



Join highly-rated wine producers Mark & Monica Wraith of Keermont Estate
and leading African wildlife photographers Daryl & Sharna Balfour

@ The Greatest Show On Earth! The World Cup of Wildlife!

The Great Wildebeest Migration in Kenya's Maasai Mara Game Reserve

September 1 - 8, 2018

MARK & MONICA WRAITH of Keermont Estate along with world renowned wildlife photographers **DARYL & SHARNA BALFOUR** invite you to join them on an exclusive "wine & wildebeest" migration safari in Kenya's renowned Maasai Mara National Reserve in September 2018. "The Great Migration" is regarded as one of the greatest natural spectacles on the planet, with as many as two million



wildebeest and zebras, accompanied by numerous other antelope species, flowing across the plains of the Serengeti into the Maasai Mara each year. This safari is hosted by Mark and his wife Monica (left, on safari with Daryl Balfour in Rwanda in July 2017), of **Keermont Vineyards**, regarded as one of the premier boutique wine estates in South Africa's Blaauwklippen Valley, Stellenbosch. Their highly-rated winemaker **Alex Starey** will be on hand to talk you through the wines on offer around the fire and at the elegant dinner table each evening, so to enjoy the best in African wildlife and some of the best in African wines - don't miss this opportunity. Past guests have described the migration as "*the world cup of wildlife*" and **Wildphotos Safaris** pride themselves on offering what we

believe to be "the original and best wildebeest migration safaris" currently available, and this accompanied by some of the best wines you will enjoy in any tented safari camp anywhere in Africa.

Combining with the Balfours & their highly skilled guides, who will offer hands-on tuition in the field on how to take better photographs, even with a basic point & shoot camera, as well as post-processing in Adobe Lightroom or Photoshop for those interested, **Mark, Monica and Alex** will ensure that the greatest spectacle in Nature is combined with some of the greatest wines of Africa. Each evening, as we sit around the campfire discussing the day's sightings and dine at spectacular candle-lit dinner tables in the spacious mess tent, Alex & Mark (right) will talk you through some of the finest wines **Keermont** has on offer. We also ask each guest to bring one or two different bottles of great wine to add to the **Keermont** selection, possibly as "*mystery wines*" at the fireside or to test & impress your fellow diners' knowledge of the wines of the world, over dinner each evening!



Accommodation will be in an authentic & traditional 'Hemingwayesque' East African tented safari camp that even Crocodile Dundee would approve of! The camp, comprising 9 tents, is set up each August & September exclusively for the **Wildphotos Safaris** events and accommodates a maximum of 12 guests in a private site in one of the best game-viewing areas of the Mara. Acclaimed photographers and authors **Daryl & Sharna Balfour** will be on hand to offer insights into this wildlife spectacle **as well as specialist advice & tuition how to take better photos (and process them afterwards)** of your safari-in-a-lifetime, while our resident naturalist guides, **Pierre Burton, Phil West, &/or Andrew Campbell** are among the best in Africa and will ensure that your safari is both memorable and informative. The annual wildebeest migration, one of the natural wonders of the world, has been termed **"the greatest show on earth"** and it is truly something that is impossible to describe, or even adequately film or photograph.



"Nothing I have seen, whether on television, the printed page or even Imax movies, prepared me for the reality of the migration. I don't think the human brain can comprehend such vastness and scale; our minds are not used to seeing a million of anything, let alone wild animals. The world cup of wildlife viewing!" - PAST GUEST

The camp features spacious walk-in safari tents with a choice of large queen-sized beds or comfy twins, each with private en-suite ablution facilities featuring a fully enclosed dressing room with washbasin and clothing racks, traditional safari showers in a fully enclosed attached cubicle and a flush toilet for each tent, and solar-powered electric lighting in the tents, while meals will be taken in our large, airy mess tent at truly spectacular candle-lit tables set with fine china and glassware.



We have endeavored to recreate the atmosphere of the original mobile safari camps of a bye-gone era with our camp, and this is the way artist-explorer Captain William Cornwallis Harris, Ernest Hemingway, Sir Randolph Churchill (Winston's dad), Teddy Roosevelt and Robert Ruark experienced and wrote about Africa, (with a few more modern trimmings, of course) and this is the best way to avoid the overcrowded mass-market tourism of the bigger commercial lodges and safari hotels. We place a premium on the wildlife experience, with our guides being among the best in the industry not only at finding and locating the game, but in their knowledge of the country, its people and its wildlife. The guides are all thoroughly versed at ensuring you will have the best position and angle to optimize your photography, and will offer advice and assistance whenever required.

