

MIKE ABLETT

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# Loving Thanda with the new

## Marketing Guru

He has joined The Sharks at the beginning of the year, bringing to the party a wealth of marketing experience from almost two decades at British Airways. He is **Mike Ablett**, the new marketing manager of the Sharks, and we had the opportunity of getting better acquainted with him at the lovely Thanda Private Game Reserve, proud sponsors of the Thanda Zululand Rhinos.

The 400km-journey from Durban to the award-winning Thanda Private Game Reserve takes one up along the Dolphin Coast, towards and past Empangeni and the harbour town of Richards Bay. Empangeni, of course, is home to the Thanda Zululand Rhinos Rugby Club.

Thanda, which means "Love" in Zulu, is situated another 20-odd kilometres north of Hluhluwe on the N2, towards Mkhuze and Pongola. Rated South Africa's top safari destination, Thanda Private Game Reserve welcomes you with open arms in the richest

of African traditions.

The opulent accommodation in the main lodge comprises nine bush villas, which all epitomise the ultimate in breathtaking luxury and privacy.

Reminiscent of a traditional Zulu huts, their circular, thatched villas on the hilltop boast panoramic views of the tranquil bushy surroundings. They each feature a spacious living room and master bedroom, with a massive, inter-leading fireplace and full en suite bathroom; indoor and outdoor showers; a thatched outdoor game-viewing

deck and the most exquisite infinity pool - which offers much-needed cooling down during the searing African heat at noon and a pretty cosy setting for a late night cocktail.

The late night cocktail, of course, is preceded by supper in the partially open-air dining room at the main lodge, with a balmy Zululand breeze wafting through the airy venue, and a croaking choir of what sounded like millions of frogs at the nearby watering hole providing all the music one could wish for.

This provides an exquisitely alternative backdrop for a discussion with Mike Ablett