

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

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Traveler

Reasons to Go

**21 GLOBAL INFLUENCERS
ON WHY WE SHOULD
TRAVEL NOW MORE THAN EVER**

Amber Valletta photographed by Inez and Vinoodh

Word of Mouth

The things we can't stop talking about

**An hour from Cape Town
and a world away.**



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LEEU COLLECTION



Previous page:

The new Leeu House hotel in Franschhoek.

Left: The dramatic backdrop to the Delaire Graff Estate.

added nine suites in a gabled farmhouse as well as a sleek tasting room where you can sample Sprankel, the estate's new sparkling chardonnay. This June, Leeu Collection will open **Leeu Estates**, a winery, hotel, and spa on 170 acres outside Franschhoek.

REFUEL BETWEEN SIPS

Newcomers to Franschhoek include the **Tuk Tuk Microbrewery** and taqueria, the soon-to-open **Marigold** for Indian food, and **Orange-rie** for Gallic-inspired dishes like duck-liver parfait with apple chutney or chicken supreme stuffed with tarragon chicken mousse. In Stellenbosch, chef PJ Vadas bakes fresh challah, *vinschgauer*, and *vollkorn* breads at five-month-old **Hoghouse Bakery and Café**, while the new food hall **De Warenmarkt** is the place to grab local charcuterie and cheeses. —SARAH KHAN

SOUTH AFRICA

Get Out of (Cape) Town

Yes, you can do the Winelands in an afternoon—they're only an hour from Cape Town. But with a chic new hotel and several upstart restaurants, it's worth staying a night or two. And did we mention the wine?

GETTING THERE

If you hit the road first thing, heading east from Cape Town on the N2, you'll land in the tony burg of Stellenbosch 45 minutes later—just in time for breakfast (the brioche French toast with apples and Brie at the **Schoon de Companje** is stellar). Get on the scenic Helshoogte Pass and in about a half hour you'll arrive in Franschhoek, one of the country's

oldest towns and the center of its wine region.

HOME BASE

With its thatched roof, whitewashed walls, and ornate gables, the new 12-room **Leeu House** is right at home in a historic town known for its Cape Dutch architecture. Interiors balance out this old-world vibe, pulling from contemporary South African design: latticed partitions fashioned from tea-dyed kudu leather; splashy

canvases by renowned artist Lionel Smit. More important, most of the wineries and restaurants you'll want to visit are less than 15 miles away.

WHERE TO TASTE

Two can't-miss wineries are **Tokara** (try the sauvignon blanc) and **Delaire Graff** (get the cab franc rosé); both are set against the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Nearby, the beloved farm/winery/hotel **Babylonstoren** has

FLORIDA

Consider the Upper Keys

Drive about an hour from the Miami airport and you'll be in a hammock at the end of a quiet dock, a drink in hand and looking out at a placid sea—the best parts of the Caribbean without the worry of missing your puddle jumper or having to flash your passport. For years, Islamorada has had a handful of high-end getaways like the Moorings Village & Spa and Casa Morada, but chic mid-range options have been nonexistent. Now, smart hoteliers are filling that void with stylish properties that are just right for a long weekend. Islamorada's **Amara Cay Resort** opened last year on

the site of a former Hampton Inn, casting aside the corals and turquoises for raw driftwood and mod rattan furniture. This spring, the **Postcard Inn at Holiday Isle**, on the area's largest private beach, will reopen after a yearlong renovation. It'll keep the beloved Tiki Bar but otherwise jettison the whiff of Spring Break in favor of a maritime vibe. And this month, **Playa Largo** will open on Key Largo, the first new-build resort here in two decades. It got the same neutrals-and-naturals memo as Amara but will have beachside bungalows, tennis courts, and an impressive spa. —ANDREW SESSA



A light-filled suite at the Amara Cay Resort.

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