

## A Day in Geniesser – Wine Country

In the morning, I'm picked up in Cape Town, right from the comfort of my hotel. The drive to the farm takes about 45 minutes and heads towards the mountains. We arrive at the stable feeling relaxed: from the main road, we turn onto a gravel track that leads straight to the main building. The track is flanked on both sides by pastures where horses graze peacefully. I'm given a warm welcome before settling into my room at the stables (farm accommodation). It's equipped with a large bed, seating, drinks and an en-suite bathroom with shower and toilet. The best part, however, is my own little terrace with a hammock overlooking the horse pastures. It's the perfect spot to relax after a ride. A ride like this now awaits me, just round the corner from the stables: the lovely mare Madison is already waiting for me there. I mount up, adjust everything and off we go. Today, Ellen is leading the ride for two international guests and me. The route takes us past many different fruit trees, through small woods, past ponds and back past fruit orchards such as lemon and plum trees. A little later, of course, we also ride through vineyards and over the Simonsberg with its sweeping views. The itinerary includes a few trotting sections and gallops, and we're even treated to a very fast gallop on request.



My horse is an English Thoroughbred and sprints superbly – a real powerhouse in action, yet easy to handle and very responsive. We treat the horses to a longer walk before heading up Simonsberg. Our horses eagerly make their way between the trees, and time and again we're treated to magnificent views of the valley and the surrounding mountains. We continue past numerous plants and flowers – most of which are still in bloom – that make this region unique. Finally, our ride takes us through vineyards before we reach the Bocksberg winery. The horses get their well-deserved lunch break and we cross the springy

lawn to the estate. What a splendour of flowers! The immaculately laid-out garden is reminiscent of pictures from 'Home & Garden' magazine, and the scent is incredible. And, as is only right, we're given a brief tour of the winery and get to marvel at the huge wine barrels (the smaller ones hold 300 litres!). Naturally, we have a wine tasting, and everyone samples five wines of their choice. Truly excellent, and some with rather more exotic flavours. Whether you're a fan of red, white or rosé, there's something for everyone!



After the tasting, lunch awaits us today in buffet form, packed with all sorts of delicacies. The coffee to round things off awakens the senses, and so we cheerfully mount up again. Taking a shorter route and encountering guinea fowl and bushbuck time and again, we finally reach the stables back home. We say goodbye to the horses, who are returned to the pastures. A cool drink on the covered terrace, overlooking the pastures and the mare Bonnie with her foal, just a few weeks old, offers just as much relaxation as a siesta in the hammock.

At around 7 pm, we drive to Frenchhoek for dinner. The restaurant is full and we have to wait five minutes for our table – at the bar, of course, with a glass of good wine! The food is delicious, ranging from fresh fish to Mediterranean pasta. The dessert is also excellent – a real treat. An espresso rounds off the dinner and, feeling full, we drive back to our accommodation. After this wonderful day, with a final glance at the horses, I fall into my cosy bed – heavenly!



The next day, I start with breakfast before, sadly, it's already time for me to say goodbye. I would have loved to stay longer in this wonderful atmosphere, surrounded by warm-hearted people, fantastic horses and excellent food and wine in this region renowned for its culinary delights.

For more information, see: [www.equitour.com/cwrsta.htm](http://www.equitour.com/cwrsta.htm) A

report by Julia Wies