

Craig Maartens



Growing up in the Safari industry meant inheriting some rifles from my father once he retired. The first rifle I “bought” from him for R 1.00 was a Winchester Model 70, pre '64, 30-06. It has been my working rifle for over 21 years and is as accurate as the day I “bought” it.

A story I tell often took place around 22 years ago and involved me, a client, a Zebra and a landowner who was extremely strict about only shooting Stallions! I had just passed Professional hunting school and was living and working on a game farm near the town of Alldays. The landowner I mentioned was my boss and he called me one afternoon to

inform me that a friend of his was coming over the following day to hunt a Zebra on the property. I was very excited, being new to the profession, and told him I would ensure that his friend was well looked after and that we would ONLY shoot a stallion. I immediately drove out to scout for some Zebra, and on finding them, I started to study the herd so as to identify the males present, this turned out to be harder than I expected. I decided to drive home and call my father for advice as I was certain he had a trick or two that would help me not to shoot the wrong animal? He picked up the phone and after a short conversation I asked him for advice to which he responded as follows, “My boy the best way to distinguish between a mare or stallion is that the stallion wears a G-string”. He said goodbye and I was even more confused than before and cross with him for making a joke of my predicament! The following day I met the client at the lodge and off we went Zebra hunting and luckily after a short stalk I found the herd I had seen the day before. I studied the herd carefully and to my surprise and relief saw one Zebra with “5-legs” and told the client to shoot that one. You may be wondering, as I was that day, what my father meant about the G-string? Well I leave that to your imagination however he was right and later in my career I realised what he was trying to explain to me.

I am currently using a Leica Geovid HB-D 10x42.

MAARTENS SAFARIS
HUNTING SAFARIS & TOURS

Cell: +27 (82) 378-2191
PO BOX 1559,
Southern Paarl, 7624
South Africa

MAARTENS SAFARIS
ESTABLISHED 1959

www.maartenssafaris.com

CRAIG MAARTENS OWNER

