

WOW!



That's all I can say after my visit on Wednesday.

A new summer at Boschhoek defies words. I could try, but seeing that I have a vested interest I thought it best to quote a recent mail from Betsie, one of our owners. In deference to the Afrikaans speaking readers who usually have to put up with my attempt at English, I'll quote Betsie verbatim in Afrikaans:

Groen is groen is groen? Nie as jy Boschhoek binne ry nie. Na die lentereens is die skakerings mildadig en plante spog met 'n blinknuwe blare.

Soos ek al verwag (en ek hoop hulle besef dit) is ek vanoggend deur die klein troppie blesbokke verwelkom. Sowat van lui het ek lanklaas gesien - span uit net daar by die waterkrip! Van ver was die zebras op die savanna sigbaar. Baie skugter soek hulle vinnig skuiling as die voertuig nader kom. Na 'n vinnige besoek aan Savanna H, het ek Boschhoek verder verken.

Jandre was op sy pos, met 'n besigtigings-rit met kopers. Die 'snelweg' na Hoogmoedfontein vat my verby die laaibank, en vol verwagting kyk ek rond, maar die area blyk verlate te wees. Net na die draai by Kudu Ridge het meneer die Kameelperd my egter verras. Gelukkig het nie een van ons te groot geskrik nie, en kon ons heel gemaklik mekaar behoorlik in die oë kyk. 'n Entjie verder het die twee jonge dames? rustig met hul oggend-roetine aangegaan.

By die water-reservoir het ek eers omgedraai, en verby Eagle's Nest met die Oxwagon Trail my pad gevind tot by die boskamp. Na 'n koeldrankie, moes ek na die roepstem van die dam luister (die kon ek duidelik sien soos ek teen die skuinste afgery het). Verby Wildeseringhout, met 'n familie vlakvarke as geselskap, kon ek heel gemaklik die rowwer "4x4" (soos op die kaart aangedui) met die bakkie aanpak. Verby Vaalbosdam het ek die bakkie parkeer en die entjie na die dam gestap. Ek is dadelik gewaar deur die lewe in/op die dam, maar hulle het my teenwoordigheid heel gemaklik verduur. Vandaar is ek terug na Savanna H vir 'n middagete-piekniek.



Oppad terug na die hoofhek, is ek weereens verby die zebras wat senuagtig padgee, verby Savanna A het ek regs gedraai en daar 'n hele familie bobbejane gekry - ook besig met 'n piekniek onder die bome. En net om die dag af te sluit, kry ek 'n troppie koedoes, heel rustig aan't eet aan sagte nuwe groei.

Is jy jaloers?



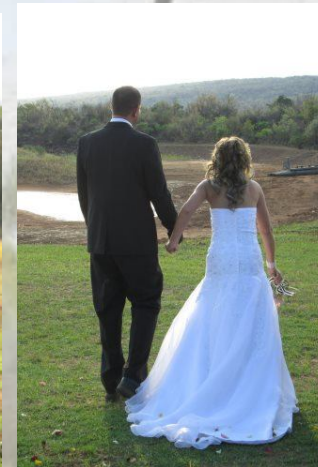
My own tally on Wednesday included giraffe, kudu, zebra, impala, red hartebeest, blesbuck, warthog, baboons and birds too many to even try and remember. Late afternoon, Savanna seems to be a congregating spot of choice for our game hosts. Kudos to Betsie for choosing their spot well!

While floating on my back in the dam at Waterval, turning a slow 360 panorama from Dombeya Krantz around to Ochre Krantz, Protea View, Kudu Ridge, Valleisig and Watervalkrantz, contemplating those who play golf on Wednesdays with waterfowl merrily quacking away in the background, awe reached into me with the cooler waters from the depths of the dam.



As the sun set late that afternoon behind the game on Savanna's plains, to the accompaniment of the chir-chirr of guinea fowl, it became almost unbearable. At that point I had great difficulty getting back into my car for the admittedly easy drive to Pretoria.

It's November already, and so much to tell!



*The knot is tied with a beautiful bride
In the bush they wed - 'I do', they said
May nature forever be part of their life
To have and to hold, husband and wife...*

Yes, our manager Jandre, and Ane whom he co-opted as Boschhoek's administrator amongst other things, are officially married! May you have great times together, through both the smooth and the rough, as neither is lesser in the fibre of life.

The game on Boschhoek now includes that mentioned above, together with our eland, waterbuck, bushbuck and mountain reedbuck that eluded me this time. Still more game is due when the new season starts, and the first young ones have already been born on Boschhoek!

The roads are complete. With around 100mm of rain gratefully received in October, they are showing their mettle in the mountains.



The water network is practically complete. Our 90 000 litre main northern reservoir has been commissioned,



and this picture of the water jetting from Keith's connection some kilometres to the east at Fountain View told him that he is ready to start building.

Added to that, both our control architect Gerd Bolt and Modimolle/Nylstroom municipality have approved the first building plans, paving the way for the first bush homes to be built.



Construction of the clubhouse at the huge wild fig tree west of the farmstead should start any day. May this be the scene of many memorable a *kuier* for a long long time to come! The bottom gate at the Loubad road as part of our new entrance structure is equally imminent.

In the interim the last vestiges of human occupation are being removed, handing back to nature what rightfully belongs.



Our usual and sometimes unusual marketing channels are continuing to spread the word about Boschhoek. A full page ad in SA 4x4 magazine and a radio advertising campaign have added their weight to our usual full page ads in the Beeld and the Country Life. Added to that, owners are increasingly requesting friends and family to come and join them on Boschhoek for generations to come.

Whichever way it may be, Boschhoek continues to defeat conventional wisdom, regularly selling around a stand every week - utterly astonishing in current times. Amazing scenery attested to by buyers, a conscious effort to move away from the city's glitz and glamour to rediscover the essence of the bush and the freedom to start with a small bush home and expand over time are all contributors. So is the fact that we have now been included in Unesco's expanded World Heritage Waterberg Biosphere Reserve,



with the understanding that no new bush developments will be allowed in future. Together with the recent change in planning legislation previously alluded to, this would underlie the urgency amongst our buyers to secure their spot in nature. With levies at only R500 per month, and 10 years to start building, it makes ultimate sense not to delay.

On Boschhoek itself we are, not surprisingly, seeing our supply of stands slowly starting to dwindle. Close onto 80 stands sold and reserved leaves us with around 40 of the most exquisite 1 to 2 hectare bush stands currently available. To ensure that we keep up with inflation, in recognition of Boschhoek's amazing offering and in acknowledgement of our owners who invested at inception, we are proud to announce forthcoming price increases. These will be implemented in February, allowing a last opportunity to those who to date have been unable to join us.

Let Jandre take you out into the silence of Boschhoek and listen for the voice of the bush. Hear the gurgling streams, see the amazing vistas, and let yourself flow with the quiet rhythm of nature.

Kindly call me to arrange, preferably a day or two before. Weekends are sometimes booked longer in advance. Those with an equal affinity for the finer things in life would be well advised to combine it with a lovely light lunch or an invigourating spa treatment at the adjacent Leeuwenhof Country Lodge and Garden Spa.

Summer Greetings!



The Boschhoek Team

www.boschhoekmountain.co.za

Herbert Smith (083)654-8201



Boschhoek Berglandgoed
Mountain Estate

MacRobert
Attorneys
(012)425-3400
www.macrobert.co.za

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