

## THE SMALL GUIDE



Too often, one can breeze in and out of a place without so much as scratching the surface of what it has to offer. The small guide is our way of making sure guests have the chance to meet the special characters whose products and personalities give Robertson its good name.

To this end, we have worked closely with our neighbours to curate intimate and insightful experiences to allow guests an exciting look behind the curtain. From a riverside braai to cellar tours and art workshops, the guide is tailored to connecting guests to those golden moments that make memorable visits.

The Small Guide thus focuses in large part on visits to wineries, most of which will require advance booking. Our front desk will gladly make arrangements in this regard.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 1

## OWL'S REST OLIVE AND LAVENDER FARM

You can't help but be charmed by Hedley and Patricia Manicom. There's love stitched into every corner of their farm. They'll show you how to harvest lavender by hand, followed by the steam distilling process, which produces lavender water and essential oil. Then get ready to taste: olives, olive oil, and many other products made from the farm's produce. Finally, explore the shop offering a variety of organic skin products as well as foodstuffs. You'll leave smelling like a dream.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## OWL'S REST OLIVE AND LAVENDER FARM

The scent of lavender and wood smoke curls through the air. Hidden between rows of olive trees and bushes of herbs is a small A-frame building.

Hedley and Patricia may be tending their hand-rigged lavender distiller—an ingenious invention that incorporates a copper kettle—or slitting olives (every single olive is done by hand) to be put into brine, or perhaps even mixing up aromatherapy products for the shop.

Organic farming enthusiasts, Owl's Rest has been planted with rows of lavender and germanium in-between the olive trees, which acts as a natural pest repellent.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

## THE TAMARILLO CHUTNEY AND JAM.

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MAP LOCATION:

A7

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

13km via R60

**BOOKING REQUIRED: Please contact the front desk**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

For a drink with a difference incorporate their Rose Geranium Cordial into a cocktail.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large bunch of green grapes. The person is wearing a pink shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the person and the grapes.

SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 2

## KRANSKOP WINES

Go on a vineyard safari—South African style—on the back of a bakkie. See the farm in all its pristine splendour. Learn about the vineyards, take in the lofty views and do some casual birdwatching. At the farm's highest point, somewhere between the vine tendrils and the sky, a picnic spread will be laid out for you to along with a selection of Kranskop Wines. In more inclement weather, you can explore the charming boutique cellar and taste wine straight from the barrels, followed by a full wine tasting on the deck. Picnics can be arranged too.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## KRANSKOP WINES

Be free as a bird at Kranskop. Travel high up into the Langeberg to find this mountainous wine farm. The prolific birdlife is living proof of its natural vineyard practices; birds of prey regularly carve through the sky and there are nests of every shape and size suspended in the trees.

Winemaker and owner Newald Marais is something of an industry legend. He has over 30 years of experience, and is now pouring his heart into his very own boutique wine farm offering a variety of single-cultivar wines. This is just the place to admire the winery's namesake. A single hill, Kranskop rises above the Klaasvoogds meander.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**THE TANNAT. THEY MAKE AN EXCELLENT WINE FROM  
THIS UNUSUAL CULTIVAR.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**

**A8**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**

**15km via R60**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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**THE SMALL THINGS**

All the grapes are handpicked, and then carefully crushed in a vintage basket press.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 3

## KLEINHOEKKLOOF WINES

Theunis de Jongh and his daughter Danielle will greet you in the small tasting room attached to their family home. Taste the boutique range of wines: Sauvignon Blanc, Rosé, Shiraz, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Petit Verdot as well as a red blend. After a visit to the charcuterie fridge they'll guide you to a table with a view of the dreamy mountain setting. Relax over a sharing board heaped with the farm's bounty, all paired generously with their wines. A must-try is the homemade apricot suurtjies with their inimitable sweet-and-sour almond flavour.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## KLEINHOEKKLOOF WINES

Journey into the foothills of a mystical mountain world where desert aloes grow alongside lush ferns. Here you'll find the family-run Kleinhoekkloof, watched over by the 'Mountain Eye', carved into the Langeberg Mountains.

