Le Bonheur Wine Estate

Klapmuts R44, Paarl Stellenbosch

Stellenbosch

Phone: +27(21) 8097000

This 163-hectare estate with the optimistic name of Le Bonheur ("Happiness") is

situated along the slopes of the Klapmuts Hill in the northern reaches of the

Simonsberg Mountain, in the Stellenbosch Wine of Origin district. Klapmuts is the

old Dutch word for the 18th century cocked hat that folded away into the saddle

back pocket and, indeed, when observed from a distance, the hill resembles such a

hat.

History of the Estate

Le Bonheur - formerly known as Oude Weltevreden ("Well Satisfied") - was an

important venue for travellers in the Cape, offering fresh spring water and an

outspan area at the major junction of Cape Town, Paarl, Stellenbosch and

Malmesbury.

The history of the estate dates back to the late 18th century when it was granted by

Lord Charles Somerset to its first owner, Jacob Isak De Villiers. The De Villiers family

was among the first 200 French Huguenots to arrive at the Cape in 1689 after a five-

month journey on the ship, the Zion.

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