The Red Carnation Hotel Collection is returning to its roots: Africa, where it all began. Launching in June 2020 in Botswana’s most unspoilt wilderness, Xigera (“Kee-jera”) is, quite simply, a pioneer. This extraordinary new safari lodge, located in the Moremi Game Reserve in the heart of the Okavango Delta, is a bold new statement, reinventing what it means to experience the African bush. Inspired by a deep love of the Delta and its wildlife, Xigera offers just 24 guests a remarkable opportunity to explore the richness of this UNESCO World Heritage Site – at their own pace, in their own time, however they wish.

Meticulously designed to frame the breathtaking floodplains and riverine forests, the lodge is in complete synergy with its surroundings. Spacious suites clad in flame-torched timber look out onto lily-filled lagoons, providing a front-row seat to the theatre of the African bush. The interiors are filled with exceptional one-off works of art and design created by Africa’s most globally recognised names, in collaboration with award-winning gallery Southern Guild, from gleaming hand-forged copper and steel consoles by Conrad Hicks, to Adam Birch’s tactile creations carved right on-site.

Quietly surprising touches are everywhere, from the lily-inspired spa to the remarkable three-storey baobab sculpture overlooking the floodplain, offering the chance of a life-changing sleep-out beneath the velvet night sky.

This groundbreaking project is the first purpose-built safari lodge developed by The Red Carnation Collection, the pinnacle of a life’s work creating extraordinary hospitality experiences. Founders Beatrice and Stanley Tollman and their family have spent the last 66 years creating and steering some of the world’s finest luxury boutique hotels in exceptional locations. The Tollmans’ devotion to detail lies at the core of everything; the effortless service, the deep human connection and the personal touches in every destination are what make the hotels so special. Xigera is no exception.

With 105 exceptional staff attending to 24 guests, the lodge offers an exclusive experience of unrivalled flexibility – there are no set times, no itineraries, just the unique chance of exploring the bush at a personalised pace. A transformative journey awaits, defined by Red Carnation’s passion and art of hospitality.
THE LODGE

- Situated on the western side of the Moremi Game Reserve in the Okavango Delta of Botswana
- Sprawled under a beautiful canopy of ancient trees, with epic views over the floodplains
- Guests arrive by light aircraft transfer or chartered plane (25 miles from Maun) and approach the lodge via an elevated bridge
- Suspended on stilts and connected by elevated walkways to protect the pristine environment
- Two luxury spa rooms, offering a diverse range of wellness treatments and restorative healing
- Extensive spa programme with guest practitioners focused on mindfulness, wellness and holistic healing, tapping into the natural powers of the bush
- Wellness areas including a state-of-the-art gym and an inky-dark swimming pool gazing directly over the river
- With undulating roofs and scorched timber cladding, the architecture blends seamlessly with the surroundings
- Sunken lounge featuring a massive copper-clad fireplace in the form of a lily, the Xigera emblem
- Human-sized woven nests by renowned South African artist Porky Hefer rest on the decks for guests to nestle in
- A curated collection of bespoke furniture and sculptures by more than 50 African artists and craftsmen including Andile Dyalvane, Dokter and Misses, Dylan Lewis, Porky Hefer and Ardmore Ceramics
- An interactive kitchen and dining room, serving African-inspired cuisine and Mrs Tollman’s signature dishes
- Bar and cellar with wines from the family’s award-winning boutique vineyard Bouchard Finlayson, and a world-class wine list
- A boma with a difference, where storytelling and stargazing take place around a totemic firepit sculpture by artist-blacksmith Conrad Hicks
- Air-conditioned library stocked with research material, wildlife documentaries and hosting informative talks by visiting specialists
- Shaded lily-inspired pavilion overlooking the water’s edge
- Children aged 12 and over are welcome, with a varied list of activities to tailor-make their experience
- Dedicated to sustainability and eliminating single-use plastics, with what may be the largest solar farm in the Delta, enabling the lodge to be 100% solar powered, and thermodynamic geysers to provide hot water with minimal energy use
ACCOMMODATION

• 12 air-conditioned suites, including one family suite suitable for two couples sharing or a family
• Each suite has 184 sq m (1,980 sq ft) of indoor and outdoor space, including a separate lounge, bedroom and dressing room area, all with complete privacy
• Spacious bathrooms with bidet, B|Africa amenities and an outdoor shower
• All suites have a private wooden deck with king-size outdoor daybed with gazebo for daytime lounging
• Full room service with butler store, fridge, kettle, plates, cutlery and glasses
• Inside and outside dining space (for up to four guests)
• Every amenity including Wi-Fi and in-room safe
• In-room spa and beauty treatments

EXPERIENCES

• Game drives at guests’ own leisure
• Breakfast, lunch or a beautifully presented picnic in the bush
• Explorations by traditional canoe and motorboat
• ‘Feet-in-the-water’ sundowners
• Private walking safaris with our expert guides
• In-season catch-and-release fishing
• Photographic safaris and workshops
• Private yoga sessions
• Helicopter excursions to explore the Okavango Delta
• Special activities for children
WILDLIFE

- The Okavango Delta fans out over the Kalahari sand system, an ever-changing fragile ecosystem of 15,000 sq km
- The area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa
- 2,000 species live in and around the Okavango Delta
- Over a third of the continent’s elephant population roams through northern Botswana each year. Other species include buffalo, crocodiles, hippopotamus, black and white rhinoceros, lions, cheetahs, leopards, giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, antelope, lechwe and warthogs
- More than 80 fish species can be found in the waterways
- There are more than 450 types of bird in the area. Among the most spectacular are the resident Pel’s Fishing Owl, coppery-tailed coucals and malachite kingfishers
MAKE TRAVEL MATTER

Xigera is dedicated to guarding this precious jewel that belongs to Botswana, and to empowering local communities, alongside environmentally conscious hospitality and sustainable conservation. Working together with The TreadRight Foundation (treadright.org), we are committed to ensuring that the unique wildlife surrounding Xigera survives and thrives.

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