

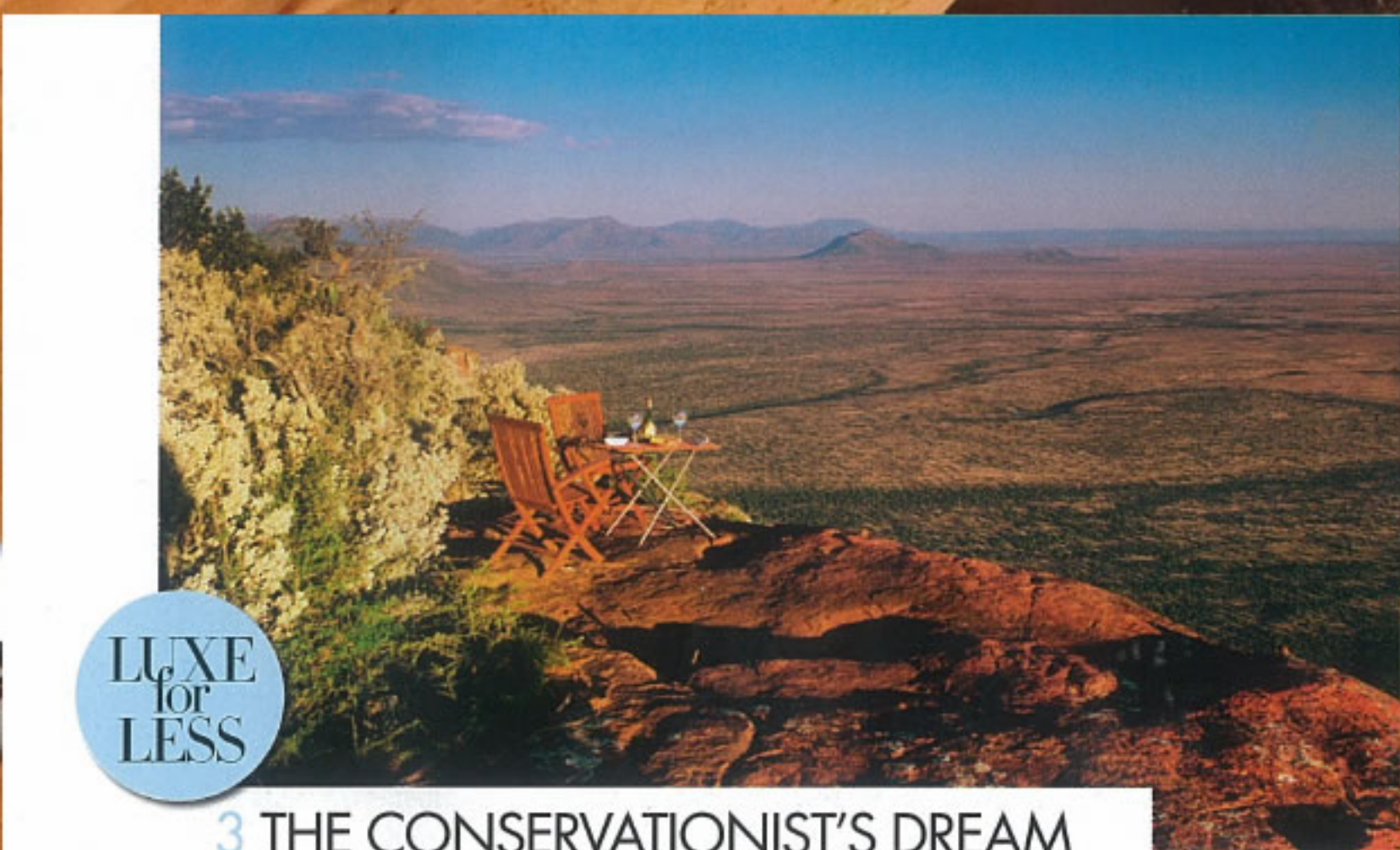
The 15 greatest safari experiences in Africa

From airborne thrills over the Skeleton Coast to gorilla-spotting in Rwanda, river cruising in Ethiopia and scuba diving in Tanzania, here are the most breathtaking wildlife adventures you will ever know



WINGS OF DESIRE
 A Skeleton Coast Safaris
 plane flying over Namibia

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3 THE CONSERVATIONIST'S DREAM

Even stalwart 'been there, done that' old Africa hands cannot fail to thrill at the dramatic setting of Samara Private Game Reserve, in South Africa's Eastern Cape. In the shadow of an escarpment, on a vast plain ringed by conical mountains, it is at the heart of the malaria-free

Karoo. Owners Sarah and Mark Tompkins are committed to returning to the wild the 70,000 acres of former farmland. The rare mountain zebra has been successfully reintroduced, and the place is a sanctuary for the endangered cheetah. Designated as one of only 34 biodiversity hotspots in the world, it is also a botanist's dream, but mere escapists can just appreciate the luxuries that the various colonial-style cottages and villas have to offer.