

The Explorer

theexplorer.co.zw

February 2026

Celebrating Humanity. Honouring Mother Nature.

SPECIAL REVIEW

WhatsApp: +263 77 4854 551 Email: madzimbahwe-explorer@gmail.com

Luxury in a valley in the mountains

Magical Mountain Lakes Resort and Spa

by BERNARD CHIKETO

THE land was rundown. It's setting heavenly. Then came a vision. A holiday home first. Then an idea. Five villas. Born in the quiet of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Now it stands: sixteen villas. A sanctuary. A dream made real.

It's in a valley in the mountains. In Nyanga. Or maybe Mutasa. Or both. It is on the edge. A magical spot.

The architecture is modern. The buildings are stone. They are beautiful. Symbolic. Capturing the essence of Zimbabwe. House of stone. The work of a local stone mason. A fine workman.

The stones came from the property. Some from neighbours. They were formed here. They now shelter its guests. They never stopped to be part of the valley.

It opened almost a year ago. Not yet launched. Not fully complete. But soon. Officials will come. They will open it. They will celebrate.

It is a 40-hectare estate. It sits astride a river. In the mountains. A jet of water sprays behind a weeping willow. A fountain in a dam. Magic. The water is still. Three dams. One pond.

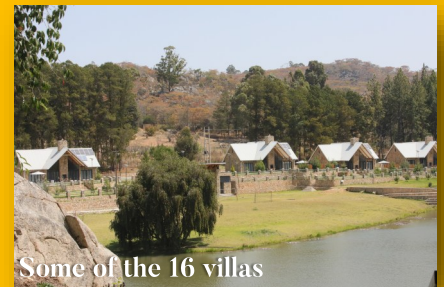
You cross a beautiful bridge to enter. Over a dam wall.

On the dam to the right, you see wolf ducks. They move on the surface. Hunting. They disappear below the surface. And reappear. With fish on their beaks. Enchanting.

On the left you start at the Mawuya Lounge. Mawuya is Shona. It means welcome. This is the reception. They offer tasty mocktails. But not their formulas. It's their little secrets. Afternoon tea is served there too. A fireplace burns.

Water fountains are everywhere. They line the path to Mawuya. It's impressive. It makes you feel like royalty.

The heart of this place is Le Gomo Restaurant & Bar. It sits high up. The place is big. Its roof is tall. The air is fresh. And cool. There are four fireplaces here. For when it is cold.



Some of the 16 villas



Le Gomo Restaurant & Bar Deck



Mawuya Lodge



Le Gomo Restaurant



Le Gomo Restaurant & Bar



Kiara Shumba



Mawoya Lodge



Sports Pavilion

Guests eat on the deck. The US-based Mawoyo family was there. They ate with the lake below them. The views turn food into memory.

The Nyashanus are here too. The diaspora comes here. They find home here.

The villas are private. Each has a plunge pool. There are sixteen. They are quiet.

The terrain is beautiful. It is rugged. To the elderly and the weak it can be a challenge. But there are golf carts. They take tested guests everywhere.

There is a Conference Centre. Business happens there. The views of the conference rooms are of the peach orchard.

There are mountains in the horizon. They are full of rocks. Covered in Miombo woodlands. Nature is perfect. This place makes people think clearly. It resets their minds. It makes them see visions. Clearly.

Kiara Shumba is young. Beautiful. Smart. Eloquent. She is the General Manager. She loves the place. She glows when she tells the vision. The story. The growth. The fish farming in the dams. The fly-fishing potential. The orchards. Agro-tourism. Wellness. The healing sound of water. The renewing sight of water.

They have a target, she says. Luxury travellers. Those who love privacy. Those who appreciate beauty. Those who value an escape.

There is no mobile network in the deep valleys. Cellphones find no boosters. It is a break. A time for family. A time to enjoy the quiet. A time to heal.

But there is free Wi-Fi. There are smart televisions. You can stay connected.

The choice is yours.

It's not a jungle. A community can be found here. At the Sports Pavilion. Which sits by the lake. It is for private events. For football matches. For drinks. Even fine dining.

The conference centre is a little further up. Just before the children play centre. Near the orchard with over 10,000 trees. Peaches. Nectarines. Plums.

Fruit picking is coming. Farm to table. It is almost ripe.

For solemn times, there is a chapel. It is at the highest point. Weddings. Quiet thought.

The Khululeka Spa is not finished. It comes soon. Sauna. Steam room. Yoga. Treatment rooms. It will complete the balance. Wellness. Agro-tourism. Holiday. It will be done by year-end.

This is a story of growth. One home. Then five. Then ten. Now sixteen. Built when the world was paused.

It is a story of faith. Soon officials will open it. It will be the story of luxury. Of serenity. Of coming home.

For more information or to plan your escape, visit www.mountainlakesresortandspa.com.

Do you want your story to be told? Email bchiketo@gmail.com



Mawoyo Family



Children's Play Centre



Le Como Restaurant & Bar