**BENCH AFRICA** 

# ARBRICA The Connoisseur Collection





### NOWHERE ELSE EMBRACES YOU WITH SUCH UNTOUCHED BEAUTY AND MAJESTY THAN AFRICA.

Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning adventurer to Africa, there's always an unforgettable experience to discover.

This Connoisseur's collection will give you a small insight into a few of the most captivating places to visit, chosen for their uniqueness and quality. You will discover your own unforgettable moments just as I have experienced during my lifetime.

Experiences like watching the setting sun light up the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, a dawa cocktail in hand, at Amboseli...

Riding on horseback amongst zebras, giraffe and other wildlife in the Chyulu Hills without a single sign that anyone had been there before me...

Taking a night game drive in South Luangwa and watching the stealth of a leopard ambushing her prey and dragging it up a tree, out of the reach of competitors...

Flying at low altitude over the crystal clear waters of the Quirimbas Archipelago of northern Mozambique, where under the ocean lies some of the world's most untouched and colourful coral imaginable...

Watching an African Sunrise as you gently float in a hot air balloon over the Wildebeest migration in the Masai Mara, before landing on the plains for a champagne breakfast, what a way to start the day....

The list could go on forever, as I have lived my whole life in Africa, and am more than passionate about this wonderful continent and the unforgettable experiences it offers.

When you hear Africa calling, please contact us or your travel agent, so we can help you to plan your ultimate personalised trip full of your own life-changing moments. Every one of us is passionate about this continent, and our greatest pleasure is giving you the safari journey of a lifetime, full of experiences that will ensure you fall in love with the Africa we all know.

Let us show you an Africa that will touch your heart forever.



Mike Kirkland Chairman





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## **THE SERENGEN**

Tanzania's oldest National Park, the Serengeti, is the quintessential African safari opportunity. These endless open plains are host to an epic scene of over a million migrating wildebeest each year, one of the world's best natural wonders for any traveller to behold. Staying here at some of Africa's most exceptional accommodation is a life-changing experience, with nature at her best.

### "IN WHIDERNESS I SENSE THE MIRACLE OF LIFE, AND BEHIND IT OUR SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FADE TO TRIVIA."

American aviator, author, inventor, explorer, and social activist, Charles Lindbergh.





The Connoisseur Collection THE SERENGETI 4

### SINGITA GRUMETI

A trio of spectacular lodges reveal their own unique setting and charm overlooking the plains along Tanzania's worldfamous wildebeest migratory route through the Serengeti.

Singita Sasakwa Lodge is the flagship stay, exuding a classic 'Out of Africa' charm with nine spacious cottages and a fourbedroom private retreat.

Singita Faru Faru Lodge offers a matchless eco-safari with eight stylish stone and canvas suites and a sumptuous twobedroom Villa suite epitomizing East African safari elegance.

### SINGITA SABORA TENTED CAMP

Romance and intrigue are the hallmarks of the last of our trio, the Sabora Tented Camp of Singita Grumeti Reserves in Tanzania. The picturesque Serengeti landscape scattered with wildlife is perfectly complimented by the camp's nostalgic safari décor that will transport you to a bygone era of discovery and adventure.

Aside from real artefacts from the 1880s to the 1920s, the camp also offers a unique safari experience. Exotic African wildlife like zebra frolic metres from the camp, an intimate wonder to behold, much like every part of the spectacular Serengeti.



## NGORONGORO CRANER

Unmatched for its natural variety within the largest intact caldera in the world, few places rival such a diversity of landscapes than the natural wonder that is the Ngorongoro Crater of Tanzania. A rich grazing ground for game and an abundance of other wildlife, the region is also of great archaeological importance with some of mankind's earliest ancestor remains discovered in the area.

### **CALINATING CONTINUES OF THE PROMISED LAND ALWAYS LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A WILDERNESS**<sup>\*</sup>.

Havelock Ellis.



