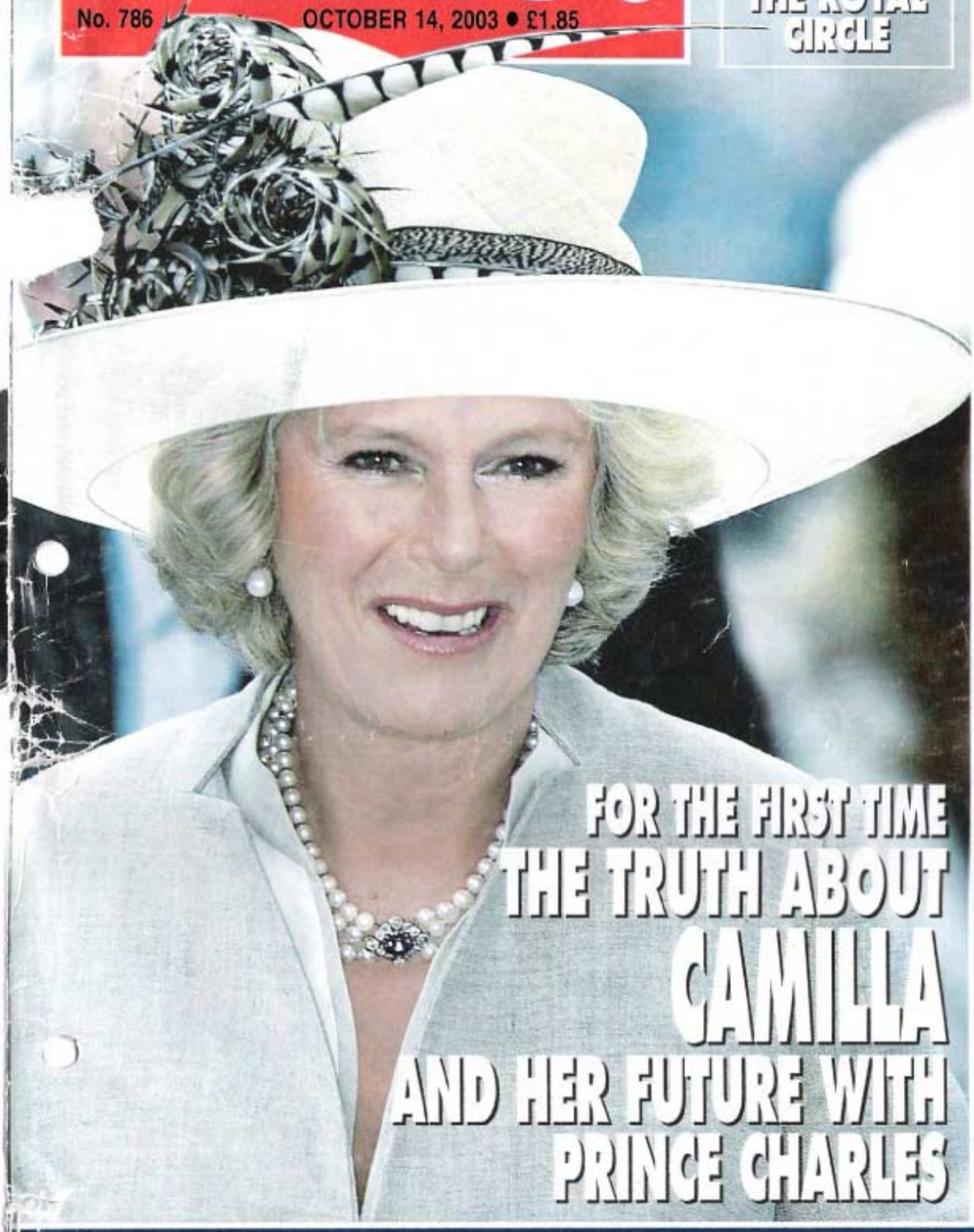


