

GLAMOUR

SEPTEMBER 2022

**HOW TO NAIL
SPRING'S
HOTTEST
BEAUTY
TRENDS**

**THE PARTY
SEASON
STYLE GUIDE**

**CHLOE BAILEY
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FEARLESS &
UNSTOPPABLE**



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Is In Control



CITRUS CRUSH

Getting a reservation at Babylonstoren isn't easy. It's one of the most sought-after holiday destinations in the Cape due to its picturesque Winelands setting.

WORDS BY NONTANDO MPOSO

I finally secured a weekend stay at Babylonstoren after months of trying, and with the help of its reservations team, we planned numerous activities. (There's so much to do on the farm that planning an itinerary is advisable.)

Situated in Franschhoek's wine valley, Babylonstoren has the majestic Simonsberg as its backdrop. The sunrise and sunset are magical, covering its buildings, gardens and the surrounding mountains with a warm glow.

Wine varieties produced on the farm are chardonnay, chenin blanc, viognier, sémillon, shiraz, mourvèdre (my favourite), pinot noir, cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, merlot, malbec, petit verdot and pinotage. The food is also worth talking about, made with fresh, healthy, mouth-watering ingredients from the farm.

With its restored Cape Dutch architecture, the farm boasts one of the

best-preserved plaaswerwfs (farmyards) in the Cape. From arrival to departure, the service is five-star and everything, from the interior to the services offered, is planned and executed to a tee.

Here are some of the highlights from my staycation.

NAVIGATING BABYLONSTOREN

Upon arrival, Fynbos guests receive a golf cart for the duration of their stay, which we used to tour the expansive farm. Passing citrus trees was a highlight for my three-year-old toddler, as was eating juicy, sweet naartjies. That comforting citrus smell lingered in the air everywhere we went.

THE GARDEN

Diversity is a trademark of the only Royal Horticultural Society partner garden in Africa, which is so beautiful it'll take your breath away.

A combination of a magnificent garden with pergolas, gravel pathways and mini water canals, the garden design was inspired by the historic Company's Garden in Cape Town, which, for centuries, supplied ships sailing between Europe and Asia with vegetables and fruit.

The garden includes vegetable patches, orchards of fruit and nuts, fragrant indigenous plants, a prickly pear maze to wander through and a palette of trees

“That comforting citrus smell lingered in the air”

PHOTOGRAPHY: EVGENIYA SAVINA, SUPPLIED



of historical or botanical significance. Ducks, chickens, and bees for pollinating, roam freely in the garden. A guided tour of the garden is available if you want to learn more about the 300-plus varieties of trees and thousands of plant species spread throughout the farm.

FYNBOS COTTAGE



vines, giving the sense of being outside, even though you're not.

It can get cold in the morning and at night, but the fireplace provided warmth and a cosy ambience.

RESTAURANT

We had breakfast and dinner at the farm's signature Babel Restaurant. In keeping with its farm-to-fork philosophy, the food was fresh. I had a life-changing, juicy piece of lamb and perfect sunny-side-up eggs. The menu is seasonal and always guided by what's available in the garden.

WINE TASTING AND CELLAR TOUR

By the end of the guided cellar tour, which includes wine tasting, you'll be well-informed about Babylonstoren's wine-making process and its wines. There are several pairing options.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bicycles are available for adults and kids to use on the farm. This is a great way to explore the farm grounds whilst getting a good workout. The walking or cycling trails are clearly marked, so you won't get lost.

MOUNTAIN DRIVE

This is available for guests staying for two or more nights. The late-afternoon guided tour is a great way to enjoy the sunset and learn more about the farm's history, vineyards, fynbos and trees.

THE FYNBOS POOL

We spent an afternoon swimming in the heated infinity pool. Surrounded by mountain views, it's a beautiful escape from the world – and you can also help yourself to as much of Babylonstoren's wines as you like! 🍷

For more information (including things to do for day visitors), visit: babylonstoren.com