#### The Connoisseur Collection NGORONGORO CRATER 8

### &BEYOND NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE

On the rim of the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater with breathtaking views, is the &Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, the game lodge 'at the top of the world.' Perched over the natural riches of the Crater, the lodge possesses ever-changing views as mist and clouds scurry across the wildlife gathering below. The destination is an African gem, but with every luxury and no expense spared, it is immediately apparent why the Ngorongoro Crater Lodge itself is a truly memorable African experience, and regularly voted one of the top ten hotels on the planet.

Divided into three camps of 30 stilted, handcrafted mud and thatched suites, each has its own lounge and dining area, with private butlers providing warm, personal service to your every whim. The domed dining room accesses the awe-inspiring views with huge windows and match the sumptuous atmosphere with its own - sparkling silver and crystal, Victorian furnishings and opulent African touches. Even the gigantic bathtub is set under a hand-beaded chandelier.

What better to come home to after a personalised safari through the lush forests and endless plains spotting elephants and buffalo with your own expert ranger?



### TANKE TANCANNYIKA

It may be Eden, the area touching the shores of Lake Tanganyika at the base of the awe-inspiring Mahale Mountains in Tanzania. Africa's largest known population of chimpanzees call mischievously from the forest. Immense beauty will captivate you here, soft sand at your feet, crystal water, invigorating air and of course, being minutes from nine species of primate, forest mammals, birds, butterflies and waterfalls.

### 

If I dare to put an imprint on this paradise, I'd better get it right."

Irish adventurer and discoverer of the Mahale area, Roland Purcell.





#### The Connoisseur Collection LAKE TANGANYIKA 12

### **GREYSTOKE MAHALE**

Greystoke Mahale lies afoot the impressive Mahale Mountains in western Tanzania, along the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika. No reason exists to deny yourself the magical indulgence that is simply being mesmerised by sunlight dancing over crystal water with tropical fish sparkling beneath the surface. This is your morning view here in one of six exotic open-fronted wooden bandas that look out across white sand and the epic lake. You are invited to embrace sunset with upstairs chill-out decks, enjoy private barefoot dinners on the beach under the stars, or a plate of fresh sashimi and iced vodka at the bar, with a view out west across the lake.

Exploring your Eden can be simply venturing into the stunning tropical forest to observe and commune with fascinating chimps. Or follow guides to spot leopard, bushbuck, bush pig, other primates and a multitude of birds and butterflies. And if that's not enough to amaze you, there's snorkelling, fishing and kayaking activities to admire the lake, and breath in the fresh, forestscented air; the smell of paradise.



### SELOUS GAME BESERVE

Africa's largest protected area, the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, is a world heritage site and one of the most authentic safari experiences you can have. Far-stretching, unspoilt by man and filled with a third of the world's wild dogs, elephants, boundless antelope and hippos to name a few, this undisturbed natural gem is a must see for any keen adventurer.

#### **"I HAVE LOVED NO PART OF THE WORLD LIKE THIS AND I HAVE LOVED NO WOMEN AS I LOVE YOU. YOU'RE MY HUMAN AFRICA."**

Author, Graham Greene





#### The Connoisseur Collection SELOUS GAME RESERVE 16

### SIWANDU

Taking up prime position within the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania, Siwandu sits on the shore of one of the lakes that bejewel the Rufiji River system, Lake Nzerakera. And from this incredible vantage point, 13 spacious tented suites each with their own private veranda, enjoy a spectacularly intimate view of the highest concentration of wildlife and birds in the area.

With the outside perfectly immersed within its natural surroundings, inside each tent is luxuriously appointed with elegant ensuite bathrooms, open air showers, and in the main area, a raised dining room and bar and shaded swimming pool. But space and seclusion are the true luxuries here, giving guests the chance to genuinely embrace Africa, adorned and wild, while in complete comfort.

This game-rich wilderness can be explored in a myriad of ways with daily activities including open-vehicle game drives, boating, fishing and guided walking safaris. For the more adventurous, Siwandu offers a 'Fly-camping' experience between the months of June to October, with a maximum of six people.



