

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Local weather

Cape Town is never out of season, with a particularly good, long summer from November to March. These are the most popular months for visitors, who come to enjoy the 11 or more hours of sunshine every day. The average summer temperature in Cape Town is 24.3 degrees Centigrade, with January and February temperatures averaging 26 degrees Centigrade. February is the driest month of the year, with 15 mm (0.6 inches) of rain.

## Currency

The local currency is the South African rand. The rand comes in a range of coins (R1 = 100 cents) and note denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. Foreign exchange facilities are widely available and can be found at the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town International Airport and at bureaux de change in various major shopping centres. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) accept most international bank and credit cards. The ATMs are available 24/7. South Africa has a modern and sophisticated banking and commercial system, and most shops and hotels accept all major credit cards.

VAT: South Africa has a Value Added Tax system of 14% on purchases and services. Foreign visitors can reclaim VAT on collective purchases of more than R250. VAT Refund Offices can be found at: Ground level, International Departures, Cape Town International Airport Tel: + 27 21 934 8675.

## Tipping

A 10% tip is standard in restaurants. Tables of over eight people often have an automatic service charge added to the bill. A tip of R5 to R10 per piece of luggage is acceptable for porters in hotels and at airports. In some shopping areas, uniformed attendants will either take a fee or offer to mind your car for a tip.

## Banking and shopping hours

Most shops and businesses are open between 09h00 and 17h00 on weekdays and on Saturdays until 13h00. Major malls tend to stay open later: up to 21h00 during the week, on weekends and on most public holidays. Government agencies keep to limited weekday only hours, often closing around 15h00. Most banks close at 15h30 weekdays, but are open on Saturday mornings (from around 09h00 to 11h00). Muslim-owned businesses close between noon and 13h00 on Fridays.

## Credit cards

Credit cards are widely accepted in South Africa, especially MasterCard and Visa. Nedbank is an official Visa agent, and Standard Bank is a MasterCard agent – both have branches across the country.

## Electricity

The South African electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ. With a few exceptions (in deep rural areas), electricity is available almost everywhere. International adaptors are available in the hotel rooms.

In South Africa the power sockets used are of type D / M:



## Mobile phones

Roaming mobile network services are available in South Africa. If you wish to join a South African mobile network, you can buy or hire a cell phone at the airport or at most of the major shopping centres. Local SIM cards may be purchased at the airport and at local shopping centre. Blue public phones operate on coins (50c, R1 and R5 coins are best), while green public phones operate with local Telkom phone cards, which you can purchase in a variety of shops and post offices. Most public phones advertise the closest sale point. Local couriers can help you ship your purchases home and deal with formalities. Check with Cape Town Tourism Visitor Information Centres for contacts. Postage stamps are available at Post Offices, as well as at some Cape Town Tourism Visitor Information Centres.

## Security tips

Avoid carrying large sums of cash, carrying cameras or video cameras in plain sight and leaving belongings unattended. **Heed the advice of your hosts**, Cape Town Tourism Visitor Centre staff or locals on where to go after dark. Try not to walk alone. Do not allow strangers to assist you in any way at **ATMs. Street children and beggars** may approach you for a handout. Many social workers counsel against giving money to the children as it usually gets handed over to an older person or is used to purchase drugs. At night, park in a secure, well-lit area.

To report any safety incident, phone the following numbers:

- All emergencies from your cell phone – 112
- All emergencies from a landline – 107
- South African Police Services (SAPS) – 10111

Cape Town Tourism in partnership with Protection and Emergency Services run a successful **Visitor Support Programme** to assist you further, should you be involved in an incident. For more information, contact Sonya Hector by phoning +27 21 487 6800 or sending an email to [sonya@capetown.travel](mailto:sonya@capetown.travel)

## Hotel

Protea Hotel Stellenbosch  
Techno Avenue, Techno Park  
Stellenbosch, 7600 South Africa  
Tel no: +27 021 880 9500

## WiFi Network

South Africa has a well-developed communications infrastructure. A number of cell phone providers offer national coverage and there are well-established landline phone networks. Internet and Wi-Fi are easily accessible in most urban areas.

The Protea Hotel Stellenbosch offers complimentary Internet. WiFi is available throughout the Hotel.

## Conference Registration Desk

The Conference Registration desk will be available during conference hours. Registration will also be open on Sunday evening 13 November during the Welcome Cocktail from 18:00-20:00.

## **ORAL AND POSTER PREPARATION**

### **PREPARATION**

Posters should be presented in **A0 portrait format (841 × 1189 mm)**. We recommend posting a photo of the presenting person on the poster. In addition, there will be very short oral presentation of each poster, lasting maximum of **5 minutes**. Participants need to prepare not more than 5 slides that will be used for this presentation. Slides should present exactly the poster content and be handed to the organizers on Wednesday 16 November. After the oral session on Thursday, there will be an opportunity for presenters to be present at their posters.

Posters will be on display during the whole conference, from Monday 13 November lunch time until Friday 18 November lunch time. The boards for displaying posters will be marked with a poster code. Please, check in the Book of Abstracts the code given to your poster.

