



*Location*

Grootbos is set in a pristine nature reserve overlooking Walker Bay and is a 2-hour drive from Cape Town, 50 km east of Hermanus. Access to Grootbos is by tar road. A helipad and a landing strip for light aircrafts are available.



## *Introduction*

Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is a luxury eco-tourism product, set in the Overberg region in the Western Cape of South Africa. Grootbos has stood for an inclusive, shared model of tourism since its inception. In 2003 this was formalised with the creation of the Grootbos Foundation.

The Grootbos Foundation actively drives the community, conservation and culture aspects of the Grootbos vision. This vision can be summarised as, the conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom and the upliftment of the community therein. The Grootbos Foundation and Grootbos Private Nature Reserve share a symbiotic relationship and the longevity and impact achieved, is testimony to the shared passion and commitment to sustainability or 'Progressive Tourism'.

Grootbos was an early adopter of sustainable practices and this led to membership of 'The Long Run' ([www.thelongrun.org](http://www.thelongrun.org)). The members of 'The Long Run' demonstrate that profit should go hand in hand with protected ecosystems and prosperous communities. This framework acknowledges the importance of business viability to secure biodiversity, conservation and community wellbeing. Grootbos is one of 10 Global Ecosphere Retreats (GER members) in the world. GER status is a stringent measure endorsed by the Global Sustainable Tourism.

The many programs of the Grootbos Foundation work to conserve 21 000 hectares of vulnerable fynbos vegetation across the region and reach over 11 000 members of surrounding communities each year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grootbos Foundation has served over 250 000 meals into the community, supplied over 16 000 masks in the support of entrepreneur seamstresses and to assist under-resourced schools with the protective gear they needed in order to re-open their operations.





## *Grootbos Culture*

Below Grootbos we have a pristine coastline with a network of ancient caves. The caves date back to the middle-stone age and the inhabitants are said to have occupied the caves from 80 000 years ago. In earlier times, around 2000 years ago, coastal foragers called the 'strandlopers' inhabited the caves. Our coastal safari experience explores the caves and helps guest imagine life in a time gone-by.

## *Botanical Culture*

Grootbos celebrates a botanical culture. It is set in the smallest, yet most diverse of the world's plant kingdoms and is considered to be located in a conservation hotspot by concerned conservationists all over the world.

Our signature botanical safari explores the Cape Floristic region and landscape. It is a sensory experience of views, scents and scenery that reveals the wonders of the fynbos.

Our botanical art Grootbos Florilegium is a celebration of this botanical culture and revels our charismatic and rare species through the detailed artworks. We are opening our 'Hannarie Wenhold' botanical Art Gallery in September 2022, which will be the home of over 200 original artworks telling the stories of our incredible Cape Floral Kingdom.

We celebrate our unique sense of place through:

- A bespoke range of botanical organic amenities (shower gel, sanitiser, shampoo, conditioner, moisturiser) made from a base from our indigenous fynbos.
- We infuse the fynbos, local, fresh, produce and honey into the culinary experience at Grootbos. A botanically inspired menu has been launched and we have developed a range of Grootbos inspired botanical teas from our fynbos on Grootbos: Vitality, Harmony and Tranquillity.
- A ned addition is our very own Grootbos Fynbos Gin.



## *Forest Culture*

- We have our own ‘Boma’ – an outside dining area nestled in the ancient Milkwood Forest. The Milkwood Forest creates a magical experience that emphasises the ambience of the forest.
- Our ancient forests are where our Guides take many of our guests on walks and hikes. All our guides have undergone a course in ‘Zen Guiding’, that they practice in the forest with guests.
- Our reforestation program allows guests to plant a tree and contribute to our efforts to rehabilitate this ancient forest.

## *Wine Culture*

We showcase the wines from the ‘en-vogue’ wine region and innovate wine makers surrounding Grootbos. Over the last years, Grootbos has collected over 30 000 bottles of wines from premium Wine Auctions, that are not available on the open market. We enjoy sharing our passion for the local wines with our guests and have crafted wine experiences and a beautiful wine dining space in our wine cellar for this purpose.

We offer various guided Wine Tours to the area’s best Wine Farms to see the origin of the wines that are guests are drinking. With the area’s incredible diversity of soil types and its refreshing sea breeze, our guests can experience first hand what sets the wines of the Overberg apart. Although these areas are lesser known than nearby wine routes, this makes the experience that much warmer and more sincere.

