



# Whimsical Le Grand Jardin

Let's face it, we're spoilt for choice with a plethora of incredible places to stay throughout South Africa. But once in a while you stumble upon somewhere very special: a place with the power to transform your thinking, slow you down and serve as a reminder that adding a little fun to everything you do and dream of comes highly recommended.

Tucked away among the rolling vineyards of Stellenbosch's Devon Valley, Le Grand Jardin, as the name implies, stretches across acres of tiered tranquillity. This exclusive retreat and private villa is like nowhere else on earth and its 'wonderland' feel takes you into another world – a world with more colour and cheer, where the stresses of modern living are left far behind.

Ideal for a luxury Winelands escape, as an exclusive villa stay for families and groups of friends travelling together, and for extraordinary weddings and special celebrations, Le Grand Jardin welcomes all those searching for some added magic. It accommodates 15 in total, in the main manor house – designed in the elegant style of Sir Herbert Baker – and in the Pool Pavilion. And from this perfect home base, the best of the Winelands is within easy reach.

It's quite understandable that guests never want to leave. Once you've explored the lavender and rose gardens and found the concealed pockets of fun in every corner of this expansive estate, you'll soon understand how Alice's adventures in wonderland set the tone for the entertainment to follow.

Since this is your holiday, you're encouraged to do as much, or as little, as you like. Private chefs and world-class care ensure that you want for nothing, but equally guests who want to call this magical villa their own are invited to relax on the patio, choice varietal in hand, as they make themselves at home, cooking, braaing and entertaining outdoors on a self-catering basis.

With the grand garden and surrounding nature as the idyllic backdrop to al fresco lunches, pool days, hot tub soaks and family picnics, it's no wonder that the outdoors finds a way to creep into the villa, serving as an inspiration for the interior decor and helping to create an indoor/outdoor flow that is ideal for entertaining. Amazonia wallpaper in the entrance hall and garden squirrels in the study continue the theme, while in the main en-suite bedroom the walls run wild with jungle scenes crafted by African Sketchbook, a talented collective that works with artists from the surrounding townships.

Finding your inner child comes naturally at this whimsical manor. From a working vintage carousel in the garden to candy-striped umbrellas, a gelato trolley and wigwam tents, as well as your very own water-lily dam, there's no better entry into this parallel universe – thanks to the X zipline that leads you there, of course.

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