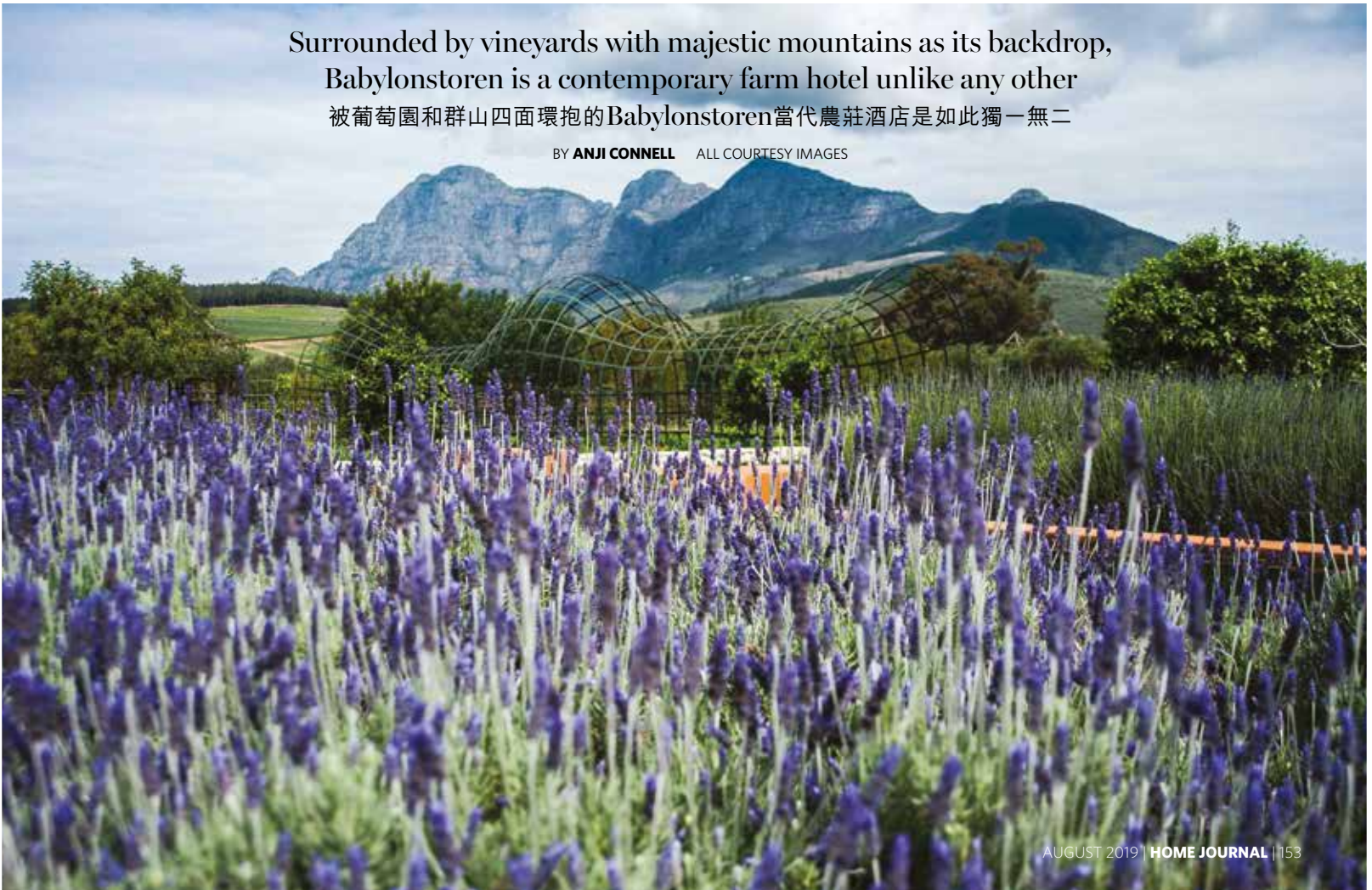


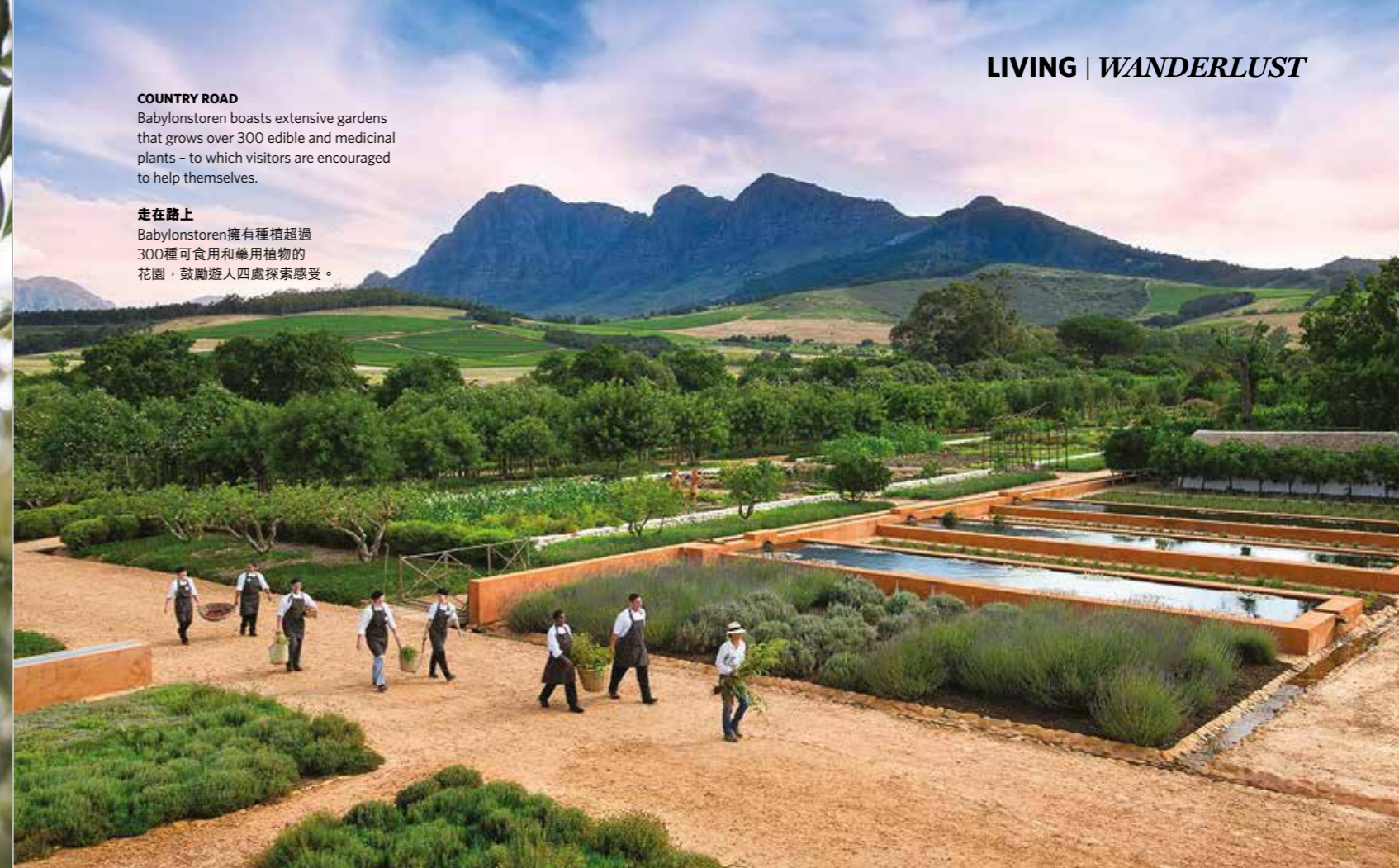


HOTEL BABYLON

Surrounded by vineyards with majestic mountains as its backdrop,
Babylonstoren is a contemporary farm hotel unlike any other
被葡萄園和群山四面環抱的Babylonstoren當代農莊酒店是如此獨一無二

BY ANJI CONNELL ALL COURTESY IMAGES



**COUNTRY ROAD**

Babylonstoren boasts extensive gardens that grows over 300 edible and medicinal plants – to which visitors are encouraged to help themselves.

