

## De Oude Kraal Guest Farm

*A memorable stay is something you can be assured of when you visit De Oude Kraal Country Estate.*

Evidence of a rich history is everywhere. Remains of old rock kraals, built using natural rocks from the surrounding area, echo the name of the farm. The beautifully restored farmhouse with its many heirlooms and memorabilia speaks of the five preceding generations who built up and made their lives on this farm.



Yet, a visit to De Oude Kraal mingles this old world charm with an array of modern developments to offer a luxurious stay. Gerhard and Marie Lombard, the sixth generation family on De Oude Kraal, restored the old farm buildings which now function as a restaurant and reception area. Marie's renowned culinary expertise has earned their restaurant a place among Wine Magazine and Diners Club International's top 100 restaurants, while Gerhard's wine collection and bar provide a variety to satisfy guests from far and wide.



The farm also offers variety of activities and experiences – from horse-trails and hiking for the adventurous, to leisurely time lounging at the pool for the less energetic. The annual "Wildskosfees" where visitors are treated to a vast selection of expertly prepared gourmet venison dishes, not to mention the sheep races and tractor rides, attracts several hundred guests every year.

And what will keep guests returning is the magic of Marie's creative hand upon all the developments on the farm. Each of the lavish guest rooms has its own unique theme and distinguishing décor, inspired by nature on the farm. Private outside showers are an added luxury accompanying each room. Marie's original ideas and imaginative touches are everywhere: a row of high windows provide vistas of the towering Eucalyptus trees in the "Eucalyptus" themed room; an artistic array of Wild Olive branches illuminated by fairy lights is the focal point in another room; and soft lighting, roses and flowing drapings beautify yet another...



The most recent development on De Oude Kraal is their relaxing, rejuvenating spa. Transformed from a stone lapa on the farm, this spa is set apart by its unique Merino theme, inspired with all sorts of interesting ideas. Rams' horns serve as handles to the spa's front doors, photographs of merino sheep farming adorn many of the walls, and charming merino soft toys are displayed on the treatment beds. An impressive merino mosaic extends across an entire wall of the steam room. Throughout, the trickling of gentle waterfalls can be heard - all of which makes for a truly calming experience.



Gerhard and Marie's youngest daughter, Carmen-Ann, is an architecture student who assisted Marie with the designing of the spa. Helen-Joan, the oldest, together with her mother, takes care of the farming and Marie-Louise, the other daughter, is involved with the marketing of the business. Their involvement seems to be in keeping with family tradition: Because there were never any sons in the family, the farm has been passed down from mother to daughter, for the past five generations.

Currently more than 77 people are dependent on the guest house and farm for their livelihood. Marie believes in training people up and investing in them. And with the enthusiasm, passion and involvement of the entire Lombard family, a rich future seems to beckon for all at De Oude Kraal.

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