

VOGUE

OCT

At Home on
the Range

Charlize Theron

ON ROLES,
WRANGLING
& HER *REALLY*
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PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

TRAVEL

secret safari

Two new properties combine the ultimate in private luxury with a forward thinking philanthropic spirit.

Encompassing 60,000 acres within the Nguruman Wildlife Sanctuary of Southern Kenya's Great Rift Valley, **Oldonyo Laro** is the spectacular ranch of Danish tycoon Jan Bonde Nielsen, whose guests have included George Soros and the Danish and Dutch royal families. Now he is opening his exclusive world, on a limited basis, to outside groups of up to fourteen. Staying in exquisitely outfitted safari tents, guests have the run of the property, which boasts a pool, a gym, a thatched dining pavilion, waterfalls, and game reserves harboring wildebeests, leopards, and lions. For those seeking adventure farther afield, the ranch has a pair of helicopters, as well as several Cessnas, ready to take you to legendary East African spots such as the Serengeti (especially awe-inspiring during migration season), Mount Kenya, and the Chalbi Desert. For all these destinations, the Oldonyo Laro staff goes ahead

by land to set up comfortable mobile campsites. In charge of everything at Oldonyo Laro—the excursions, visits to Masai villages, perhaps lunch and a chat with anthropologist Richard Leakey—is one of Kenya's top guides and experts, Peter Silvester. The price of having your own private Africa is a hefty \$250,000 a week—but the good news is that all the profits (after operating expenses have been deducted) go to regional educational and environmental charities. (203) 542-0567; journsbydesign.co.uk.

In the foothills of Mount Kenya, the new **Sanctuary at Ol Lentille** is another private compound offering the last word in luxury while helping boost the local economy and protect the natural environment. Representing the bold partnership of British businessman John Elias and wife Gill, the African Wildlife Foundation, the

European Union's Tourism Trust Fund, and the Masai community, Ol Lentille has four handsome houses—from one- to three-bedroom—that can be booked separately or as a group. Designed by top Nairobi architect Lengai Croze, each is decorated in a different style—like exotic Lamu, inspired by the Kenyan island founded by Arab traders, or Campaign, featuring brassbound military furniture. The houses come with their own cook/butler, valet/

housekeeper, and driver, and are equipped with wireless capability and a preloaded iPod. All share stunning views of Mount Kenya plus a dramatic cliff-clutching infinity pool, a holistic spa, an elegant dining pavilion, and a large veranda with a high-powered telescope for gazing at the wildlife (or the heavens). In addition to a variety of game drives on the 6,500-acre property, activities at Ol Lentille include horseback riding, camel trekking, mountain biking, rock climb-

ing, picnics in idyllically remote locales, and heli-hops to other game parks. Guests can also get involved with Ol Lentille's community-development projects and meet and work with Masai villagers. Rates start at \$28,350 to book the whole property for a week. Individual houses begin at \$5,400 for a seven-night stay. (888) 995-0909; unchartedoutposts.com. —RICHARD ALLEMAN *pata* >315



PLAINSONG
THE LOUNGE AT OLDONYO LARO; ABOVE, ACACIA TREES ARE A SIGNATURE OF KENYA'S MAGNIFICENT NATIONAL PARKS.