

a contract allows us vehicle access to the neighbouring Kirkman's Kamp, means that our wildlife sightings are impressive to say the least.

Within ten minutes of setting off I see my first ever leopard feeding on a recently killed impala in the shade of a Sickle bush. This humbling sighting sets the tone for a host of splendid game-viewing experiences over our short weekend visit.

That evening we sit down to a gourmet buffet dinner in the lantern-lit boma where our hosts make absolutely sure our glasses are brimming with Pinotage at all times.

Meals at Lion Sands are all served in various scenic locations around the lodge, making for a unique dining experience.

The following afternoon we find 'solace' from relaxation while lounging around the lodge's rim flow pool, enjoying gulps of cold beer between refreshing dips in the water.

During our evening game drive, we leave an excited couple at Chalkley Treehouse just before sunset. Built in a majestic 500-year old

Leadwood tree – which Guy had climbed into many years before to escape from predators roaming below – the treehouse is a secure bush bedroom under the stars where guests can experience complete isolation with all the comforts of a five-star suite.

We do serious 'bundu-bashing' the following morning in search of lionesses that Patrick is eagerly tracking. As the law of the bush goes, the lionesses are found two hours later, resting lazily on one of the main reserve paths, making our bold attempts to unnecessarily track them deep into the bush a complete waste of time!

Mr Chalkley certainly had tremendous foresight when he decided to make this piece of African bushveld his own all those years ago. Lions Sands is now a pristine reserve that epitomises the five-star safari experience in the prestigious Sabi Sand Reserve.

Simon Capstick-Dale

For more info: www.lionsands.com

