



*a Mountain to call your own*

## Verlorenkloof Mountain Call

### WINTER 2018

Dear Verlorenkloof Owners and Friends

We hope this finds you well. In the midst of the winter, we bring you a joyous summer story!

#### **Gladiolus cataractarum**

Early in February this year, an enthusiastic group of 35 attended our annual Botany Weekend. This year the focus moved to the very special archaeology on the farm and everyone enjoyed this shift immensely.

The weekend also marked a very unique occurrence, bringing a special journey to a close. In January 2008 Vincent Carruthers wrote the following contribution for Mountain Call:

“All too often rare and endangered plants are disappointingly unspectacular. Not so *Gladiolus cataractarum*, with its magnificent spray of pink flowers showing brightly in the dark kloofs where it occurs. It was first discovered in 1981 near the Lunsklip Waterfall, and it is only found in a few places nearby where waterfalls cascade over the edge of the escarpment. The localities are usually on inaccessible, slippery rock faces and for that reason it has seldom been photographed. Kevin Gill found one growing above the Verlorenkloof waterfall in February 2003 and a season specimen has now been seen at the top of Robin’s Kloof. They are among the true botanical gems of Verlorenkloof and to the region.

*Gladiolus cataractarum* has no common name; the scientific name *Gladiolus* refers to leaves that resemble the swords of a gladiator and the *cataractarum* refers to the waterfall cataracts that are its particular habitat.”

So if you have ever wondered why Botany weekend always falls early in February, it is because of our very special *Gladiolus* flowers at this time.



The story continues through the years. In 2009 the botany expedition into Robin's Kloof had a mission. Above John Burrows and Kevin Gill spotted and Joseph Mothupi and the late Karel Letsoalo collected the plant that would eventually be used in the official illustration by Gillian Condy, who was the resident botanical artist at SANBI in Pretoria for over 30 years.



We were delighted to take into our custody, the completed and signed original painting by Gill - a very special collector's item which will be displayed in Verlorenkloof Lodge.



A limited amount of signed prints will be available later this year. Please email Heidi on [heidi@verlorenkloof.co.za](mailto:heidi@verlorenkloof.co.za) if you are interested to receive details before it is marketed in our gallery shop.



## Upcoming Events:

Birding Weekend: 23 - 25 November 2018

Botany Weekend: 1 - 3 February 2019

## Verlorenkloof AgriTourism South Africa Video:

If you aren't on Facebook you might have missed our new AgriTourism South Africa videos showcasing all of Verlorenkloof's beauty! We have recently partnered with AgriTourism SA to promote our agritourism and to encourage more visitors interested in this new tourism sector.

Here are the short and long versions below. Click on the links, enjoy and let us know what you think!

Warm Regards

The Verlorenkloof Team



Verlorenkloof 2min short video



Verlorenkloof 9min video