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# Max India's Analjit Singh Builds Grand Estate In South Africa

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Singh's new home: "This place gives me greenery, nature, mountains, fog, and science and technology."

We step out of [Analjit Singh's](#) blue [Lexus](#) into a picture postcard. Such is the scenic beauty greeting us. Singh is dressed in blue-shirt, turban and Nehru jacket—and poses with the panoramic mountains, also blue, in the background. We are standing under a benevolent April sun in Leeu Estates, Singh's farm in Franschhoek, a picturesque wine town in South Africa's Western Cape province. Singh points to a large white cross perched like a beacon on the slopes of the Dassenberg Mountain. "Everything below that cross is mine," he says.

We are on 68 hectares of farmland featuring vineyards, pomegranate and plum fields, oaks, olive trees and herb gardens. Men are at work laying bricks, building and restoring Cape Dutch edifices, putting together the many elements of what will be a boutique winery and 25-room, five-star hotel set to open next year as part of the Leeu Collection. "Leeu is our name [in South Africa]. In Afrikaans it means lion, just as Singh in Sanskrit means lion," says Singh. For the record, the number plate on his Lexus SW is, no surprise, LEEU 1.

Singh says that the manor house under construction will also include a library containing both Gandhi and Mandela memorabilia. The manor house overlooks a manicured garden with art occupying center stage—life-size bronze sculptures by South African artist Deborah Bell handpicked by Singh. "I know all the people in the art world in Cape Town," he says. "We have been acquiring art and sculptures, all of which will be displayed at our estate."

Leeu Estates is a composite of three adjoining farms—Dieu Donné, Klein Dassenberg and Von Ortloff—that Singh bought in a year. The total investment in the development is \$35 million.

The estate will include a gym and spa and a winery producing the Mullineux & Leeu Family Wines, overseen by husband-wife winemaking duo Chris and Andrea Mullineux. Winners of the 2014 Platter's Winery of the Year Award, the couple will develop a Leeu range of premium wines for release at the end of 2016.

Singh also has shares in their Riebeek Kasteel winery in Swartland, a wine region 30 miles north of Cape Town where he has another farm, for viticulture only. The Swartland winery specializes in Chenin Blanc and Syrah wines.

Leeu Estates is but one component of Singh's interests in Franschhoek. In this charming one-road town he also acquired Rusthof, a country house now being renovated as Leeu House, a soon-to-open 13-room boutique hotel that will be "very Cape Dutch" with a large garden in the front.