

PRESS RELEASE

MAKWETI SAFARI LODGE – WELGEVONDEN PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, WATERBERG

There is a place deep in the Waterberg Mountains which beats to the ancient rhythm of Africa. Surrounded by pristine wilderness and attuned to the gentle, timeless pulse of the land, this place is Makweti Safari Lodge. Giant euphorbia adorn the area and lend a surreal, ancient atmosphere to the camp where, away from the hustle of the city, time stands still and the spirit of life soars. Exuding a quiet grace and charm remnant of a bygone era, Makweti will touch your soul.

Elegant and intimate, the main lodge is constructed from natural rock with wooden teak decks overhanging the dramatic Makweti Gorge. Rare African art, stylish furnishings, rich woods, leather and woven textures create a homely elegance. The Indaba Lounge overlooks a waterhole frequented by game and is an ideal spot to read or simply watch the mysteries of the bush unfold. The plunge pool is set amidst the rocks and private sun decks are surrounded by the bushveld. Makweti follows an unwavering commitment to living in harmony with nature and the camp is open to the wild, encouraging a natural flow of game into the area.

Set away from the main lodge, the five stone and thatch suites are individually decorated with antique treasures and plush furnishings, offering a sanctuary of unashamed comfort and luxury. Each has a private timber deck with sweeping views of the bushveld and a spacious Victorian bathroom complete with outside shower. Attention to detail is paramount with fine linens and decadent pamper products to replenish body and soul. Separated by wooden walkways and a swing bridge, an air of seclusion heightens the thrill of the enveloping African bush.

A proud member of Chaine des Rotisseurs, Makweti offers a fine dining experience, combining the rich spices of the ancient trade routes with modern gourmet trends and complimented by an extensive selection of elegant South African estate wines. Candlelit dinners are served in the romantic dining room or under the star spangled sky beside a flickering fire in the boma.

The Waterberg is a Natural Heritage Site which supports a biome of 150000 square kilometres and encompasses vast tracts of bushveld, punctuated with clusters of trees and tall savannah shrubs. Mountains, gorges, cliffs, open plains, wetlands, streams and rivers give rise to a rich diversity of flora which supports the prolific animal and birdlife which thrive here.

Located on the Waterberg Plateau, Welgevonden Private Game Reserve is a place of rare and rugged beauty. The diversity of habitat on the reserve encourages a wide range of wildlife as well as over 300 bird species, including the rare blue crane. To visit here is to experience the true spirit of the African wilderness. Aptly meaning 'well found,' Welgevonden is inhabited with over 50 different mammals, including the Big Five and boasts one of the largest populations of white rhino on a private reserve in Africa. The area is also home to rare species such as the brown hyena, aardwolf and aardvark – all best seen at night. The grassy plains abound with antelope from the largest eland to the diminutive duiker, and cheetah, lion and leopard are always close by. At 34 000ha in size, guests enjoy unlimited traversing through the reserve in open vehicles or on guided walking safaris, which leave from the lodge twice daily and include ancient Iron Age rock art discoveries.

Welgevonden affords a unique opportunity to experience an environment where biodiversity conservation and game viewing are managed in harmony with a commitment to ongoing research and development. This wilderness area offers an exclusive, intimate experience of the African bush with a limited number of guests restricted to the reserve at any one time. No private vehicles are permitted, which ensures minimal human impact on the environment. Historically, wildlife on the reserve has never been hunted so game viewing is optimal. An easy 3 hour drive from Johannesburg; air charters and road transfers are also available.

If it is evocative, ancient Africa that you love, rugged beauty and distant horizons unfolding around you, then Makweti Safari Lodge, place of the giant Makweti tree, will enchant you. Makweti is Africa, untouched by time.

For more information, contact Makweti Safari Lodge at 011 8376776, email makweti@global.co.za or visit their website www.makweti.co.za.

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