



## Franschhoek Restaurant Guide

### By “Roving Raconteur Brian Moore” and accomplice Colin Atkins Updated July 2019

(We provide our very personal ratings based on food quality and experience: 1 ....5 )

#### Introduction

What follows does not represent all the eateries in the area but rather the ones that we recommend or prefer. Some restaurants do not open at night and some close out of season. Be careful many close on Sunday or Monday evenings. It is advisable to book in advance, especially over weekends and in peak season October to March.

For lunches, we would advise that you eat at the wine estate restaurants, most of which have great views and atmosphere. Of course the main street offers side walk eating which has the village feel!

We categorise eateries for ease of reference into:

- a) Restaurants on Wine farms overlooking the village (less than 3km), sunset ambience!
- b) Restaurants/eateries in town within 2 km of the guesthouse (walking distance)
- c) Luncheon Restaurants on wine farms or just close to the village (within 5 km)
- d) Restaurants a short drive from Franschhoek, within 25 km

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#### ***a) On wine farms overlooking the village (Special sunsets, ambience, good food)***

#### **Restaurant at Haute Cabrière Cellar (being refurbished to offer protected outside dining)**

Tel: +27 21 876-3688

“4.8”

[www.cabriere.co.za/restaurant/](http://www.cabriere.co.za/restaurant/)

Has a great view of the valley. Get there in time to enjoy the sunset. Main restaurant is in a cave like structure which is rather unusual and appealing. Soon to offer covered outside dining. Always had great food experiences however the wine, especially reds are limited.

#### **Roca at Dieu Donne Wine Estate (known for red wines)**

Tel: +27 21 876-3384 / 2345

“4.5”

[www.rocarestaurant.co.za](http://www.rocarestaurant.co.za)

The food is generally good and the views, particularly at sunset, are spectacular. Make sure you book a table close to the windows. There is also an alfresco eating and drinking area.

This has become our favourite place for sun downers which you can have on the lawn.

#### **Restaurant at La Petite Ferme Wine Estate**

Tel: +27 21 876-3016

“4.6”

[www.lapetiteferme.co.za/food/restaurant/](http://www.lapetiteferme.co.za/food/restaurant/)

Generally good food (though we have had one or two not so good experiences) with probably the best view of the Franschhoek valley. Wine tasting by prior arrangement. Also a great place to sit in the garden and enjoy a glass or two. Can be a bit pretentious!

## **Mont Rochelle Wine Estate– Miko and The Country Kitchen Restaurants.**

Tel: +27 82 948 1209

Mont Rochelle hotel and wine estate is owned by Richard Branson. **Miko restaurant** is located in the hotel and has a great view of the valley and the town. It is upmarket (pricey) and has mixed reviews. The setting is however tops! “4.2”

**The Country Kitchen** at Mont Rochelle is located at the wine tasting building. It serves uncomplicated healthy style lunches. One of our favourite family lunch venues. “4.4”  
Both restaurants have great views over the village towards the Middagkraans Mountains.

### ***b) Restaurants in the village, all within walking distance of Le Petit Paris Guest House***

## **Reubens**

Tel: +27 21 876-3772

“5”

[www.reubens.co.za](http://www.reubens.co.za)

Just off the main road in the town centre. Owner Reuben Riffel is one of South Africa’s most well known chefs (SA Masterchef winner and judge). The fairly limited menu offers really good food in a fresh modern environment. Layout maybe lacks atmosphere.

## **Foliage**

Tel : +27 21 876-2328

“4.6”

[www.foliage.co.za](http://www.foliage.co.za)

### **Number 13 Eat Out 2018 Top 20 Restaurants in South Africa**

On the main road. An acclaimed “foodie” restaurant which has received very good reviews. From a personal point of view we have found the food to range from excellent to “trying to be too clever”.

## **French Connection**

Tel : +27 876-4056

“4.6”

Our regular! Very good bistro food. On the main street. Nice cosy atmosphere.

## **La Petite Colombe (Leeu Collection) – Fine dining**

Tel : +27 21 202-3395

“5”

[www.lapetitecolombe.com](http://www.lapetitecolombe.com)

### **Number five in the 2018 Eat Out Top Twenty South African Restaurants**

Fine dining eatery which opened in August 2017 It won the **Best New Restaurant in South Africa** award in 2017. We have had two outstanding lunches there. It is a sister restaurant to the highly acclaimed **La Colombe** restaurant in Cape Town.

## **Protégé (Leeu Collection) “4.8”**

Opened in November 2018 as a more casual sister restaurant to **La Petite Colombe** which is next door. Small portions/tappas meals in a super setting serving great food in the La Petite Colombe tradition.