### ZANZIBAR

Silence breaks only by the crashing of warm turquoise Indian Ocean waves on the pristine white sandy beach. There's a low hum of chatter from locals of the old city, the World Heritage Site of Stone Town, and fishing villages peppered along the coastline. This is Zanzibar, magically beautiful and culturally fascinating; the unspoilt paradise with soul.

#### "MAN CANNOT DISCOVER NEW OCEANS UNLESS HE HAS THE COURAGE TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE SHORE."

Andre Gide.







### BARAZA RESORT & SPA

Off the coast of Tanzania, on the magical island of Zanzibar, Baraza has been voted one of the 60 new best hotels in the world by Condé Nast Traveller Magazine. The exclusive boutique resort offers guests an unparalleled cultural experience with opulent luxury.

Within all 30 one and two-bedroom villas with private plunge pools, Baraza takes you on a journey back to the grand, beautiful designs in the era of the Sultans, and the days of the Court of Sultan bin Said in 1880. Dramatic arches, intricate hand carved décor, beautiful antiques, handcrafted furniture and elaborate brass lanterns all exhibit the skill of local craftsmen, honouring the traditional Zanzibar style that fuses Arabic, Swahili and Indian design.

The Zanzibar flavour continues in chef-prepared dishes that showcase the islands best produce and spices. It's a inspired finish to a day of water activities and enjoying all the amenities on offer.

Whether you come with family, a loved one, or seek the solitude of this romantic and mesmerising destination, Baraza is captivating experience for every visitor.

Locals call the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya "Mara" meaning "spotted"; a modest description of the postcard scene of trees, scrub, savanna and cloud shadows that situate one of the world's most rewarding game experiences. The annual wildebeest migration sees over a million animals thunder across sweeping plains with lion prides basking in shade, watching, waiting... have your camera ready.

MASAINARA



**\* THERE IS NOTHING-LIKE RETURNING TO A PLACE THAT REMAINS UNCHANGED TO FIND THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU YOURSELF HAVE ALTERED.**\*

Nelson Mandela.





#### The Connoisseur Collection MASAI MARA 24

### COTTAR'S 1920S SAFARI CAMP

In the romantic adventurer's mind, the word 'safari' conjures scenes of elegant 1920's pioneer camps, luxury, style and attentive service; a fitting introduction to the exclusive Cottar's 1920s Safari Camp in Kenya.

Situated in an outstanding private location within the Masai Mara ecosystem and bordering the Serengeti, the 10 luxurious white canvas tented rooms are shaded by acacia trees overlooking the plains, while butlers attend and picture perfect days unfold.

The Cottar family are pioneers in the region and began guiding safaris almost 100 years ago, hence why their camp is styled with authentic artefacts and antiques from the era. It is also why the camp offers a truly exclusive, personalised and reminiscent safari experience including both day and night game drives and guided walks with some of the best guides in Kenya.

The area is untouched and secluded for visitors to be fully immersed in the original spirit of 'safari' and a golden era of African luxury. And for those moments of rest and relaxation, indulgence comes with a complimentary massage.



## IAIKIPIA

Lose thoughts as your eyes wander over slopes of Mt Kenya to the rim of the Great Rift Valley. For here in Laikipia, sights are infinitely spectacular and humbling with magnificent escarpments that descend into arid lands. The kaleidoscopic array of birds and wealth of African game, also make it one of Africa's most exciting wilderness safari destinations.

#### **\* THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT SAFARI LIFE THAT MAKES YOU FORGET ALL YOUR SORROWS**

and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne – bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive."

Danish Author, Karen Blixen.





The Connoisseur Collection LAIKIPIA 28

### LOISABA

The combination of abundant wildlife, inspiring cultural diversity and a grandiose backdrop makes Kenya's Loisaba Lodge, an unforgettable getaway.

With over 60,000 acres of private wilderness with the Ewaso Nyiro River on its southern boundary, freedom is inescapable. Every room enjoys a private deck and million-dollar views of Mt. Kenya, as well as all the comfort of Loisaba's luxurious interiors. There's the choice of four accommodation vantage points, Loisaba Lodge, House, Cottage, and, for the more adventurous, the Star Beds, which offer an open deck to fall asleep under the stars of Kenya.

