

A NEW SEASON

## A letter from the heart of the bush

Kgorogoro Lodge · Pilanesberg National Park · South Africa



*Dear friends, guests, and family —*

There is a particular quality to the light in the Pilanesberg just before the rains. The bush holds its breath. The impala stand very still. And then — almost without warning — the sky breaks open and the whole world smells of wet earth and possibility.

That is how seasons work in the bush. Not gradually. Suddenly. And always with a kind of rightness to them.

We write to you today in one of those threshold moments — standing between what has been, and what is coming. And we want to do so honestly, warmly, and with the same love for this place that has shaped every letter we have ever sent you.



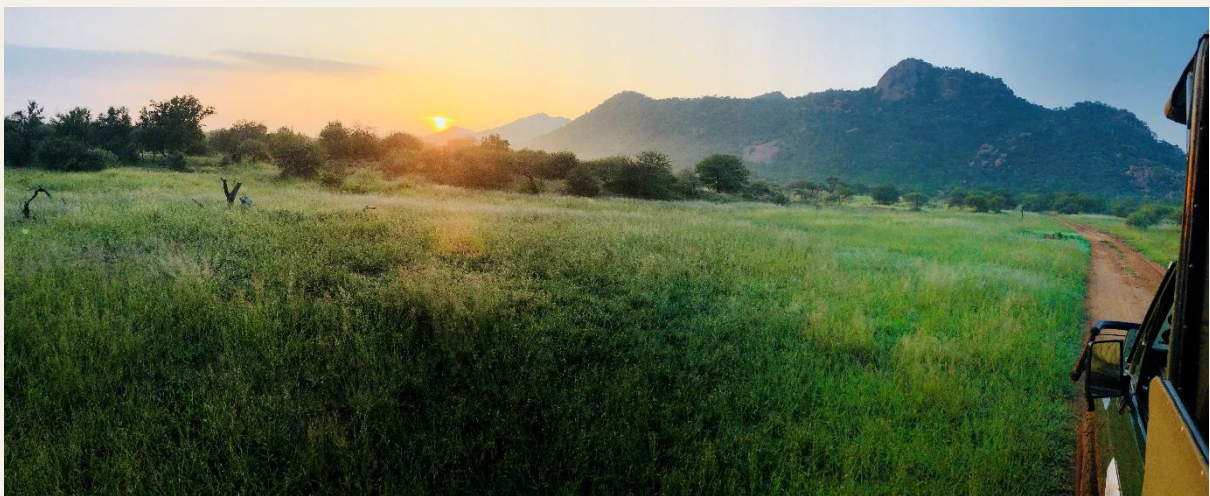
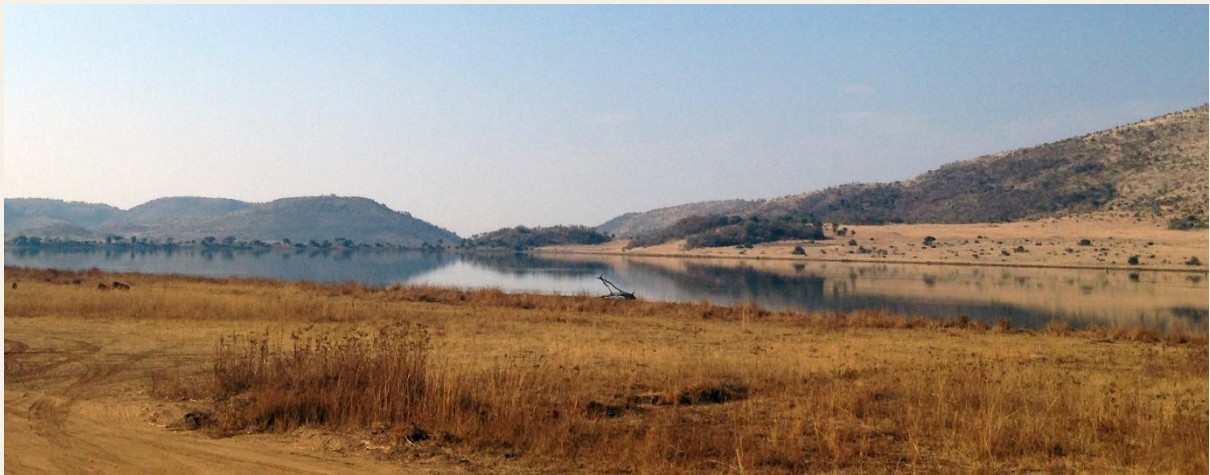
## A New Season Begins

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It is with tender hearts that we share the news that we have sold Kgorogoro Lodge. The transaction is in its final stages, and new owners will take over June / July.

