

out of office

# ISOLA BELLA

a beautiful island

*by Carl Wepener*

Yes, a beautiful island with a beautiful luxury villa located on the water's edge and overlooking the stunning Knysna Lagoon and Heads.





If that is not enough you are also pampered by the beautiful Marisa, owner of Isola Bella.

It only takes moments after arriving to be whisked away by Marisa, telling you about and showing you the lovely villa with its magnificent views. The Italian flavour is also taken further by Marisa speaking Italian, or English, or Afrikaans – and we really enjoyed her joyful demeanour.

### Out of doors

From the front door to the beach, is a couple of steps, and the wild life on the beach is amazing. Being on the water's edge makes for lovely endless walks and getting pleasantly caught by the tide. Or one can sit on the balcony having breakfast, and later sundowners, watching the tide ebb and flow and rolling through the Knysna Heads.

We were amazed at the diversity of bird life and spent hours watching the birds on the lagoon while magnifi-

cent yachts cruised lazily in and out of the Heads. Being able to relax and enjoy our time like we did actually puts a worth onto Isola Bella and the lagoon that can not be measured in monetary terms.

I think generosity was invented at Isola Bella as Marisa's hospitality has very few equals and no request is too much for her. We enjoyed, and sometimes longed for, her company as it made our experience so much more enjoyable.

Annelize and I needed to relax and that is exactly what we did. When Annelize got sick (flu), Marisa was there like a mother hen ensuring that Annelize was comfortable and well taken care of.

### Everything your heart desires

We enjoyed the self-help breakfast as it did not impede on our time and we could then venture into town or to other close-by amenities as we liked. Isola Bella is also ideal for exploring the Garden Route and Marisa will see to it that you have a picnic basket should you require it.

Isola Bella has three double bedrooms, all with en suite bathrooms and they are exquisitely furnished offering the guest a luxurious and comfortable stay.

The guest house is perfect for small groups and I must say that due to only three couples being there we all got to know each other without feeling invaded. Being people that enjoy reading as part of our relaxation it was nice to find a very diverse library in the lounge where books vary from fiction to coffee table literature – something for everyone.

Our time at Isola Bella was just too short! Once you are there and fall into the mystic entrapment of the villa, its owner and the surrounding lagoon, you just do not want to leave. □

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