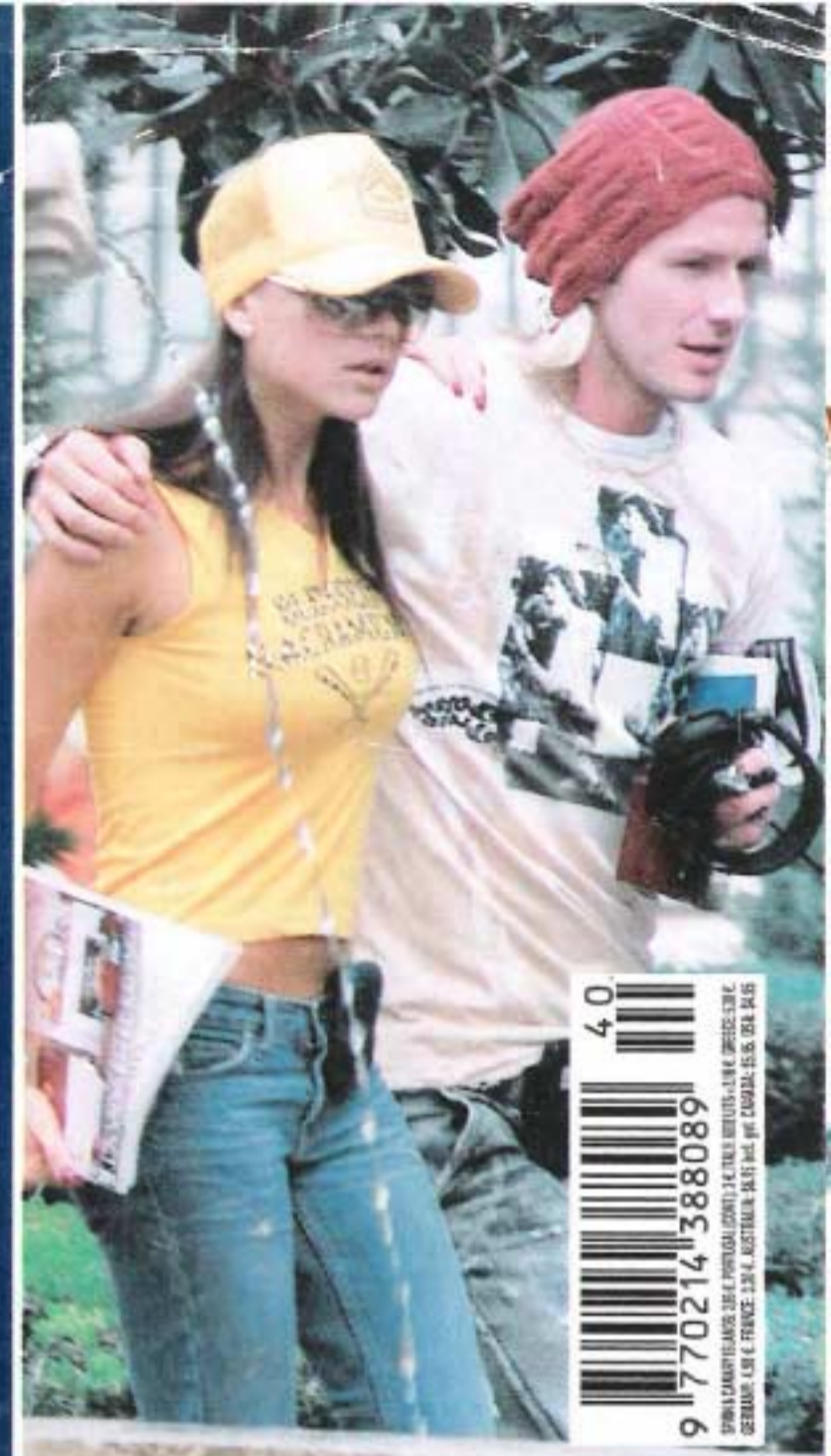
# HELLO!