## **Le Coin Francais - Fine dining**

Tel : +27 74 126-0022

“5”

<https://lecoinfrancais.co.za/>

### **Number 14 Eat Out 2018 Top 20 Restaurants in South Africa**

Chef Darren Badenhorst of Grande Provence fame opened his own fine dining restaurant on the main street next to Woolworths. Consistently superb food – highly recommended. Lunch is a la carte and dinner is a tasting menu. You can also have drinks on the patio between four and six in the evening.

## Le Bon Vivant

Tel : +27 21 876-2717

“4.5”

<http://www.lebonvivant.co.za/>

Up market restaurant in a side road off the main street. Pleasant garden setting with good food. A favourite for many returning guests.

## Marigold Indian Restaurant (part of the Leeu Collection)

Tel: +27 21 876-2717

“4”

It serves good upmarket North Indian food. On the main road towards the Huguenot monument. It is the only Indian restaurant in Franschhoek.

## Allora

Tel: +27 21 876-4375

“4.2”

[www.allora.co.za](http://www.allora.co.za)

In the same courtyard as the wine tram. Well priced Italian eatery and pizzeria with an extensive menu. Even the steaks are good. Everybody's regular go-to restaurant.

## Café des Arts

Tel: +27 21 876-2952

“4.2”

<https://www.cafedesarts.co.za/>

Opposite Woolworths, off the main street tucked away next to the library. A good backup restaurant. Recently acquired a local Afrikaans chef who has added some local and familiar South African dishes greatly needed in Franschhoek. Wonderful setting in and outside and a kid's play area. In summer they offer Friday Night Live Jazz Club, well supported by the locals.

## Le Petit Manoir

“4”

Tel: +27 21 876-2110

Fine dining in the main street. It opened its doors in August 2018. Chef Kevin worked at the Michelin Star restaurant “Jan” in Nice, France. A la carte for lunch and dinner and also open for an elegant breakfast. Pretentious! Has a great street café feel and beautiful décor. Still to establish a niche!

## Roca Café Speakeasy

“4.5”

A great new addition to Franschhoek. Very “cool” cocktail lounge with good casual food. Open for lunch and dinner. It also has a super shady outside seating area. It is in “The Yard” which is an alleyway off the main street in the village centre. GREAT LIVE MUSIC into the early evening

## Hussars Grill

“4.3”

Tel: +27 21 876-2308

Based at the Protea Hotel in the main street. Hussars is a predominantly steak restaurant chain which serves good food. The interior has a “gentleman's club” feel and you can also eat on the patio overlooking the main street. If you want a good steak, this is the place!

## The Village Grill

“4.3”

Tel: +27 21 876-2344

On the main road as you approach the village. A pretty typical fairly upmarket South African steak restaurant with an outside eating area.

## Café Franschhoek

“4”

In the main street. Casual eatery with an interesting and varied breakfast menu. I go there for kippers! They also serve lunch and early dinners. Best hot chocolates in winter!

### **Sacred Ground (next to the wine tram booking office)**

A casual eatery off the main street next to the Wine Tram booking office. Good quality fresh food. Good for coffee and a light meal. We have experienced bad service on occasion.

### **TukTuk Micro Brewery**

A fun microbrewery on the main road which serves very good casual food.

### **Elephant and Barrel**

Pretty typical pub food. Located down an alleyway next to The French Connection in the main street. Good place to watch sporting events with a crowd and atmosphere. OPEN TILL LATE!!

### **Colcacchio**

On the main street. A franchise pizzeria very popular with families.

### **The River Café**

On the main street in town opposite Colcacchio. This is a casual, well priced eatery serving good food, including breakfast. There is a pleasant outside eating area as well.

### ***c) Luncheon Restaurants on wine farms or just close to the village***

#### **Le Lude Wine Estate – Orangerie Restaurant(Lunch only)**

Tel: +27 21 1003464

“4.7”

Highly recommended. Elegant restaurant with inside and outside seating. The chef had a stint at Le Gavroche in London. We have had a number of good meals there. The estate only bottles bubbly. It also offers a canapé and wine pairing option and High Tea.

#### **La Bourgogne (Lunch only) – no bookings necessary “3.8”**

Lovely garden setting for a casual lunch. Great for kids too. The restaurant forms part of the wine tasting area. Wine average but also offers olive and brandy tastings

#### **Café Bon Bon at La Petite Dauphine Wine Estate “4”**

Highly recommended for alfresco breakfasts and lunches. Lovely garden setting with mountain views. The restaurant is also open for dinner. You can taste La Petite Dauphine wines at the same venue

### ***d) Restaurants a short drive from Franschoek,(within 5 km)***

#### **Hey Joe’s Brewery**

**The new find of Franschoek! Extremely popular and a must visit if in the area for a few days.**

While a variety of beers and tastings are offered the setting is great and the food offered, while small in portion is of great variety, innovative and regularly changing. A regular meeting place.