This has not been an easy decision. A lodge like this is not just a business — it is a living thing. A piece of our hearts. It holds the fingerprints of every person who has ever walked its paths, sat around its fire, or woken before sunrise to something extraordinary on the plains.

We believe the right people are stepping into this next chapter. And we believe Kgorogoro Lodge — this irreplaceable piece of our hearts — will continue to do what it has always done: offer something real, something wild, something that cannot be found anywhere else.



**[From Pannetjies to Mankwe Dam... spectacular landscapes await behind every bush]**

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## What We Will Carry

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When we try to distil what these years have meant, we find ourselves returning not to the grand moments — though there have been many — but to the quiet ones.

A soaring, kingly Fish Eagle, with its trademark call echoing across the landscape. The mornings a herd of elephants walk quietly, with a low rumbling of communication... so very close next to us in the game viewer, making eye contact in acknowledgement... The afternoon the three cheetah brothers were out and about, first scouting around, then walking so gracefully along the road with their slender bodies, built for speed... The evening the lions called, close enough to feel it in your chest. Some very special moments with our beautiful rhinos, and the cheeky, playful rhino calves — and we cannot exclude our famous black rhino, Lesedi, after whom this piece of Pilanesberg have been named “Black Rhino Private Game Reserve”. Calm &

inquisitive, we had special encounters with him (with only one ear!) walking up close to inspect us – as if he is on safari to see us! The bird life always blessed us with a burst of colour or a song at dawn, eagles soaring.



And then there are the memories that belong only to us as a family.

The children growing up between these seasons. The conversations had under a sky full of stars that you simply cannot have anywhere else. Our legendary bush breakfasts... meaningful family dinners around the dining room table or on the deck...Endless fun with board games, puzzles, cards. Laughter until your tummy aches and deep cries when there is a broken heart.

The way this place taught us, again and again, that the world is larger and more generous than we tend to remember... Moments of awestruck wonder... God is good.



## The People Who Made It Home

No letter would be complete without honouring the people whose hands, hearts, and daily faithfulness made this lodge what it is.

We were blessed with shareholders who held this place as close in their hearts, and can echo the words in this letter. They added their love and hearts into every room, every area, and corner of the lodge – inside out. Thank you for sharing the journey.



### **To our staff – they are part of the family.**

They were the first faces guests saw in the morning and the last voices at the fire. They know the bush in ways that took us years to begin to understand. They cared for this place – and for every person who came through its gates – as if it were their own.

There have been a few field guides who made a special impact, starting with William and Angie who imprinted love and care in the beginning; some game rangers stayed for a shorter season, but we trust that they left with more knowledge and experience into new journeys and kept learning and growing, Andrew left a beautiful mark in guests' hearts and imprinted love and care into the gardens as well; and currently Eunivers has been a wonderful gift to steward the tasks, create order and administrate complexities. A special addition with his background in anti-poaching a deep care for nature makes him unique – like his name!



The people in the background made you feel like you are in your “home in the bush”, but with more care and attention to detail. They loved and cared for our guests by maintaining the garden, fixing the ever-breaking things, keeping the wild life in the wild, add a sparkle to the cleanliness and create an atmosphere with a fragrance of love, peace and warmth.



Keo – who’s hands could fix anything that needed attention, Tsala (Bridget) – with her Famous Pot Bread and lovely smile, Ntswaki (Cynthia) – with her friendly manner and cheerful songs, Lebo – friendly and inquisitiveness. Some more ladies served us and added value to our guests for a shorter time, and we are grateful for all of you. We honour them, and bless them with their new journeys ahead, and a reminder to keep growing and learning – because they are worthy. We are deeply grateful. We carry them with us.

