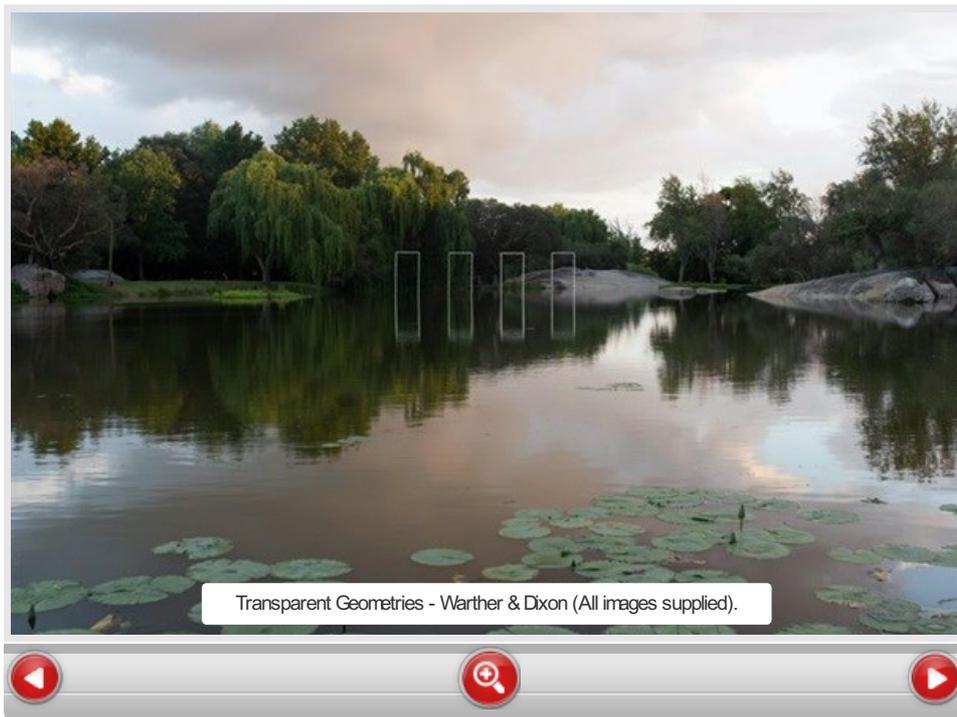


Spruce up your festive Stellenbosch stay with the Spier Light Art Festival

By Leigh Andrews

13 Dec 2018

With the spongy green grass of Spier farm beneath our toes and a veritable picnic feast warming our bellies, we couldn't tell if they were shivers of cold from the light breeze rustling through the trees or fear from the otherworldly feathered beings of Stravinsky's *Firebird* ballet and ghostly lights in the bamboo forest and haunting operatic voices from the Spier Light Art Festival.

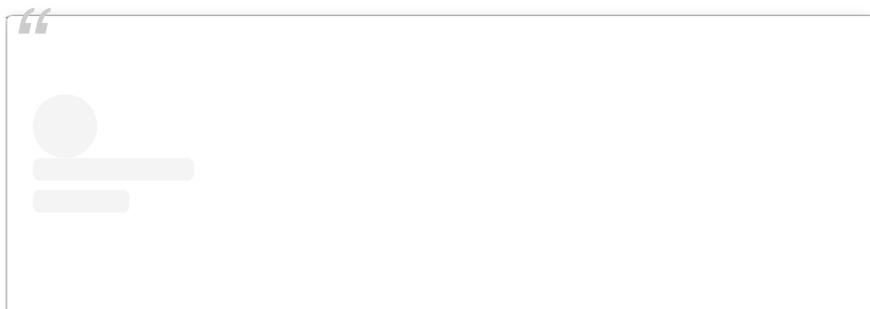


Locals often comment, "Nothing beats a stay at Spier." Well, sorry to disappoint, but I think I've found something: A stay at Spier over the festive season, with the addition of a picnic as part of the Spier Light Art Festival...

From the golf carts that zip you around the grounds to the tall, tinselled Christmas trees at reception to the soft sun-loungers calling your name beside the sparkling main pool, Spier in December is a true sight for sore eyes.

Picking picnic perfection

So are the picnics. Gigantic and gourmet, our pre-packed basket was more than enough for the two of us, with each 'course' individually packed and locally sourced. You can put together your own picnic from the goodies in the deli area, if you prefer.





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Picnic perfect  We ended off a dreamy weekend in the winelands at @spierwinefarm with a picnic and a walk through their beautiful new #SpierLightArt Show. From 8:30pm every night until the 31st of January, you can take a walk through 18 artworks that light up after dark. It's such an amazing exhibition and I highly recommend arriving early for some dinner at Eight Restaurant or a picnic under the trees before winding your way through this stunning show!

