



# A road with a story

We don't just travel to reach our destination. We also travel simply to drive through incredible landscapes. Sometimes it's those back roads to a reserve, coastal town or forest bungalow that we remember the best. This is how to capture those experiences.



## This road makes you wax lyrical

**Tertius van Zyl**

Canon 7D camera and Sigma 18-200 mm lens (settings: F18, 1/200 sec, ISO 200)

"We like touring to Namibia, Kgalagadi and the Kruger National Park; and when we get the opportunity, we take new routes along the country's beautiful back



### Picture of the month

roads. This picture was taken between Laingsburg and Touws River on the Witberg trail, near Varsbokkraal.

"I wanted to capture the flow of the road through the kloof along with the scenery in this picture. The mountains, koppies and green vegetation around here are incredibly beautiful."

### Villiers responds:

I don't know what I love the most: freshly baked scones or a good road photo. I've spent more than half my life on Southern Africa's back roads, and I've built up a kind of relationship with them over the years.

A red sand path in the Kalahari, a rocky trail that clammers through Lesotho or a jeep track in the Lowveld... they all fill me with childlike excitement. And on each one I challenge myself to capture the character of the road in a photo.

### Arty and technical

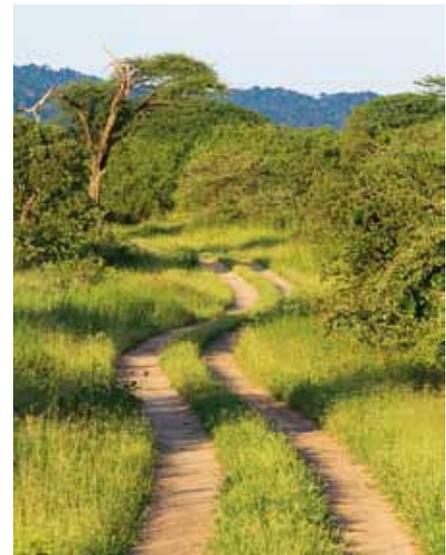
Tertius achieved the most important characteristic of a road picture: he makes you want to go there yourself. His winning recipe is a combination of creativity and technique.

Firstly, he anchored the scene very well in the frame. Note how the edge of the mountain ends precisely in the top left corner and the edge of the gravel road in the opposite corner. This ensures a strong composition.

Secondly, Tertius chose a big aperture value (F18), which ensured a deep depth of field in the picture. The result is a picture that is largely in focus, just the way we want it when taking landscape pictures.

### Let the path lead you

My favourite road pictures are those that lead you into the picture. Tertius's picture achieves this very well by starting wide in the foreground and then gradually narrowing and turning to the right.



S-bends in a road picture also work very well. This example of a jeep track in Tanzania's Ruaha National Park (*pictured above*) is one of my favourites. Note how the tracks are anchored in the lower two corners of the frame and then lead you right into the scene.

### Get perspective

Some roads only look good once you place them in perspective. This back road in southern Namibia (*pictured below*) would look boring if you photographed it at ground level, but by climbing the koppie next to it, you get a better indication of the dramatic landscape.

By placing the quiver tree on the foreground and my bakkie far in the distance, the picture has balance and it reflects the sense of desolation of the area.

So next time you turn off the tar road, keep your camera at hand and be on the lookout for those lovely lines...