A safari here comes with natural history expertise from biologists, photographers and experienced guides. There are night game drives, guided nature walks, bike tours, horse-riding and camel treks, as well as the elephant migratory corridor, one of the best places to witness wild dogs, lions, leopards and cheetahs.

Perhaps most important of all, Loisaba works to ensure the conservation of the area, including the welfare of local Samburu and Maasai tribes. It is with great privilege that Loisaba offers a rare insight into these amazing cultures.



National Geographic photographs come to life here amid life-giving waters and beauty of the Okavango Delta in Botswana. The world's largest inland delta and one of the most spectacular places to enjoy a safari holiday, attracts a plethora of Africa's most exotic creatures, including the African Bush Elephant, Lion hippopotamus, Lechwe, giraffe, crocodile, cheetah, leopard, hyena, rhinoceros, zebra, baboon and hundreds of species of birds.

### ZARAFA'S BESPOKE EAST AFRICAN AFARI STYLE FITS BEAUTIFUELY WITHIN BOTSWANA'S PRISTINE LANDSCAPE.

And with just 8 guests, treasured moments, like being the only vehicle viewing a lion pride, brings out the magic of Botswana."

Dereck Joubert Explorer, filmmaker.


### The Connoisseur Collection OKA

OKAVANGO DELTA 32

## ZARAFA CAMP

The breathtaking Zarafa camp in Botswana has built a reputation for its concentration of wildlife and magnificent safari décor, the carefully considered vision of two prominent National Geographic filmmakers. Combining four 'Marquis-styled' tented rooms within the private Selinda Game Reserve and on the famous Selinda Spillway, Zarafa offers visitors a truly spectacular and unique landscape with luxuries like private decks, plunge pools and outdoor showers overlooking the dramatic Zibadianja Lagoon.

Not only is the camp situated in the enviable position and shade of Red Ivory and Jackelberry trees, it is also the first fully sustainable safari camp in Africa. Every aspect is recyclable and powered entirely by the sun, part of its originators conservationist vision.

Safari here is life-changing, with day and night game drives, guided nature walks and boating across the breathtaking Zibadianja Lagoon. And with each room equipped with Swarovski HD binoculars and professional Canon camera and lenses, you're well equipped to capture those million-dollar wildlife moments, not that you'd ever forget them for as long as you live.

## **MAE KALAHAR**

Named 'great thirst' or 'waterless place', the Kalahari, a large semi-arid sandy savannah covering much of Botswana, is more a fascinating ecological challenge for flora and fauna than a real desert. With seasonal rainfall, the arid Makgadikgadi Pans transform into wetlands, attracting a magnificent congregation of wildlife and clouds of flamingos and migratory birds hovering above game like you've never seen before.



### \* ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES IN THE WORLD WHERE THE SILENCE IS SO COMPLETE YOU CAN HEAR THE BLOOD CIRCULATING THROUGH YOUR EARS\*

Jack Bousfield.





The Connoisseur Collection

THE KALAHARI 36

## JACK'S CAMP

In the 60s, a man called Jack Bousfield fell in love with the savage beauty of the Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, in the middle of Botswana's Kalahari Desert. It's here, in the middle of nowhere but surrounded by spectacular scenery and unique desert species that his legacy remains as Jack's Camp. An oasis of comfort with a sophisticated 1940's safari styling and superb cuisine, it is an experience completely different to any other ever created.

The camp consists of 10 spacious tents, with en-suite bathrooms featuring indoor and outdoor showers. The Mess tent houses a Natural History Museum library, antique pool table and a well stocked drinks chest. There is also a swimming pool shaded by a pavilion-style tent to ward off the intense African sun.

As well as having a reputation for delicious dining, Jack's Camp also boasts a complete desert safari experience focusing on species unique to the area like aardvark, gemsbuck, and it is the only area visitors may see the rare brown hyena and get up close and personal with meerkats.

Bushmen trackers, Chapman's Baobab, the third largest tree in Africa, quad biking and bearing witness to the zebra and wildebeest migration are just the beginning of this life-changing destination.



