WILD AT HEART

African safaris conjure golden-age-of-travel fantasies: Serengeti sunsets, tented opulence, Hemingway-esque glamour. Thinking hefty price tags as well? Not alwaysthese all-inclusive resorts offer luxury, expert guides, and epic landscapes at a less-than-sky-high cost.

KICHWA TEMBO TENTED CAMP

Masai Mara, Kenya

WHY HERE This all-new camp combines modern comfort with a timeless, classic ambience. Laid out along the Sabaringo River, 40 spacious, secluded tents overlook the fabled Masai Mara plains. WHAT YOU'LL DO On cool morning game drives, snuggle beneath a blanket watching the wildlife spectacle unfold before your eyes. Expect to see large elephant herds, as well as lions, cheetahs, and other predators. From July to Octobe (high season), the annual

The Bottom Line: Low season (No. 330 per person a night, inclusive), from \$450 per person a night

migration of half a million wildebeests and vast groups of zebras and topi down from the Serengeti into the Mara is an unforgettable sight. You can also add a sunrise hotair-balloon safari, followed by a Champagne breakfast. Then unwind from the actionpacked game drives and guided Mara River walks with a little relaxation poolside and a feast featuring organic produce from the garden.



THE RIVER CLUB

Livingstone, Zambía

WHY HERE An intimate boutique lodge based in a 1948 farmhouse, the River Club is just the ticket for privacyseeking newlyweds. There are a mere 11 colonially inspired, newly refurbished suites on the 50-acre property, which borders the Zambezi River. WHAT YOU'LL DO This is the place for you if you crave a safari without early wake-up calls. Here you're positively encouraged to sleep in, wake to the sound of hippos grunting in the river nearby, and sip your coffee in bed. Later you can take a cruise to see elephants bathing on the far bank before heading to Honeymoon Island for a private cocktail hour. Active types can head 11 miles downstream to the World Heritage Sitelisted Victoria Falls for whitewater rafting and other adventures, or take a game drive into nearby Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park to look for the rare white rhino.

The Bottom Line: Low se. 1-Dec. 19, Jan. 11-June 14), from \$488 per person a night, inclusive; high season (June 15-Oct. 31, Dec. night, theriverclubafrica.com

CAMP KALAHARI Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, Botswana

WHY HERE The casual yet comfy 11-tent Camp Kalahari sits on the edge of the remarkable Makgadikgadi Salt Pans National Park, a surreal, lunarlike landscape that is a remnant of a huge ancient lake. The tents' simple décor-a mix of original African pieces and textiles (Moroccan kilims) with colonial antiques (four-poster beds)-has the ambience of a traditional Victorian-era explorers' camp.



