

RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Pierneef at La Motte - the valley's hot restaurant at the moment, launched in 2010. The setting is relaxed and stylish, and no expense has been spared in the kitchen. Chris Erasmus is a splendid chef, who was Margot Janse's 2ic for a number of years. The menu is adventurous and explores the nuances of South African cuisine. 00 27 (0)21 876 8800. pierneef@la-motte.co.za

Mon Plaisir at Chamonix - my personal favourite. Celine and David hail from Alsace and Algiers and present a traditional French menu, with all the trimmings. Simple but delicious, lots of garlic, parsley, frogs legs, snails, entrecote, foie gras, and buttery tarte tatin - mouth is watering just writing this. In the summer it is a leafy setting under the oaks and in the winter cosy around the fire. Even the handwriting on the blackboard is distinctively French! Excellent Chamonix wines complement the menu. 00 27 (0)21 876 2393. cmonplaisir@gmail.com

Café Bon Bon and La Petite Dauphine - another favourite. A beautiful setting in the orchards, under tall waxy trees. It has a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and does sumptuous breakfasts and leisurely lunches. It is not a bustling restaurant it is one for a long lunch absorbing the valley and its surroundings. 00 27 (0)21 876 3936. cafebonbon@lapetite.co.za or <http://www.lapetite.co.za>

La Petite Ferme Restaurant - A Franschoek Institution. No one comes to Franschoek without eating here. Do it on the first day because it sets the scene for your visit, and possibly a hangover. The views take your breath away and the temptation is there to lie on the grass and order one bottle after another. It beautifully situated along the pass road, spectacular views and good food. Open for lunch only but in the summer they hold music evenings on Friday nights which are always overbooked, so you need to book early. lapetite@iafrica.com. 00 27 (0)21 876 3016 Tel Book Early! <http://www.lapetiteferme.co.za/>

Reuben's - Wonderful restaurant, centrally situated with modern interior, shady courtyard and trendy bar area. I love a lazy lunch in the summer under the mist spray and difficult to drag yourself away. Famous Reuben Riffel voted **Chef of the Year 2005 and Restaurant of the Year 2005**. The menu is modern French cuisine with cosmopolitan influences and a choice of a contemporary or a more classical menu. reubens@mweb.co.za 00 27 (0)21 876 3772 Book Early! <http://www.reubens.co.za/>

Le Quartier Francais - Famous Chef, Margot Janse (Chef of the year 2003 & 2004,) Has been in the Top 50 Restaurants in the World consistently since 2005. TASTING ROOM: Elegant and more formal dining - 4/6 and 8 course meal with wine carefully selected for each course. The Common Room- a new concept of

tapas selections and has a succulent fillet of beef with buchu béarnaise and delicious chips. If you want the full works you must eat at The Tasting Room. I can only do it once every 6 months. She gets amazing flavours and Margot is just fantastic. Ask her to come to the table if you like
www.lequartierfrancais.com Book Early! 00 27 (0)21 876 2151

French Connection - bistro style venue with excellent food and relaxed atmosphere, perfect for something easy - open both lunch & dinner . 00 27 (0)21 876 4056

Haute Cabriere - elegant dining in their cellar restaurant with award winning Chef, Matthew Gordon - wines are offered per course - open both lunch and dinner. 00 27 (0)21 876 3688

Allora - A simple Italian restaurant just outside the village on the main road into the village. The best pizzas in Franschoek. 00 27 (0)21 876 4375.
franschhoek@allora.co.za

Le Bon Vivant - Dutch Chef making his presence felt in Franschoek. Excellent European cuisine with superb presentation. Portions are not too large - open both lunch and dinner. This is one of our guests' favourite restaurants. 00 27 (0)21 876 2717

Mont Rochelle - Mange Tout. Another beautifully situated hotel/restaurant. Outside dining available, formal, elegant dining - open both lunch and dinner. 00 27 (0)21 876 2770

Mont Rochelle - The Country Kitchen. One of my favourites on my round of dog walking, popping in for a glass of wine and a plate of tapas. Unpretentious simple food and one of Franschoek's hidden gems. Has a great view from the 'other side' of the valley. They also do picnic and you can walk to some tables by a dam, underneath a shady tree. 00 27 (0)21 876 3000

Bread & Wine - situated on Môreson wine farm, here Neil smokes his own meats and fish, his wife bakes the best bread this side of the mountain and the wines are a compliment to the whole setting - relaxed, easy going and very casual - open lunch mainly but occasional evenings Book Early! 00 27 (0)21 876 3692

Grande Provence Restaurant - Probably the most stylish restaurant in Franschoek. An excellent kitchen and nouvelle cuisine dining. Situated on the Grande Provence Wine Estate 3 km from the centre of the village. Open Lunch and Dinner daily. Take a browse through the beautiful art gallery just before dinner. Private Dining room available upon request.
www.grandeprovence.co.za 00 27 (0)21 876 8600

The Salmon Bar - recently renovated and extended. Very relaxed morning breakfast hangout to read the papers, and they bake fresh bread and croissants that you can take away. Otherwise an innovative and light fish menu that is served for lunch, next to Pam Golding in the main road but stretches back into courtyard at the back. 00 27 (0) 21 876 4591. <http://www.salmonbar.com/>

Kalfi's - A popular friendly family restaurant in the middle of the village owned by Kalfi and Sanna. Always popular with the locals. Open breakfast, lunch and supper. 00 27 (0)21 876 2520

The Grill Room - If it is meat you are looking for, look no further. Succulent steaks, among other dishes are de rigeur here. You can even buy aged meat here, from their butchery, for your braai at home, and it is cheaper than the Franschhoek Pick 'n Pay!
00 27 (0)21 876 2548, info@thegrillroom.co.za

Café des Arts - another new edition to the valley. Tpsi has recently retired and one of her old protégés has taken over the mantle, Chris and his wife Lou. Both the service and the food were excellent when I recently ate here. The food was not fussy but flavoursome. I had a very fresh tasting Teriyaki Pork Belly with Asian Stirfry Noodles..... Simple food cooked well, in a relaxed atmosphere where you can walk in barefoot. A refreshingly down-to-earth place to have breakfast, lunch or supper, and the staff are charming. It is located next to the municipal library, beside the stream, behind the FNB bank +27 (0)21 876-2952

New and untested - but worth a visit...

