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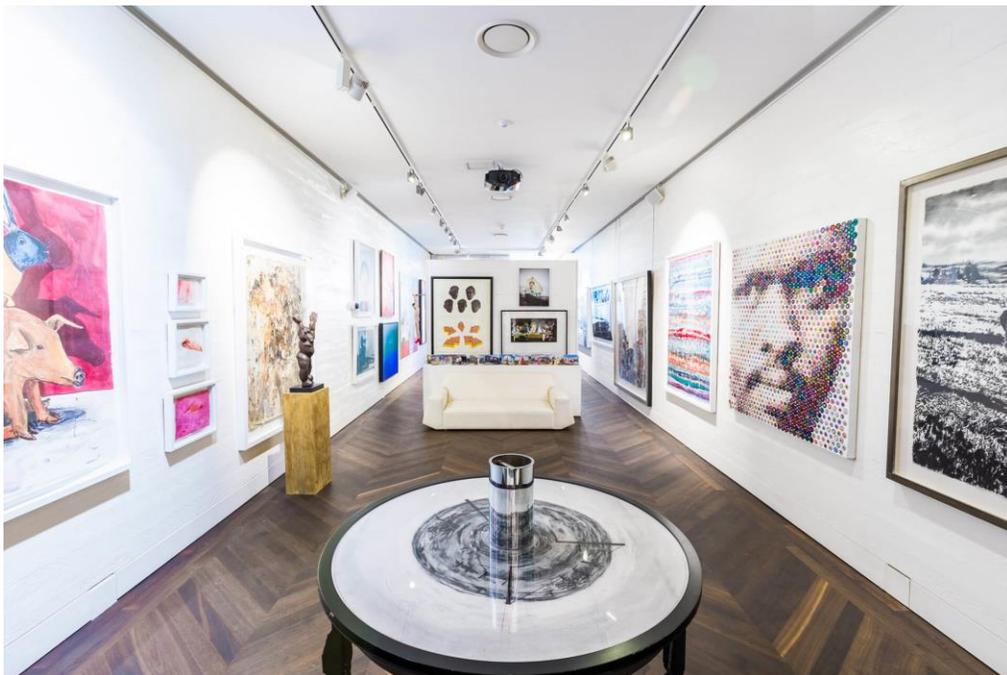
## Top 10 Wine Getaways of 2018

With easy access to a variety of surrounding wine regions, it's well worth your time to examine Cape Town's vibrant food, wine and coffee culture. Sheltered by Table Mountain and cooled by an Atlantic breeze, the small inner city has a surprising selection of excellent, culturally diverse restaurants with inspired wine lists. There's a passion for wine here, fueled by the area's world-class options available at affordable prices. Within day-trip distance of Cape Town's central business district (CBD), you'll find Stellenbosch's tropical Sauvignon Blancs, Constantia's crisp Chenin Blancs, Franschhoek's full-bodied reds and the renegade producers of the Swartland, who are making wine in a style all their own. —*Natalie Roos*



## Where To Dine

The best Cape Malay cuisine is served in the homes of locals. **The Bo-Kaap Cooking Tour**, a walking tour of the colorful neighborhood followed by a cooking lesson in the kitchen of local “auntie” Zainie, is a great way to experience traditional cuisine and customary hospitality. Find an energized vibe with on-point Mexican fare at **El Burro** in Greenpoint. Small plates inspired by street food across Asia are a highlight at **Hallelujah** in Kloof Nek. Authentic Mediterranean food from **Love Thy Neighbour** on Bree Street is a secret that’s worth discovering. **La Colombe** in Constantia and Cape Town hotspot **The Test Kitchen** are world-renowned and equal in terms of food and service, though it’s easier to get a reservation at the former.



## Where to Stay

Based in Cape Town, you're just a short drive from incredible adventures. For views and luxury, The [Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa](#) won't disappoint. Closer to town, the exclusive [Ellerman House](#) boasts a world-class South African art collection. Even more central is [The Mount Nelson](#), where high tea is a must. The new [Silo Hotel](#) is the hottest spot in town, and offers stunning vistas in the Waterfront precinct.

## Other Activities

Check out unique activities on the [Airbnb Experience](#) platform—current options include heading to the Winelands for lunch with a winemaker or running up [Table Mountain](#) with a photographer. A visit to the [District Six Museum](#) will walk you through the social injustice and forced removals that occurred there in the second half of the 20th century, while [Zeitz MOCAA](#) is a celebration of contemporary African art.

## Budget Tip

You'll be amazed how far your money will take you in South Africa. Quality wines can retail for as little as \$4 at a winery. Prepare to splurge, and bring extra luggage for your souvenirs.

## Where To Taste

To try something unusual, head to [Publik wine bar](#) in Cape Town. There, you can taste boutique and limited-edition wines you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere. Additionally, many wineries are a short distance from the bustle of city center. In Noordhoek, [Cape Point Vineyards](#) is in an ideal spot for long days in the sun. Stunning vistas and gorgeous grounds are open for guests to enjoy a picnic (packed baskets available for purchase) alongside their delicious wines. Take a trip along the [Constantia Wine Route](#) to enjoy eight of the region's wineries, like the historic [Klein Constantia](#) estate and its Vin de Constance sweet wine, and [Beau Constantia](#), where views, wine and exceptional food are combined at the Winelands iteration of Bree Street's popular [Chef's Warehouse](#).

## When to Go

March and November, the months that precede and follow the main tourist season, are best for mild weather and less traffic.

## Prominent Wines

The beauty of South Africa's wines is in the diversity of offerings. Stellar examples of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir can be discovered in Elgin and Hemel-en-Aarde. Big

Cabernets or Bordeaux-style red blends are at home in Stellenbosch, particularly in Simonsberg-Stellenbosch and Jonkershoek Valley. Fans of Shiraz and Rhône-style blends will find plenty of world-class wines in Franschhoek and the Swartland, while bubbly aficionados should consider any farm that makes a traditional Méthode Cap Classique sparkling wine. Be sure not to overlook two of the country's signature grapes, Chenin Blanc and Pinotage. Chenin Blanc can be expressed in a range of styles, from dry to sweet and just about everything in between. And while it can be polarizing, today's Pinotage is a far cry from the bottlings of yore. Both are worth an opportunity to charm you and your palate.

### **Local In The Know**

There are plenty of shops, wine bars, activities and nature-centric tourist stops like Table Mountain park and Boulders Beach around Cape Town. But [David Cope](#), owner of Publik wine bar and the [Alphabetical](#) wine brand, suggests a day trip to the Swartland wine region to visit the [Wine Kollektive](#) in Riebeeck Kasteel. "Filled with the best of the region, and some hard-to-get wines from cult producers like [Sadie](#), [Badenhorst](#) and [Mullineux](#), owner Anton [Espost] is also always on hand with amusing anecdotes and stories," he says. He recommends then popping across the road to the [Royal Hotel](#), where a range of gin and tonics are served on the hotel's expansive veranda.

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