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## Because of You

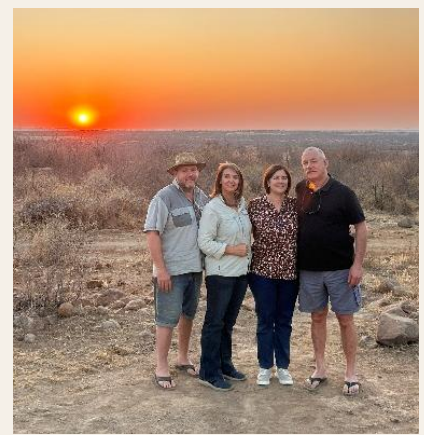
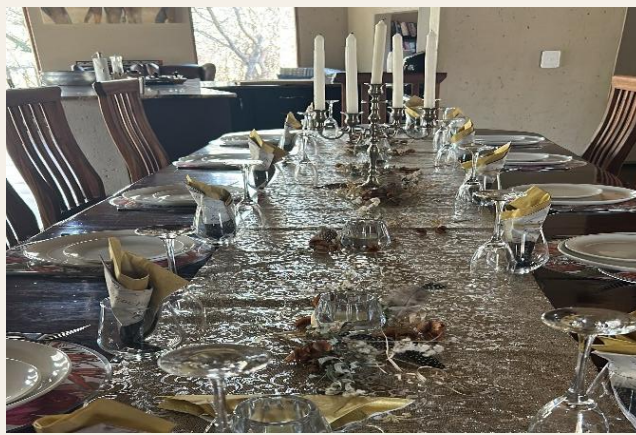
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Every family that arrived with children who had never seen an elephant. Every couple who sat quietly at sunrise and said nothing, because nothing needed to be said. Every group of friends who stayed up too late around the fire and left changed.

You are the reason a lodge becomes more than a building. You brought your lives here – your celebrations, your griefs, your rest, your wonder, your love stayed behind.

You trusted us with some of your most precious days. We have not taken that lightly.

Thank you. From the very bottom of our hearts – thank you.



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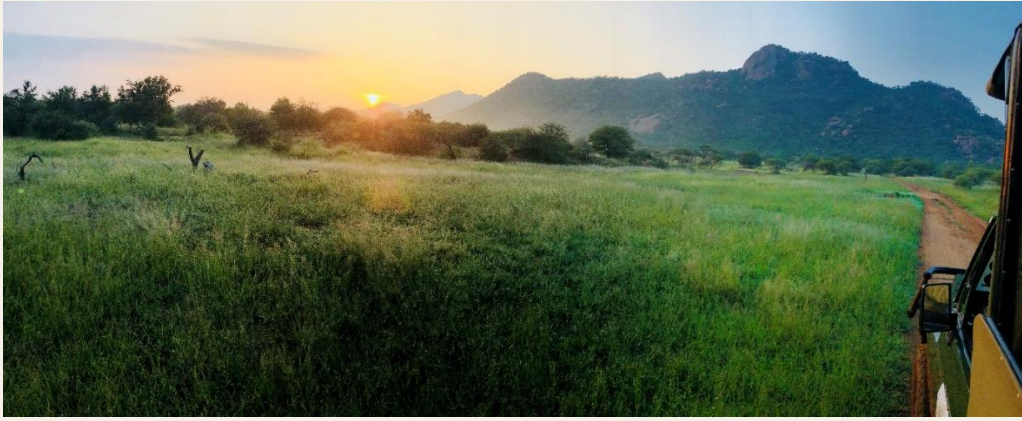
## Every Season Has Its Rightness

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The bush taught us this above all else: there is wisdom in every season. The dry season strips things back, reveals the bones of the land, and shows you what is real. The wet season brings extravagant life, colour, and the particular joy of watching things begin again. Hearing the birds celebrate each spring time with bountiful song and displaying magnificent colours, or standing in wonder in the autumn beauty of the Tamboti forest, is a reminder of how unbelievably blessed we are to be a witness to and participant of transition. What a privilege it is to be stewards.

Neither season is better. All are necessary. All seasons are beautiful in their own way.

We enter this new season with that understanding held close. What we built here was worth building. What you experienced here was real. And what comes next – for this place, for its new guardians, and for each of us – carries the seeds of its own beauty.



[ Awestruck wonder for nature's beauty]

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## We'll carry the majesty of the bush in our hearts

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*May you always find a fire worth sitting beside.  
May the wild places remind you who you are.  
May every season bring you something you did not expect  
— and everything you needed.  
Find solace in every sunset and new mercy in every dawn.*

*With deep gratitude, and love for every shared moment —*

**Christian & Theresa**

*& the family behind the lodge*

*like the wind through the Pilanesberg —  
**belonging to no one, blessing everyone.***