#### **Leopards Leap Winery and Restaurant**

Leopards Leap restaurant serves a fairly unexceptional buffet/carvery (pay by weight)for lunch. However, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Chef Pieter produces an excellent South African Plate – a three course lunch, representing typical South African dishes. On Fridays, there is a paired wine and

food offering. Check with the restaurant as these arrangements do change with the change in seasons.

### **Grande Provence Wine Estate Restaurant**

On the main road as you come into Franschoek. This is an excellent fine dining restaurant in a beautiful garden setting. It is pricey and is aimed at well healed foreign tourists. Grande Provence estate is well worth a visit just to enjoy the gardens, sculptures and art gallery.

### **Paulina's at Rickety Bridge Wine Estate**

This was a regular for us when we first moved to Franschoek. We have not been there recently. It provides a limited menu selection of well-priced good food with a view over the vineyards. Book a table with a view as the interior of the restaurant is a bit characterless. Half portions of most main courses can be ordered. Rickety Bridge wines are generally not highly rated.

### **Chefs Warehouse at Maison Wine Estate**

#### **Number 16 Eat Out 2018 Top 20 Restaurants in South Africa**

On the main road as you approach Franschoek with a lovely outlook over the vineyards. The restaurant has moved away from fine dining to a "foodies" tappas menu which is excellent. I suggest that you go there for lunch to appreciate the surroundings.

### **Pierneef at La Motte Wine Estate**

On the main road as you approach the village. A visit to La Motte estate should definitely be on your list. It has very beautiful gardens and sculptures as well as an art gallery which houses works by some of South Africa's most well-known artists.

The lunches are generally of a very high standard but dinners can fall short.

### **Bread and Wine at Moreson Wine Estate**

(Currently moving to a new location)

### **The Franschoek Beer Company**

Located near La Motte on the opposite side of the main road. Beer is brewed on site and you can enjoy good, casual food from a limited menu.

#### ***e) Restaurants a short drive from Franschoek, (5-25 km)***

### **Terra Del Capo Antipasti Bar at Antonij Rupert Estate**

We have had two very good lunches there recently. Tappas style dishes and also platters. Well priced good food right next to the wine production area.

### **Babylonstoren "Babel" and "Greenhouse"**

**Babel** is in a modern glass styled building offering good food with a flair towards the many plants and vegetables grown locally, many dishes quite unique and really tasty.

After walking these beautiful gardens a light meal at the Greenhouse is always comforting

### **Glenwood Estate**

A few minutes' drive from town along a dirt road. Eating under the trees on a good day is lovely with beautiful mountain views. The restaurant has a limited menu of good quality, unpretentious food. The estate produces very good chardonnays.

### **Boschendal Wine Estate**

A visit to Boschendal should also be on your itinerary. The historic manor house and gardens are beautiful. **The Werf restaurant** is an up market eatery in a lovely setting. We had an excellent Boxing Day lunch there.

There is a casual restaurant under the oaks which is super. You can also pre order picnic hampers.

### **The restaurant at Vrede and Lust Wine Estate.**

A casual well priced family eatery with a renowned bakery. The view from the wine tasting area is beautiful.

### **Cosecha restaurant at Noble Hill Wine Estate**

Also one of our favourites. Reasonably priced Mexican style food. Make sure you try the guacamole which is mixed at your table.

### **Restaurant at Glen Carlou Wine Estate**

Another favourite of ours. Fairly upmarket with a panoramic view. Good wines too. Open for breakfast.

### **Delaire Graff Wine Estate**

Delaire Graff estate which is on the Helshoogte (Hell's Heights) pass near Stellenbosch is definitely worth a visit. Stunning views gardens and art works. It has two upmarket, pricey restaurants, **The Delaire Graf Restaurant** and **Indochine**.

### **Tokara Wine Estate**

Very close to Delaire Graf. We had an excellent lunch at the a la carte restaurant. Up market with great views. The estate also has **Deli Cat Essen** which is a super place for breakfast or a casual lunch.

### **La Paris Bistro**

On the way to Paarl, the restaurant is located opposite the prison from which Nelson Mandela was released. It is a casual eatery open for breakfast and lunch with a lovely outside eating area under trees.

### **Stellenbosch Restaurants**

Stellenbosch is a beautiful and historic town to visit. There are over 200 wine estates and many very good restaurants. Two stand out for us; **Terror** and **The Restaurant at Jordon Wine estate**. **The Restaurant at Jordon Wine Estate** has a beautiful view across the Stellenbosch valley. In addition, Jordan wines are excellent.

### **Somerset West**

Two of the **2018 Eat Out Top Ten Restaurants in South Africa** are in Somerset West.

**The Restaurant at Waterkloof** was voted South Africa's top restaurant for 2018. **Camphors** at Vergelegen Wine Estate came in at number eight. The estate and historic manor house are very beautiful and definitely worth a visit. The name of the restaurant was inspired by the magnificent Camphor trees in front of the manor house. The trees are over 300 years old and have been declared a national monument.

**Happy eating and Drinking!**