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By Kate Siber
Photographs by
John Lawton



**JACKET BY
JOHN VARVATOS**
Warm enough for cool
mornings and supple and
light for easy packing,
this minimalist, gamedyed,
goat-suede jacket
still drops well for dinners
at the safari lodge. \$1,495;
johnvarvatos.com

EUROPEANS LEFT A DUBIOUS legacy in Africa, but their influence on the modern-day safari—namely, the notion that wildlife viewing needn't be a prickly or stultifying endeavor—seems unequivocally fortunate. Certainly I was in no spot to assail that influence during my visit last summer to South Africa's **Tintswalo Safari Lodge**, where I sat in a plush armchair, sipping cognac from a crystal decanter, and searching—through floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking my outdoor plunge pool—for lions in the jungle. From professionally trained Shangaan guides who easily track the Big Five to inspired meals (such as gooseberry-and-vanilla kudu loin) served alfresco on a torchlit patio, this one-year-old, seven-suite lodge, located in the private Manyeleti Game Reserve west of famed Kruger National Park, has mastered the civilized wildlife experience. Doubles from \$1,400, including guides, meals, and wine; tintswalo.com

Unroughing It

SEVEN ESSENTIALS FOR AN AFRICAN SOJOURN—AND A TOP-END SAFARI LODGE FOR TESTING THEM OUT

HUT BY VERSACE
An open-air suite at
Tintswalo, complete
with plunge pool



COURTESY OF TINTSWALO LODGE