Babel, a restaurant at Babylonstoren is set in the heart of a historic wine and fruit farm. The food is inspired by a 9 acre formal garden - a garden quite unlike any other as every single plant is edible. Their food philosophy is simple: every dish is driven by the seasons and by what has been harvested that day. They say: 'Whatever is fresh and abundant we will serve. Our food is visual, often surprising, unfussy and generous and most of all prepared and served with love. In the hot summer months the food at Babel is 'quick' - 'pick, clean, serve'; and in the cooler winter months we will serve 'slow' food, perhaps a fragrant slow cooked leg of lamb or delicious warming stew. Fruit and vegetable dishes dominate the menu but all the ingredients have their own story.

If we don't grow it or make it or raise it, it will come from a neighbouring farmer. Simplicity with an edge and as for the prices, they will be sensible - Babel is that kind of restaurant.

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 10h00 to 16h00.

Reservations recommended - telephone number: 00 27 (0)21 863 3852

www.babylonstoren.com enquiries@babylonstoren.com

Ryan's Kitchen - not tried but a guest writes "Delicious food and brilliant, intimate atmosphere. The restaurant was like one big chefs table. With only a few tables there you could watch your food being cooked which was fantastic and the chef and staff were very chatty and friendly."
+2721-8764598 | www.ryanskitchen.co.za

Ask about others and I will give you my honest feedback!

PUBS AND BARS

Elephant & Barrel - Traditional English Pub in a square behind French Connection, pub food, draught beer and sport on the telly. 021 876 4127

The Station Pub - Traditional South African pub, more of the local farmers hangout, aromas of roasting meat from the fire, draught beer and food.

Reuben's - a bar attached to the restaurant made from an old Dakota wing

Le Quartier Francais - hotel bar in the Common Room.

Mont Rochelle Hotel colonial bar for gin & tonic - where I go when I don't want to be seen!

PRE-ORDERED PICNICS

[Allée Bleue](#) (opposite the Stellenbosch turn-off). Picnics on a lawn with a jungle gym, wooden tables and chairs or a picnic blanket. R290 for two, R80 for kids. Tel 021 874 1021.

[La Motte](#) (see under Walking)

[Rickety Bridge](#) (on the right driving towards the village). Gourmet picnics on the lawns or the deck. R135 pp, R55 for kids. Tel: 021 876 2016 or Odette on 083 377 4103.

[Solms Delta wine estate](#) (on the left shortly after the Stellenbosch turn-off). Walk through the vineyards to picnic among trees by the Dwars River. R120 pp, R55 for kids. Tel: 021 874 3937. NB: If your kids have particular tastes, the chefs are generally willing to provide alternatives - e.g. chips instead of salads - so discuss their preferences when you order the picnic.

[Mont Rochelle](#) (turn right into Bordeaux Street opposite the Town Hall, left at the T junction, take the right fork, turn right into Daniel Hugo Street and continue until you've crossed the river and come to the road barrier by the guard house). Picnics at tables in the garden or on provided blankets under trees overlooking the dam, and lovely walks through the vineyards. From R290 for two, R85 for kids. A refundable cash deposit of R200 is required on booking. Tel 021 876 2770.

RESTAURANTS WITH PLAY FACILITIES

INDOOR PLAY AREA

[The Grill Room](#) (on the left of the main street, closest to the Monument) has several dining areas with fires in winter, a courtyard and a separate playroom with a TV, soccer table, ball pool and toys. Open 12 - 3.30 and 6.30 - 10. Tel: 021 876 2548.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

[Allora Ristorante](#) (on the right just before the village). Pizza, pasta and classic Italian dishes with friendly service, garden tables and a jungle gym. Tel: 021 876 4375.

[Bread & Wine](#) at Môreson (about halfway between the Berg River and the village: turn right into the Happy Valley road, drive straight on to Môreson). Kids can create their own pizzas at the table and have fun playing in the water feature stream with the boats and ducks on sale..

[Col'Cacchio Pizzeria](#) (on the right of the main street, just after the bend). Pizza and pasta on a veranda or benches under stately oak trees and a jungle gym. Tel: 021 876 4222.

[Dieu Donné](#) (turn left up Uitkyk Street opposite the Franschoek Centre turn-off and drive right up the road, turning left at the top). The terrace below the restaurant overlooks a lawn with a sandpit and a glorious view of the valley, a kids' menu, and beer brewed on the spot in a micro-brewery. Tel: 021 876 3384 or 3158.

[La Petite Ferme](#) (turn left at the Monument, drive up towards the Pass and it's on the right). There's a kids' menu and a lawn area overlooked by a glassed-in terrace with a stunning view of vineyards and mountains, though you need to phone in advance as the terrace is often booked out. Tel: 021 876 3016.

GOOD FOR KIDS

Allora - has jungle gym and garden

Café Bon Bon - grassy area for rugs in the orchard and a small pond with ducks

Kalfi's - They have a kids menu

Boschendal Le Pique-Nique- space to run on the lawns, in the picnic area 021
870 4272.