- The climate allows for a longer ripening of the grapes.
- Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc are especially well suited to the region.
- Several Cellars have claimed five stars in the Platter’s Guide.
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## *Unique Selling Points*

1. Set in the heart of the Cape Floral Kingdom – the smallest, yet richest of the six floral kingdoms in the world. Grootbos Private Nature Reserve is a showcase of this floristic region and is home to over 860 plant species and 7 new plant species completely new to science. Grootbos is deeply committed to the conservation of this landscape across the region and is building on a conservation legacy of 25 years.
2. Grootbos is a premier marine destination and the pristine coast offers experiences of the Marine Big 5 (Whales, Sharks, Penguins, Seals & Dolphins).
3. Grootbos has two 5-star Premium Lodges (Garden & Forest Lodge) and two exclusive use Villas (4 and 6 Bedrooms).
4. Grootbos has freestanding Luxury Suites set amongst the indigenous fynbos, each with panoramic views across Walker Bay. Suites have their own living rooms, expansive bathrooms and private outside decks.
5. Grootbos has distinguished itself as a food and wine destination. The wine collection at Grootbos has been curated over years of purchasing from the Cape Winemakers Guild Auction.
6. The full board price at Grootbos includes all meals, waters, tea & coffees, soft drinks and many guided and land-based activities (4x4 Flower Safari, Guided Hikes, Forest Walks, Bird Watching, Horse Riding). It excludes Boat Trips, Scenic Flights, Spa Treatments, Fat Biking, Wine Tours and Beach Horse riding.
7. Grootbos is owner run with passion for attention to detail.
8. Grootbos is an example of progressive tourism and demonstrates the incredible positive impact tourism has to drive in conservation, community, culture and sustainability.
9. Grootbos has been measuring its Carbon Footprint since 2014. In 2020 our Carbon Audit determined that we sequester more carbon through our sustainability and conservation work than we emit. Each guest's stay at Grootbos has been offset through the work done on the reserve. We are not only carbon neutral but have surplus carbon credits.





## *Accommodation*

Grootbos is home to two exclusive 5-star Lodges – Garden and Forest Lodge – as well as two private Villas with 4 and 6 bedrooms. All of our accommodation at Grootbos has been designed to complement our pristine natural setting, while never compromising on style or luxury.

### *Garden Lodge*

Surrounded by lush gardens and ancient Milkwood Forest, Garden Lodge welcomes guests with unparalleled, panoramic views over the pristine fynbos and glimmering Walker Bay coastline.

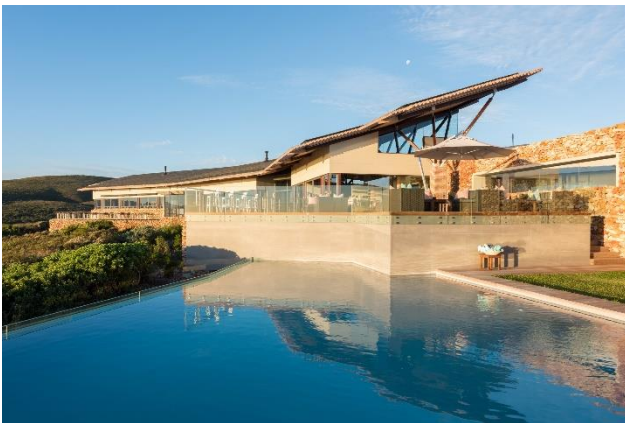
- Panoramic views across the reserve and coastline
- Wheelchair-friendly
- 11 free-standing One- and Two-Bedroom Luxury Suites with panoramic ocean views.
- Each Suite comprises one or two bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, lounges with fireplaces and private outside deck.
- Elegant Wine Cellar ideal for intimate dining experience
- Spacious, yet cosy restaurant with unparalleled views
- Tranquil Wellness Area with Sauna
- Heated Swimming Pool overlooking the lush gardens
- Forest-themed playroom and exciting kids' programme
- Grootbos Gallery
- Families with children of all ages are welcome



## *Forest Lodge*

The contemporary design and décor of Forest Lodge could place it in any of the top cities in the world. But nowhere else would our guests be able to enjoy one of the world's most biodiverse landscapes, the changing colours in the southern sky and the occasional little buck that comes feeding nearby.

