



Day Trips & Wineries

Stellenbosch p160

At the heart of hundreds of vineyards, Stellenbosch is an elegant town with colonial architecture and good museums.

Franschhoek p165

Lush vineyards surround Franschhoek's compact town centre, and its main road is dotted with excellent restaurants.

Paarl p169

The largest town in the Winelands, Paarl lies on the banks of the Berg River and has Cape Dutch architecture and vineyards.

Robertson p173

Further afield in the Breede River Valley, Robertson is the largest town on a blissfully uncrowded wine route. Many estates offer free tastings.

Hermanus p174

Clinging to the clifftops, Hermanus has pretty beaches, *fynbos*-covered hills and some of the best land-based whale-watching in the world.

Stanford p178

This picture-perfect village on the banks of the Klein River offers fabulous off-the-beaten-track foodie experiences.

Darling p180

Darling is known for its wine, arty community and inimitable drag show.

Langebaan p181

Come to coastal Langebaan for open-air seafood restaurants, phenomenal sunsets and kite-surfing lessons on the lagoon.

Stellenbosch

Explore

If you only have a day, start at the excellent Village Museum before turning to the reason most people visit this vibrant university town – wine. Choosing vineyards can be a daunting task, so stop at the tourist office to pick up a free copy of *Stellenbosch and its Wine Routes*. You'll need your own wheels (bicycle wheels will do) to explore the vineyards, which are scattered far and wide around the town. Better still, join a tour and enjoy sipping rather than spitting. Tours usually visit up to four vineyards and include lunch – eating at one of the estates is a Stellenbosch must. Those staying overnight will appreciate the town's after-dark vibe, largely revolving around bustling student bars.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** Villiera
- ➔ **Place to Eat** Schoon de Companje (p163)
- ➔ **Place to Drink** Brampton Wine Studio (p163)

Top Tip

If you don't want to drive, and a tour group doesn't appeal, try the **Vine Hopper** (☎021-882 8112; www.vinehopper.co.za; 1-day pass R240), a hop-on, hop-off service that visits 12 vineyards in the Stellenbosch area.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** The **Baz Bus** (☎0861 229 287; www.bazbus.com) runs to and from Cape Town (R260, 30 minutes, daily).



A WALKING TOUR OF STELLENBOSCH

If you need to walk off all those wine tastings, you could take a **guided town walk** (per person R100; ☎11am & 3pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am Sat & Sun) from Stellenbosch Tourism. Bookings are essential for weekend walks. If you prefer to go it alone, pick up the excellent brochure *Historical Stellenbosch on Foot* (R5), which has a walking-tour map and information on many of the town's historic buildings.

- ➔ **Train** The **Metrorail** (☎021-449 6478; www.metrorail.co.za) operates frequent trains from Cape Town (1st/economy class R18.50/12, about one hour).

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area Code** ☎021
- ➔ **Location** Stellenbosch is 50km east of Cape Town.
- ➔ **Tourist Office** (☎021-883 3584; www.stellenboschtourism.co.za; 36 Market St; ☎8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat & Sun; 📍)



SIGHTS

VILLAGE MUSEUM

MUSEUM

(www.stelmus.co.za; 18 Ryneveld St; adult/child R35/15; ☎9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun) A group of exquisitely restored and period-furnished houses dating from 1709 to 1850 make up this museum, which occupies the entire city block bounded by Ryneveld, Plein, Drostdy and Church Sts and is a must-see. Also included are charming gardens and, on the other side of Drostdy St, stately **Grosvenor House**.

TOY & MINIATURE MUSEUM

MUSEUM

(Rhenish Parsonage, 42 Market St; adult/child R20/10; ☎9am-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) This delightful museum features a remarkable collection of detailed toys ranging from railway sets to dollhouses. The real highlight, though, is a chat with curator Philip Kleynhans, who is as passionate about local history and architecture as he is about the charming museum exhibits.

BRAAK

PARK

(Town Sq) At the north end of the Braak, an open stretch of grass, you'll find the neo-Gothic **St Mary's on the Braak Church**, completed in 1852. To its west is the **VOC Kruithuis** (Powder House; adult/child R5/2; ☎9am-2pm Mon-Fri Sep-May), built in 1777 to store the town's weapons and gunpowder – it now houses a small military museum. On the northwest corner of the square is **Fick House**, a fine example of Cape Dutch architecture from the late 18th century.

BERGKELDER

WINERY

(☎021-809 8025; www.bergkelder.co.za; tastings R40; ☎8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) For wine lovers without wheels, this cellar a short walk from the town centre is