



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

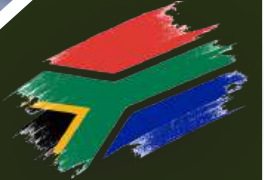


SOUTH AFRICA

Winelands

JOURNEY

MARCH 2-8, 2025 | CAPE TOWN





SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL | WINELANDS JOURNEY | SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Dear Wine Enthusiast,

It's been my good fortune to pursue two compelling activities over many years: conducting a wine tour business in California's Napa - Sonoma Wine Country; and being a citizen diplomat for Sister Cities International. In Sonoma where I live, we have Sister City relationships in four countries: France, Italy, Hungary, and China. And my travels as a wine tourist have taken me to France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, China, and South Africa.



I must say, one of the most wondrous wine areas that I have visited is South Africa's Winelands. Last year's first-time visit is compelling me to visit again early next year. There is a wide range of wine varietals in South Africa with which we in the U.S. are familiar. These wines have a buoyancy and richness that is unique to South Africa. Then there is the distinctive Pinotage, and the not to be missed abundant, versatile Chenin Blanc, which is my favorite white wine.

So, I'm inviting you to join me next March to experience not only South Africa's wines but its beautiful Winelands spreading out from visitor-friendly Cape Town, with its many attractions, manmade and natural. I hope you will join me and others in sharing our enthusiasm for wine while practicing what I'm calling "wine diplomacy." Please review the attached brochure and sign up to join us.

Regards,

Bill Boerum

Bill Boerum

Chair Emeritus
Sister Cities International



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL | WINELANDS JOURNEY | SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Sawubona Colleagues!

Our South Africa Winelands Journey is one of the Sister Cities International 500/5 (Five hundred in Five) Initiative's major efforts to expand SCI's presence on the African continent.



A critical component of the 500/5 Initiative is to increase partnerships between U.S. and South African cities. With the success of SCI's first African Region Summit, held in Cape Town in February 2023, we launched the 500/5 Initiative to assist in and bring focus to developing additional U.S. municipal partnerships with African cities/towns. Those who attended last year's Summit were able to experience similarities that exist between the U.S. and Cape Town's Western Cape; but participants also witnessed differences, and opportunities that can result from potential alliances with South Africa .

South Africa Winelands cities are among the most robust and attractive "new" winelands regions in the world. These cities are ready to partner with U.S. cities engaged in the wine industry, as well as those which are looking for strong partnerships that make a difference. Through our work at SCI Africa, we have established strong relationships with several wine associations, the U.S. Embassy and vineyards. As educational partnerships are a stronghold of Sister Cities relationships, we welcome U.S. colleges and universities which are looking to partner with the University of Stellenbosch, the preeminent University in viticulture on the African continent. We hope you will consider joining this memorable experience where you will witness the beauty of this part of South Africa and create lasting sister cities that will have a positive impact on both countries. Please review the attached brochure and sign up to join us. We want your city to be part of this exciting 500/5 Initiative. We look forward to seeing you in South Africa!

Regards,

Lorna K. Johnson

Lorna K Johnson, JD
SCI Africa Region Representative

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Winelands Journey

YOUR JOURNEY AT-A-GLANCE



DAY 1 | SUN MARCH 2

- Hotel Check-In: Asara Wine Estate and Hotel- Stellenbosch
- Welcome Dinner: Raphael's at Asara



DAY 2 | MON MARCH 3

- Winelands Briefing with Winelands Associations and U.S. Embassy
- Meet the Winemakers
- Lunch
- Dinner Activity at Constantia Glen Winery; Speaker TBD



DAY 3 | TUE MARCH 4

- Town, City & Vineyard Tours:
 - Stellenbosch
 - Paarl
 - Constantia
 - Franschhoek
 - Robertson



DAY 4 | WED MARCH 5

- ½ Day Visit at the University of Stellenbosch
- Lunch at the University



DAY 5 | THUR MARCH 6

- Diversity in the Winelands: Black, Brown and Women Owned Vineyards
 - Vineyard Workers Lifestyle and Culture
 - Seven Sisters Wine Estate Tour and Tasting
 - Klein Goederust Winery Tour and Tasting
- Dinner in Cape Town



DAY 6 | FRI MARCH 7

- Follow Up Activities
- Meetings with Potential Partners
- Optional City Tour
- Farewell Dinner

DAY 7 | FRI MARCH 8

- Hotel Check-out
- Depart for U.S. or Post Activities



About

THE WINELANDS

The Winelands are located in the western region of South Africa, and where you'll find more than 90% of South Africa's vineyards.

