



This boutique country hotel lies in a secluded green valley near the picturesque town of Swellendam, about three hours' drive east of Cape Town.



Historical oasis of chic

De Kloof Luxury Estate

Early morning sunshine dusts the Langeberg mountains in honey hues and there's a profound sense of stillness as a new day dawns at De Kloof. At this five-star Swellendam guesthouse, where champagne and the newspaper serve as your wake-up call, all life's craziness seems far away.

Set on an historical estate – the perfectly preserved Cape Dutch manor dates back to 1801 – De Kloof is a smooth blend of gracious old-world living and modern amenities. The whitewashed farm buildings boast interiors in natural, nude shades and clean lines softened by just a little French flair. "Colonial eco chic," is how owner Marjolein van Mourik describes her crisp style. Having lived and run hotels on every continent, she and her husband Roy have combined their globetrotting experiences to create a slice of heaven in the Cape's third oldest town.

There are eight guest suites, including two honeymoon suites, spread between the manor house and its outbuildings, all swathed in comfort with decadent soft furnishings and modern necessities such as WiFi. Taking centre stage is the surrounding natural beauty, with all suites enjoying breathtaking vistas of the gardens and mountains.

Organic vegetables and herbs are grown on the estate, and make their way to the intimate restaurant, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Guests can also indulge in afternoon tea in one of the cosy lounges, or book a relaxing treatment in the new massage room. As the day draws to a close, there's wine tasting and tapas followed by a decadent à la carte dinner either inside or in the secluded garden. End the evening in the whisky and cognac lounge, enjoy a Cuban cigar and then retire until tomorrow, when another idyllic day beckons.

Keri Harvey

■ **DE KLOOF LUXURY ESTATE**
Swellendam, Western Cape, SA
Telephone: +27 (0)28 514 1303
Facsimile: +27 (0)28 514 1304
Email: info@dekloof.co.za
Website: www.dekloof.co.za