



DECEMBER 2005

A Year in Reflection

" I greet you fellow riders and lovers of the last frontiers of the world. Where I am sitting on top of a hill overlooking the Limpopo valley I feel privileged, privileged that I can sit on a horse hundreds of miles away from the "real" world looking at great thunderheads rolling in over the land. I can smell the rain, the faint aroma of freshly turned soil being driven in by the wind, bringing with it the promise of life for all the creatures of Botswana . Another year has gone by, another circle has been completed, and I can still pretend to be a pioneer in an ever-changing world.

Limpopo Valley Horse Safaris has grown a lot over the past twelve months. We now have thirty-nine of the best trail horses in Africa . Our young shire/thoroughbred horses have gone from strength to strength under the careful guidance of Louise and will make their safari debut in March next year. The registered Boerperd horses that we acquired earlier this year have been phenomenal as trail ponies and it is easy to see why they gained worldwide acclaim as bush horses during the Boer war. They now offer guests the opportunity to ride a true South African breed on safari. We were all very shocked when the great Zulu, black stallion of the Tuli, died unexpectedly at Mount Anderson while living out his retirement. Zulu became a legend after living with a herd of zebra for three years and later became trusted friend and lead horse to Cor. Louise bought Coolmore from us as he turned out to be far better at doing dressage than dodging elephant. Hopefully this partnership will make us proud competing in South Africa in the future. Emoyeni has also retired at Mount Anderson and is currently living the good life, recovering from "post elephant charge syndrome"!

We are also sad to say farewell to two people that added depth and more than their fair share of personality and humour to our establishment. Jacques and Meraai from all of us to both of you: May great adventures and unbridled happiness accompany you on your journey. I got Nyama; and for those of you whom are familiar with the native Tswana language and are frowning at this statement, no I didn't go on a carnivorous rampage, Nyama is a beautiful Rhodesian ridgeback that became Brannie's boyfriend and ferocious bush dog at seven weeks old when I brought him to Botswana . Watch this space for lots and lots of Nyama (Meat) adventures.

Apart from all the small changes that are happening at our camp we are also looking at the possibility of acquiring a new wilderness camp at the Shashe and Limpopo confluence next year. If this happens we will be able to go to the most south eastern corner of the country where it meets Zimbabwe and South Africa .



So, with the first cold, wet drops splashing against my face and the knowledge that soon everything will be green and Mashatu will be transformed into a wonderland of yellow flowers and fast flowing rivers where young Impala will begin their life, I want to invite all of you to come and ride with us next year and to thank you for your continuous support over the past year.

Have a great festive season and a prosperous new year from all of us here at Limpopo Valley Horse Safaris.

Kobus "