走在路上

Babylonstoren擁有種植超過300種可食用和藥用植物的花園，鼓勵遊人四處探索感受。

There are hotels we like and then there are hotels we love – and South Africa's Babylonstoren is most definitely in the latter category. Set within the Cape Winelands and only 50 kilometres from Cape Town, Babylonstoren is a working farm with a historic Cape Dutch homestead at its heart.

Karen Roos, the former editor of *Elle Decoration South Africa*, and her husband, Koos Bekker, the chairman of multinational internet and media group Naspers, fell in love with the property 10 years ago and undertook a massive restoration, transforming it into what is now the coolest destination in the Cape Winelands. Featuring a restaurant, vineyard, deli, bakery, butchery and a spectacular garden that spreads over 3.5 hectares, the original structures (many of which date to the 18th century) include a manor house, the Koornhuis (wheat store), the old cellar, an ornate fowl house, a dovecote, a leaning bell tower and the historic gates.

Within these structures, past the botanical print-covered reception and adjacent resident's lounge, house a host of accommodation options that fuse old-time glamour with contemporary touches. Dating back to 1777, the manor house sleeps 10 people in five bedrooms – all beautifully restored to their former glory. A traditional farm kitchen boasts a roaring wood-burning stove, while additional touches include a daily basket of fresh-picked herbs by the freestanding clawfoot bathtub for an aromatic restorative soak, ideal for chasing any stress away.

Over at the former farmworkers' Cape Dutch cottages that sit on either side of the oak-tree-edged avenue are thirteen suites. The garden cottages feature six one-bedroom suites, three one-bedroom cottages and four two-bedroom cottages, transformed from existing farm buildings into relaxed spaces with modern furniture by international design brands such as Kartell, Magis, Philippe Starck and the Bouroullec Brothers. New accommodation has also been added to create the Farm Hotel.

For those looking for a more exclusive experience, the one-bedroom cottages boast a luxurious en-suite bathroom and a lounge. The addition of a glass cube for the dining and kitchen area provides an uninterrupted view of the garden and the vines, which brings the outdoors in. The palatial two-bedroom cottages, built in the Cape Dutch style, includes a kitchen and a lounge. All come with a fireplace and bookshelves filled to the brim, offering a unique farm-stay experience.

The hotel spa is set within a forest of bamboo and tranquil greenery, linked inextricably with the garden and its changing seasons. Constructed in bamboo, there are a hammam, a chill room and a hot spa.

愛有深淺之分，我們對南非Babylonstoren絕對是愛入骨！Babylonstoren位處開普酒鄉，距離開普敦僅50公里，是一個不折不扣的真農場，中心建了一所具歷史價值的開普荷蘭式莊園。

《Elle Decoration》南非版雜誌前任編輯Karen Roos跟跨國互聯網及媒體集團Naspers的主席丈夫Koos Bekker，十年前愛上了這片土地後便為其進行大幅修葺，將農場搖身一變成為開普酒鄉現時最時尚的旅遊熱點。原先的建築結構(大部份可追溯至18世紀)，包括莊園宅邸、Koornhuis(麥倉)、舊酒窖、華麗的家禽屋、鴿房、傾斜的鐘樓和歷史閘門。

走過印滿植物印花的接待處就會在這些建築群中發現，毗連的住客廳原來容納了多種住宿選擇，結合了昔日的迷人設計魅力，同時不失當代氣息。回到1777年，莊園宅邸的五個房間一共可容納十人，來到今日，所有房間也重新煥發昔日的光彩。傳統的農場廚房，以其隆隆的柴火窯爐而自豪，神來之筆包括每日提供新鮮採摘的草本植物，放於抓腳浴缸旁以作香氛浴的原料，讓住客洗滌心靈，消除疲勞。

