

THE GARDEN

Throughout the years, Hennie and Jean planted many trees, resulting in the beautiful, shady garden you see today.

THE WATER FEATURE

The Robertson area, being semi-Karoo with an average rainfall of only 250mm per year, is dependent on water from the Breede River and the Brandvlei Dam near Worcester. For 50 weeks of the year Van Loveren receives a constant supply of 60 000 litres of water per hour that reaches the farm by way of a pipeline leading from a canal. This pipeline covers a distance of one kilometre and it starts at a point 15 metres higher than the garden, causing natural pressure of 1,5 bar that forces the water through the water feature, from where it flows into the dam behind the homestead. No pump is therefore required.

OUR TREES AND THEIR STORIES

Many of the trees were planted to commemorate special occasions, and therefore the Van Loveren garden includes specimens that represent historical events, political figures, eleven grandchildren, head-boys and girls, graduation ceremonies and other achievements.

We enjoy sharing a few of the more interesting stories with visitors. The trees that belong with these stories are numbered and labeled in green. Others are also identified to make your outing to Van Loveren even more worthwhile.

VAN LOVEREN

Our story

Van Loveren has been in the Retief family since 1937, when Hennie Retief snr's father, who was from Paarl, bought land in the Robertson area. This land previously formed part of a large farm known as Goudmyn (Gold Mine), named so due to the large sum paid for the original farm. This farm was later subdivided into nine farms and Hennie started farming on Goudmyn F. In 1939 Hennie married Jean van Zyl. Jean did not like the name, maintaining that the F stood for "fools and failures". Christina van Loveren was married to the first Van Zyl to come to South Africa, in 1699, and shortly after her marriage, Jean was fortunate to obtain the bridal kist in which Christina had shipped over her trousseau. She eventually persuaded Hennie to rename the farm and call it Van Loveren.

www.vanloveren.co.za



LOVE EVERY STORY

VRL
VAN LOVEREN

OUR TREES

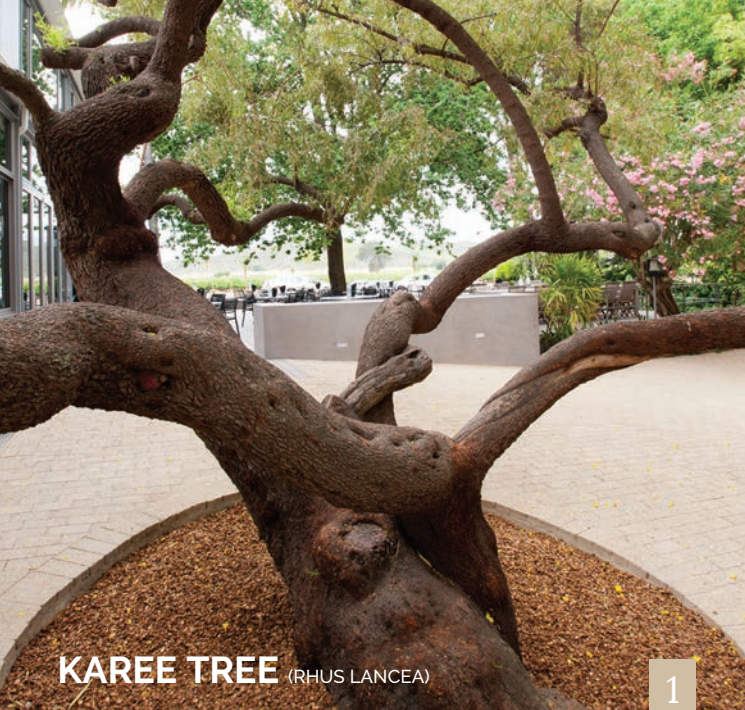
tell stories

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CHOOSE BETWEEN
A SELF-GUIDED OR GUIDED TOUR.
Please inquire at our tasting room.

Tel: (023) 615 1505
E-mail info@vanloveren.co.za
R317 road between Robertson
and Bonnievale.

LOVE EVERY STORY



KAREE TREE (RHUS LANCEA)

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1. Karee Tree

(RHUS LANCEA)

In 1942 Jean wrote to a nursery in Natal, requesting a hardy tree. When the tiny specimen, costing 1/6 (15c) arrived at the Klaasvoogds railway station, the farmers, who also collected their mail at the station, were al convinced that it was the, to them, well-known Karee. Jean, however, insisted that it was a Rhus Lancea. Hennie promptly fetched a Karee branch from the river and planted it next to Jean's Rhus Lancea. Over the years the two Karees have become intertwined, since neither Jean nor Hennie would remove the one that either of them had planted. Jean always said she sees the trees as a symbol of her and Hennie's love.

2. Washingtonia Palm

(WASHINGTONIA FILIFERA)

The first tree which Hennie and Jean planted after their wedding in 1939.

3. Reach For The Sky

(SCHIZOLOBIUM PARAHYBUM)

Between 1990 and 1998, the four Retief grandsons joined their fathers, Nico and Wynand, at Van Loveren. As each of the four cousins completed their studies at Stellenbosch, their grandmother Jean planted one of these trees at the wine tasting area. For them, she believed, the skies the limit.

4. New Calidonean Pine

(ARAUCARIA COOKII)

Planted in May 1945 when Germany surrendered.

5. Norfolk Island Pine

(ARAUCARIA EXCELSA)

Planted in August 1945 when Japan surrendered after World War II.

6. Cork Oak

(QUERCUS SUBER)

Jean and Hennie planted this tree with the birth of the Republic in 1961, but during the 1980's it topped over. Nico pushed a support under it because Ouma the Jean, being rather superstitious, was quite worried about the "Fall of the Republic". Since then it has died, but can still be seen lying behind the newly planted Cork Oak.

7. Pomegranate

(PUNICA GRANATUM)

Approximately 1930

When Hennie arrived on the farm in 1937, this tree was one of many that formed a sheep-pen next to the homestead. This is the only one that he kept, and it is the oldest and only original tree at Van Loveren.

8. Leopard Tree Or Brazilian Ironwood

(CAESALPINIA FERREA)

This was planted for Nelson Mandela when he became President of South-Africa in 1994. There are larger examples in the rest of the garden.

9. Pencil Pine

(CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS)

Jean planted the tree in 1967 during the Six Day War, thereby expressing the empathy she felt for her many Jewish friends.



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10. Loarier Magnolia

(MAGNOLIA GRANIFLORA)

Planted in 2012 after being acknowledged as the South African Financial Farm of the year.

11. Natal Mahogany

(TRICHILIA EMETICA)

After FW de Klerk, the then State President, had made his speech in Parliament on 2 February 1990 with such dramatic results, Jean planted this tree for him. Two roses were planted to commemorate the Nobel Peace Prize that he and Nelson Mandela had received jointly. The Peace of Vereeniging for De Klerk and black Madonna for Mandela. She planted Black Madonna for Mandela as he has had so many problems with his own Madonna.

12. Bottle-brush

(CALLISTEMON SALIGNUS)

In 1949 Wynand, Jean's younger son, was only four years old when he jumped from a pig-sty and landed in a spike-thorn. Wynand became very ill and had to have an operation. Since both he and his mother cried so much at the time, his grandmother gave Jean this "weeping bottle-brush".

13. Koorsboom

(ACACIA XANTHOPHLOEA)

Planted on the 23rd of October 2010 when Van Loveren wines turned 30 years old.



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