Your eventful and full days will be spent exploring this, the northernmost limits of the Serengeti Ecosystem, seeking the area's abundant wildlife - including the **migrating herds of wildebeest and zebra** that by this time of year should be massing and fattening prior to their return to the Serengeti in the south. We have timed these safaris to coincide with the best possibilities of seeing the spectacular river crossings, when thousands of wildebeest & zebra pour across the crocodile-infested Mara River. We have a great record over the years of showing our guests these crossings, often with spectacular crocodile action too! But like anything in the world of animals, nothing can be guaranteed - though our guides will do their utmost to ensure you an experience of a lifetime.



Our daily schedule, which we adjust and fine-tune according to the movements of the wildlife and our game-viewing plans, involves a pre-dawn wake-up call followed by tea, coffee and a light breakfast in the Mess before we head-out in search of the day's offerings. Each vehicle is equipped with a cooler bag of cold drinks & Kenya's excellent *Tusker* beer, as well as a tea & coffee basket along with freshly baked cookies or cinnamon buns, and assorted jaffles for a mid-morning stop out in the wilds. We return to camp around midday (or later) for a slap-up lunch, after which most safari-goers enjoy a well-earned shower and siesta. The animals and the wilderness dictate our schedule – we place more emphasis on the wildlife experience than we do on camp timetables, and our chefs and camp staff are totally adaptable to this.

Afternoon tea is served around 4pm followed by the evening drive. Sundowners may occasionally be enjoyed in the field if game-viewing time allows, after which we return to camp for pre-dinner drinks and a wine tasting at the fireside followed by an elegant three-course candle-lit dinner accompanied by some of **Keermont's** finest wines, along with the selection brought by the guests. Mark & Alex have promised to include a selection from **Keermont's** great 'library' stock, so look forward to some special vintage tastings of their award-winning wines.



The Maasai Mara is renowned for its predators – lions, leopards and cheetah are there in abundance - all attracted by the large numbers of herbivores, and this reserve is regarded as one of the best wildlife viewing destinations in Africa by Daryl & Sharna Balfour, as well as by many other top wildlife photographers and film makers. The Mara is specifically featured in the BBC's acclaimed documentary series *Big Cat Diary* and *Big Cat Live* as well as the Disney production, *African Cats*, and we are most likely to see many of the lions, leopard and cheetah that have become the stars of these shows. Birding in the area is also excellent, and first-time visitors to the area are sure to see a number of "lifers".

Transport will be in comfortable customised East Africa-style Toyota 4x4 safari vehicles equipped with cooler bags with cold drinks and water, with a maximum of four guests to a vehicle (as opposed to the East African safari norm of six, eight, or even ten!) Each person will have their own open window as well as a large open roof hatch overhead. Ample large, sturdy beanbags are provided for the use of photographers in all vehicles, and we assure everybody of opportunities & instruction to capture award-winning images, or simply enjoy bucket-list sightings!

The safari **begins and ends in Nairobi** on September 1st, returning there around midday on September 8th, 2018. You should make your own flight or other arrangements to be in Nairobi on the day, or even the day before, your safari begins. SAA and Kenya Airways offer daily flights to Nairobi from Johannesburg, while BA, Kenya Airways, Swiss, Air France, Lufthansa and KLM also offer direct flights from the UK and Europe. Emirates connect with many destinations, including Australia, via Dubai, while Air India & Kenya Airways fly direct to Nairobi from India. We use a **private charter flight** in a 12-seater Cessna Caravan C208 direct from the domestic Wilson Airport to the Maasai Mara at 10h00 on the day your safari begins, and returning to Wilson Airport at the end of your safari, arriving about 12h00 well in time for outgoing international connections from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.



