

Cheetah Plains opens in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve

Bringing a new level of luxury to the Sabi Sand Game Reserve, the recently opened Cheetah Plains and its accommodation combines Big Five game viewing with state-of-the-art architecture and the finest in South African art and wine, with the aim to reimagine the safari experience and what luxury in the bush means.



Image(s) Supplied.

The property is unconstrained by traditional safari architecture and, instead, consists of three private, contemporary, exclusive-use Cheetah Plains Houses.

The houses, which are named after two of the area's legendary leopards (Mvula and Karula) and a dominant lion coalition (Mapogo), come complete with a private pool, dedicated safari guide, chef, wine gallery and spa therapist.

The luxury here is not just in the design and finishings, but also in the freedom guests have to dictate their own schedule. This was owner Japie van Niekerk's vision: to share his piece of Africa with friends and guests whilst preserving the environment for future generations to come.

The design concept was led by architect Stefan Antoni and his team at ARRCC.

The philosophy at Cheetah Plains is that any impression on this landscape should enhance the experience of being in the bush. Complimenting nature without interference means the lodge is almost completely invisible from a distance and by bringing the outdoors in, guests have a feeling of being at one with the bush.

Inspired creativity, the power of Africa

A calm and distilled palette with natural materials were carefully chosen to create a minimalist interior inspired by African elements.

At the heart of each house is the large communal area, designed to feel like a home-from-home. Glass doors look out onto the bush beyond and it is not unusual to hear hippo honking in the distance or to see an elephant passing on his way to drink. Meals are served at the main dining table, outside by the pool or, for privacy, in guests' rooms.

The neutral interiors are complemented by an exhibition of some of South Africa's finest art. Young up-and-coming artists such as Loyiso Mkize sit next to classic, more established names such as William Kentridge, Vladimir Tretchikoff and Gail Caitlin.





"From the hand-blown glass chandeliers to the room key rings, behind every original object is a talented artisan who conceptualised and created a lovingly bespoke piece. These crafters and creators are inspired by the place and the natural

aesthetic. Their individual hands can be seen in so many of the pieces such as the Pierre Cronje dining tables carved out of whole sheets of Leadwood and Black Wood, sustainably harvested by Forest Creations," says Van Niekerk.

Each private house comprises four king-bedroom suites complete with their own outdoor sala, dressing room, lounge, double rain showers and bath overlooking the African Bushveld.

Cheetah Plains is the first lodge in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve to have an entirely electric fleet of vehicles; the cars use Tesla batteries in the traditional safari Land Cruiser.

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>