

where north meets south



*No, not just
another lodge
in an exquisite
African setting*

Words: Bev Tucker
Photos: Francois van Zyl

In the words of fashion designer Tom Ford, time and silence are luxuries on our noisy, over-peopled planet. Both these rare commodities are in ample supply in this private home in Africa. What's more, for however long they book the house, visitors get to feel as if it belongs to them. Guests can book the whole house, which sleeps eight comfortably in four expansive suites. They have it all to themselves. There's no need to socialise with strangers and staff are trained to move through their work inconspicuously. A chef is available if required, but the key to staying here is that visitors can feel as at ease as they would in their own house. Whether this means a multi-course feast in the boma under the stars, or eggs on toast eaten in the kitchen after a long day exploring the Kruger Park, they are at liberty to make themselves perfectly at home.

Set on the banks of the Sabie River, the house is an exclusive self-catering bush getaway like no other. Part of a



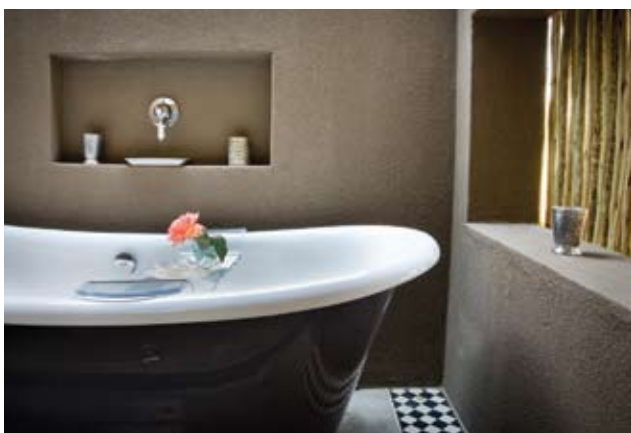
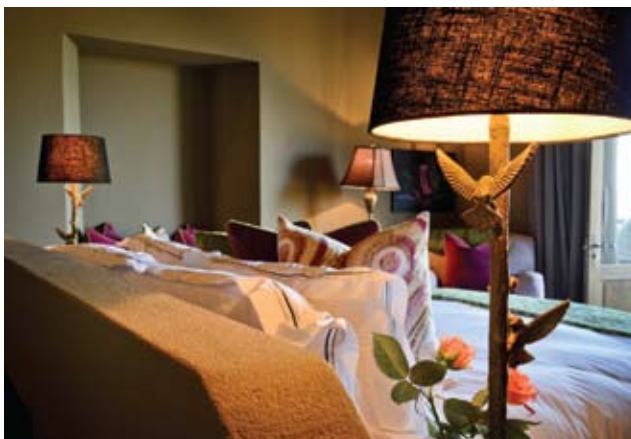




290ha private reserve, the house lies within the iconic Kruger National Park borders, a mere 10km from the Paul Kruger Gate. Thanks to its position facing the river and the Park, guests have a riverfront seat for game viewing.

The house has numerous entertainment areas and relaxing nooks. There's the main living room with a fireplace, and an airy deck offering views into the Park. Downstairs is the large pool area with sun loungers, a covered patio, and an outdoor dining table. Beyond the pool is an enclosed boma for fireside evenings. A Moroccan-styled roof terrace tempts early risers to their dawn asanas. Add to this a tiny fountain courtyard and a media den, and there's more than enough space for a house party to gather together or withdraw to restful seclusion, as they like.

The owner, an interior designer, says, "I literally ran around for a year sourcing different features for both the building and the interiors. My inspiration came from my travels."



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SPACES

The goal was to create a bushveld retreat that could carry off the North African influence introduced through the décor. Screed concrete flows effortlessly into Moroccan tiles on the kitchen and bathroom floors. The window treatments are surprisingly lush for the bush. Rich velvet drapes are echoed in scatter cushions, yet this unexpected sophistication works well with the otherwise rustic effects such as the thatched ceilings and jute rugs. A similar juxtaposition is repeated subtly throughout the house. An intricately carved four-poster bed stands out against a dark-mud wall; beaten silver lamps glow against a simple reed screen – again and again the eye finds something to land on, where touches of Morocco are quite unexpected and yet quite perfect.

The passion that went into the design of the house, and the attention to detail of the finishes is apparent. It's a passion that will be appreciated by all those who are lucky enough to experience it.









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