



— 150 —
VINEYARDS

**YOU NEED
TO VISIT BEFORE
— YOU DIE —**

By Shana Clarke

Lannoo

Introduction By Shana Clarke

When I first started this book, I had intended for it to be an index of the world's most iconic vineyards that would highlight plots of land which produced beautiful, jaw-dropping wines. Famous names. The grandest estates. But the more I thought about the project, the less this approach made sense. The wine world is so much more than just well-known names and sites. Wine is produced in all kinds of surprising places, and the joy of discovering them can be akin to drinking a great glass of Burgundy, Barolo or port.

So, I shifted gears. I began thinking about wine in the bigger global context. Given the large number of grape-growing areas in the world, why not shine a spotlight on places that aim to cultivate their own Grand Cru vineyards?

I realized there is no standard definition of what makes a great wine. Our tastes evolve. And as climate change continues to alter the wine-growing landscape, what we knew five years ago barely holds true today.

Looking ahead also means looking back, and this book is a tribute to those who laid the groundwork for our modern wine world.

I'm choosing to celebrate wine in a different way—with curiosity. Curiosity about today's new definition of what makes a great vineyard; about new regions that decades ago didn't grow vines; about historical vineyards and estates that led the way; about a beverage that's loved the world over.

As a fellow traveler, I'm glad to have you along on this journey.

To my husband, Jim, there's no one else I'd rather travel the world with than you.

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01

ESTATE VINEYARD AA BADENHORST FAMILY WINES

Kalmoesfontein farm, Jakkalsfontein Rd., Paardeberg,
Malmesbury, Swartland, South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

This champion of
old vines is one
of the faces of the
Swartland region.

Even though winemaker Adi Badenhorst had worked a few harvests at prestigious estates, such as Chateau Angelus and Alain Grailot in France, it was the old bush vines in the Swartland region—many at least 40 years old—that beckoned him. As any wine lover knows, older vines produce more concentrated and complex fruit. Adi's exceptional wines have made him one of the most prominent winemakers in this off-the-beaten-track region. Chenin Blanc is a specialty; 16 different parcels of the white grape are farmed on the estate. For those seeking an intimate look into life on a farm, book a stay at the on-site winemaker's cottage and enjoy walks through the vineyards.



02

HAMILTON RUSSELL VINEYARDS

Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, R320, Hermanus, Cape of Good Hope,
South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

These estate vineyards were instrumental in the development of the Hemel-en-Aarde region.

Hemel-en-Aarde means “heaven-and-earth” in Afrikaans, and the two absolutely meet at Hamilton Russell Vineyards. In a quest to grow cool climate grapes, Tim Hamilton Russell purchased 170 hectares (432 acres) of undeveloped land in what is now South Africa’s most southerly wine-making region. His son Anthony took over the farm in 1991 and soon focused solely on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, which are ideally suited to the stony, clay-rich, shale-derived soil that was identified on the estate in 1994. The cooling effect of the ocean, just a few miles away, contributes to the slow and uniform development of the grapes, resulting in elegant and expressive wines. Over time, other winemakers caught on to the potential of Hemel-en-Aarde and today the region is renowned for cool-climate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.









03

**ESTATE VINEYARD –
FAIRVIEW WINE ESTATE**

Fairview Estate, Suid-Agter-Paarl Rd., Paarl, South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

You can pair
homemade cheese
with wines from the
estate.

Fairview owns vineyards in four major regions in South Africa: Paarl, Darling, Swartland, and Stellenbosch. Paarl, the original home of the estate, is more than just vines. Third-generation winemaker Charles Back runs an entire culinary enterprise consisting of a bakery, a restaurant, a tasting room, and a goat farm, the last of which is the source of homemade cheese. Work up an appetite on one of the running or biking trails that go through the vineyards, then pair your fromage with a Shiraz, Pinotage, Viognier, Petite Sirah, or Grenache, grown on decomposed granite soils on the slopes of Paarl Mountain.



04 **KANONKOP WINE ESTATE**

Kanonkop Wine Estate, R44, Elsenburg, Stellenbosch 7607,
South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

It's the source of
South Africa's best
Pinotage.

Pinotage—a cross between Pinot Noir and Cinsault—was created in South Africa in 1924, and besides a few plots here and there in the world, it remains uniquely South African. It can be a finicky grape, but no one has a better handle on it than Kanonkop; about 50 percent of the Kanonkop vineyard is planted with the variety. It's a careful balance when it comes to vine vigor as vines need to struggle a bit in order to create complexity in the fruit, however, too much and there's nothing to harvest. Kanonkop's viticultural practices for the unirrigated bush vines ensure high-quality grapes every vintage. Visit the tasting room for a sip of this South African specialty.



05**KLEIN CONSTANTIA
ESTATE**

Klein Constantia Rd., Constantia, South Africa

TO VISIT
BEFORE YOU DIE
BECAUSE

The wine from this estate was a favorite of Napoleon.

It takes a lot to win over a dictator, but Klein Constantia's Vin de Constance was much loved by Napoleon. The original, larger Constantia estate was founded in 1685 by Simon van der Stel but was later divided, and the 33,000 vines planted at the highest altitude on the property became what is now known as Klein Constantia. Given the vineyard's altitude and close proximity to the ocean, the cool but sunny site is an ideal place to grow Sauvignon Blanc and Muscat de Frontignan, used in the famous Vin de Constance, considered one of the greatest sweet wines in the world. Visit the estate's tasting room and restaurant to taste the liquid that softened Napoleon's heart, or book a vineyard tour.

