



Stellenbosch

We round up seven perfect places to stay in the historic gateway to the Cape Winelands

MAJEKA HOUSE

WHERE? In the suburbs of Stellenbosch

WHY GO? The little luxuries - WiFi, iPod docking stations and Lavazza coffee machines - are standard. It has a bar, restaurant and full-service spa, so you could quite happily check in for a weekend and never leave the grounds.

VIBE? Comfortable and relaxed, set in beautiful gardens. Don't expect a traditional 'country house': rooms (all with terrace or balcony) are decorated in a modern African country style - ours was swathed in luxe fabrics with oil paintings on the dark walls.

CLIENTELE? Broad mix of European visitors and families (as well as a group of Harley Davidson riders when we visited!).

EATING & DRINKING Superb. The M Lounge is an Etienne Hanekom-designed sanctuary, perfect for a pre- or post-dinner tippie. At Makaron Restaurant, Majeka's fine dining restaurant, the emphasis is on locally sourced produce, some of which comes from the kitchen garden.

HIGH POINT? The food! The best mashed potato I have ever tasted and a breakfast worthy of a photo shoot.

LOW POINT? There is access to an indoor pool for all guests, but the outdoor pools are the exclusive preserve of the adjacent Pool Suites and The Villa.

PRICE? From R1 045 per person sharing, including breakfast (visit the website for 2012 special packages); www.majekahouse.co.za.

- Kelly Cloete

