

le quartier français

auberge and restaurants in a village

Gold Stars

At Le Quartier Français we believe that being involved in our community is paramount to our success. We do, after all, owe a large amount of our success to the beauty of the valley we're situated in and warmth of the local community.

Environmental bits and pieces

Environmental awareness at LQF is one of the ways we're trying to do our little bit for the surrounding environment. This includes using energy saving light-bulbs in the hotel, environmentally friendly and biodegradable cleaning material, room amenities that are animal friendly and not tested on animals and conserving water through the management of washing cycles. Old kitchen oil is re-cycled and we're also proud to note that the South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative is strictly adhered to. We only burn log fires, using long-burning wood to minimise the amount of wood used and smoke produced. We also use hot water bottles as opposed to gas or electric heaters. When the power does fail, and believe us it does, we make use of a generator. To keep it as clean as possible we only use low-sulphur diesel. When the power isn't failing we try our best to conserve it as much as possible. This means we keep our geysers on energy saving mode, use hydro boils instead of kettles and solar heat swimming pools.

All of our garden waste is collected and re-cycled into garden compost and then reused, it's like the continuous circle of life. We only make use of environmentally-friendly and sustainable gardening practices which include use of organic pesticides, composts and the planting of indigenous trees. Our garden also plays host to an entire family of squirrels. We're proud to say that we are solely responsible for supporting this family, providing them with more than enough food and housing. Even though they don't say much we know they're super grateful.

On a more serious note LQF is very active in disaster management within the community. We've helped coordinate and contributed through the feeding of fire fighters during mountain fires and, in the case of shack fires, the hotel supplies blankets and food to keep those who've lost all their possessions warm and well-fed.

Community Upliftment

Our staff are encouraged to get actively involved in giving back to the Franschhoek community. Although not much encouragement is required as LQF employs 90% of its staff from the local community. LQF staff give back in a number of ways, many get involved with community projects like the soup kitchen or coaching netball at one of the surrounding schools. Some volunteer for Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing goes to waste with old linen, towels, left-over soap, other amenities, old carpets, lights and old crockery being donated to Hospice and other charities in need. Left over food is donated to the soup kitchen. All office paper is re-cycled and donated to community crèches and old magazines are donated to local schools for school, class and individual projects.

We subscribe to the mantra that every little bit counts and therefore outsource as many services as possible to the local community. Serviettes are produced locally. All recycling is done within the Franschhoek community. The majority of the stock purchased and sold in the hotel boutique shop comes from local crafters and is Proudly South African. Herbs and

vegetables are all organic and sourced from small South African suppliers. We're always looking for more local stuff, so if you have any ideas pop us an email.

Education

At LQF we believe that education is a key component of successful individuals. Success is about empowerment not charity. Every year LQF takes in 6 to 8 trainees from the local community and enrolls them in the 3 year in house management course run and devised by the hotel. This has been a tremendously successful project with a number of graduates now located around the world at other successful hotels.

Fund Raising

LQF helps raise funds for the local community through sponsorships and donations. To date funds totalling approximately 5 million rand have been raised. This money has used to build crèches, provide teachers for schools, funding of bursaries and much needed equipment.

We are aware that this is a continuous process and we know we can always do more. If you have any ideas about how we can do more please send us an email with your thoughts.

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