

Tinga legends and Tinga Narina

by Carl Wepener

Ever thought of arriving at a private game reserve in the Kruger Park in a Bentley Continental GT Coupe and expect to be regarded as sane?



Well that was just what we did! People all around just stood and stared in total amazement as four adults emerged from this luxurious two door Coupe. Most are familiar with seeing executive cars and SUV's in game reserves, but a Bentley Sports Coupe, never!

As for Tinga we basically came to a similar conclusion. To find such intimate luxury, outstanding comfort and fantastic service by the charming Rosemary and Anthony Marx and their team at a Lodge in a Game Reserve was not at all to expected.

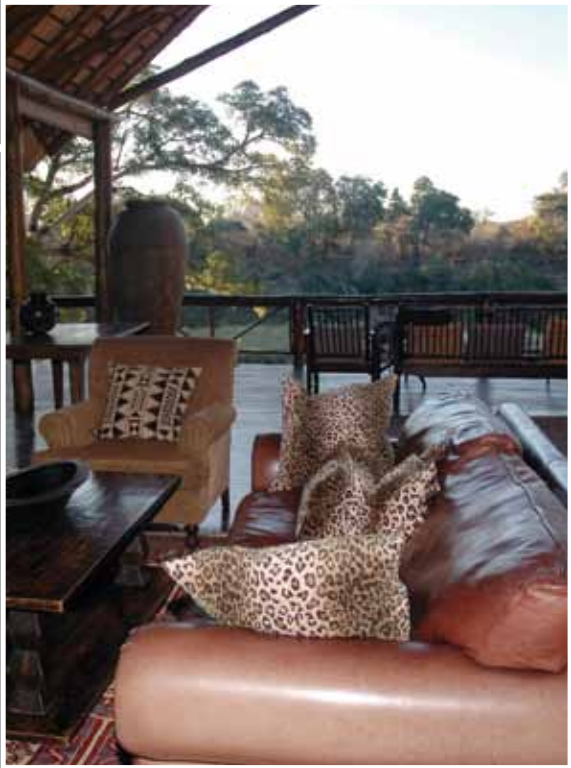
Tinga consists of two very luxurious lodges (Legends and Narina) both located on the Sabie River with Narina being built on stilts and Legends on the river banks. Both lodges comprise nine suites with en-suite bathrooms. The suites face the river and the spectacular views ensure the most romantic settings. Whether in the bath or shower or on the deck one is still privy to the impressive vista.

The character of all the suites and the charming lodge with its wine cellar, library and spa are beyond expectations. One feels calm from the moment you walk in, and to lounge under the very large, magnificent old tree on the deck is the ultimate in relaxation.

It was somewhat of a disappointment not to have had the opportunity to make use of the heated plunge pool at our suite due to really cold weather and the camp having had some frost.

Outstanding cuisine

Although cold, we did enjoy an extraordinary 'Bush Banquet' in the veldt with camp fires and Anthony standing guard with a rifle (just in case!). We feasted on Pot bread, Marinated Brinjal Salad, Butternut, Piquant Pepper and Feta Salad topped with Pumpkin Seeds, which are out of this world. The main course ranged from Oxtail stew, Lamb Chops marinated in Mint Sauce, Springbok Sausage, Bar-



My personal favourite is the Sesame and Thyme Coated Chicken Goujons served with Sweet Chilli Mayonnaise. All was washed down with either Iced Coffee or Iced Tea. Needless to say for Dinner I requested Buttermilk Pannacotta with Seasonal Berries...I am lying! ... I actually only requested a small Fruit Salad!

Tinga is on a 5 000 Hectare concession within the Kruger Park but game drives are permitted throughout the Park. The well-trained rangers make this a really remarkable experience and go out of their way to ensure that the maximum of six guests per vehicle are catered for and have an enjoyable trip. Although it was cold our ranger ensured that we saw a large number of animals and we came very close to three White Rhinos who just lazed around and ignored us. Throughout the morning and noon drives we were regaled with stories about different animals.

Caters for everyone and everything

Tinga is really an excellent venue for any number of events, from Corporate Seminars for up to 14 people, or a relaxing/working weekend. Tinga is ideal for private and exclusive birthday celebrations or weddings where nature plays a large part in the festivities.

We would love to go back just to lie in the sun on the river bank and to enjoy sunset drives. George, our son, never even left the lodge. He got a book from the Library and sat himself down on the veranda and just relaxed with a cup of coffee and the peace and tranquillity of nature.

Not only has Tinga an Independent Environmental Control Officer, but it came out tops in a bi-annual Environmental Audit conduct by achieving an overall 96% rating. This audit covers a wide field that includes water management strategy and recycling, waste management strategy and recycling, erosion management and much more. In the concessions activities, further focus is on investment, employment and creation of sustainable micro and small enterprises for the benefit and growth of the local community. Tinga plays an integral role by not only supporting, but also employing from the local community as well as training and upskilling their staff.

Tinga, in my opinion, is one of the really well-balanced Lodges catering for most needs whether corporate, family or a romantic get away. Again we were amazed at the quality of the service, the cuisine and the willingness of the staff to ensure that visitors are treated with love, integrity and respect.

Tinga welcomes the opportunity to create a really memorable experience through its own unique branding and thus ensures a most memorable experience. □

beque Marinated Springbok Loin and Yellowtail in Citrus Butter. Of course, I tried it all, although in small portions in order to savour every exquisite delight. I skipped the Mud Pudding and the selection of International Cheeses with Crackers and Verjus Syrup because I (if you must know) am trying to lose a few centimetres. With this kind of spread things are just not working out for me.

I am aware that this article is not meant to be about cuisine but, just to excite your taste buds even more, the next day we had afternoon tea on the deck under the very old shade tree overlooking the river. A herd of Elephant were frolicking about and a very big lone Buffalo Bull watched on and!!!

The most delicious Savoury Crumpets topped with a selection of Venison Carpaccio with a Red Pepper and Basil Pesto was served. Add to this Creamed Artichoke Phyllo Baskets with Smoked Salmon and it is extremely difficult to make a choice.