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ALLEGATIONS  
CONTENTS ON PAGE 59  
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**ALSO INSIDE - THREE MORE  
FANTASTIC RECIPE CARDS FROM  
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...OLLY**

# PRINCE AND PRINCESS MICHAEL OF KENT RIDING HIGH ON THEIR LATEST ANIMAL CONSERVATION PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA

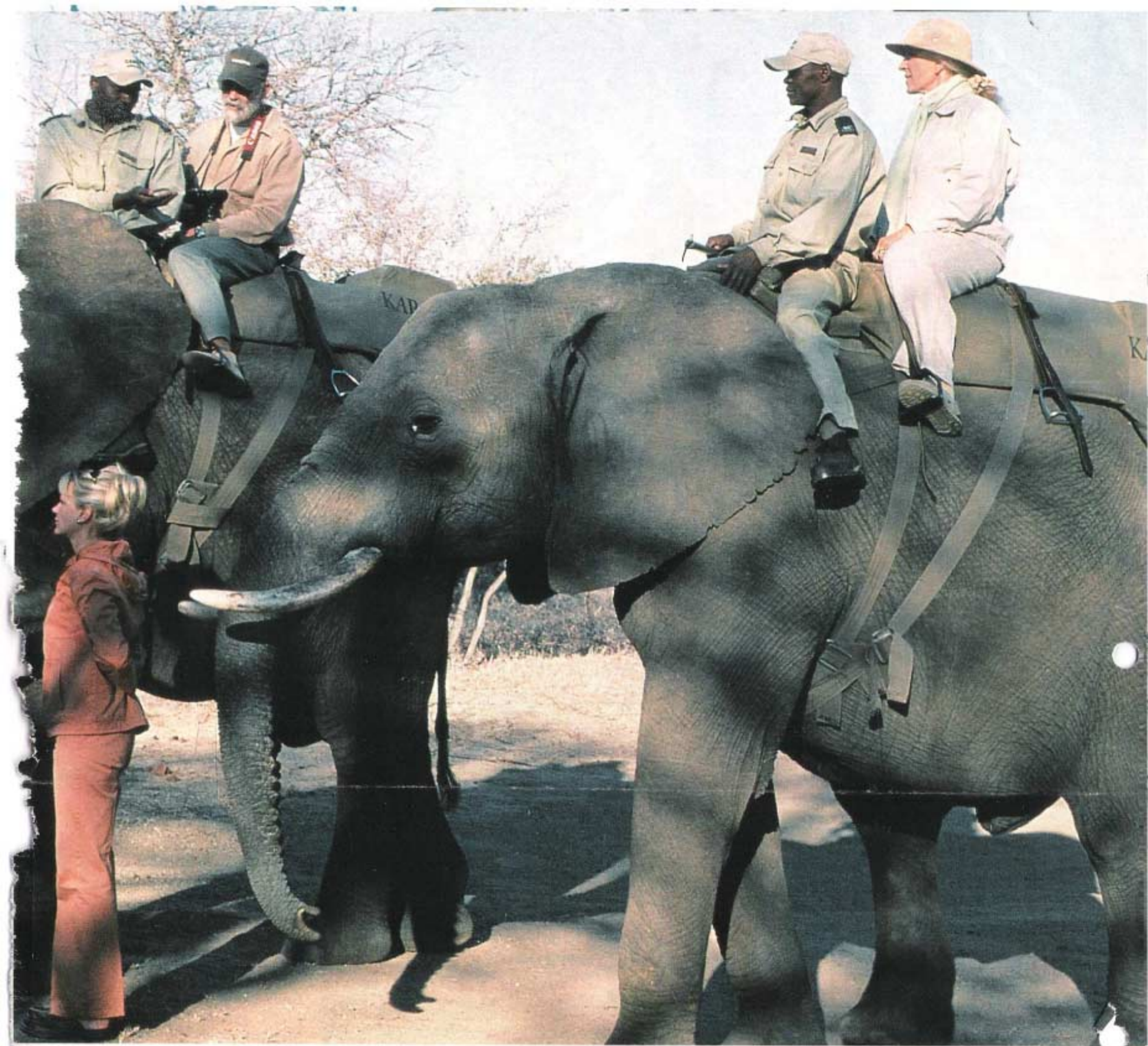


**P**rince and Princess Michael of Kent rekindled a longstanding love on a recent trip to South Africa – that of the African bush and its animals.