A post shared by [Natalie Roos \(@tailsofamermaid\)](#) on Dec 11, 2018 at 2:33am PST



Ranging from fresh, crusty bread and melba toast bites with soft dollops of butter and hummus, perfect for topping with thin slices of cold meat charcuterie and gherkins or olives, and gorgeously gooey camembert, or even for mopping up any left-over spicy coronation chicken salad or the smoked corn-green pepper salad my husband declared the winner of the picnic.



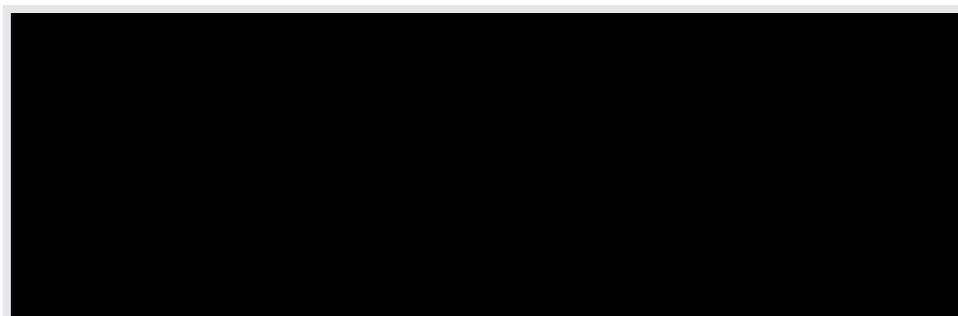
5 Cape Town spots that offer gourmet picnic baskets

Ruth Cooper 13 Nov 2018



There was also a bottle of Spier Signature Wine – our choice of red or white, as well as hot buttery gruyere-mushroom individual frittata-style quiches, and rich brownie bricks with a tart summer berry compote for dessert. It was so delicious we even took some of it home for a midnight snack in our suite.

And then it was time for the light art festival to begin...





This illuminates the Stellenbosch wine farm like nothing else, with choreographer and curator Jay Pather introducing the festivities with the Pied Piper-like giant puppet from the *Firebird* ballet, which soon had a trail of children bobbing along behind it.

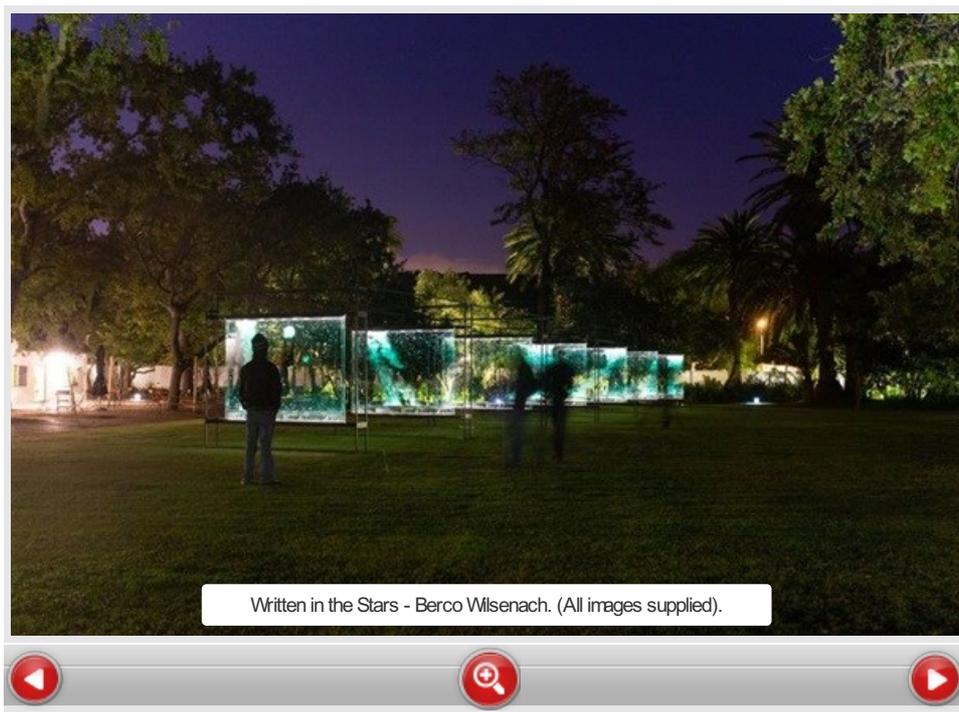
These artworks of light go above and beyond into the realm of theatre by incorporating light and sound. There's an element of movement too, as you follow the action around the grounds - you're encouraged to stay with the pack, but everything's so intriguing there are bound to be a few stragglers and adventurers on their own mission.