Owner Theunis de Jongh is a man of many passions. Along with the wines, he's likely to show you his charcuterie fridge too—where he's making a whole range of cured meats from the more unusual Lonzino and coppa to Parma-style hams and salamis. The farm also makes olive oil as well as homemade relishes and preserves.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

THE 'BREAKFAST WINE'— A MERLOT ROSÉ THAT'S  
'THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR BACON AND EGGS'.

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MAP LOCATION:

A9

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

25km via Paul Kruger St

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

Theunis is known to listen to Pink Floyd when he's in the cellar. He planted the Sauvignon Blanc vineyard for his wife, who loves the cultivar.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 4

## SAGGY STONE BREWERY

You'll travel deep into Robertson's Langeberg Mountains to find this riverside brewery. The air is fresher here, the night sky brighter. Brewer Adrian Robinson will meet you on the riverbed. He'll cook you dinner over hot coals, while you tuck into his beers. Expect a delicious, unfussy South African style braai, paired with the craft brews made from granite-filtered spring water. The source is the headspring at the top of the Langeberg Mountains, from where it flows over granite, adding a mineral note to the flavour profile of the beers.



# the robertson small

HOTEL

## SAGGY STONE BREWERY

Visit this microbrewery hidden in the mountains for handcrafted beers made with spring water. You can relax in their rustic pub, which serves country-style food as well as tall beers poured straight from the tap. Alternatively, head into the peach orchard where you can braai or picnic, both options are supplied by Saggy Stone. Whatever you do, don't forget to explore the vast mountainous property, rich with birdlife and feel good fresh air. The kids, and the big kids, will love it.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**THE BEERS! THE MICROBREWERY MAKES A RANGE OF FIVE BEERS WITH OPTIONS TO SUIT MOST, FROM THE BIG AND BOLD CALIFORNIA STEAM TO THE LIGHTER DESERT LAGER AND A BRAND NEW IPA.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**

**A2**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**

**25km via R60**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

During the construction of a lapa a troop of baboons 'danced' on its walls causing the stones to sag. Brewer Adrian Robinson's daughter coined it "The Saggy Stone Lapa", and the rest is history.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 5

## MARBRIN OLIVE GROWERS

Family-owned and run, delve into the world of olives with the effusive and knowledgeable Clive Heymans. Start with a tour round the farm, which will include tasting different cultivars of oil from the tanks. This will lead you to the terrace, which overlooks the olive grove, where you'll try blends of oils that were pressed at different harvesting times as well as a variety of table olives.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## MARBRIN OLIVE GROWERS

A family affair, Marbrin was founded 20 years ago by Pieter Coetsee—who was told he'd never be able to grow olives in the Robertson Valley. Dreams sometimes do come true. The proof is in the sea of vigorous olive trees you'll see fanning against the surrounding slopes of the Langeberg and Riviersonderend Mountains—and also in the multitude of awards this boutique farm is amassing.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

CLIVE'S TAPENADE AND OTHER HANDMADE PRESERVES  
AND OIL-INFUSIONS.

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MAP LOCATION:

**B8**

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

**14km via R60**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

Take a moment to admire the quirky décor that tells the story of a family who love travel, food and wine.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 6

## RIETVALLEI WINE ESTATE

Bring an appetite. Welcome to the novelty that is the 'fondue braai'; first find your place at a table on the lawn, with vineyard and mountain views for days. Then, braai. The concept of the fondue braai is simple: in the centre of a round table there's a Weber braai unit filled with hot coals. It's up to you to braai your own food. Meat, veg sides and salad are supplied. This feast is paired with an informal tasting of Rietvallei wines.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## RIETVALLEI WINE ESTATE

One of the most historic wine producing estates in Robertson, Rietvallei Estate boasts over 150 years of ownership under one family. Six generations of the Burger family have watched over its vines. Situated in the Klaasvoogds ward, they make a range of red and white wines, including a celebrated Muscadel. The estate, ringed by mountains, is a relaxing place to spend the day enjoying the famously warm hospitality.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

