



# Family-friendly wine farms

Exploring the winelands with kids in tow will be more fun for all involved if you head for these family-friendly farms

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**K**eeping young ones occupied while you sniff, swirl and sip is always a problem for wine-loving parents, but a handful of family-savvy estates have come up with easy ways to keep the ankle-biters entertained.

A number of estates now offer "tastings" for young oenophiles. The likes of Van Loveren, Grande Provence and Spier all lay on grape juice tastings to keep kids entertained, while Creation Wines in the scenic Hemel-en-Aarde valley also offers kid-friendly snacks to keep them occupied while adults sample the superb Pinot Noir and Syrah the estate is famous for (there's even a playroom stocked with toys, crayons and other goodies).

Thanks to its sprawling gardens and magical forests, Vergelegen on the outskirts of Somerset West has long been a family favourite. While the wine-tasting centre isn't too kid-friendly, Stables restaurant welcomes younger diners with its Little VIPs menu and a top-notch outdoor playground.

Joostenberg outside Stellenbosch is another family favourite with that magical combination of good wine, great food and plenty of play equipment for kids to burn off pent-up energy.

Similarly, the tasting room on Moreson Estate spills out into a wonderful shady courtyard where there are shallow ponds for older children and a well-equipped play area with cushions and toys in a quiet corner of the veranda.

Animals are always a welcome distraction, and while you can't pet the goats at Fairview, outside Paarl, the curious sight of them climbing the estate's iconic goat tower should keep younger guests entertained whilst adults enjoy the well-organised tastings indoors.

Vergenoegd Wine Estate relies on feathered diversions to add some distraction. Its large flocks of Indian Runner ducks are in charge of keeping the vineyards snail-free but also do a sterling job of delighting visitors young and old. Happily, the estate's Runner Duck Red blend is as quaffable as the ducks are entertaining.

Warwick Wine Estate is famous for its wide lawns and stylish picnics, but even when the restaurant moves indoors for winter the large jungle gyms and plenty of space make it a fine choice for tasting with the kids in tow. The historic manor house offers a menu of warming winter dishes along with a small kids' menu.

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**R75**  
Kids' Surprise Pairing  
at Creation

