Feel of Home at Villa Wiese - Swakopmund Namibia

Located in beautiful Swakopmund Villa Wiese stands out as a charming hundred year old building converted into a funky guest lodge.

The area of Namib Desert around Swakopmund is named the West Coast Recreational Area. And recreation is the towns number one draw card. Although a new generation have woken up to the tourist potential of the area, Swakopmund still creates a feeling of timelessness. Early mornings and evenings in Swakopmund can be cold throughout the year, as the Atlantic Ocean meeting the Namib Desert creates a fog bank. This coolness is often a relief from the heat of the rest of Namibia.

There is lots to do here. For those interested in adventure activities Swakopmund offers sandboarding, quad-biking, dune-carting, paragliding, hot-air ballooning, shark fishing, deep sea fishing and beach-angling to name but a few. For others there are restaurants, cafes, art galleries, museums, a snake park and aquarium.

Then there is much to see: a visit to the Cape Cross Seal Colony is worth a visit as it offers a taste of the Skeleton Coast and the seals are worth a visit. The Welwitschia drive is also interesting way to spend a few hours and introduces you to some of the fauna and flora of the Namib Desert. Bird lovers can pay a visit to the Swakopmund Salt Works or the Walvis Bay Lagoon, which in season is frequented by thousands of flamingos.

Swakopmund offers a variety of accommodation for all tastes and budgets. Owned by Tinkie and Johan Cornelissen, Villa Wiese is a guest lodge with a difference. Multi-colored walls take up most of a block and house of Villa Wiese, but, once inside enormous wooden beams support the gothic ceilings of the dining room, where one can enjoy a tasty breakfast in the mornings.

A brief about yourself:

My husband and I – Tinkie & Johan Cornelissen - are the owners of Villa Wiese. We moved to Swakopmund ten years ago. It seems as if work is our hobby and this is what we do most of the time. If there isn’t any, we create some. Johan loves reading any good book, I’m a keen photographer, take note – keen - not professional! We love any music, as we have teenagers in the house. Gardening is another of our hobbies, especially Johan loves the garden.

Our vision is to establish a good future for our children, and a home where they always would want to come back. And keep doing what we do for as long as we can.
Who is welcome in Villa Wiese?
Everyone who likes travelling enjoys meeting people, those travellers who are seeking
cosiness far from their own home or those who just want to relax and feel at home, all are
30 welcome at Villa Wiese.

The hospitality concept of Villa Wiese:
Being in the hospitality industry literally means you take people into your house as guests. For
the short time they stay at your place, which becomes their home, and sometimes become
members of the family. You host all types of people from different countries, cultures etc. If you
are not a people friendly person or if you are not patient, then this is not for you. [...]

How it all began, can you reflect on your experience so far?
35 We bought the premises in 1999 from a local church in order to match our love for the old and
antique. We bought this old building built in 1905. We renovated and restored it and converted it
into a backpackers lodge/guest house.
At first we thought we'd start a small bed & breakfast establishment, and next - we end up with
this huge place. It just so happened. Travelers just came to us and it changed our original plans.
40 We like to work with our hands, to be creative. We did most of the work ourselves. [...] When

What sets you apart from others?
Clean, comfortable, homely and affordable - are our most important features, and we try to keep
that standard high. This is a family owned business so the whole family is involved. We have
raised the kids here for the past 10 years, as our house is part of the lodge.

What kind of atmosphere offers Villa Wiese?
Relaxed, friendly, homely. [...] Where

Who are your guests (both local and foreign – from which countries)?
45 Mainly from Europe, England, Australia, New Zealand, United States, the East and actually all
other parts of the world. We also have local guests from Namibia and South Africa and the rest
of Africa[...].

Do you organize sightseeing tours, what is there to see?
In Swakopmund there are a few tourist and adventure companies which arrange tours and activities in
and around the town and also to the rest of the country. We assist our guest in travel
arrangements. [...] Where

What is your welcoming message for the guests?
Make yourself at home! [...] For enquiries or reservations mail to "enquiry@villawiese.com" [...]

[Irena Koebl, http://www.buzzle.com, 12/02/2008]
1. **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1.1 Why is the area of Namib Desert around Swakopmund named as the West Coast Recreational Area?

1.2 Explain the sentence “And recreation is the town’s number one draw card.” (line 2)

1.3 Look at the whole passage and find out all the words, phrases and sentences which better describe Villa Wiese.

1.4 Say in your own words why Villa Wiese is “a guest lodge with a difference” and what gives it a very special atmosphere.

1.5 Describe in few sentences Tinkie’s and Johan’s characters and hobbies. Refer to the whole interview. Use your own words.

1.6 What is their “vision”? What is the goal for the future?

1.7 Explain in your own words what “the hospitality concept” of Villa Wiese is.

1.8 Who are Tinkie and Johan’s guests? Where do they come from?

2. **SUMMARIZE** the content of the passage

3. **COMPOSITION**:

You are the manager of a touring and adventure company in Swakopmund. Arrange some activities for a group of tourists in the area of Namib Desert and Swakopmund.

Use the information given in the passage and make your offer as attractive as possible using an adequate choice of language.

Alternatively, have you ever visited a place like Swakopmund and Villa Wiese? Describe it using your imagination.

Durata massima della prova: 6 ore.
Il candidato è tenuto a svolgere la prova nella lingua straniera da lui scelta, su uno dei due tipi di testo proposti per ciascuna lingua.
È consentito l'uso di dizionari mono e bilinguì.
Non è consentito lasciare l'Istituto prima che siano trascorse 3 ore dalla determinazione del tema.