The Atlantic Ocean's cooler breezes from the west partner with the warm air that travels on the Indian Ocean's current from the east to create the same Mediterranean climate that produces fine wines around the world. A journey through the Winelands engages all of your senses – whether it's tasting the wines, exploring the various regions that produce the variety of wines that come from this part of the world and/or engaging with experts and practitioners of viticulture: the study and practice of cultivating grapevines. And of course, there's plenty of experiential learning opportunities (i.e. wine tastings) to expand your knowledge of enology, the study of wine and wine making. The Winelands are home to 24 red grape varieties and 22 white grape varieties; so be prepared for extensive class participation.

THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S WINE INDUSTRY

South Africa's first vineyards were planted by 17th century Dutch settlers by way of the Dutch East India Company. The early days were

challenging. Dutch farmers lacked viticultural knowledge and winemaking expertise at that time because their flat and wet homeland wasn't suitable for wine production. Between 1680 and 1690, French Huguenot immigrants arrived, bringing generational winemaking knowledge and skills from wine producing regions in France—including Champagne, Poitou and Orleans. The wine industry began to thrive in the first half of the 19th century, with the number of vineyards growing substantially, and wine production increasing. Despite subsequent challenges and difficulties in the wine industry (wars, overproduction, disease and shortage of materials) South Africa has a significant history and deep connection to the world of winemaking. Today, the country has transitioned from a dominant co-op-driven industry to a diversified and quality-focused wine market. In the mid-1990s, South African wines began to make their mark on the global stage, and smaller boutique wineries started to gain prominence, emphasizing the unique characteristics of their vineyards. These developments are shaping an exciting future for South African wines.

DAY 1 | SUNDAY, MAR 2

- Hotel Check-In: Asara Wine Estate and Hotel-Stellenbosch
- Welcome Dinner: Rafael's at Asara

ASARA WINE ESTATE AND HOTEL



The Asara Wine Estate and Hotel provides five-star accommodations and dining in the town of Stellenbosch. You'll be surrounded by its award-winning vineyards and catered to by staff that takes pride in pampering their guests. And of course, you are invited to take advantage of the wine tastings taking place just steps away from your hotel room. Rafael's at Asara boasts a farm to fork philosophy and support for its local, artisanal suppliers, ensuring its ingredients are seasonal, sustainably sourced and harvested from its burgeoning herb and vegetable gardens. You'll experience easy refinement and a creative flavour-driven menu, while taking in a magnificent view.



DAY 2 | MONDAY, MAR 3

- Winelands Briefing with Winelands Associations and U.S. Embassy
- Meet the Winemakers
- Lunch
- Dinner Activity at Constantia Glen Winery with Speaker

DAY 3 | TUESDAY, MAR 4

- Town, City & Vineyard Tours:
 - Stellenbosch
 - Paarl
 - Constantia
 - Franschhoek
 - Robertson

CONSTANTIA GLEN



Constantia Glen is a picturesque boutique wine estate of 60 hectares that produces award-winning, cool climate wines. The magnificently appointed wine estate on the upper reaches of the Constantiaberg, is one of the jewels of the Constantia Valley and home of South African wine with a proud winemaking history dating back to 1685. The Tasting Room at Constantia Glen offers an amazing wine tasting experience that can be accompanied by delicious platters or a main course. An upscale restaurant, with one of Cape Town's best views, uses the freshest, highest-quality ingredients from sustainable sources and offers delicious platters, salads, soups, mouth-watering gourmet mains and yummy desserts.



The tour

You'll visit five of South Africa's wine producing areas in the Winelands to explore the land, culture and history of where South Africa's varieties of grapes are grown, then transformed into to the region's award-winning vintages. In July 2024, The International Wine and Spirit Competition judging took place in Stellenbosch. More than 500 entries were judged, resulting in the award of 520 medals; including 36 gold medal winners. During that same month and year, The Global Syrah Masters Competition, awarded the South African entry with its prestigious "Master Medal" at its competition in London – outperforming entries from France! Your visits to these wine regions include:



STELLENBOSCH

The scenic Stellenbosch Wine Route is the oldest in the country. The historic town for which the route is named, is a city where every street and building speaks to the people and events that settled this town with its vibrant street culture.



PAARL

The largest town in the Cape Winelands; Paarl is the second oldest settlement in the Winelands. Paarl produces award-winning, rich red and crisp white wines. The name in Dutch means "a pearl" and was derived from the fact that the granite rocks that crown the hillside above it glisten like pearls and diamonds after a rainfall.

