

Suburb focus



Franschhoek

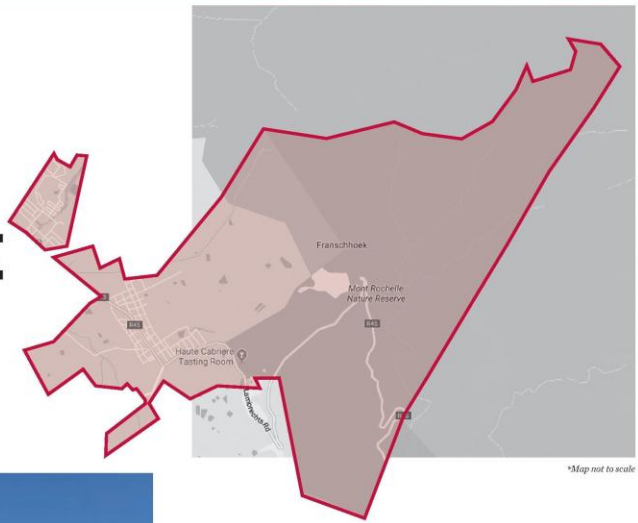
Here's what's happening in property in the area

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Franschhoek may be a world-renowned gourmet destination with most of the Cape's top restaurants – the influence of its original French settlers enduring in names, wines

and food – but underneath the sophisticated surface, it's at heart a close-knit village community.

"I love the village life; it's a sense of family," says chef Vanie Padayachee



*Map not to scale



“There's constantly something new in Franschhoek, a challenge to improve the hospitality we offer as a village. We're a community first and an industry second. Whether it's helping fight raging fires or trying the newest vintage, there's a true sense of ubuntu here.

LLEWELLYN LAMBERT, HOSPITALITY HEDONIST

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of Marigold, who fell in love with Franschhoek when she first came to work at Le Quartier Français in 1996. "The people in the village are more my family than my real family!"

Hospitality, along with agriculture, is the backbone of the village's economy. Its year-round festivals and reputation for luxury weekend getaways ensure that the boutique hotels and guesthouses have a constant flow of visitors sharing that welcoming village vibe.

Property

Many visitors never want to leave and some end up investing in property here, so the residents are a cosmopolitan bunch. "The town has the perfect mix of country and cosmopolitan, the land is plentiful and the aesthetic has been maintained in the village, so there's something for everyone," says blogger Hospitality Hedonist aka Llewellyn Lambert.

From upmarket security estates on working farms such as La Petite Provence, Domaine des Anges and Val de Vie further down the valley, to historic houses with gardens in the village itself, or even small farms, there's a wide choice for those at the upper end of the market and constant demand from South Africans escaping

city life and Europeans escaping their winter for a summer second home.

Llewellyn has seen substantial investment in the hospitality industry in the last eight years. "From having comfortable wine country accommodation, Franschhoek has evolved into an eclectic mix of small owner-run B&Bs, boutique wineries such as Dieu Donne, Lynx and Eikehof and incredibly chic high-end luxe accommodation like Leen Collection," he says.

And in the current water crisis, Franschhoek is faring better than most, with many farms and guesthouses having their own boreholes, fresh mountain springs close by and a mountain stream running through the village.

Schooling

Just outside Franschhoek, Bridge House School ranks among the Western Cape's top private schools, with a reputation for innovative, forward-thinking education, and attracts pupils from all over the country. Serving the village community, Franschhoek High School and several other schools in the valley benefit from the Franschhoek Literary Festival's support, with library and reading programmes as well as visits from authors aiming to develop a love of

For sale

Median asking price:

R6m

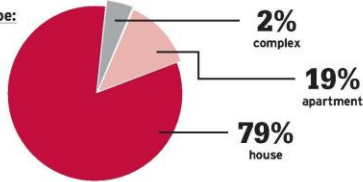
For a typical property (three-bedroom house)

R1,98m
In a complex

R2,25m
For an apartment

R7,35m
For a house

Property Type:



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Monthly bond repayments

For a typical property in this area

You'll pay
R58,899
 per month

Based on
R6m
 median asking price

over a period of 20 years
 at 10,25% prime

reading in the children of the valley. The renowned schools of Stellenbosch and Paarl, as well as Stellenbosch University, are an easy commute away.

Explore

All the pleasures that make Franschhoek such an attractive destination for visitors make it a joy for residents year-round, whether it's lazy lunches at one of the wine estates, foraging for mushrooms, tasting the first wines of the harvest, or just enjoying the views.

An active outdoor lifestyle is literally on residents' doorstep – within a few minutes you can be mountain biking or walking in Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve, horse riding, hiking or cycling. There's a bowling club, a tennis club, a health club and a gym.

Franschhoek is renowned for its fine dining restaurants, but it also has good cafes and casual eateries. Llewellyn's favourites include Big Dog Cafe, Terbodore Coffee, Eikehof for cheese-boards and simple family hospitality, Leopards Leap for lunches on the lawn, breakfast at Boschendal and lunch at La Paris.

Weekends bring a procession of happenings. From the major festivals, including Bastille Day, the Franschhoek Literary Festival, Uncorked and the Cap Classique and Champagne Festival to smaller harvest festivals and the regular Saturday markets, there's always something to look forward to on the calendar.

EAT:

- La Petite Colombe
- Le Coin Francais
- Marigold
- Chefs Warehouse at Maison
- Ryan's Kitchen
- Reuben's
- Foliage

SLEEP:

- Akademie Street Boutique Hotel and Guest House: with six rooms in five unique buildings
- La Residence: a manor house hotel in a tranquil private estate
- La Petite Ferme: a boutique hotel with panoramic views
- Mont Rochelle: Richard Branson's luxury vineyard hotel
- La Cle des Montagnes: for luxurious self-catering cottages
- Avondrood Guest House: for centrally located B&B
- The Leeu Collection: for chic, high-end luxury

SEE:

- The Franschhoek Wine Tram
- Mont Rochelle Nature Reserve
- Vintage cars at L'Ormarins Franschhoek Motor Museum
- Horse-riding trails from Paradise Stables
- The Franschhoek Village Market on Saturdays
- Art galleries along the main street