They've long held the elephant in particular affection, so it was apt that their most recent visit took in Camp Jabulani in Kapama Private Game Reserve, the country's only elephant-back safari camp, where, as newly appointed patrons, they toured the reserve from atop these gentle giants.

The couple's first experience of this unusual mode of transport was not in Africa, but in India, on honeymoon some 25 years ago. The African elephant is much larger and less predictable than its Indian cousin. But the 12 majestic animals that give visitors such a thrilling experience at Kapama are fully trained and, moving silently in single file, they prove an excellent vantage point for spotting a host of game at close range.

Camp Jabulani is situated in 12,000 hectares of bush close to the celebrated Kruger National Park. It was



Prince and Princess Michael of Kent were first to sign the visitors' book at newly opened Camp Jabulani (far left). Sitting atop an African elephant provides a unique viewpoint of the bush for the royal couple (above), who showed a genuine affection for the gentle animals (below)

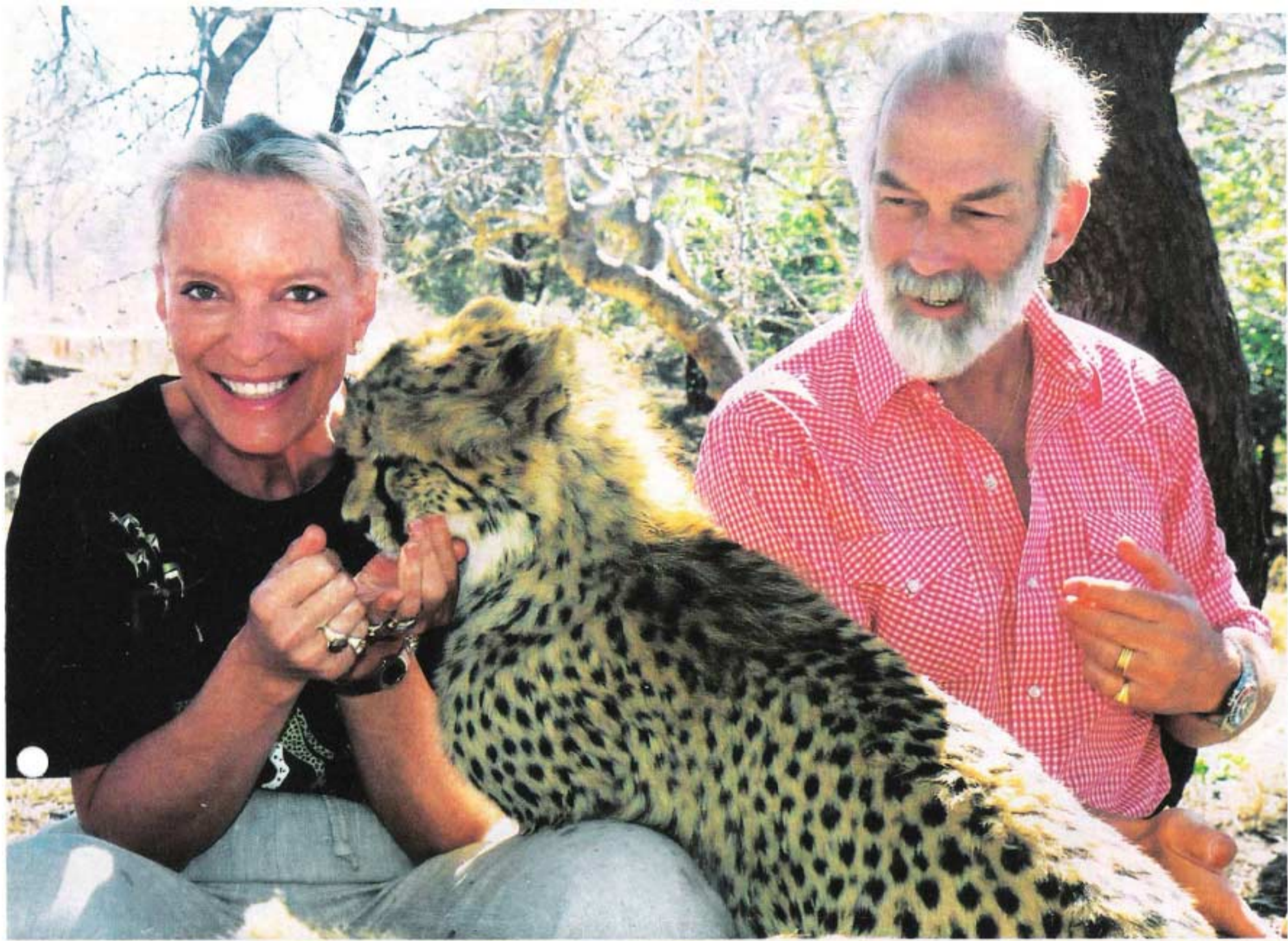
created by Lente Roode, Kapama's proprietor, and named after an elephant calf orphaned at three months and raised to a five-year-old bull. When the time came last year for him to be reintroduced to a family of his own, the perfect opportunity arose when a herd from Zimbabwe had to be relocated, their safety in jeopardy as the country prepared for its elections amid civil unrest. When the elephants were introduced to the calf – named Jabulani – the matriarch, Tokwe, adopted him as her own and the rest is history.