**RIETVALLEI 1908 RED MUSCADEL 2013—THIS FORTIFIED WINE  
WAS MADE EXCLUSIVELY FROM OLD BUSH VINES PLANTED IN  
1908. THE OLDEST OF ITS KIND IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

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MAP LOCATION:

C7

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

11km via R60

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

The meat for the fondue braai has been sourced from a local, small-scale butchery.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 7

## GRAHAM BECK WINES

Bubble over at Graham Beck's Robertson estate, Madeba. The cellar cuts a contemporary silhouette in the semi-arid, fynbos strewn landscape. You'll be welcomed into the hush of the luxurious tasting room, where you will sample the estate's Cap Classiques.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## GRAHAM BECK WINES

Famed for the production of Méthode Cap Classique, Graham Beck's Robertson cellar is unmistakable with its contemporary design. The cellar was built with the surrounding Klein Karoo veld in mind, in a bid to reflect the endless views of indigenous fynbos and rocky outcrops. In the tasting area sink into a comfortable couch and be mesmerised by these views through wide windows. Graham Beck's mission is 'the eternal pursuit of the perfect bubble'—and you won't be disappointed.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

**THE GRAHAM BECK BRUT ZERO.**

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MAP LOCATION:

**D3**

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

**11km via R60**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

Take a walk around the tasting room to appreciate the eclectic art collection.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 8

## SPRINGFIELD WINE ESTATE

A tree-lined avenue will lead you to an ivy-covered tasting room that overlooks a dam, complete with gently rocking boats.

Enjoy a wine tasting on the deck, paired with freshly baked bread and the farm's olives and tapenade. Alternatively, The Robertson Small will pack a picnic for you to enjoy on the riverbank along with a wine tasting. Stretch the experience and relax on the green lawn under the trees, wine glass in-hand. Don't forget to greet the resident herd of springbok.



# the robertson small

HOTEL

## SPRINGFIELD WINE ESTATE

The spectacular Springfield estate is a must-visit when in the Robertson Wine Valley. This family-run farm is owned by ninth-generation descendants of French Huguenots, who are said to have come to South Africa from the Loire in 1688.

Brother-and-sister team Abrie and Jeanette Bruwer pay homage to their family's long tradition by making wine in a time-honoured style. This means they make sure at least 80 per cent of the harvest is fermented with native yeast and that most of the wines are bottled unfiltered.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**THE THUNDERCHILD, A RED BLEND CREATED TO RAISE FUNDS  
IN AID OF THE CHILDREN OF DIE HERBERG.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**  
**D6**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**  
**6km via R317**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

Every single bottle of Springfield wine is hand-wrapped in tissue-paper; "a gift from us, to you."

A photograph of a wine cellar with stone arches, wooden barrels, and racks of wine bottles. The cellar is dimly lit, with a single light fixture hanging from the ceiling. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone, and the floor is paved with large, rectangular tiles. On the left and right sides, there are racks filled with dark wine bottles. In the center, several large wooden barrels are stacked. The overall atmosphere is rustic and historical.

SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 9

## BON COURAGE ESTATE

Walk through the door of Bon Courage's Cape Dutch homestead, and straight into another time - 1818 to be exact. The farm enjoys a long history, one that can be felt even more keenly in the homestead, where you'll taste the estate's wines.

Three generations of the Bruwer family have been making wine here since 1927.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## BON COURAGE ESTATE

A Cape Dutch homestead sits amidst a sprawling lawn, with vineyards on all sides. André Bruwer was born in Robertson in 1942 on the farm Goedemoed, which translates to 'Good Courage'. There was some confusion over the name as there were five other divisions, each under a separate owner. In 1983 the farm was registered as an estate and André renamed it to Bon Courage (also 'Good Courage'). Family-run, André is the founder and viticulturist, while his eldest son, Jacques is the winemaker. The youngest son, Pieter takes care of the financial and marketing side of things.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

THE JACQUES BRUÉRE CAP CLASSIQUE RANGE.

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MAP LOCATION:

D7

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

10km via R317

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

If you're lucky, you'll see the resident owl and her chicks in the old pepper tree.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands applying a white paper label to a dark green wine bottle. The label is partially attached, showing the text 'BRIELLA' and 'Reserve Blend 2016'. The background is a blurred wooden surface.

SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 10

## EXCELSIOR WINE ESTATE

Experience wine history in action with a cellar tour, then move from the coolness of the cellar to the usually sun-warmed deck, where you'll taste the range of wines. At Excelsior you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at blending wine. Channel your inner winemaker inside the tasting room by combining different varietals in any amounts you choose. You will then bottle, cork and even design your own label for your wine right then and there.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## EXCELSIOR WINE ESTATE

Excelsior Wine Estate is a wine and horse farm with over three centuries of history. Forefather, Jacobus de Wet, was the first member of the de Wet family to arrive in South Africa as well as one of the first winemakers in the Southern Hemisphere.

The expansive estate is a tranquil place to wile away a day. The wine tasting takes place in a wooden-beamed tasting room, with a deck that extends over the dam with views of the vineyards and the Langeberg Mountain range. Sip on a glass of wine while watching the water birds go about their day.

There is also a restaurant and deli on site, offering local Robertson produce and country fare.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**THE TRADITIONAL 'ROOSTERBROOD' FROM THE DELI, WHICH IS BAKED EVERY MORNING IN A WOOD-FIRED OVEN.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**  
**D8**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**  
**16km via R317**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

Go for a tour of the old manor house, which is furnished as it was in bygone days before winding through the rose garden maze.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 11

## VILJOENSDRIFT WINERY

You'll be greeted with a warm hello and a cold glass of the estate's Cap Classique. With bubbly in-hand, you'll stroll around the estate, and to a wine tasting on the banks of the Breede River. Make sure to choose your favourite wines from the range while you're at it—it's your pick for the hour-long river cruise. Hop aboard the Uncle Ben 2, a flat-bottomed riverboat and enjoy a picnic (with goods from the deli) as you cruise along the Breede admiring beautiful mountain views.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## VILJOENSDRIFT WINERY

The Breede River is an amber band that cuts through this estate; the riverbank is on the one side, the slopes of the mountain on the other. In 2018 it will be 200 years since the first generation of Viljoens planted vines for wine and brandy here. The farm is still family run. Viljoensdrift produces a range of wines, a deli offering local goods as well as daily river cruises.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**THE MANY DELICIOUS DELI ITEMS.  
THINK FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, OLIVES, CHEESES, PRESERVES,  
CHARCUTERIE, PÂTÉS; AND SO MUCH MORE.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**

**E7**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**

**14km via R317**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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### THE SMALL THINGS

They're champions of conservation. Their efforts manifest in many ways, from vineyard practices and waste management to restoring indigenous fynbos as well as to recording and studying endemic birdlife.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 12

## DE WETSHOF ESTATE

The arrival at De Wetshof is dramatic - a fountain punctuates the foreground, with a grand building rising up squarely behind it.

This stately edifice houses the tasting room based on the 1791 Koopmans/De Wet House in Strand Street, Cape Town.

Before you head in for a wine tasting you'll go on a tour of the grounds and cellar— all angular white buildings and rippling vineyards—while hearing the tale of this winemaking family. Inside the plush interior of the tasting room you'll be guided through a Chardonnay showcase, beginning with Cap Classique.



# the robertson small

HOTEL

## DE WETSHOF ESTATE

Third generation wine estate De Wetshof is famed for Chardonnay, and has the honour of being the first ever registered wine estate in the Robertson Wine Valley.

Their winemaking history can be traced even further back, to 1694 when the de Wets first landed at the Cape. These days, cellarmaster Danie de Wet works with his sons Johann (viticulture and marketing) and Peter (winemaker).

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**DE WETSHOF 'THE SITE' CHARDONNAY 2014. THIS CHARDONNAY IS EVERYTHING THIS ESTATE IS ABOUT SEALED INTO A BOTTLE.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**  
**E8**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**  
**16km via R317**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

In a tale of vinous subterfuge, De Wetshof was the first estate in Robertson to plant Chardonnay, from rootstock smuggled in from Germany.



SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 13

## TANAGRA WINERY & DISTILLERY

In the wild heart of McGregor at the border of the Klein Karoo, Tanagra is a shaded oasis. Relax under the Tanagra Tree, an old wild fig that spreads its canopy over the homestead and winery. Owner and distiller Robert Rosenbach will meet you here and guide you through a wine tasting, followed by the range of Marc (more commonly known as Grappa) and Eau de Vie (spirits made from fermented or macerated fruit). You can also visit the distillery to see where the alchemy happens.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## TANAGRA WINERY & DISTILLERY

Surrounded by vineyards, fynbos scrub and rocky mountains, Tanagra Wine Farm is the realisation of a dream for owners, Robert and Anette Rosenbach. The German couple settled here in 2009 and finally have a farm to call their own. Here they make sunshine-filled vineyard wines, handcrafted spirits with local provenance, and offer farm cottage accommodation far beyond the rustic norm.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

THE MARC DE CHARDONNAY BARRIQUE. A GRAPPA  
DISTILLED FROM THE POMACE OF SPRINGFIELD'S FAMED WILD  
YEAST CHARDONNAY.

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MAP LOCATION:

F4

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

16km via McGregor road

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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### THE SMALL THINGS

The giant wild fig tree gave 'Tanagra' its name, which relates to a Khoisan expression that means a 'well-shaded place'.

A rustic cellar with a window overlooking a vineyard. The cellar has dark wooden beams and a stone wall. A window on the right side of the frame looks out onto a lush green vineyard with rows of grapevines. In the foreground, a wooden barrel is partially visible on the right. The text is centered on a white rectangular background.

SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 14

## ESONA BOUTIQUE WINES

Descend into the candlelit underground cellar. Here you'll sit at an immaculately set up table for a food and wine pairing experience. A host will guide you through a vertical tasting of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Shiraz in grape-specific Riedel glasses. Drift off on a sensory journey while uncovering a few epicurean mysteries.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## ESONA BOUTIQUE WINES

Esona, translating from the Xhosa, means 'The Very One' and is owned by husband and wife Rowan and Caryl Beattie. This boutique winery produces single vineyard wines: Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir Blanc de Noir.

While the owners are relatively new, the cellar isn't – it was built approximately 90 years ago. The underground fermentation tanks as well as the top and ground floors have been largely left alone when the cellar was renovated. This creates a quixotic mix of the old with the new at this contemporary winery with historic roots.

Caryl is also something of a foodie and has curated Caryl's Deli with local products from the Robertson Wine Valley.

**DON'T FORGET TO TRY**

**'FRANKLY MY DEAR' ROSÉ WHILE RELAXING ON THE VERANDAH.**

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**MAP LOCATION:**  
**F8**

**DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:**  
**19km via R317**

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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**THE SMALL THINGS**

The wine labels all have a tear on the top edge, making each bottle distinct.

SMALL EXPERIENCE

No. 15

## LORD'S WINERY

An earthen brown building blends into the rocky terrain all around it. It's a place that inspires thirst. Fortunately, at the tasting room you'll be greeted with glasses of Méthode Cap Classique, which you'll take along on a cellar tour. Then, settle at a table on the front lawn, taking in those astonishing views, and tuck into a farmer's spread of bread, charcuterie, cheese and olives.

# the robertson small

HOTEL

## LORD'S WINERY

Set in the dusty heart of McGregor, the land suddenly rises, and the ensuing altitude brings with it a contrasting lushness. At 500m above sea level, Lord's Wines the highest in the Robertson valley and the cooler climate provides ideal conditions for certain cultivars, notably an exceptional Pinot Noir.

DON'T FORGET TO TRY

SOME OF THE GARAGISTE MCGREGOR WINES THEY SUPPORT.

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MAP LOCATION:

H3

DISTANCE FROM THE SMALL:

31km via McGregor

**Please contact the front desk to make a booking**

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## THE SMALL THINGS

You may have guessed this one. The winery is named after proprietor Jacie Oosthuizen's love of cricket. Paying homage to the game's birthplace, Lord's Cricket Ground.