Wander in wonder on a starry, starry night

No quick half-hour sky show, Pather said:

“ Some of the works are whimsical and flitting, ironic; some may be glimpsed at from a distance and in passing, some will require more time and interaction. These experiences – of walking and pausing, catching a glimpse or settling down to absorb – invite us to be introspective, adventurous and playful in turn. ”

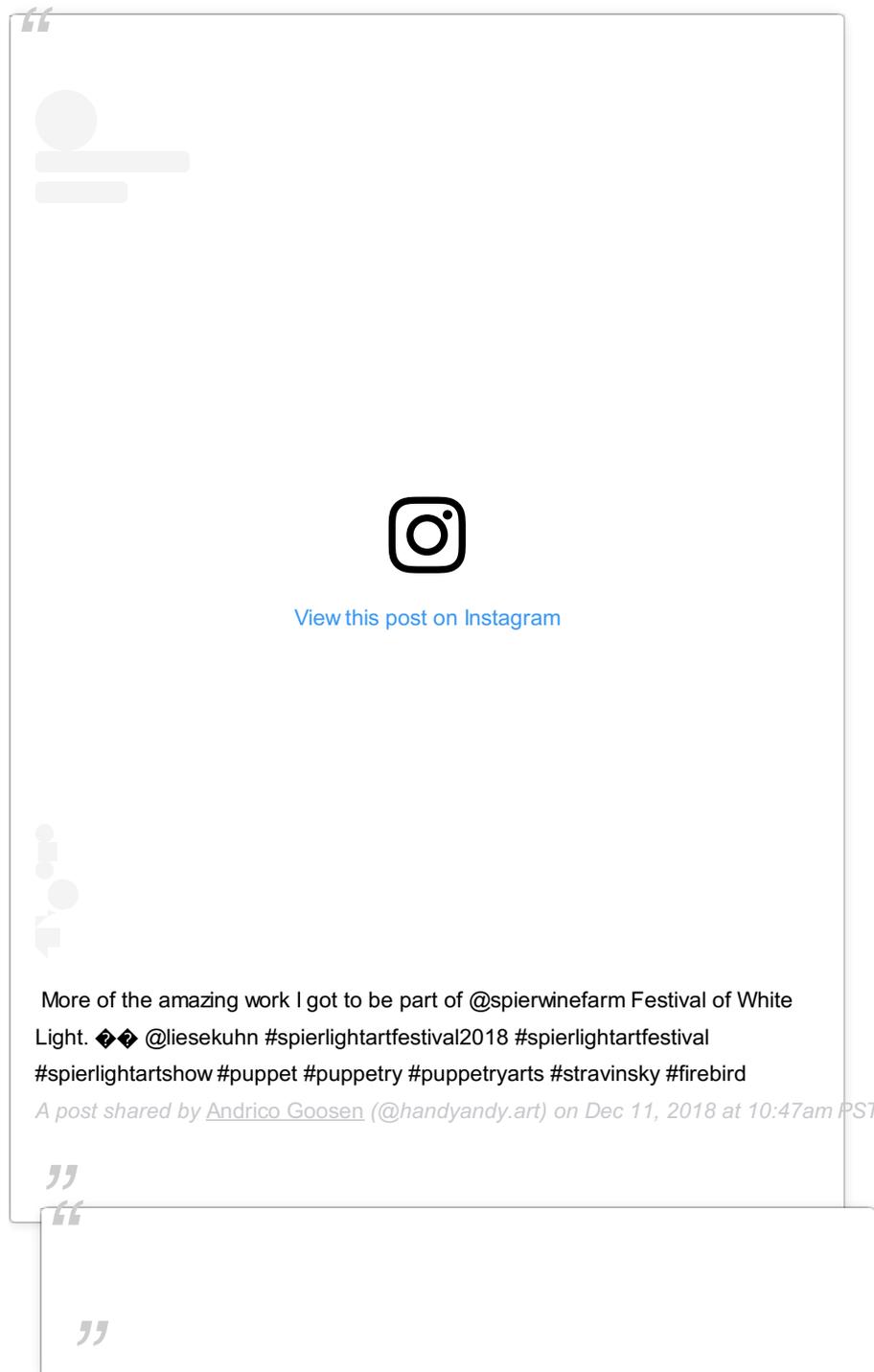
Absorb they did, with attendees wandering up to the likes of *In die sterre geskryf* (*Written in the stars*) by Berco Wilsenach in wonder.



