)
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Courtesy Delaire Graff Estate
Cape Town

10 BEST WINERIES & TASTING ROOMS IN CAPE TOWN

These area wineries are at the top of their game.

Along with world-class vino, the Cape's wine routes deliver breathtaking beauty, eye-catching architecture—heritage Cape Dutch manor houses alongside ultra-modern cellars—and a generous dollop of South African hospitality. Forward-thinking wineries, from Constantia to Stellenbosch, have become lifestyle destinations in their own right. Along with tutored tastings, they offer magnificent gardens, serious art collections, farm-to-table dining, and luxury digs with spas attached. It was tough to single out a handful, but this list of Cape Town's best wine tasting rooms all are at the top of their game.



KAPWEINE
The Home of South African Wines

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Öffnungszeiten:
Mo.- Fr. 09.00 - 18.00
Sa. 10.00 - 16.00
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Photo by Charles Russell/Courtesy Leeu Collection

HOTEL

[Leeu Estates](#)

A whitewashed Cape Dutch–style cellar at Leeu Estates and Spa in Franschhoek is an intimate, romantic setting in which you can taste the highly rated limited-availability Mullineux and Leeu Family Wines, which are made by Chris and Andrea Mullineux in partnership with Analjit Singh, Leeu Collection’s owner. Uncluttered and stylishly spartan, the wine studio is an intimate space, with several tables for two and two large tables for 10 to 15. It’s worth peeking at the art collection, too.



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Courtesy Babylonstoren

HOTEL

Babylonstoren's Farm Hotel

Opened 10 years ago to the public after massive restoration and development, Babylonstoren, a historic farm, originally made a name for itself for its beautifully laid-out gardens and informative tours. Then came a deli, a bakery, a butchery, a cheese room, and a fragrance shop. The wine center, which opened in 2015, has become a world-class tasting facility, complementing the hotel and restaurant. Everyone working at the wine center has completed at least an entry-level wine appreciation course, so you'll be in good hands with tastings and tours.



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Claire Gunn/Courtesy Vergelegen Estate

ACTIVITY

[Vergelegen Estate](#)

A conservationist's paradise, the vast Vergelegen Estate in Somerset West, encircled by rugged mountains, is much more than a wine farm. You'll spot nguni cattle grazing in pastures, rare protected fynbos amid the vineyards, and acres of carefully laid-out gardens dotted with mature trees. The centerpiece of the tasting center is a colossal table hewn from indigenous yellowwood, made by local designer Pierre Cronje, and the terrace overlooks a herb garden.



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Courtesy Spier Wine Farm

ACTIVITY

[Spier Wine Farm](#)

More of a lifestyle center than a tasting room, the spacious, light-filled Spier features long wooden tables and beautifully curated shelves with everything you need to taste and enjoy wine at home, including a selection of books, kitchenware, and, of course, the delicious bottles. With a range from affordable to special-occasion wines, Spier offers tastings that can be tailored to suit anyone's budget and tastes. A chocolate-and-wine tasting is a surprisingly delicious diversion.



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Courtesy Waterford Wine Estate

ACTIVITY

[Waterford Wine Estate](#)

The drive through the picturesque Blaauwklippen valley, outside Stellenbosch, sets the tone for the arrival at Waterford, an unpretentious winery surrounded by Cape fynbos vegetation and mountains. Avenues of sweet-smelling citrus trees and rolling lawns invite you toward the cellar and tasting room, and a Staffordshire terrier might be basking in the sun. It feels like you're visiting someone's home. The excellent wines here represent the best of the region, and you can taste them inside an Italian-style winery courtyard or out in the vineyards.

ACTIVITY

[De Meyer Wine Estate](#)

With rustic, country charm in spades, the tasting room at De Meyer, a family-owned boutique winery, is pleasantly old school; picture whitewashed walls, barn doors, wine barrel planters, and a wood-burning oven. This isn't a sleek, modern architectural monument—no glass or concrete in sight. De Meyer's easily drinkable, food-friendly, affordable wines are sustainably made on a small scale, and The Table, the farm's restaurant, specializes in seasonal produce-driven cuisine that you can enjoy either indoors or outside among the trees.



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Kevin Crause/Courtesy Rust & Vrede

ACTIVITY

[Rust en Vrede](#)

Known for its award-winning restaurant, Rust en Vrede is an epic destination for gourmands who love fine dining. The modern winery, which has a split-level tasting room, is bedecked in classic leather and wood. A terrace beneath ancient oaks overlooks verdant lawns edged with rose bushes. The winery, which straddles traditional and cutting-edge techniques, is known for its range of reds, from full-bodied Cabernets to smooth Merlot, Shiraz, and red blends. Bonus fact: Nelson Mandela served selections from Rust en Vrede at his Nobel Peace Prize dinner.



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Grethe Rosseaux/Courtesy Cavalli Estate

ACTIVITY

[Cavalli Estate](#)

At Cavalli Estate in Somerset West, glimpses of elegant race horses gambling in designer paddocks set the tone for this sleek eco-friendly architecture. Vertical gardens will catch your eye before you head down a glass lift to the subterranean wine tasting lounge, which has a bit of a nightclub-y ambience. It's cleverly cozy in winter—there's a great fireplace—and cool in summer. The wines here are all produced from grapes harvested in the Golden Triangle of the Stellenbosch wine region.



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Courtesy Delaire Graff Estate

HOTEL

[Delaire Graff Estate](#)

Delaire Graff Estate is a designer winery with wraparound mountain and valley views. The panoramic vista out front encompasses the undulating vineyards, deep valleys, and towering mountains. In winter, the deep leather sofas around the fireplace are the best seats; in summer, snag an outdoor table under the trees. Either way, you'll feel like you've arrived in an elegant hotel bar, one with an enviable art collection to boot—an apt setting in which to savor Delaire's subtly nuanced, terroir-specific wines.



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[Steenberg Farm - Hotel & Spa](#)

Most wine estates boast about their age, but Steenberg actually is the oldest registered farm in the Cape. With a modern winery, a restaurant (Bistro 1682), and an edgy tasting bar and lounge, this is a multi-sensory space with earthy hues and textures, a sleek contemporary design, and cheeky details (including chandelier made from 2,800 individually hand-blown glass grapes). Fynbos gardens and flowing water form an appropriate backdrop to al fresco tastings on the shady terrace.