

# Welcome to the house of fun

Sundowners in style... Leobo Lodge in Limpopo's Waterberg

**As you fly over The Observatory and the Leobo Lodge in the reserve's private helicopter, you get a sense that your stay at the Leobo Private Reserve will not be run-of-the-mill, writes GAYE CROSSLEY.**

**R**ory Sweet, the eccentric multi-millionaire owner of Leobo Private Reserve, loves having fun and insists his guests have a good time too. Set deep in Limpopo's Waterberg mountains, the 5000 hectare farm is home to 1200 head of game, including hippos, crocodiles, a range of antelope, warthogs, giraffe, buffalo and cheetahs. Leobo has been created on the premise that guests will get 'down and dirty' with the animals while living in luxury and enjoying the epicurean delights of quality chefs including Serge Devesa and Coco Reinartz, owner of the Sel et Poivre restaurants.

Leobo Private Reserve accommodation is divided into two precincts. The Observatory is an out-of-this-world family house that sleeps a maximum of 10, including four children. The visionary architecture offers guests big open spaces, huge

glass windows and some very quirky finishes. This is the ideal location for a family getaway. Designed by iconic lodge designers Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens, The Observatory offers a unique accommodation experience.

Leobo Lodge, a more traditional African bush complex, is also artistically and tastefully appointed. The lodge has eight en-suite chalets, four with decks overlooking the valley and four tucked away in the surrounding bush. The central boma has an expansive deck with a heated pool and a 'floating' fire pit. This is the ideal location for team building activities, 'wild' social gatherings, a red-letter birthday party, or even an intimate wedding.

While there is no doubt that the accommodation at Leobo is extraordinary, it is the outdoor

pursuits that will make your stay exhilarating.

The lodge has eight quad bikes and riders can enjoy racing through the bush on the twisting and winding dirt roads, getting the odd quizzical stare from a few giraffes along the way. Along the quad bike trail you may be fortunate enough to meet Stevie, a 1.5m crocodile. Stevie enjoys a little bit of tug-of-war and on a warm day he will eagerly come over to play with anyone with a tasty morsel of chicken tied to the end of a rope. But be gentle; he's a sensitive little chap!

Not far from Stevie, you'll be introduced to cheetah duo Didi and Duma; who have been hand-reared by the Leobo Reserve farm managers, Quintus and Ronelle, since they were cubs. The two cats are friendly and like nothing

better than a tummy tickle or a scratch behind the ears, and visitors will be rewarded with a very contented purr.

The farm also offers bush walks, when Leobo's lodge managers, Chris and Heidi, will show guests the smaller gems the veld has to offer. The early mornings and later afternoons offer enthusiastic photographers some fantastic photo opportunities. Other activities include fishing, archery, target shooting and hunting.

At the end of the day, your tired but happy body will return to the lodge to unwind over a welcome gin and tonic as you watch the flaming sunset over the distant mountains and breathe in the African bushveld. Bliss!

*The Observatory, Leobo Private Reserve*



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