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**HATS OFF TO  
SOUTH AMERICA  
THE MOST DIVERSE  
CONTINENT ON EARTH**



## OF THE BEST... SAFARI LODGES

### TSWALU KALAHARI SOUTH AFRICA

Covering 100,000 hectares of Kalahari wilderness, Tswalu Kalahari (above) is the largest private game reserve in South Africa, but sleeps just 30 guests in two smart lodges. Horseback safaris allow guests to get even closer to the black-maned lions and sable antelope that roam here. From £2,335pp for four nights.\* [carrier.co.uk](http://carrier.co.uk)

### ETAMBURA CAMP NAMIBIA

The ultimate desert escape, Etambura is as remote as it gets. Just five en-suite tents are carved out of a marble outcrop high above the rugged plains of Kunene. Run by Conservancy Safaris, an independent outfit with impeccable environmental credentials, the lodge is owned entirely by the local Himba people. From £2,120 pp for a six-night Kunene safari. [kamilisafaris.com](http://kamilisafaris.com)

### ECCA LODGE MADIKWE, SOUTH AFRICA

More luxury hotel than safari camp, family-friendly Ecca Lodge brings modern style to the bushveld with mosaic bathrooms, polished concrete floors and bold fabrics. Wraparound

decks with solar-heated plunge pools overlook a valley teeming with wildlife, from herds of kudu to elusive, endangered cheetahs. From £330 a night. [africatravel.co.uk](http://africatravel.co.uk)

### SOLIO LODGE KENYA

You'll see more leopards, zebras and giraffes than tourists at Solio, a breeding ground for the endangered black rhino in the shadow of Mount Kenya. Tanya and Mikey Carr-Hartley, who own three other fabulous lodges in Kenya, have created six thatched cottages with their signature ethnic-chic décor. From £385 a night. [thesafaricollection.com](http://thesafaricollection.com)

### SINGITA SWENI, KRUGER SOUTH AFRICA

For an epicurean adventure, join chef Bruce Robertson's new Gourmet Safaris. Watch the flamboyant Robertson's culinary fireworks at Singita's community cooking school, followed by unforgettable bush dinners. Set in Kruger National Park and built on stilts, Singita Sweni has an infinity pool with stunning river views. From £6,675pp\*\*. [itclassics.co.uk](http://itclassics.co.uk)



HOTEL THOUGHTS  
BRIAN WILLIAMS  
CHAPTER HOTELS

### What makes a good hotel?

The combination of an excellent location, great people, a superb product appropriately priced and well-executed with consistency.

### What's your favourite hotel?

I'm impressed by well-run family owned hotels – the personal touch makes a big difference.

### What are you working on now?

The launch of Chapter Hotels in the UK – the first in Cheltenham opened in November. Plus our second East hotel (after Hong Kong) opens in Beijing in early 2012.

### What's in vogue right now in terms of hotel interiors?

There's a paring back from the design excesses of the previous decade. Also sustainable sourcing is important.

### What's the future of hotels?

Environmental awareness in all projects. Top-end luxury hotels will become smaller and more personal. Brian Williams is managing director of Chapter Hotels, a new UK brand from Swire Hotels.

## Check in...

### INDIA

The Leela Palace Kempinski New Delhi adds fresh opulence to the city's accommodation choice. With 260 rooms, plus three suites with their own pool, it has a heated rooftop pool, exclusive spa, plus Japanese, Indian and Italian restaurants. [theleela.com](http://theleela.com)

### MEXICO

Hidden in an artists' village in the mountains north of Mexico City, the new Rosewood San Miguel de Allende has 67 charming rooms (wood-beam ceilings, fireplaces and balconies). There's also a spa, indoor and outdoor restaurants, and a rooftop lounge. [rosewoodsanmiguel.com](http://rosewoodsanmiguel.com)

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Beach Club, part of the Banyan Tree Al Wadi in Ras Al Khaimah, opens this month with 32 one-bedroom tented villas, each with private terrace, plunge pool and gazebo. As the name suggests it's set right on a delightful beach. [banyantree.com](http://banyantree.com)

### ST LUCIA

Just 14 cottages and villas make up Hotel Chocolat, The Hotel, an exclusive boutique pad on the Rabot Estate Cocoa Plantation from the luxury chocolatiers. Amazing views of the Pitons, plus a cocoa-influenced menu at Boucan restaurant. [thehotelchocolat.com](http://thehotelchocolat.com)

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