前身為農場工人的開普荷蘭式小屋，現改裝成13間套房，散落在櫟樹大道兩旁。原先的農夫大宅最近改建為擁有9家睡房的鄉間小屋，並採用了Babylonstoren的招牌風格。園中另建6間一房套房、3間一房小屋和4間兩房小屋，把原先的農場建築化身成寫意空間，當中擺放的現代傢具均是國際設計品牌出品，如Kartell、Magis、Philippe Starck和Bouroullec Brothers。加建的新住房便組成了農場酒店。





TRUE RELAXATION

Plush suites that come with their own fireplace are the perfect retreat after.

真正放鬆

奢華舒適的套房擁有自家火爐，是享用日光後靜養身心的好地點。

要求更私人的住宿體驗？一房小屋內置奢華的主衛套房連客廳，便能滿足你所需。飯廳和廚房部份的立方落地玻璃窗盡取一覽無遺的葡萄園林景致。富麗堂皇的兩房小屋以開普荷蘭式風格建成，包括廚房和客廳。所有小屋也配備火爐和大型落地書櫃，為住客帶來獨一無二的農場住宿體驗。

酒店的水療中心設於綠意盎然的竹林中，與花園以及其四季變遷緊密相連，還有以竹建成的土耳其浴、冷凍室和溫熱水療。宅邸一切也經悉心鋪排，包括田園風農產品商店、廣闊庭園、及美味蔬果。Karen 聘用園林建築師 Patrice Taravella 以鄰近開普敦的公司花園（當年為荷蘭東印度公司遠洋船供給食品的供應商）為靈感，建造可食用植物和草藥園林。

園中長有超過300種可食用有機植物草藥，為兩所餐廳供應食材。位於舊牛棚內的 Babel 糅合開普荷蘭式建築和當代玻璃建材，Greenhouse 餐廳則隱身於花園後的櫟樹林中。這裡的食物以野餐籐籃奉上，果醬和沙律等則盛於闊口玻璃瓶。Babylonstoren 的最大樂趣在於讓住客隨便享用公園中的所有植物。

Babylonstoren 酒廠鋼和玻璃的結構充滿當代風格，下層包括品酒室和釀酒設施。四款出色配酒菜單帶來農場自家出產的時令水果和蔬菜，還有芝士、肉類和魚類，所有菜色均以酒桶木製成的厚木板奉上。

除了享受田園生活和休養生息，你還可以四處探索，沿著花園大道遊車河，到野生動物體驗也可。盡享這片人間淨土，直至準備好離開 Babylonstoren、重返真實世界為止——也許你會想再多留幾天呢！！

On the grounds, everything is thoughtfully designed and curated, from the idyllic farm shop to the extensive gardens and its divinely delicious produce. Karen tasked garden architect Patrice Taravella with creating a wholly edible and medicinal garden, taking inspiration from Company's Garden in nearby Cape Town – the original suppliers of food to the sailing ships of the Dutch East India Company.

The garden grows more than 300 edible and medicinal plants organically that supply the farm's two restaurants. Babel is housed in the old cow shed, which features a mix of Cape Dutch architecture and contemporary glass, while the Greenhouse Restaurant is tucked away between the oak trees at the rear of the gardens. Here, the food is served in wooden crates picnic-style, with its preserves, jams and salads served in Weck jam jars. One of the loveliest things at Babylonstoren is that visitors can help themselves to anything growing in the garden – in fact, it's actively encouraged.

The Babylonstoren winery is a highly contemporary steel-and-glass structure, consisting of the tasting room and winemaking facilities below. There are four fantastic pairing menus as well, featuring seasonal fruits and vegetables grown on the farm, cheese, meat, and fish – all served on wooden boards made from wine barrels.

Rested and full of the joys of idyllic country living, you can continue on to explore the many delights of the Cape Winelands, or drive along the Garden Route or visit a game reserve. Reflect on your travels while luxuriating in this heavenly space before you're ready to leave Babylonstoren and face the real world again – or just maybe you'll want to extend your stay. //