



# FAMILY MATTERS

Stellenbosch's Le Grand Jardin is an enchanting homestead with sprawling gardens. And it's the perfect holiday rental for multi-generational summer escapes

**S**pend time in the sprawling gardens of Le Grand Jardin, a stately homestead available for holiday rentals set within a five-acre property in Stellenbosch's Devon Valley, and it's a given that you'll be reminded of childhood summer holidays. Abstract recollections at first – dappled light through trees, the tropical scent of sunscreen, ticklish grass or hot bricks underfoot, ants gathering around an empty cooldrink. These will give way to more family-centric memories, for if, as a child, you were fortunate enough to spend summer holidays with both your parents and grandparents, your adult recollections of those salad days are hopefully rose tinted with a nostalgia for

multi-generational moments. Moments that include a grandfather dispensing tried-and-tested braai knowledge to 'the boys', or a *nonna* fussing over you, reminding you to drain water from your ears after time in the pool. It's the appeal of all this, often best appreciated with the hindsight that comes with adulthood, that makes a stay at Le Grand Jardin so magical. What adds fairy dust to that magic is just how family friendly – better yet, multi-generational friendly – Le Grand Jardin is.

To begin with, Le Grand Jardin's outdoor spaces beg to be explored by both adults and children alike; even better if explored together. They are a fun-filled celebration of nature and an evolving homage to the power of escapism. Wander the garden and there

is much to take in. While children may marvel at the unexpected pleasure of riding a working Coulson fairground carousel, the older among us will call to mind the Impressionist paintings the picturesque scene resembles. And while children may stamp feet with insistence at ziplining across the dam, or chase each other along its secret pathway that's dotted with characters from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, the more mature will appreciate the sanctity of the remembrance garden. Both young and old can handpick veggies from the herb and vegetable garden for the property's resident chef, Nicole Serfontein, to add to delicious freshly-prepared meals. And this abundance of enjoyment before mention has been made of the showman's caravan (perfect for a girls-







only tea party) or the floating deck, the tepee or the glass house. “I consider the garden to be the property’s calling card,” says Le Grand Jardin’s owner. “It certainly is an artistic canvas of sorts.”

The canvas extends indoors. It is at its most enchanting in the master suite of the Manor House, a three-bedroomed (all en suite) historic home completed in 1934 by a disciple of architect Sir Herbert

on new dimensions when surrounded by cheeky monkeys grabbing fruit off the branches of tropical trees.

Downstairs in the homestead, a variety of casual and formal reception rooms offer indoor escape. While the children do their thing outdoors, adults can enjoy quieter moments inside, either in a library fit for introspection or in the mahogany bar, or opt for sampling the

the pavilion’s bedrooms (that can sleep eight) are set apart from the heart of the homestead – its kitchen, dining, and multiple reception rooms – making them ideal for teenagers, or a young family. The pavilion has its own kitchenette, allowing for autonomy from the homestead.

Beyond the Pool Pavilion’s doors is Le Grand Jardin’s inviting swimming pool, and beyond that a generous lawn that’s not only home to an ice cream trolley but which, on request, is where outdoor movie nights happen. Steps away, there’s *petanque* terrain. A game with roots in ancient times, it’s one that here can be played by all. “A sense of lightness and play revives our spirits,” says Le Grand Jardin’s owner of all that’s on offer. “The expansive garden with its old trees, its places to run and hide, swim and play – these are the spaces that revive the spirits of even the most jaded of souls.” For a multi-generational escape, what more could an enchanting homestead offer than the best of all worlds?

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Baker. The master suite is a space that will delight both the young and old. Bespoke embroidered curtains and hand-painted wallpaper by Cape Town’s African Sketchbook studio beckon the gardens in. Crafted by the studio’s self-taught artists, the room’s made-to-measure tableau was inspired by French Post-Impressionist Henri Rousseau’s naive jungle scenes. If ever there was a space for intergenerational picture-book reading, this is it. For storytelling takes

region’s quality wines in the wine cellar. If not outdoors, then lunch and dinner – prepared to order by the resident chef – are best enjoyed in the grand dining room. The entrance too feels richly appointed, with its walls papered in De Gournay’s *Amazonia* wallpaper.

Wallpapered blooms extend into the three-bedroomed Pool Pavilion too, where one of local designer Cara Saven’s floral wallcoverings adds visual interest to a spacious bedroom. All en suite,

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**For reservations or enquiries, visit [www.lejardin.co.za](http://www.lejardin.co.za)**