

ROOM OF THE MONTH

DESERT ON YOUR DOORSTEP

SETTLE BACK IN A NAMIBIAN WILDERNESS SO PEACEFUL YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR YOUR HEARTBEAT. BY DAVID ROGERS.

delicately perched amid the NamibRand's sprawling vistas of red, grass-covered dunes, granite inselbergs and tens of thousands of enigmatic fairy circles, Dunes Lodge is a world apart from the city. A few hours' drive south of the dunes of Sossusvlei, it's a unique place made possible by Albi Bruckner and some like-minded nature enthusiasts who bought up 15 farms, took down fences and brought back the game. One of only four small camps in the vast area of more than 200 000 hectares, it stands out for its sustainability principles, intimacy and mountain views.

The lodge has six tents built atop a 250-metre dune and the combination of canvas, brass, leather and dark wood sets just the right tone of understated safari style, but without ever overwhelming the delicate landscape. With solar-powered lights and water, the lodge sits very lightly on the earth.

It is indeed a very special place. From R4000 a person a night, including park fees, activities, dinner, bed and breakfast. SADC residents get 66 percent discount from mid-May until mid-July. www.wolwedans.com

STAY IN BED and watch the desert light burning gold against the distant Losberg range.

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