

**Le Franschoek Hotel & Spa voted South Africa's most romantic retreat** Le Franschoek Hotel & Spa have won the award for the best Luxury Romantic Hotel in South Africa. This was announced at the World Luxury Hotel Awards 2011 during a Gala Dinner Ceremony in Zagreb, Croatia, on the weekend.

The luxury winelands hotel, owned and managed by Three Cities, was selected as the category winner in the awards that select the creme de le creme of the global luxury hospitality industry.

"We are delighted that this prestigious accolade, seen as the pinnacle achievement in the luxury travel industry, coincides with tourism month in South Africa," says the hotel's general manager Eben Lassen.

"This award is not only good for Le Franschoek but an accolade for the local tourism industry as a whole as it presents Cape Town as an unrivalled travel destination for local & international travellers seeking luxury," adds Eben.

The annual World Luxury Hotel Awards celebrate and recognize exceptional hotels for world-class facilities and service.

The first phase of awards consists of a nomination by guests and travel industry experts while a panel of global guests and travel mavens vote on the final selection with winners being announced in a glittering gala ceremony.

Le Franschoek Hotel & Spa has reaped an impressive collection of local and international awards since its opening in 2005 including Conde Nast Traveller's Hot List (2006), Conde Nast Traveler's Top 100 New Hotels (2006), Conde Nast Top 25 African Hotels (2008), the Conde Nast Traveler Best Hotel in Africa (2010) and Conde Nast Traveler Gold List (2011).

Located in the world famous Cape Winelands, Le Franschoek Hotel and Spa has become one of the most exclusive getaways in its class. A variety of 63 stylish rooms and sumptuous villas offers panoramic views of the Franschoek vineyards. Capturing the essence of five star luxury, Le Franschoek represents the most romantic of Cape Wineland retreat-style resorts, with wellness and the good life at its core.

The hotel retains its country retreat charm with thatched roofs etched against a blue sky, and granite mountains draped with lush fynbos, while décor is a fabulous fusion of contemporary Euro-classicism and modernist Cape sensibilities.

Leisure facilities include an award-winning Camelot Spa, tennis and a large, sparkling pool while, offering a gastronomic feast, the hotel's two restaurants include the elegant Dish Restaurant and the outdoor Le Verger, a restaurant set within an orchard.

The hotel is also one of the sought-after winelands weddings offering the backdrop of Franschoek Mountains and a choice of a lush garden or elegant indoor venues.