- The ultimate romantic getaway, offering peace and privacy
- Set high on a hill, with 180-degree views of the fynbos and ocean
- Magical walkways lead through the enchanted Milkwood Forest
- 16 free-standing One-Bedroom Luxury Suites
- Each Suite comprises one bedroom with en-suite bathroom, lounge with en-suite bathroom and fireplace and private outside deck.
- Cozy restaurant, two lounges and barista
- Outside 'Boma' dining area
- Beauty Salon and library
- An infinity Swimming Pool with spectacular ocean views
- Intimate Wine Cellar for private dinners
- Conference Room
- Grootbos Gallery
- Families with children from 12 years onwards are welcome



## *Private Villas*

Our two private Villas are the last word in secluded luxury, offering unforgettable experiences to our discerning guests. They are an ideal option for a multi-generational family or a small group getaway. The Villas offer luxurious, spacious interiors with sweeping views over the landscape and ocean. With intuitive service provided by their own private chef, butler and nature guide, our guests' every need will be met in a home-away-from-home environment of unsurpassed quality.

### *Villa 1: 6 Bedrooms*

- 2 Master Suites with en-suite bathrooms (bath, shower & outside shower)
- 3 Luxury Bedroom with en-suite bathrooms (bath & shower)
- 1 Luxury Bedroom with en-suite bathroom (shower only)
- 2 Lounges with satellite TV
- 1 fully-equipped kitchen & scullery
- Dining Room
- 1 outside BBQ area, 1 inside BBQ area
- Heated outside pool (not covered)
- 1 Media Room with large screen and projector
- 1 fully equipped office
- 1 Gym, Wine Cellar
- Large outside decks
- Own landing strip (helicopters and light aircrafts)

### *Villa 2: 4 Bedrooms*

- 1 Master Suite with en-suite bathroom (bath & shower)
- 2 Luxury Bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms (bath & shower)
- 1 Luxury Room with en-suite bathroom (shower only)
- 1 Lounge with satellite TV
- 1 fully-equipped kitchen & scullery
- Dining Room
- 1 Outside BBQ area
- Heated outside pool (covered)
- Gym with sauna, - Wine Cellar
- Large outside decks
- Own landing strip (helicopters & light aircrafts)





## *Culinary Experience*

With an experienced chef team on hand, Grootbos menus draw inspiration from the rich biodiversity of the fynbos and the fresh local seasonal produce the region has to offer.

Enjoy sumptuous creations in the privacy of our wine cellar, from the hillside hideaway setting of our restaurants with endless views into the horizon or in one of the best venues nature has to offer under a star-studded evening sky, in an ancient Milkwood Forest.

## *Organic Food*

We believe that nothing tastes better than organic, freshly picked vegetables and herbs. Which is why we have our own farm from which we harvest and get these ingredients to our kitchen and onto the guests' plate as fresh as possible. At the same time are we supporting our local community by training and employing them through our Siyakhula Project. Our culinary team meets regularly to brainstorm and experiment, discussing which ingredients are the best right now. Whether it is visiting the harbour to pick up the catch of the day or heading to our farm to check on the micro herbs, guests can be guaranteed that our Executive Chef Benjamin Conradie and his team have their tastebuds covered.

- We can cater for a variety of dietary requirements.
- Rates include breakfasts, 3-course lunches and 5-course dinners.
- Our chefs incorporate current food trends with seasonal produce.
- Everything is freshly made, from the mayonnaise to the pasta to the bread rolls.



## Activities

Each guest coming to Grootbos is allocated one of our specialised nature guides, that briefed guests upon arrival and is their point of contact to optimise guests' itineraries and experiences.

### Included Activities

- Horse riding for non- and experienced riders through the reserve (please note that the weight limit is 90kg/198lbs per person/ **children under the age of 12 are only allowed on guided pony rides**)
- Botanical Fynbos Hike on the Reserve
- Milkwood Forest Walk
- 4x4 Flower Safari, a sensory exploration of the endemic fynbos
- Coastal drive with seasonal land-based whale watching (whale watching especially during July – December)
- Beach Picnics
- Ancient Klipgat Cave and Walker Bay Nature Reserve beach excursion
- Progressive Tourism Tour
- Mountain Biking on the Reserve
- Bird-watching; experience a great variety of bird species on the reserve
- Various maps of the reserve and the area for self-guided walks
- Children activities, i.e., treasure hunts through the forest and fynbos, pony rides and arts & crafts in the dedicated children playroom
- Transfers to/from all activities for included activities



## *Additional Activities*

Besides our included activities, we offer a variety of additional activities to our guests.

