

# GALENIA

— E S T A T E —

## About the Estate

Welcome to Galenia, our 550 hectare estate on the famous Route 62 in the Klein Karoo – one of the most scenically beautiful areas of the Western Cape. We hope that you will enjoy your stay with us and appreciate the peace and tranquillity of the estate where nature abounds and ‘the hand of man’ has had a very light touch.

The estate originally known as Boontjiesrivier (Boyin-kiss-riff-ear) was the first estate to be settled in the Montagu area long before the Cogman’s Kloof pass was blasted out in 1877 – in fact it must have been very intrepid Dutch settlers who navigated the mountains and river beds in the early 1700’s to settle here.

Boontjiesrivier (or in English, Little Bean River) was the name also given to the river rising in the springs and kloofs of the Langeberg Mountains immediately behind the estate.

A French Huguenot family, called Le Roux, purchased the farm in 1865 and over the years it has been used for growing fruit (mainly apricots) and also grapes for wine.

However, it seems that the estate was reclaimed by nature as the native ‘fynbos’ took over and the estate buildings crumbled and fell into disrepair until it was rescued by a far-sighted Belgian – Eric Brilliant and his wife Myriam who bought the estate in 2002 when they moved to South Africa from The Congo.

A remarkable transformation took place with the planting of 1100 olive trees and the construction of a ten roomed guest house to complement the renovation of the original Cape Dutch barn which now forms the centre of the estate. Nature walks were set out on the farm and into the surrounding mountains and kloofs so that guests could really interact with this beautiful countryside.

The estate has just recently changed hands yet again and from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 has become owned by the Bailey family – a British family with more than 50 years of involvement with East Africa where they still have significant holdings in Dar es Salaam and in The Selous Game reserve of southern Tanzania.

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## INFORMATION

*Office* : 08 :00 – 18 :00, although we will still be in the main area until dinner service is complete. Duty Manager Contact Number: +27 (0)23 614 2514/+27 (0) 66 483 5117

*Morning Estate Walk:* 07:30 – 08:30, please book at reception.

*Breakfast:* 08:00 to 09:30 - served on front stoep (verandah).

*Lunch Platters:* *a selection of cheeses and/or cold meats with preserves:* This can be served on your private stoep or at the Pool.

*Olive Tastings:* 18:00 – 18:30, please book at reception.

*Dinner:* 19:00 – 21:00 – served on the front stoep (verandah). The main house has full bar service throughout the day and evening.

*Check in time:* You are welcome to check in at any time, but rooms may not be ready until 14:00.

*Check out time:* Please vacate the room by 11:00

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ESTATE

## ACTIVITIES

### Swimming Pool & Jacuzzi

The swimming pool is located to the west of the main building, screened off by the grapevines & bamboo slats. The jacuzzi is located in front of the swimming pool lawn. It is switched on in the early morning, and is usually warm by 10:30. We switched it off again around 18:30.

Pool towels can be found at the pool area on the loungers and in the baskets. Please take care as there are no lifeguards on duty, and we kindly ask you to please respect the tranquil environment and your fellow guests.

### Bicycles

There are four mountain bikes available with their helmets right next to the pergola of the swimming pool. It works on a first come, first served basis, and please use them at your own risk.

### Hiking trails:

We have 5 walking trails on the estate, a map of which is available from reception. They are all relatively easy and each one offers its own particular interests. Best to walk with good, comfortable shoes, and wooden walking sticks are available in the bike shed. As most of the estate is wild fynbos, obviously there would be critters and crawlies about, so always just stay aware of your environment.

*Waboom trail:* (1h30/2.8km) Yellow trail markers

This walk traverses the slopes of the Langeberg mountains, and has a bit of a steep decline on the way down. The vistas from here are breathtaking.

*Melkbos trail:* (1h15/1.5km) Orange trail markers

This trail takes you to the historical burial site with graves dating back to 1799 and through an area where the aloes are prolific. Just the time to say Hello to Cesar & Lena the donkeys. They like fresh apples and will come to say hello as soon as they see you approaching. Please don't get into the paddock with them. Please feel free to ask any of the staff members for some apples & carrots to feed them.

*Lost World Trail:* (1h/1km) Purple trail markers

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Past the water fountain, this trail leads you across the Boontjiesriver and up into the kloof. There is a bit of rock-clambering involved, but a beautiful trail.

*Protea trail:* (1h/1.4km) Red trail markers

A very large selection of wild flowers can be seen on this trail, and when the proteas are in bloom, it is a sight to behold.