# SOUTHE LOANGWA

The South Luangwa in Zambia is one of the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world with the Luangwa River the lifeblood of much of the activity. Mother Nature's carnival of animals erupts before your eyes with giraffes, elephants, buffalo, crocodiles, hippopotamuses, antelope, zebras, baboons and many other animals and birds, all equally extraordinary to behold among beautiful woodland savannah.

**\* IT FEELS LIKE GOD VISITS EVERYWHERE ELSE BUT LIVES IN AFRICA.**\*

Actor and frequent visitor, Will Smith.



### The Connoisseur Collection SOUTH LUANGWA 40

### SANCTUARY PUKU **RIDGE CAMP**

Named after the Puku antelope that frolic within the Kakumbi Dambo (valley) below, the Sanctuary Puku Ridge Camp in Zambia is the perfect vantage point to witness the symphony of wildlife that sprawls over endless plains.

Hugging the perfect view of the floodplains are seven tents all spacious and comfortable, and each with soothing hot tub and an outdoor shower shaded by trees. Stunningly old-world in decor, the safari camp feels as authentic and intimate as it is thrilling and adventurous.

Walking accompanied by an armed game scout is the best way to see and experience the area and endless natural activity. The professional guides love retelling the action of the last few hours from just a few animal tracks. There is nothing quite like seeing lion tracks or the giant footprint of an elephant to truly feel among the wild. But there's also nothing like a cocktail at sunset or watching the sunrise from the comfort of your bed to relish in true indulgence at the camp.



# IKONA ISLAND

What you'll discover at Likoma Island, one of two islands in Lake Malawi, won't just be romantic settings, crystal waters, and stunning views of the mountains of Mozambique, you'll find big, beautiful smiles everywhere you turn. Malawi is the warm heart of Africa, the friendliest beachside paradise that is sure to find a place for in your heart.

### "CATCH THE TRADE WINDS IN YOUR SAILS, EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

Writer, Mark Twain.





### The Connoisseur Collection LIKOMA ISLAND 44

## KAYA MAWA

If it's not enough that you fall in love with the locals happily welcoming you, you'll certainly fall for the idyllic surroundings at Kaya Mawa on Likoma Island, found in the crystal clear waters of Lake Malawi, rated as one of the top 10 most romantic places in the world by Condé Nast Traveller Magazine.

Set among fine golden sand, mango trees and ancient baobabs, the Kaya Mawa Lodge reaps the spoils of a timeless seaside location. Relaxation is a key activity here, but not the only one. There are endless ways to make the most of this water wonderland with water skiing, kayaking, sailing, fishing and fantastic diving to see the famed lake's plethora of fresh water fish species - more than any other lake in the world.

The lodge was hand built by the local and neighbouring village workers into stone and teak-framed thatched cottages within the granite headland. Each room faces the lake with mahogany four-poster bed, shower and sunken stone bathtub. Every part of this luxurious stay is catered to comfort and gives back to its local community. You can take part in the cultural gatherings happening on the island. And if you find you want to give more, staff can even help you get involved in some Malawi community projects.

## SABISAND PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

The Sabi Sand Private Game Reserve in the south-western region of the Greater Kruger National Park, is part of the largest conservation area in South Africa. Home to the 'Big Five', and an abundance of freely roaming endangered animals and birdlife, the reserve paints a spectacle of life and colour against a dramatic canvas of bushveld and waterholes.



### "GRADUALLY THE MIST HAD LIFTED, AND THE SUN BURST FORTH,

a ball of fire radiating the sky with unnaturally incandescent hues. The scene was now set for the show to begin: the drama in which the broad, breathtaking landscapes of Africa were the stage and the animals the actors."

Author, Hannah Fielding.





### The Connoisseur Collection SABI SAND GAME RESERVE 48

### SABI SABI EARTH LODGE

The award-winning architectural masterpiece, Sabi Sabi Earth Lodge, exists almost invisibly in the Sabi Sand Reserve. Sculpted into land that's surrounded by a safari melting pot of over 200 species of animals and 350 species of birds, the exterior forms into a slope of earth, so not to disrupt the harmony of nature surrounding it. Inside, Africa's mineral wealth inspires the interior with shimmering metallic hues, mineral colours and subtle glints of precious metals.

