



LIVING **LE LIFE**

Iconic Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa Still Dazzles

Perched atop a hill overlooking the fertile Franschhoek Valley, Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa is an accommodation icon that manages to reimagine itself, again and again, each time more dazzling than before.

Dating back to the 1960s, Le Franschhoek Hotel & Spa - then known as Swiss Farm Excelsior - is more a resort than a hotel. Today, it remains an impressive restoration and embellishment of one of the original country retreats built in the exclusive wine-growing valley of Franschhoek, an hour's drive from Cape Town.

While there are numerous excellent accommodation options in Franschhoek (both in the village and on surrounding wine farms), none offers the luxury of space and the choice of leisure facilities of Le Franschhoek.

It may be a stunning conference venue and a spectacular wedding setting as well, yet Le Franschhoek retains its old warm charm and boutique hotel feel, where the amenities are all luxurious, and activities abound. You can visit the Camelot Spa, taste local estate wines in the hotel's wine cellar, dine on a vast veranda overlooking the vineyards, play tennis, or even cycle through the vineyards all without leaving the premises. This is particularly convenient for a family holiday. From the pool, you look up to gigantic jagged mountain peaks that appear so close you want to reach out and touch them. During winter, these same peaks are at times blanketed in snow.

UNASSUMING ELEGANCE

The unique style of Le Franschhoek is part country house, part Cape vernacular, but each communal area and all suites have a sophisticated, uncluttered and calm feel. The entire property is dressed in white - from the washed exteriors that appear clean and contemporary, to the all-white colour palette that extends into each of the hotel's 63 rooms. Supported by metallic and colour-washed wood treatments, the look and feel may be somewhat clinical in its neutrality, but it balances perfectly against the dramatic natural backdrop.



ABOVE: Elegant terrace overlooking the orchards



RIGHT: Luxurious suite living room



When the weather is good, guests can also take lunch, or high tea, at Le Verger. Set in an orchard, Le Verger serves bistro-style cuisine that perfectly complements the beautiful natural surrounding environment.

For guests seeking a wellness experience, the Camelot Spa is a cosy private retreat where amenities and treatment options include a private flotation room and a colour-therapy massage. With a focus on hydrotherapy treatments, the spa uses Thalgo marine-extract products from France.

Given Le Franschoek Hotel & Spa's desirable location, the valley's picturesque vineyards are within easy driving distance, making the hotel the perfect base from which to explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Winelands. Visit the vineyards in the vicinity and indulge in the best that the area has to offer while enjoying the tranquillity of this magnificent setting. Surrounded by some of the Wineroute's most beautiful estates, you will have every excuse to explore the wonders of the Cape at your leisure.

For more information, or to book your stay, visit www.lefranschoek.co.za.

*by **bernie hellberg jr** /
photography by **le franschoek hotel & spa***

Accommodation options include standard rooms upstairs in the main hotel. We recommend room 26 for its unobstructed views and generous suite-like proportions. Alternatively, book a River Suite for utmost privacy, or a Garden Suites (closer to the restaurants, spa and other hotel amenities) where children are accommodated in a clever loft area. Although none of the suites have private pools, the main swimming pool is large enough to swim lengths.

DINING IN...OR STRETCHING OUT

La Pavillion is the ideal setting to start yet another beautiful day in the Franschoek

Valley. Drenched in beautiful natural light, the open-style restaurant will ease you into the day with sumptuous cold and hot breakfast options. Enjoy a glass of bubbly as you contemplate the day's activities.

The main restaurant, Sauvage, is a grand, high-ceilinged room reminiscent of a 'silver service' hotel dining room, but with a very sleek, contemporary feel. Spend an enchanted evening at Sauvage, and enjoy some of the best Franschoek restaurant dining on offer. The combination of warm service and a flawless menu makes dining at Sauvage Restaurant an unforgettable experience.