

Travel

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Mont Rochelle Hotel South Africa

What Sitting in 100 acres of vines, Mont Rochelle is a classic colonial hotel and mountain vineyard in the heart of the Cape wine area just outside Franschhoek.

Décor Bedrooms are elegant with high vaulted ceilings, dark wood furniture and crisp linen sheets, while terracotta tiles and painted walls make communal areas less formal. Wicker chairs with soft cushions ensure comfort in the open-sided bar area with views of the valley and Table Mountain.

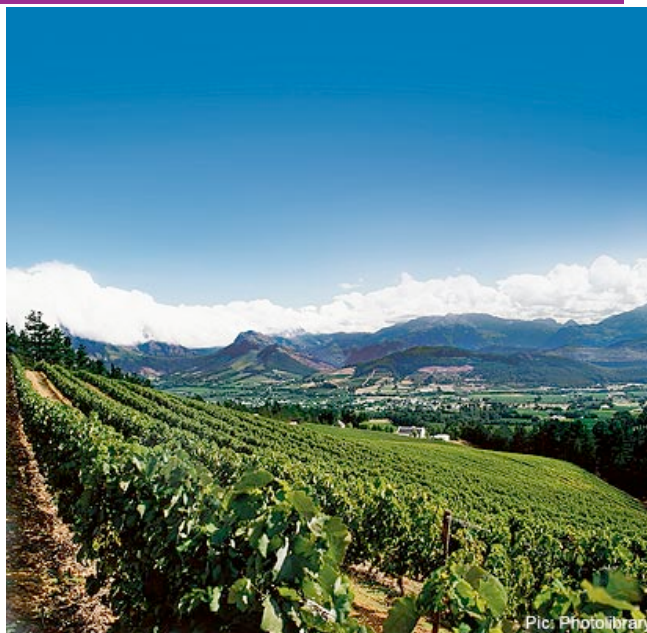
Extra treats Take a cellar tour on which winemaker Dustin Osborne will talk you through Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz and Chardonnay tastings, or take a stroll through the vineyards with farm manager Piet Botha.

Eating & drinking The hotel dining room, where chef Ryan Smith produces a constantly changing menu offering only fresh food, from pea soup to swordfish, and vast platters of local cheese that perfectly complement the Mont Rochelle Shiraz and Merlot. If you feel like travelling further afield, head to Reuben's, opened by young chef Reuben Riffel in 2003, where you can feast on steamed mussels, herb salad and vegetable tarts (reubens.co.za).

What to do Stellenbosch is a 40-minute drive away and is a charming university town with lots of boutiques for shopping before a day's gorging. For those keen to see the sea (the water is often too cold to swim), Boulders Beach, on the other side of the Cape peninsula, has a colony of penguins that chase after their young and play in the surf.

Who goes [Kate Moss](#), [Naomi Campbell](#), [Robbie Williams](#) and [Zinedine Zidane](#) are all fans.

Contact Mont Rochelle Hotel, Dassenberg Road, Franschhoek (00 27 21 876 2770; montrochelle.co.za)



Mont Rochelle, South Africa

Hôtel Crillon le Brave, [France](#)



What The Relais & Châteaux hotel of Crillon le Brave is a collection of ancient, honey-coloured buildings with blue shutters. Sitting on a hill above the Provençal village of the same name, its terraces have panoramic views over Mont Ventoux and the surrounding vineyards.

Décor Thirty-two individually designed rooms converted from old houses, shops and farm buildings; La Maison Salomon used to be the home and shop of the village grocer. Rooms are traditionally Provençal in style with botanical prints and jugs of lavender. All have luxurious bathrooms, Bose sound systems, minibars and Wi-Fi.

Extra treats For further pampering, you can book a massage or have lunch at the stone table under wisteria-covered arches, where chef Philippe Monti will prepare France's finest Sisteron lamb.

Eating&drinking The chic, vaulted dining room serves Provençal cuisine, from pan-fried foie gras to turbot, perhaps with a glass of Gigondas Rhône wine. At breakfast there's a machine that will boil your egg individually, croissants and local bread, as well as plates of cheeses and charcuterie, served with fresh juices and hot chocolate.

What to do Visit the best brocante market in Provence at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, or go further south and visit the wineries of Chateauneuf du Pape.

Who goes Van Gogh loved Crillon le Brave so much he painted it. More recently Jack Nicholson, [Bono](#) and [Penelope Cruz](#) have all spent a weekend in Provence.

Contact Hôtel Crillon le Brave, Place de l'Eglise, Crillon le Brave (00 33 490 65 61 61; crillonlebrave.com)

Calistoga Ranch, California

What Tucked away in a private canyon in the Upper Napa Valley, the Calistoga Ranch hotel is the perfect retreat for nature-loving wine buffs. Frank Lloyd Wright-style guest lodges ensure design is in harmony with nature, with floor-to-ceiling windows, outdoor fireplaces and open-air showers.

Décor Natural cedar cabins, each with its own kitchen, sitting room, indoor and outdoor dining areas, hot tub and discreetly fenced outdoor rainbath shower.

Extra treats Golf buggies to ferry you around. The Bathhouse Spa is the ideal spot to unwind; treatments include the Ranch Massage with laurel and eucalyptus and the delicious Oat and Brown Sugar Body Scrub.