There are 13 luxurious suites with individually designed furniture, private plunge pool, ensuite with glass window views, and wooden sculptures by renown African artist Geoffrey Armstrong. There's also a meditation garden, outdoor dining, and a day bar where you can sip drinks whilst relaxing in ankle-deep water.

Everything about Earth Lodge has been considered to make you feel at one with nature. Texture, light and space inspire a calming ambience while you fully embrace the wildlife outside. And sure enough, if you glance out to the bush panorama, you'll encounter some of Africa's most exotic creatures.



# SOSSUSVIE

In Namibia, within the oldest desert in the world, the Namib, are the spectacular red dunes of the Sossusvlei. Roughly translated as 'marsh of no return' it reveals the photographer's last stand, a phenomenon of surreal landscapes and changing shades from sunrise to sunset. The harsh conditions house the fittest of the wild, as oryx, springbok, ostriches, jackals, cheetah and more reside here.

### \* ALL I WANTED TO DO NOW WAS GET BACK TO AFRICA. WE HAD NOT LEFT IT YET, BUT WHEN I WOULD WAKE IN THE NIGHT, I WOULD LIE, LISTENING, HOMESICK FOR IT ALREADY."

Well-versed traveller and author, Ernest Hemingway.





#### The Connoisseur Collection SOSSUSVLEI 52

### LITTLE KULALA

On the edge of the Namib Naukluft Park of Namibia, Little Kulala graces you with the stunning view of nature in perfect balance. Fragile windswept landscapes and dreamy sand formations are the only indication of time passing as you gaze out from the comforts of your canvas chalet. Little Kulala is the gateway to the amazing Sossusvlei, where you'll bear witness to incredible survival in the wildlife that withstand the limits of the harsh climate.

But you are well kept here, within one of eleven exquisitely designed raised villas that replicate the tones of the desert, and that come with plenty of natural light. Private wooden decks, exquisite interiors, air-conditioning, plunge pools and stargazing rooftop 'skybeds' feature in each luxurious villa. This desert retreat also boasts an elegant entertainment area that includes a library, wine cellar, craft boutique, lounge and dining areas overlooking a waterhole.

And when you are done passively gazing, there is access to the Park through a private gate to marvel actively with guided nature walks and drives, quad biking, horse riding and sunrise balloon safaris.



# **QUIRINBAS** ARCHIPELAGO

Few places are as breathtakingly serene and idyllic as their photographs, but the Quirimbas Archipelago in Mozambique is certainly one such place. Perfect white coral beaches and sparkling shallows define this untouched region stretching for 100kms along the northern Mozambique coastline. With an outstanding reef and a bewildering amount of sea life, this largely unexplored paradise is one worth discovering for yourself.



Martin Buber.







### VAMIZI ISLAND LODGE

If you were ever stranded on an island paradise, the Vamizi Island Lodge in Mozambique is one castaway-styled destination you'd never want to leave. Offering 13 generously sized one and two-bedroom romantic timber villas and two exclusive Private Villas, the lodge is set along one of the world's most beautiful beaches. For a private hideaway for larger parties, the two exclusive villas are ideal, individually set within two hectares of land with private beach access, plunge pools and a dedicated staff. Simply grand or grandly simple - this island isn't just about the usual five star luxury and all mod cons, it's about the more rarefied pleasures of exclusive island life. Exclusivity is one of Vamizi Island's greatest assets and, as the only lodge on the island, it has the space to spread wide, so each villa enjoys its own part of paradise.

And enjoy it you will with ample marine activities including fishing, snorkelling and some of the world's best scuba diving revealing an outstanding reefscape teeming with a bewildering amount of sea life. And there's just as much to enjoy on land with the lodge's own body and soul centre, body treatments and yoga sessions on the beach. You'll find everyday here is picture perfect.

"Twenty years from now you will be disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowline. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover ".

Author and humourist, Mark Twain.

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