Kapama is also home to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, which started as a breeding centre for the endangered cheetah and is now South Africa's biggest breeding station for species under threat.

The royal couple, who learned all about life on the game reserve, are no strangers to the bush. They've travelled to Africa many times on safari and are enthusiastic supporters of various conservation charities. The Princess's love of the continent was sparked by an extended stay on her father's game reserve in Portuguese Mozambique during her teens.

For the Prince, already patron of several conservation charities and international projects, his love of animals meant he was delighted at the invitation to become patron of Camp Jabulani. He was particularly keen to see firsthand the





Prince and Princess Michael were warmly welcomed by local people (below) – and by a friendly cheetah (above) at the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, which is now the leading breeding centre in South Africa for cheetahs and other threatened species such as ground hornbill and wild dog

**'I hope Camp Jabulani will allow the public to become better educated and more aware of the characteristics of the African elephant'**



progress of the elephants whose fate was so uncertain only a year ago.

He told HELLO!: "I was very interested to learn of the project started by Mrs Lente Roode. I'd already become involved in supporting anti-poaching initiatives in South Africa and was delighted to be asked not only to be patron, but also to open Camp Jabulani. I hope it will allow people to become better educated and more aware of the African elephant's characteristics."

The Princess was equally thrilled when asked to be patron of the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre. "As I've visited Africa so often, and as my father had a farm there, I've always been concerned about wildlife conservation," she said. "It moves me very deeply to be able to contribute to this unique project and, in particular, to the protection of the king cheetah, which complements my work as Patron of the Ridgeway Trust for Endangered Cats which is concerned with small wildcats in the UK and in Belize."

However, Kapama proved to be rather more comfortable surroundings than the Princess's early experience in the bush on her father's farm, where there was no electricity, no telephone, and paraffin lamps were the only form of lighting. Each stylish tent has a private splash pool and viewing deck from which to watch – and listen to – the wonderful wildlife. **H**

For reservations at Camp Jabulani call the Africa Travel Centre, tel: 0845-450 1535; [www.africatravels.co.uk](http://www.africatravels.co.uk)