



THE KLOOF'S STUNNING HOMESTEAD

**SOUTH AFRICA**

# BUSHMANS KLOOF

"Pleasure." As an alternative to "you're welcome" and a charming response to "thank you," the word is frequently used as a short form for "my pleasure" on the resort grounds of South Africa's Bushmans Kloof, which is framed by the foothills of the Cederberg mountains and located 270 km from Cape Town. The word is also used as a firm confirmation. The plate of orange beets with thyme freshly picked from the estate's garden is pleasure. The glass of sparkling South African rosé served as the sun sinks into the blowing grasslands is pleasure. Witnessing a dazzling display of mountain zebra strutting by the window? Double pleasure.

*National Geographic* moments aside, the Kloof is a rare luxury in South Africa as one of the few places of its kind that prides itself on being a predator-free wilderness retreat. Unlike a traditional game reserve, the purpose of a stay here is not to stalk families of elephants in their habitats or spy on the surrounding pairs of red hartebeests (antelopes with heart-shaped horns). No, the Kloof's quiet jeep—equipped with vintage homegrown wines—respectfully guides visitors through a serene tour around the places that 35 species of mammals call home.

Peaceful drives through this majestic, mild kingdom are just as satiating as the pre- and post-tour meals, made with seasonal ingredients from the resort's organic garden. Delic-

ies ranging from South African cheeses to Karoo lamb and Malva pudding are served under the stars at Embers, a dining area situated on a cliff with a palatial view of the terrain.

The stack of awards the Kloof has received, including *Travel + Leisure's* coveted "Best Hotel in the World" title, merely hints at the profound educational experience lodgers receive during their stay. The area is teeming with ancient rock art created by the San people—hunters and gatherers who once lived on the land—as far back as 10,000 years ago. Excursions covering a handful of these tiny outdoor galleries are just as fascinating as the resort's indoor Heritage Centre. The space houses photographs and artifacts that connect to the history behind the Kloof's natural beauty.



DINING UNDER THE SOUTH AFRICAN SKIES AT EMBERS



TOURING THE CEDERBERG MOUNTAINS