Many international flights to Nairobi arrive in the early morning, allowing guests to transfer from the international JKIA airport to the Fairview Hotel where you will be booked on a bed & breakfast basis for your first night (**Sept 1**). Most flights do however arrive in the late afternoon or evening and we will arrange your transfer to the Fairview Hotel once we have your flight details. For those whose flights arrive the day before, or who wish to add a day in Nairobi to visit the famous Sheldrick Wildlife Orphanage or Karen Blixen museum we can offer suggestions of places to stay in the city, either in hotels or private guest houses or B&Bs, or preferably add an extra night to your stay at the Fairview. Should you require hotel accommodation and transfers in Nairobi either before or after your safari, we will be happy to make these on your behalf. We highly recommend the Fairview Hotel – as does *Time Magazine*.



The cost of the safari **excludes airfares** to Nairobi, allowing you to make your own personal flight arrangements from whatever destination, utilize frequent flyer air miles, or extend your stay before or after your safari. Please ask us if you would like to visit any other parts of East Africa, such as any of the other reserves, or perhaps Zanzibar or Lamu Island or the Kenyan coast.

Dates for the 2018 Keermont Wine & Wildebeest Safari are Sept 1-8, 2018. Your arrival in Nairobi on the 1st will be followed by a night in the grand old Fairview Hotel on a B&B basis, where you can meet your fellow travellers, followed by a 10am departure the following morning for a special 45-minute chartered flight into the Maasai Mara where you will be shuttled to camp...passing an introductory sample of the wildlife you can expect to see during the following week. Once in camp you will be settled into your tents, followed by a briefing about the camp and its surroundings, lunch, a chance to relax, followed by your first game drive later that afternoon. You will spend SIX nights in our camp, returning to Nairobi by special air charter on September 8th arriving around midday, well in time to make outgoing international connections later that day. Full details of these flight and other arrangements will be sent to you after confirming your reservation.

The cost of the safari includes transfers to your hotel and the night at the Fairview on the September 1st, transfers to the domestic airport on the 2nd and the private charter flight by 12-seater Cessna Caravan C208 to the Maasai Mara, a return charter to Nairobi on your final day, full board in camp, **all drinks** including beer, **fine wines**, local and imported spirits, and sodas/mixers, all Park fees, services of the camp staff (**including complimentary daily laundry**), and the assistance & guiding of world-renowned wildlife photographers and photo-journalists **Daryl & Sharna Balfour** as well as other naturalist guides, **Pierre Burton, Andrew Campbell or Phil West.**

The fully inclusive cost of the seven nights safari is **US\$ 6495 per person sharing**. A single supplement may be payable for single tent occupancy, depending upon the number of single applicants we have...we can however accommodate up to six single travelers without need to charge a supplement! **Please note that due to currency fluctuations and other possible park fee increases, Government taxes and fuel price surcharges beyond our control the tour price remains subject to change.** A \$2000 per person non-refundable deposit is payable to confirm a booking. Full payment is required 100 days prior to commencement of the safari. We urge you to take out travel insurance to cover you in case of cancellation as once we have received final payment it is difficult to find replacements at short notice, in which event no refunds are possible. The price does not include the airfare from your home to Nairobi, visas, curio purchases, **gratuities for guides and camp staff** or other personal expenses. (Payment by EFT to a UK bank account, sorry, no Visa or MasterCard payments can be processed.)



***Daryl & Sharna Balfour** have been among Africa's leading wildlife photographers and authors for more than 30 years. They have published more than a dozen best-selling coffee-table books including: *Simply Safari; African Elephants – A Celebration of Majesty; Chobe – Africa's Untamed Wilderness; This is Botswana; ETOSHA; and Rhino – The Story of the Rhinoceros.* They are also contributors to the acclaimed *Remembering Elephants and Remembering Rhinos* compilations. Their work is represented worldwide by several of the world's leading image libraries, and they have been published in magazines such as *National Geographic, Newsweek, Audubon, BBC Wildlife, Africa Geographic, GEO, Stern!* and numerous others. In 2001 they were invited lecturers at the prestigious North American Nature Photographers Association annual summit in Las Vegas.*

We expect the special **Keermont Wine & Wildebeest Safari** to fill up fast - we can accommodate a maximum of **only 8 guests** on a first-come, first-served basis! Your immediate deposit secures your participation in this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Contact Mark & Monica at Keermont or email us NOW for more details & to reserve your place at wildphotos@mweb.co.za
Your places on this safari are only confirmed once we have received your deposit!

