

Stayover in Stellenbosch

As if showcasing more than 500 wines under one roof is not enough, this year the Stellenbosch Wine Festival goes the extra mile to extend its winelands hospitality even further with its Wine Week, between Friday July 24 and Friday July 31.

Participating wine farms situated along the popular Stellenbosch American Express® Wine Routes – home to more than 145 will open their cellar doors for a week before the eighth annual Stellenbosch Wine Festival which takes place from Thursday July 30 to Sunday August 2.

The Wine Week offers a wide-ranging kaleidoscope of family-friendly activities including adventurous day trips, restaurant specials, wine-maker dinners and rare vertical and varietal wine tastings.

Thrill-seeking travellers can sign up for a full-day tour of the Winelands on a bicycle or set off on a scenic donkey hike and wine picnic on the Polkadraai Hills, while special area visits to selected farms on the five different sub-routes – Greater Simonsberg, Stellenbosch Berg, Helderberg, Stellenbosch Hills and Botterlaar Hills, will give you insight into the diversity and delights of the Stellenbosch Winelands.

The Wine Week programme also celebrates the complementary effect wine and food have on each other with special dinners hosted at signature Winelands restaurants ranging from five-star crème de la crème and hot new dining spots to the more rustic, all time favourites and winter-inspired cellar meals. Newcomers on the Stellenbosch Wine Routes include Simonsig's Cluvée restaurant and the restaurant at Delaire Graff Estate which will both cook up a special food and wine menu during the Wine Week.

Other dining experiences include a 12-course food and wine evening hosted at 96 Winery Road Restaurant and a special organic food and wine pairing at the newly transformed Waterkloof cellar and new tasting centre overlooking False Bay.

Wine enthusiasts looking for a more hands-on encounter can sign up for wine blending sessions at Lovane Boutique Wine Estate and Apprentice restaurant, while you can also roll up your sleeves for tutored vine pruning sessions at Simonsig Estate.

Various art exhibitions will also be showcased during the Stellenbosch Wine Week, including an art installation commemorating 350 years of winemaking in South Africa by world-renowned landscape artist, Strijdom van der Merwe, at Simonsig Estate.

The Stellenbosch Wine Festival is hosted at the Paul Roos Centre. Tickets are available at Computicket, from R100 each, to R300 for the Golden Pass. For a complete Wine Week Programme and more information call 021 886 4310 or visit www.wineroute.co.za.

● One lucky winner can win a two night weekend for two people sharing at Magnolia Place in Stellenbosch, including their famous picnic breakfast, a two bottle gift pack of Fleur du Cap Pinotage and Chenin Blanc and a cellar tour for two at the Bergkelder and a winetasting.

Simply answer the question: Where is the Stellenbosch Wine Festival hosted and email your reply to anine@gc-com.co.za or post it to: P O Box 27203, Rhine Road 8050, by no later than Monday July 20.

The organisers will deal directly with the winner.

● The Stellenbosch Wine Festival will be implementing a recycling project again this year with the assistance of Let's Talk Rubbish to ensure waste from the festival will be disposed of in a responsible manner.

Not only will recycling bins be available around every corner but festival goers can also expect to see bio-degradable plates and cutlery at the gourmet lane.

Waste will be sorted in three different categories: dry waste, wet waste and inorganic, unrecyclable waste in bins.

Dry waste includes products such as empty bottles, cans, cardboard rolls, chips packets and polystyrene, while wet waste consists of all food, cooked and raw, leftovers, soiled paper and food packaging. Inorganic waste comprises rubbish that cannot be recycled such as foam or yoghurt.



Die landskapkunsenaar Strijdom van der Merwe wys gister sy nuutste kunswerk in Stellenbosch. Dit is geskep ter viering van 350 jaar van wynmaak in Suid-Afrika, asook met die oog op die Stellenbosse Wynfees, wat van 30 Julie tot 2 Augustus plaasvind. Die kunswerk, wat bestaan uit onder meer vyf groot rooi rame, kan vir die volgende jaar op die grasperk van die wynplaas Simonsig gesien word. Aangesien die kunswerk vir so 'n lang tyd buite moet staan, het Van der Merwe duursame materiale gebruik wat weerbestand is. Van der Merwe het verlede jaar die stamme van 393 bome in Dorpsstraat met rooi lappe toege draai. Dit was een van die grootse landskapkunswerke tot nog toe in Suid-Afrika.

Foto: LEANNE STANDER



FOKUS OP WYN

Die Burger se gewilde Wyn-bylae verskyn dié maand op Dinsdag 28 Julie. Vandeesmaand word daar gefokus op die Stellenbosch-wynfees. Lees ook meer oor die plaaslike wynbedryf. Om in die bylae te adverteer, skakel Marisa Naudé gerus by ☎ 021 406 2534 of stuur 'n e-pos na mnaude@dieburger.com, of skakel Jannet Brink by ☎ 021 406 4387 of stuur 'n e-pos na jbrink@dieburger.com.

Foto: FRANCOIS NEL