### **ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Speakers are kindly requested to check the time allotted for their talk in the Conference programme. Speakers are asked to transfer their presentations (MS Power Point or PDF) one day before their talk or early in the morning to the information desk. Technical assistance will be provided on site for the duration of the Conference.

## **SOCIAL FUNCTIONS**

### **Welcome Function**

Conference delegates and accompanying persons are invited to attend a Welcome Cocktail at the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch on Sunday 13 November from 18:00-20:00. Registration will also take place during this function.

### **iThemba LABS Tour and Spitbraai**

Conference delegates will be transported after the tea break on Tuesday 15 November to iThemba LABS for the Tour of iThemba LABS facilities, a barbeque and social function. Accompanying persons who wish to join the Tour and barbeque must please confirm with the registration desk so that transport can be arranged. Buses will depart from the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch at 16:00.

### **Excursion**

Conference delegates and accompanying persons will go on an excursion on Wednesday 16 November. The excursion will include a wine-tasting at Simonsvlei, a guided tour of the Drakenstein Lion Park and a visit and wine-tasting at Solms Delta. Packed brown bag lunches will be provided on the buses. Entrance fees are included. The buses will depart from the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch at 12:00 and will return to the hotel at 18:00.

**Simonsvlei** was founded in 1945. The name Simonsvlei originates from the founder of the South African wine Industry, Simon van der Stel, and from the area's vlei (wetlands) landscape. Simon van der Stel was the Cape Governor representing the Dutch government during the 17th century. This far-sighted gentleman selected this unique location, because he realized soon enough that the area's cool microclimate was ideal for producing quality grapes. He must have realized too that the prevailing winds blowing across the vlei or wetland would naturally cool the cellar and the wine in the barrels – ideal conditions for making quality wines! Today, Simonsvlei is still committed to the common goal set by one of its co-founders, Sonny le Roux, to provide “quality wines at affordable prices” And ever since, innovative and affordable wines of quality have become the hallmark of Simonsvlei.

**Drakenstein Lion Park** was established in 1998 to provide lions in distress with sanctuary, where they could live in safety, free from abuse and persecution, and be treated with the compassion and respect they deserved.

The Park is situated in the scenic Cape Winelands and comprises of 50 acres of sprawling lion habitat. The Park is actively involved in improving the quality of life of lions in captivity, locally as well as internationally, either by offering these animals a lifetime home or working in conjunction with other animal welfare organizations to secure a safe future for individual animals in dire need. The Park is not involved in commercial breeding or trade and offers lifetime care to all of its animals. All the animals brought to the Park are captive bred / hand reared and cannot be rehabilitated to the wild. The animals at the Park are assured a chance of living out their natural lives in an enriched and safe environment.

**Solms-Delta – a wine estate steeped in history:** The South African roots of world-renowned neuroscientist Professor Mark Solms brought him back home in 2002 to revitalise the historic Delta wine estate and to fundamentally rethink Cape wine-making traditions in the process. Solms assumed custodianship of the 320-year-old estate with a vision that went much deeper than re-establishing its vineyards and cellars. He also wanted to do something about the legacy of his European forebears

(who had settled in the Cape six generations before) and thereby address the pressing social and economic problems facing South Africa today. First he planted Rhône varieties, ideally suited to the dry, hot and windy 'Mediterranean' climate of the Franschhoek Valley. Then he and the winemaker Hilko Hegewisch introduced desiccation – a largely forgotten, ancient Mediterranean vineyard practice. The result is a stable of wines that delivers a new, uniquely South African style. The wines offer a cascade of tastes and styles, all with a distinctive sense of place. The unique guided wine farm tours expose visitors to more than just award-winning wines. Led primarily by farm residents, the tours offer rare personal insight into the vineyards, farm workers' lives, and the cultural and musical heritage of Solms-Delta and the surrounding Cape Winelands.

## Conference Banquet

The Conference banquet will be held on the beautiful Nooitgedacht Estate just outside of Stellenbosch.

Nooitgedacht Estate is a 270-hectare estate situated 5km from the Northern fringes of the historic Boland town of Stellenbosch. Set under 230 year old oaks and sweeping Cape Dutch gables, this 17th Century farm is rich in history and tradition and surrounded by some of the most famous wine estates in the South African wine industry. With names the likes of Van der Stel, Cloete, Greef, Baker and Rhodes having all walked through the H-shaped Manor house front door, it is not hard to see why Nooitgedacht has left its mark on the Winelands landscape and is one of the most esteemed addresses in the Cape. The Manor House was built in 1774 and together with Groot Constantia can be seen as one of the most authentic examples of traditional Cape Dutch architecture in the province. The Estate currently produces a limited number of premium Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot wines and projects in progress include expanding into sustainable organic farming and the development of The Nooitgedacht Village, a 25ha mixed-use village set to the north of the Estate.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship from the South African Department of Energy towards the banquet.



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## Accompanying Persons Programme

Registered accompanying persons are entitled to attend the welcome cocktail, tour of iThemba LABS and barbeque, excursion and conference banquet.