- Marine Big 5 Boat Trips to experience 60 000 Cape Fur Seals, Penguins, Sea Birds, Sharks, Dolphins and the Southern Right Whales (July – December)
- Visit of the African Seabird and African Penguin Sanctuary
- Shark Cage Diving
- Scenic Flights
- Beach Horse Riding
- The Lady Stanford River Cruise
- Fat Biking through the nearby dunes
- Spa Treatments
- Wine Tours to nearby Wine Estates
- Day Trip to Cape Agulhas – the southern-most tip of Africa
- Shopping excursions to Hermanus
- Golfing Excursions
- Road Transfers from / to Cape Town
- Helicopter or light Aircraft transfers from / to Cape Town

All above activities can be pre-booked with our Reservations Department and are charged at an additional cost.





## *Children at Grootbos*

Children of all ages are welcome at our Grootbos. Our Garden Lodge is our family-friendly Lodge and the new design incorporates a dedicated children's area and forest-themed playroom.

At Grootbos our family-friendly and children activities combine adventure, fun and learning in our wonderful natural setting. Our nature guides accompany children on exciting treasure hunts, entomology excursions and trips to the beach to explore the many treasures along our pristine coastline.

Special children's menus are incorporated into all our menus and refreshments and snacks are kept on hand during all activities.

Our main activities for children include:

- Pony Rides (children between the ages 4 and 11 years)
- Horse Riding on the reserve for children from 12 years
- Treasure Hunts through the ancient Milkwood Forest
- Beach & Cave experience, exploring caves, swimming and rock pools
- Entomology experience, understanding the importance of insects
- DVDs on bad weather days
- 4x4 Flower Safari: explore the landscape in an open-top Landover
- Picnic Lunch in the Cave or Forest: throw out a blanket and enjoy special treats with your guide
- Spot the bird, tree, flower games: have fun and learn about nature
- Art projects: make art with natural resources collected during the day
- Help feed the horses & farm animals
- Babysitters available on request (additional charge)



## *Progressive Tourism*

Grootbos, together with its Grootbos Foundation, practice a core philosophy of balance, which incorporates our 4Cs of Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce. This holistic approach demonstrates that tourism has the potential for a positive impact on its surroundings and communities.

The Grootbos Foundation is a non-profit organisation, established with the vision of 'Conserving the Cape Floral Kingdom' and 'Uplifting the Communities therein'.

The Grootbos Foundation is home to conservation projects continuing a legacy of 25 years of conservation work across the Cape Floral Kingdom. Our work within the community includes sport for development, entrepreneurship, early learning, education and food security projects.

## *Sustainability & Carbon Neutrality*

Sustainability is incorporated in the very DNA of Grootbos, aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and is implemented in every level of operations and strategic decision making at Grootbos.

Grootbos records sustainability data in a comprehensive dashboard, which includes carbon, water and waste data to a Global Greenhouse Gas protocol level 2. Some line items included items ordinarily recorded to a Greenhouse Gas protocol level 3. Grootbos has continued to eliminate single-use plastic across the operation and all the organic waste from the Lodge's kitchens are used to feed our pigs at our Siyakhula farm.

Grootbos underwent an external audit in 2020 and the sustainability and conservation work on Grootbos enables us to offset each guest stay at Grootbos. Each and every guest stay is offset by the work we do in terms of sustainability and conservation.





## *Conservation*

Conservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom, both on Grootbos and across the region is integral to the Grootbos and the Grootbos Foundation's vision. The foundation of this work was initiated by Heiner Lutzeyer, 25 years ago. This vision aims to conserve this vulnerable biodiversity at a landscape level and the conservation efforts of the conservation and ecological research team extend over 21 000 hectares across the region.

Botanical studies on Grootbos began as far back as 1996. The ongoing botanical mapping and surveying have contributed 7 plant species, completely new to science and have documented many important range extensions for rare and threatened species. There are currently over 900 plant species recorded on Grootbos Nature Reserve alone.

In addition to the botanical layer, the research team has actively been documenting the entomological species unique to fynbos and has set up a network of motion sensing cameras across the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy monitoring and documenting the elusive mammals of the region.

The research currently being done on the role of insects is ground-breaking, as little is known about insects on the Agulhas Plain. The entomological collection is now home to over 21 000 documented insects and our research team even found a new species, the *Phlyctinus grootbosensis*, a Weevil species on the reserve.

The conservation work conducted contributes to the conservation across the region and plays a vital role in safeguarding the exceptional biodiversity that is under severe threat.





