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## Franschoek's finest

Franschoek is South Africa's Francophile hotspot and, with its Provençal feel and selection of award-winning restaurants, it's a firm favourite among travellers.

Looking for somewhere bespoke to stay? Head for Akademie Street Boutique Hotel and Guest House, tucked away from the busy main road, it's perfectly private. It's a design-lover's dream, owned by an Irish family and the proprietor has a keen interest in antiques and unique pieces from around the world. He has, for the most part, decorated the property himself, with items of interest and local artefacts.

The home-away-from-home experience is what Akademie Street strives for – and it delivers

successfully. Wonderful touches include complimentary pre-dinner drinks (the perfectly blended cocktails are delicious), as well as a help-yourself minibar and a generous selection of dark chocolates at your bedside, which are in your room all day, not just presented at night. Breakfasts are served at your table (there's no queuing at a buffet at this top hotel) and the food is homemade to perfection – even down to the granola.

All in all, it's a superb offering and one that has earned the property a number of TripAdvisor accolades, including the Traveller's Choice Award and being named a Top Small Hotel in the World. Visit: [www.aka.co.za](http://www.aka.co.za)