It was first produced in 2009 as part of a body of work called *Project for the Blind Astronomer*. Exhibited outside for the

first time, it's an artistic investigation into different decoding systems to map and explain the night sky to a visually impaired audience, complete with panels lit from within to look like 'endless space'. The panels are lit from within, creating an effect of thousands of dots floating in midair.

The work was so inspired, I'll let posts on Instagram from the opening weekend speak for themselves:



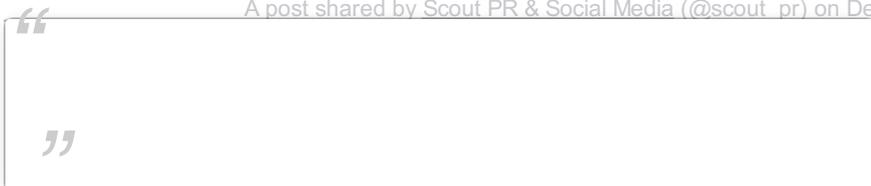


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Otherworldly!#spierlightartfest @spierwinefarm #lightart

A post shared by Scout PR & Social Media (@scout_pr) on Dec 9, 2018 at 10:44am PST



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Don't miss the #spierlightartfest at @spierwinefarm with 18 light art installations by various artists. It's on until the end of January and entrance is free. It all lights up from 20h30... #lightart #lights #festive

A post shared by Scout PR & Social Media (@scout_pr) on Dec 9, 2018 at 10:28pm PST

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[View this post on Instagram](#)



Summertime, and the living is easy. Loved this segment of the @spierwinefarm #spierlightart festival.

A post shared by Terridcct (@terridcct) on Dec 9, 2018 at 11:07am PST



[View this post on Instagram](#)



Star attraction. Berco Wilsenach's "In die Sterre Geskryf" (Written in the Stars) is one of the key works on display at the #spierlightart festival. Free to the public from Monday 10 December to 31 January, this is one of 18 must-see works, lit up each night from 19:30.

A post shared by Spier Wine Farm (@spierwinefarm) on Dec 8, 2018 at 11:35am PST

The Light Art Festival is family-friendly outdoor fun at its best, with the added benefit of being one of Spier's Growing for Good initiatives, which empower communities to create positive social and environmental change.

Sparkly lights, stay the night

The festival lasts a good few hours so I highly recommend following our flip flops and booking into one of the charming suites for the night.





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SPOILT AT SPIER | Home for the next 24-hours -> @spierwinefarm in @stellenboschwine, for the launch of their 2018 #spierlightart festival - coverage on @bizcommunity soon!

A post shared by Leigh Andrews (@ramblinglitchi123) on Dec 9, 2018 at 5:13am PST

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Not only do you get a wonderful night's sleep, complete with all the home comforts like coffee station, hot chocolate sachets, a powerful shower (plugs have been removed from bath tubs as a result of the recent drought in the Cape) and a warm dressing gowns, but you also get to wake up to bird song if you fling open the windows, and fill your belly with a wonderful buffet breakfast before check out.



Renewed experiences at Spier

Ruth Cooper 22 Nov 2013



We're talking hot coffees and everything from cereals with yoghurts and crumpets (gluten-free is no problem here) to hot breakfast basics like bacon and eggs any way you like them, and all the accompaniments – fresh fruit spreads, cheeses, sausages and 'sprinkles' like syrupy dates and candy-coated sesame seeds. No judgement!

Cycle or walk all around the lovely waterways, do a Segway tour of the grounds, stop to gaze at the ducks and chickens – and cat – walking free, or make your way to Eagle Encounters at the far end of the property.



Art, artisan food, and loads more at Spier

Brian Berkman 24 Apr 2018



However you spend your stay, you're bound to make your way home feeling decidedly more relaxed and festive than before – who knows, we may just pop into Spier again before the Spier Light Art Festival 2018 wraps up on 31 January...

**Leigh Andrews was a guest at Spier Wine Farm. While the Spier Light Art Festival offer free entry, there are various picnic basket options. R580 per couple includes two adult entry tickets, a picnic dinner for two and bottle of Spier wine. Alternatively, R200 per adult includes a complimentary glass of wine, or R75 per child under the age of 12. Visit www.spier.co.za for more information.*

ABOUT LEIGH ANDREWS

Leigh Andrews AKA the #MilkshakeQueen, is former Editor-in-Chief: Marketing & Media at Bizcommunity.com, with a passion for issues of diversity, inclusion and equality, and of course, gourmet food and drinks! She can be reached on Twitter at @Leigh_Andrews.

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