CONSTANTIA

Located in the southern suburbs of Cape Town; this region is best known for its Chardonnay wines.

ROBERTSON

With its proximity to the Indian Ocean this region produces rich and intense wines.



FRANSCHHOEK

Located in the beautiful valley enclosed by the towering Klein Drakenstein and Wemmerschock mountains, where chardonnay and pinot noir wines are the pride and joy of this town that became the enclave of French Huguenot immigrants in 1688. It's also where you'll visit the first 100% Black-owned winery in the region, Klein Goederust.

DAY 4 | WEDNESDAY, MAR 5

- ½ Day Visit at the University of Stellenbosch
- Lunch at the University

DAY 5 | THURSDAY, MAR 6

- Diversity in the Winelands: Black, Brown and Women Owned Vineyards
 - Vineyard Laborers Housing
 - Seven Sisters Wine Estate Tour and Tasting
 - Klein Goederust Winery Tour and Tasting
- Dinner in Cape Town

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH



Stellenbosch University was established to ensure that the academia, funding, faculty and post-graduate applicants admitted, met the standards required of a world-class research institute. Stellenbosch is the only university in South Africa that offers undergraduate and post-graduate studies in the viticulture and oenology sciences.

The University of Stellenbosch is the oldest university in South Africa. Originally named Victoria College, the university dates back to the 17th century. Training in Viticulture and Oenology Sciences dates back to the 1880s. In 1995, these two departments became the Institute for Wine Biotechnology (IWBT). As the South African Wine Industry grew, the IWBT evolved as well. IWBT began offering post-graduate studies in wine-making, with a more intense focus on research. The South African Grape and Wine Research Institute at

VINEYARD LABORERS HOUSING



South Africa is the world's largest producer of Fairtrade wine. As of 2024, there are 43 Fairtrade wine producing vineyards in South Africa; 29 were established during the year. While wages vary by regions; whether or not a winery provides housing for its laborers is the greatest determining factor in wages paid. Though politics and freedoms for Black people have changed since apartheid, living and working conditions for farm laborers and dwellers have not kept pace with post-apartheid progress- despite the assurances of Fairtrade accreditations. Your tour will provide an up close and personal look at where the many of the laborers in the region call home and raise their families.

SEVEN SISTERS WINE ESTATE TOUR AND TASTING



The Seven Sisters wine brand was started in 2005 by Vivian Kleynhans in an effort to change the destiny and build a legacy for her family. The seven Brutus sisters and their brother grew up in a disadvantaged community on the outskirts of Cape Town. Their father lost his job and they were evicted from their home but always yearned to return. Twenty years later, they reunited to create fine wines. Seven Sisters Vineyards operates as one of the few black female owned wineries in South Africa. Their wines are cultivated in their very own vineyard and are named after the style and personality of each sibling. Seven Sisters Wines has achieved great success in markets around the world, including China, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia; and within the United States, the wines are sold in Walmart stores.

The Seven Sisters wine brand was started in 2005 by Vivian Kleynhans in an effort to change the destiny and build a legacy for her family. The seven Brutus sisters and their brother grew up in a disadvantaged community on the outskirts of Cape Town. Their father lost his job and they were evicted from their home but always yearned to return. Twenty years later, they reunited to create fine wines. Seven Sisters Vineyards operates as one of the few black female owned wineries in South Africa. Their wines are cultivated in their very own vineyard and are named after the style and personality of each sibling. Seven Sisters Wines has achieved great success in markets around the world, including China, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia; and within the United States, the wines are sold in Walmart stores.

KLEIN GOEDERUST

ESTD 1905
KLEIN GOEDERUST
FRANSCHHOEK BOUTIQUE WINERY



Klein Goederust is the first winery owned by a Black person in the Winelands. Paul Siguqa, a farm laborer's son turned wine baron purchased this winery in 2019; making it the first 100% Black-owned winery in the valley. His mother Nommaroma Siguqa worked in the vineyards for 30 years and was one of the very few laborers promoted from the fields to the wine cellars. To stay true to his cultural heritage but also honor Klein Goederust's history, Mr. Siguqa retained the farm's name (which dates back to 1905) but added his Xhosa identity by adding his clan/family crest to the vineyard's logo. Mr. Siguqa's winery has received a 4.5 out of 5.0 rating from Trip Advisor (individual and tour company reviewers).



