



THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRAVEL CORPORATION



Dear Siviwe,

As promised we bring you more wine news this month, as we celebrate 350 years of good wine in the Cape!

For an awesome and totally unique wine experience why not join us on a Wild Wine Odyssey - but if you don't have that much time to spare, no problem - as one of the major wine capitals of the world, Cape Town sits slap-bang in the centre of the most beautiful and diverse wine region in the world, with everything from a cellar in the historical heart of the city, to international award winning wine estates within minutes of the city centre.

From wine culture we move on to other traditions à la Swazi mode, as we give you a little insight into what makes this magical kingdom so unique. Stay in our favourite hideaways and discover the soul of Swaziland.

For those of you suffering from the credit crunch that has impacted the whole world it seems, South Africa offers a world class experience, often at a fraction of the cost of staying close to home. The airlines are offering great deals to get bums in seats (I recently flew to the UK and back for just R5000!!) and the exchange rate means that your Dollars and Euros, not to mention those Pounds, go a lot further than you could ever have anticipated.

Contact us now for the holiday of a lifetime at less than you expected!

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Wild Wine Experience... 350 Years of good wine since Jan van Riebeeck...



Wild Wine is a must for all true wine lovers, a wild experience involving all the senses as you touch the soil and shake hands with the men and women making it happen, enjoy the sights of endless changing land and sea vistas during the day and listen to the silence of the night once you're outside the city limits....

[read more...](#)



It was in 1652 that Jan van Riebeeck landed at the Cape, tasked with establishing a garden to provision the Dutch East India Company (VOC) ships. The first vines were imported from France, the Rhineland and Spain. Naturally, these were planted in the Company's Gardens, six acres of which survive as a botanical garden in central Cape Town to this day. Jan van Riebeeck's diary entry of [February 2, 1659](#) reads: "today, praise be to God, wine was pressed for the first time from Cape grapes, and the new must was tasted fresh from the vat."

[read more...](#)

350 years on you can still enjoy the bounties of the Cape Winelands whether you have only a half a day to spare or a week or more.

Our half and full day [Wine tours](#) take you along the most well known of all the wine routes of the Cape - you can join a scheduled group or follow your own road; you can sit in the comfort of an air-conditioned vehicle with an experienced guide or take to the vineyards on foot or horse back, in a horse-drawn carriage or on a quad bike, or hit the mountain heights in a Land Rover. Enjoy unsurpassable scenery and wine tastings at each estate visited, with maybe some equally unsurpassable locally produced olive oil, chocolate and cheese thrown in for good measure.

If you have more time to spare - and we encourage you to plan your itinerary to make sure you do - then enjoy one of our extended 4 day Winelands tours, or for a totally unforgettable wine experience go [Wild....](#)



Sue's pick of the month.....The Kingdom of Swaziland

For a right royal experience look no further than the tiny kingdom of Swaziland, surrounded by South Africa on 3 sides and Mozambique on the fourth. Although a truly independent nation, Swaziland is so much a part of the South African landscape



that we often include a visit in our itineraries for those travellers wise enough to drive between Durban and Johannesburg, rather than flying over what is some of the most spectacular scenery in the country, filled with beauty, history, authentic tradition and beautiful people. [read more..](#)



Most people spend just one night in Swaziland as part of their overland trip - we would like to encourage you to spend at least two to explore this fascinating country - and enjoy the hospitality of two of my favourite places. They might not have 5 stars over the door but the hospitality they offer far exceeds any 5 star international hotel.



The 3 star Hawane Lodge offers rustic simplicity in uniquely designed chalets set in indigenous landscaped gardens and surrounded by the majestic Malolotja Mountains. [Read more...](#)
The highlight of my stay had to be the sunset ride in a four wheel drive vehicle through Malolotja Reserve, the last unspoilt wilderness area of Swaziland, to what felt like the top of the world. The mountain

vegetation was lush and green after summer rains, and the views into South Africa and Mozambique were heartachingly beautiful with nothing but the sound of silence and the sweet tinkling of champagne bubbles as we watched the sun set over Africa. It's one of those places most people don't even know they have to add to their bucket list until they get there!! *For our special Hawane adventure package deal contact us now...*



Another firm favourite, and also 3 star with 5 star surroundings and service, is Foresters Arms - again rustic charm combined with comfort (fireplaces in the rooms, down duvets on the beds) friendly and efficient service, and fabulous food, make a stay here something that you never want to end!

[Read more...](#)

It was bit damp the day I was there, but I enjoyed just driving in the rain through the nearby countryside, turning off at interesting road signs - cultural villages and craft centres abound, with exceptionally talented crafters and artists, and everywhere you go just smiling faces and helping hands.



For our Foresters Arms cultural package contact us now...

So now you know something about Swaziland, what are you waiting for - come and experience the real thing for yourself - it really is the cherry on top of the delicious South African cake!



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