

# Top attractions in the Golden Triangle

Graham Howe explores the tourist attractions of four legendary wineries which fall into the 'golden triangle' - a prestigious part of the Stellenbosch wine route that is home to over twenty of the Cape's top red wine cellars, including Alto, Blaauwklippen, Bilton, Dornier, Ernie Els, Guardian Peak, Stellenzicht and Waterford.



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## Classic Blaauwklippen

One of the oldest wine cellars in the golden triangle, Blaauwklippen has a manor-house built by a settler in 1690 who sired 22 children and left a legacy of a child-friendly estate. Whether you take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the vineyards or visit the museum, there is plenty to do for all ages. Try the signature landau and barouche wines – named after the famous collection of antique carriages - or quaff a crisp Paulaner Beer from the Waterfront micro-brewery.

Whether you picnic in the vineyards, dine on the veranda or in the elegant dining room of Barouche, an outing to Blaauwklippen is an essential winelands experience. Chef Stefan Schmidt puts a creative continental spin on South African cuisine. The menu tempts with kingklip on biltong and sweet-corn risotto, tandoori rolled ostrich sosatie and springbok shank. Every dish is matched with a Blaauwklippen wine by the glass and bottle - try rare vintages of Zinfandel, the signature red wine of the cellar since the 1970s. The tasting centre and souvenir shop are other popular attractions.

Blaauwklippen winery and Barouche restaurant, R44, Stellenbosch. Tel: +27 (0)21 880 0133. Open daily for tours, tastings, sales, lunch and picnics. See [www.blaauwklippen.com](http://www.blaauwklippen.com)



## Old & New At Dornier

Dornier has won a Wine Tourism Capitals of the World award for its architecture. "Dornier is unique in terms of the modernity of our art and architecture," explains Raphael Dornier. "We wanted to create a playful environment where visitors, family and friends can enjoy an unforgettable winelands experience. Food and wine should be fun. Dornier offers excellent food and wine in a relaxed, informal setting."

In a modern marriage of art and architecture, Swiss artist Christoph Dornier created the red-brick cellar with its rim-flow pool, walkways and glass-cage winery. A post-industrial setting for his expressionist art in the gallery and the unusual flagship blends in the concrete cathedral of an underground wine cellar. In a study in contrast, it faces an old homestead designed by Sir Herbert Baker in the early 19th century.

The whitewashed 200-year-old barn at Dornier Winery creates a magical setting and ambience for

The Bodega, one of the funkiest new restaurants in

the winelands of Stellenbosch. A veranda to linger over lunch and spectacular mountain views of the Blaauwklippen valley. This laidback bodega and wine lounge serves modern 'farm cuisine' matched to wines from the state-of-the-art Dornier cellar.

Dornier Winery and Bodega restaurant, Blaauwklippen Road, off R310, Stellenbosch. Tel: +27 (0)21 880 0557. Open daily, 10 – 5. See [www.dornier.co.za](http://www.dornier.co.za)

## Vintage Bilton

Bilton winery with its sweeping Helderberg views, green lawns and lush picnic spots offers a marvellous setting for a long, laid-back lunch outdoors. Delectable summer picnic baskets are packed to the brim with scrumptious goodies for adults or a special kiddie's hamper. Or try a mouth-watering selection of unpretentious country cuisine such as chicken pie, salads, smoked salmon, oysters and a ploughman's platter.

A wine and chocolate tasting is one of Bilton's unusual attractions. Explore the sublime taste of Bilton's renowned red wines perfectly paired with three rich dark Belgian chocolates specially made by a chocolatier to complement and accentuate the flavours of the cellar's signature Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Wine buyers are in for a special treat. Buy any case of 12 bottles of Bilton wines directly from the cellar and you'll be swept off by a chauffeur for a tour through the vineyards in a vintage car. The vintage car collection includes a 1948 Mk IV Jaguar 3,5 L four door sedan, a 1956 Mk VII Jaguar, a 1948 Mercury and a 1934 Ford V8.

Bilton Wines, Annandale Road, Helderberg. Open for tastings and sales from 9-6, Mon-Fri and 10 – 4.30 on Sat. Tel: +27 (0)21 881 3714 or see [www.biltonwines.com](http://www.biltonwines.com).



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