

MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

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Far-sighted ideas Global

Preface

From fine wines in South Africa and the healing properties of the Vietnamese jungle to a retreat co-founded by Swedish pop royalty in Brazil, take a trip through spring's best travel destinations.



Babylonstoren
Franschhoek, South Africa
Surrounded by mountains and vineyards near Franschhoek, Babylonstoren mixes old traditions with contemporary Cape sensibilities. The original Dutch farm dates back to 1690 and within its grounds owner Koos Bekker and his wife Karen Roos have created a sanctuary. From the heritage gardens to the farm-to-table recipes, Babylonstoren is an ode to simplicity layered with thoughtfulness and attention to detail. "At Babel restaurant the food is directed by what the garden gives us: everyone at the restaurant gets a chance to pick from the garden. Fresh, seasonal produce forms the heart of any dish," says Roos. If you have time to stay overnight there are 14 stunning cottages. If not, pleasure is still to be had enjoying a tasty lunch and sampling local produce in the farm shop – followed by a walk of discovery in the gardens. — GD
babylonstoren.com

*FOOTNOTE:

Babylonstoren's farm shop is open seven days a week selling their own wine and that of 28 other local vineyards.

Alpenlofts

Salzburgerland, Austria
The concept behind Alpenlofts is that of a mini-village along the tranquil and car-free Kaiser-Wilhelm-Promenade in Salzburgerland. It was the views of the Gastein Valley that inspired Austrian architect Iker Ikrath and hotelier Evelyn Ikrath to build the houses in a way that would take in as much of the natural light as possible while giving guests views of the mountains from inside the lofts. Each of the five Alpenlofts is fitted with

a mix of vintage and hand-made furniture from Japanese designer Megumi Ito and the Danish master Poul Henningsen, as well as armchairs by Hans J Wegner and beds by Josef Frank. — DEP
alpenlofts.com



Heritage Bicycles General Store Chicago

"People become pleasant when they're surrounded by good food and drinks," says Heritage Bicycles General Store owner Michael Salvatore at the shop's café in Chicago's Lake View neighbourhood. Besides good brews, Heritage assembles and repairs bikes in its open workshop in full view of customers. Visitors can also purchase cycling related knick-knacks such as Brooks seats and apparel from Colorado-based Upright Cyclist. Salvatore organises film nights and group-cycling rides on Wednesday evenings for locals who have rewarded him with brisk sales – 300 bicycles sold in the past year. — JZL
heritagebicycles.com

