

Conference Check Durbanville – Cape Town



Meerendal Wine Estate

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

A hidden gem – the main conference venue is a great, big, converted stylish Cape barn, with comfortable seating, log fires, sliding doors set in a stunning wine estate setting matched by a great ‘can-do’ attitude. Perfect for any event you could think of where you need an indoor audience of anything from 60 to 150 people or an outdoor marquee lawn for up to 600 guests.

Then there's The Loft; a venue for up to 25 delegates, as well as the Laurent Perrier room at Wheatfields restaurant which can seat 10 in a boardroom or private dining session.

The parking's good and the venue spacious, and you'll go a long way in Cape Town to find better food, or wine for that matter. After all the years I've evented in Cape Town, Meerendal has now thankfully appeared in my speaking engagement diary twice in six months – which must mean the venue 'is being discovered' – as I'd never previously worked there. I've been missing out – until now.

WHERE IS IT?

Only 20 minutes from Cape Town in the lush valley adjacent to the Tygerberg Hills, Meerendal has been around since 1702. Purchased by a consortium of South African businessmen in 2004 – with a stated objective to develop the property into one of the top wine estates in the country, they've already

succeeded in creating a stunning conference venue. From Cape Town you travel down the N1 to the (N7) turnoff signposted Malmesbury (passing Century City) where you follow the N7 route passing the Bosmansdam and Platteloof exits as well as the refinery and the new M13 turnoff. 2 km further you'll reach the Durbanville turnoff. Take this, turning right onto Vissershok Road, cross a 4-way stop, crest a hill and Meerendal is on your left. (There's a map on the website)

CONFERENCE ROOM FACILITIES

For The Barn, The Loft and The Laurent Perrier Room, full and half-day conference packages are available, including standard conference equipment, water, teas and coffees, mints and biscuits.

Meals are designed by executive chef Stephen Fraser. Choose from customizable breakfast, lunch or dinner menus, and the venue also provides round tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery in the package as well as assistance with decor, such as linen, flowers and lighting if needed. There are good electricity points and lighting as well as great cloakrooms. Parking is available for up to 200 vehicles.

Be sure to include a Wine Tasting (the Meerendal Shiraz is outstanding) where groups of a minimum of 20 can be accommodated (prices on request).

VERDICT

I lunched with my client after my last morning session at Meerendal. Already blown away by the venue, the food and the people, we rounded off a fantastic event with a meal at The Bistro, an intimate deli-cum restaurant with French doors overlooking a wooden deck and with the estate's dam and vineyards spread before us. It felt like heaven – and as my spicy arrabiata tagliatelle got washed down by a second glass of Shiraz – I knew what this portion of the review would say... Meerendal gets a 7-star rating from me. (Incidentally you can arrange a corporate function at The Bistro too – as it seats 40 – with a booking fee of just R1 000).

PRICE

A full day conference package is around R225 per person including a breakfast or one-course lunch with a half day (including the meal) at R185 per person – but call the estate for availability and special deals.

CONTACT

Meerendal
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Michael Jackson