

JUNE 26, 2008



beyond the camp which has witnessed the changes year on year:

*It is present in the granite outcrops of Sthlawayise and Campbell Koppies who stand guard over this pristine wilderness area;*

*It is present in the Sand River which journeys through this sanctuary supporting this dramatic ecosystem, but more importantly it is present in the generations of wild animals who have found solace in their home territories on MalaMala*

**M**alaMala Game Reserve is the Safari Industry's blueprint to the luxury photographic safari. In existence since 1927, this massive thriving tract of land produces the most exciting wildlife experience this side of the equator. MalaMala Game Reserve is the largest private Big Five game reserve in South Africa. Comprising 13 300 ha, MalaMala shares a 19 km unfenced border with the world-renowned Kruger National Park and lies strategically sandwiched between the National Park and the Sabi Sand Reserve.

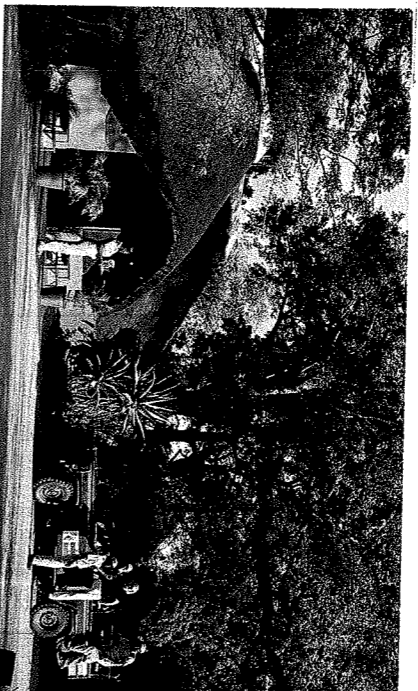
In the Rattray family for 44 years, Michael & Norma Rattray took over the operation in 1976 and it was their forward thinking that has resulted in this South African icon.

For over four decades, Michael Rattray has remained focused on his objective to preserve and protect the land over which he is custodian. Allowing nature to move to its innate rhythm, guests experience today what the forefathers of the African Safari would have experienced at the turn of the century. This philosophy has paid off, as experienced by a veritable collection of photojournalists and film-makers who have made MalaMala their destination of choice to capture footage of wildlife viewing that would rival any Hollywood production for thrilling and breathtaking animal encounters.

MalaMala is renowned internationally for the quality of its leopard viewing. 99% of guests spending 2 nights at MalaMala will experience more than one leopard sighting a day – many of which involve interactions with other predators and most certainly prey.

The environment and game viewing was always the most important aspect of the operation and MalaMala has practiced sound environmental management policies for years, well before “responsible tourism” became the contemporary catch phrase. Michael Rattray had the foresight to purchase land incorporating both sides of the Sand River. Save for game viewing tracks, he ensured that the eastern bank of the river contained no sign of human habitation – no buildings, powerlines or delivery vehicles – so for 16 hours a day (outside of game viewing times) it is the pris-

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time domain of Mala Mala's flora and fauna.

Human densities which have a direct impact on the environment have been kept to an absolute minimum. Only guests accommodated at one of the MalaMala camps enjoy this privately-owned game land.

MalaMala is the largest Big 5 private game reserve in South Africa today – only accommodating a maximum of 66 guests between three camps.

MalaMala has always believed in the philosophy that the camp and accommodations must complement the game viewing experience and not the other way around. The wildlife experience is the reason why guests

choose MalaMala and MalaMala has remained firm to this principle. Even when MalaMala introduced air-conditioning, telephones and swimming pools all those years ago – much to the horror of the travel industry – they have become the safari norm and enhanced the experience without detracting from it.

MalaMala's Camps (MalaMala Main Camp, Sable Camp and Rattray's on MalaMala) are the embodiment of an authentic safari experience pioneered at a time when the safari was simple – unassuming camps, vast sweeping plains, the African sky and the bush in all its splendour. Wellness was the feeling after a long day in the wild.

Families are welcome at MalaMala Main Camp, where “Junior Rangers” are treated to an educational yet entertaining bush experience.

Sable Camp is the exclusive version of the Main Camp and the perfect choice for the traveller who seeks a smaller, more tranquil environment.

Both facilities, whilst undergoing a rotational refurbishment policy, are a monument to the pre photographic safari hunter without whom agriculture would have flourished and the safari industry as we know it would not have been born. MalaMala wrote the recipe.

Rattray's on MalaMala is the *crème de la crème* of the luxury safari industry. The newest addition to the MalaMala portfolio, this elegant reflection of a colonial era embodied in the timeless “Out of Africa” epic promises the ultimate exclusive safari in style, privacy and sublime comfort.

The legend continues to Mashatu Game Reserve – a little known area of Botswana when Michael Rattray purchased this in 1987. It is now a haven for adventure tourism and research scientists and has been brought to life through the National Geographic webcam. This gave birth to “the pondies” a forum of bloggers established around the viewing at Pete's Pond on Mashatu Game Reserve. ☛



## THE ULTIMATE GAME LODGE LEGEND

*If the African Safari were personified, her name would be MalaMala....*

*The soul of Mala Mala Game Reserve is tangible:*

*It is present in the sepia photographs in the safari bar, reflecting the history of the area;*

*It is present in the massive Jackalberry Tree, a silent witness in the boma from the beginnings;*

*It is present in the faces of the staff some who have worked for the family for over 30 years;*

*It is present in the floodplain*



The Cellars-Hohenort



The Marine

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by LIZ McGRATH



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