DAY 6 | FRIDAY, MAR 7

- Follow Up Activities
- Meetings with Potential Partners
- Optional City Tour
- Farewell Dinner

DAY 7 | SATURDAY, MAR 8

- Hotel Check out
- Depart for U.S. or Post Activities



Winelands Journey

TRIP INFORMATION

TRIP COST **\$3,900 per person sharing | +\$800 Single Occupancy**

AIRLINES

You are encouraged to choose the airline of your choice. Feel free to contact Ambassadorway Travel, which specializes in travel to the African continent, for assistance in booking flights at 212.693.0700.

HOTEL

- ✓ Asara Wine Estate and Hotel, Stellenboch - 5 stars

MEALS

- ✓ Full breakfast daily included in hotel packages
- ✓ Other meals included as noted

TOURS

- ✓ All tours are included except optional activities.

YOUR WINELANDS EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

- ✓ 5 star hotel accommodations
- ✓ Full breakfast daily
- ✓ Lunches and dinners where indicated
- ✓ Local transportation to all site visits and meetings
- ✓ Pre-trip preparation and information

PAYMENT INFORMATION

A deposit of \$500 will be required to reserve a place and can be paid by check, money order, credit card, PayPal or Zelle. A Suggested Payment Plan and Deadlines Schedule will be provided. Trip must be paid in full by or before January 31, 2025.

PRE AND POST OPTIONAL TOURS

If you plan to arrive in Cape Town before March 2, please advise and we will make accommodations for you. The following excursions are available before, during and after the Winelands Tour:

- Day Tour of the the City of Cape Town, including Table Mountain Visit
- Cape Peninsula Tour
- Robben Island Visit

Visits to Johannesburg & Kruger National Park Can also be arranged. For more information, contact Aluta Travel: Email info@alutatravels.co.za /or Whatsapp 27 798103216





Winelands Journey

RESERVATION FORM | \$500 DEPOSIT REQUIRED

Use this form to register and reserve your spot for Sister Cities International Winelands Journey - March 2-8, 2025. I have read and understand the attached payment and refund policy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like the following accommodations: (Check one)

___ Single

___ Double (1 Bed, 2 Sharing) • ___ Twin (2 Beds; 2 Sharing)

If double or Twin, my roommate will be _____

Method of Payment

___ **Check or Money Order** | *Payable to SCI Winelands Journey*

___ **Credit Card** | *5% transaction fee will be added*

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration date ____/____

Signature _____

Select: ___ MasterCard ___ Visa ___ American Express ___ Discover (*check one*)

___ **Paypal Email: lkjglobalink@aol.com**

(Be sure to indicate "Family & Friends" transmission to avoid a transaction fee)

___ **Zelle Email: lkjglobalink@aol.com**

Send payments and form to:

Global Linkages, Inc.
320 South Harrison Street Suite 16H
East Orange, NJ 07018

Email: lscafricaregion@gmail.com **Phone:** 973-819 6484

Winelands Journey**PAYMENTS AND REFUND POLICY**

Sister Cities International accepts checks, money orders, major credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover) and electronic payments including Zelle and PayPal.

- ✓ Please make checks and money orders payable to Sister Cities International
- ✓ A return check fee of \$40 will be charged for all returned checks
- ✓ All credit card transactions incur a 5% transaction fee
- ✓ Transmit Zelle and PayPal payments to lkjglobalink@aol.com
- ✓ When paying via PayPal, indicate "Family & Friends" to avoid a transaction fee
- ✓ All final payments must be received by SCI no later than January 31, 2025. Trip participants with outstanding balances after this date will incur a penalty equivalent to 10% of the balance due.

REFUNDS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| < October 31, 2024 | Full Refund |
| November 1 - 30, 2024 | Payment minus \$500 |
| December 1 - 31, 2024 | Payment minus \$1,500 |
| January 1 - 15, 2025 | Payment minus \$2,500 |
| January 16 - 31, 2025 | Payment minus \$3,500 |
| February 1, 2025; onwards | NO REFUNDS |

Global Linkages, founded in 1997 and based in the NJ-NYC metropolitan area, is a management consulting firm that specializes in developing partnerships with the African continent and the diaspora. As part of its services, Global Linkages provides "boutique travel experiences" that connect individuals, educational institutions, governments and businesses with unique and exciting explorations in Africa. This is primarily due to those extensive relationships created by the firm's international development work. Global Linkages Principal Lorna K. Johnson, trained as a lawyer and urban planner, has been working in Africa for over 30 years and has made over 300 trips to the continent. In 2107, Global Linkages expanded its journeys and development work to Cuba; and began traveling to Morocco in 2019, East Africa in 2022, and looks forward to its inaugural journey to Brazil in 2025.