*The Hillview trail:* (45 min/1.1km) Blue trail markers

Beautiful views from this sandstone hill over the valley and to the mountains beyond. Remember your camera and binoculars!

## Ostriches

There are 7 ostriches on the estate. They are wild – we do not feed them, but as they've grown up here, they are relatively habituated to people. They may approach you out of curiosity. Stay calm, and lift one of the walking sticks above your head (they get intimidated by things that are taller than they are), and then move slowly away.

## OLIVES

Approximately 1100 trees were planted in 2003 on the slope north-west of the main building. Frantoio and Manzanilla varieties make up about half of the grove, and the other half is Mission.

Following the Wildfire in February 2018, approximately 500 olive trees were planted on the base of the Langeberg Mountain on our Southern boundary. This entire grove is made up of Coratina olives dotted with Frantoio olives to aid pollination.

Early April 2019, 850 Frantoio olive trees were planted on the slopes of the Langeberg Mountain also on our Southern boundary.

Frantoio olives are used for olive oil production, and the oil has a sharp flavour to it. Manzanilla olives are used as green table olives, and are picked when they have reached their prime size and are still green. Mission olives are used for both table olives and olive oil. They are usually picked when the fruit are three quarters ripe, not completely black yet. Coratina olives are used for olive oil production and produce an intensely fruity and pungent oil.

The trees start flowering from September, and by the end of October to early November, the fruit begin to develop. The flowers are wind pollinated and require the other cultivars to pollinate one another.

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The picking of the olives commences in March and continues until the end of April, as the different varieties reach their prime ripeness at different times.

Once picked, the olives are then sorted, and any leaves and branches are removed, also bad ones are thrown away. The varieties used for oil are pressed virtually immediately after picking, within 24 hours. The table olives are cleaned, washed and then placed within a brine solution for several months, being cleaned and new brine added every month until ready for bottling.

Tree Markers:

When you do walk around on the estate you will see: green, yellow, orange, blue and white cable ties to all our trees

Green	-Frantoio	Yellow	-Manzanilla
Orange	-Mission	Blue	-Coratina
White	-Non fruiting		

## FLORA

The term 'Fynbos' is an old Dutch (and now Afrikaans) word meaning fine plants or bushes, and is given to a collection of plants that is dominated by shrubs. The majority have, as the name would suggest, very fine and small leaves.

Fynbos is the smallest floral kingdom of the six different kingdoms in the world, now more properly known as the Cape Floristic Region, it is all gathered in an area of 90 000 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising of almost 9000 species, two thirds of which are found no-where else on earth.

The Mediterranean type climate of cool season rain and warm season drought has been a major force acting on this group of plants, and a lot of them only germinate when they have experienced a bush fire. One of the most important dispersers of the seeds are ants.

Both the Khoi/San tribes as well as the Boers from the groot trek made extensive use of several hundred fynbos plants for a variety of ailments and treatments.

We have a diverse coming together of several different biomes on the estate - in fact 545ha of our land is a mix of karroid (Karoo) shrubland, renosterveld and fynbos with the magnificent proteas growing on the slopes of the Langeberg behind the main house. A large variety of pincushions, proteas, ericas, aloes, red-hot poker, lilies, watsonias, gladiola, nerinas, wild orchids and many other species of indigenous trees occur on the estate.

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## FAUNA

On morning walks you may see our Common or Gray duikers, Cape Grysbok or the two families of klipspringers. We also have resident Bat-eared Fox which like to stay on the northern section of the olive grove, and then a pair of Black-backed Jackals who frequent the Fish Eagle Dam close to the entrance gate.

There is the small Cape Leopard on the property, with us finding tracks of this elusive predator, and also Caracal (African Lynx). Unfortunately, both have been persecuted by livestock farmers in the past, due to the fear of predation on their sheep, hence they are very shy and rarely seen. Other mammals include Chacma baboon, Porcupine, Honey badger, Aardvark (Antbear), and Cape Grey mongoose.

Other interesting critters are the various species of tortoise, from Leopard to Angulated Tortoise, the blue headed Agama lizards, and the huge variety of insect life.

This area is also reputed to have close on 267 different bird species, with us having a resident pair of African Fish Eagle, we have also seen Booted Eagle, lots of Cape Sugarbird when walking the Protea trail, not mentioning the brightly coloured sunbirds and the Southern Red Bishops which nest in the reeds around the dams on the property.

Take your time to explore the estate and all that it has to offer – we hope you enjoy your time with us.