## *Grootbos Florilegium*

### *Vision*

The Grootbos Florilegium is the first contemporary African Florilegium. Its intention is to celebrate and honour the Cape fynbos and the Cape Floral Kingdom in the southern Overberg as a valuable botanical heritage of South Africa and as a record of the many, rare and endangered plant species of the region. The hope is to document this flora in perpetuity, in a time where 150 plant species go extinct every day.

The fynbos of the southern Overberg is a declared UNESCO heritage site and is the smallest yet most diverse of the world's vegetation types. The urgency in recognising this exceptional landscape lies in the vulnerability of the vegetation and its species. Conservationists all over the world have recognised this area as the hottest of hotspots and of critical importance to the preservation of the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Grootbos Private Nature Reserve has a legacy of 25 years of documenting and conserving the Cape Floral Kingdom, both within its borders and across the greater Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy. This legacy of work was initiated by Heiner Lutzeyer and Sean Privett, the Grootbos Foundation Conservation Director and a leading authority on fynbos.

Today the Grootbos herbarium of catalogued fynbos species represents 870 plant species. This work has more than doubled the projected species thought to be in the area.



# GROOTBOS

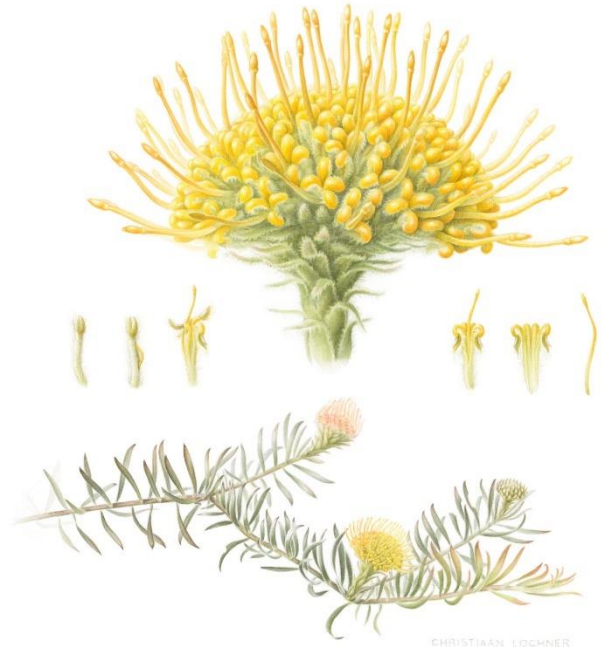
*Private Nature Reserve* ★★★★★

## *A World Collaboration...*

The Grootbos Florilegium is a world collaboration of carefully selected leading botanical artists. Vicki Thomas, a leading South African botanical artist, who has taken part in numerous Florilegium projects around the world has identified and invited 8 groups of artists to Grootbos, where they have immersed themselves in the botanical collection, ecological research and the Grootbos property.

More than 40 acclaimed and celebrated artists from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Reunion, The United Kingdom, the USA, Netherlands, Brazil, Japan, Germany, Canada and South Korea have contributed more than 200 remarkable examples of botanical art portraits documenting the flora of Grootbos.

A distinguishing feature of the Grootbos Florilegium is the inclusion of associated insects, pollinators and other animal 'friends' of the fynbos in the artwork itself or in the supplementary vignettes. The vignettes are an additional page that includes either a broader ecological context or narrative of the plant. Each plant's narrative therefore is artistically displayed over two pages.



## *Botanical Art*

The beauty of botanical art, as the medium of the Grootbos Florilegium, is that it most accurately illustrates the rich scientific details of plants and brings the exceptional narratives in focus for consumers of the art.

Botanical art requires a deep understanding of plants as it combines a precise depiction of plants from anatomy, structure and individual features with the finest technical drawing skills.

Botanical artists draw from live specimen and intimately acquaint themselves with every detail of their plant specimen. The detailed nature of botanical art means that each artwork sometimes takes months to complete.

In consultation and with the close support of Sean Privett and his Grootbos conservation team of experienced botanists and entomologists, key plant species have been selected for the group of botanical artists.

The plant selection is based on the categorisation of plants into key themes: forest, fire, regeneration & geophytes, ecology (pollination & reproduction), Elim fynbos & conservation, parasitism & carnivory and useful plants.

On completion, the artwork is professionally scanned and colour matched to create the most accurate digital record. The prints are high quality archival prints and is often barely recognisable from the original.

The Grootbos Florilegium will be launched on the 01<sup>st</sup> of September 2022 along with the opening of our ‘Hannarie Wenhold’ Art Gallery based at Grootbos, which will be home to the over 200 original paintings.