Eating & drinking The Lakehouse Restaurant is one of the best in the state serving organic, regional cuisine. Try scallops and short ribs, or John Dory with leeks, washed down with 2003 Chalone Estate Chardonnay. The French Laundry restaurant (frenchlaundry.com) in the nearby town of Yountville serves meals of up to seven courses, from truffles to lobster, by masterchef Thomas Keller. Drink subtle red wines at the Frank Family winery (frankfamilyvineyards.com) or visit the grand winery Opus One (opusonewinery.com), founded by Robert Mondavi and Philippe de Rothschild.

What to do Visit Francis Ford Coppola's Rubicon Estate (vinismo.com) and buy Zinfandel and Merlot.

Who goes Danny Glover and Sofia Coppola.

Contact Calistoga Ranch, 580 Lommel Road, Calistoga (00 1 707 254 2800; calistogaranch.com)

La Bandita, Italy

What Sitting in 2,000 acres of cypress trees, vineyards and olive groves, La Bandita is a six-room farmhouse in Val d'Orcia, near Pienza. Owner John Voigtman has created an informal setting where guests can recover from too much wine on outdoor sofas while admiring the distant view of Montepulciano.



Décor Cream walls and flagstone floors, with giant beanbags and vast sunken bathtubs.

Extratreats The Pig Sty is a villa designed with honeymooners in mind. It has a private kitchen and a sitting area with white sofas.

Eating&drinking Feast on fresh mint and pea soup, roast lamb, and dark chocolate cake with peaches, prepared by Michelin-trained chef David Mangan, while drinking the local Brunello di Montalcino wine. Travel to nearby Pienza for dinner at Ristorante La Taverna di Moranda (tavernadimoranda.it) and enjoy the local speciality, hand-rolled spaghetti with pecorino cheese and truffles.

What to do Take a drive to nearby Siena and climb the Torre del Mangia to gaze out on the famous Piazza del Campo and the black and white striped Romanesque cathedral.

Who goes Giorgio Armani, Andrea Bocelli, Geri Halliwell and Fabrizio Politi have all been spotted holidaying in the Tuscan hills.

Contact La Bandita, Pienza (00 39 333 404 6704; la-bandita.com)

Viña LaPlaya, Chile

What Two and a half hours south of Santiago, the Colchagua Valley is often referred to as the Napa Valley of [South America](#) and at its heart sits the Viña LaPlaya. Built in 2004 and nestling amid 250 hectares of vines, it is a classic Chilean hacienda-style hotel where guests sleep under the same terracotta roof that covers the cellars.

Décor Walls are decorated with framed wine bottles from the region and boldly coloured striped canvases, while comfy armchairs sit on pale wooden floors, warmed with neutral leather-trimmed rugs and large open fireplaces.

Extra treats Head to Santa Cruz, where the streets come alive as the wine harvest is celebrated on the first weekend in March at the Fiesta de la Vendimia, in the Plaza de Armas. For those interested in history, a visit to the Colchagua Museum with its huge collection of pre-Colombian art is a must.

Eating & drinking Viña Casa Silva (casasilva.cl) where manager Gonzalo Silva serves traditional dishes including choclo, a polenta pie with eggs and meat and sauce, and for the less adventurous, a vegetarian polenta washed down with a bottle of LaPlaya Carmenère.



What to do The Colchagua wine route is one of the area's most tourist-friendly wine tours, combining visits to vineyards including Casa Lapostolle (lapostolle.com), Viña Montes (monteswines.com) and Viña Cono Sur (conosur.com). Stop by the MontGras vineyard (montgras.cl), a 200-hectare estate hidden in the San Jose Valley, and taste the local wine before riding through the organically managed Ninquen vineyard (ninquen.cl).

Who goes [Kylie Minogue](#) and Robert Pattison.

Contact Viña La Playa, Camino a Calleque s/n, Peralillo, Santa Cruz (00 56 02 657 9991; hotelvinalaplaya.cl)

Marques de Riscal, Spain



What Frank Gehry described his design for the Marques de Riscal hotel as 'a marvellous creature with hair flying everywhere'. Meant to evoke the flow of wine in the region, the neoclassical building topped by a gleaming carapace of flowing titanium locks sits proud amid the endless vines in the village of Elciego.

Décor It's all pared-down luxury: 43 rooms with brown leather sofas, wooden floors, white designer lanterns and huge black marble bathrooms with glass sinks. There are vast stone balconies to drink in views of vineyards stretching over 1,300 hectares, and the town of Ezcaray on the banks of the

river Oja.

Extra treats Don't just drink wine, wallow in it at the Caudalie Vinotherapie spa where treatments from body wraps and massages to therapeutic facials are concocted from grape extracts and essential oils.

Eating & drinking At the Marques de Riscal Restaurant, head chef Francis Paniego is the first cook in Rioja to have been awarded a [Michelin](#) star. He likes playing with fine angel hair pasta or asparagus - perfect with a glass of Baron de Chirel or Marques de Riscal.

What to do Take a tour of the winery and its 3.8 million-bottle cellar, or visit the medieval town of Briones. There's more of [Gehry's](#) architecture at Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum (guggenheim.org), which is brimming with contemporary art from Richard Serra to [Jeff Koons](#).

Who goes [Brad Pitt](#) and [Angelina Jolie](#) took a quiet break here, away from their brood.

Contact Marques de Riscal, Calle Torrea 1, Elciego (00 34 945 180 880; marquesderiscal.com)

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