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FREE

CARILLION EXECS FACE THE MUSIC

HELEN CAHILL

@HelCahill

CARILLION bosses will be hauled in front of MPs tomorrow amid the fallout from the outsourcing giant's dramatic collapse.

Former finance boss Zafar Khan will give evidence to a joint select committee inquiry into the unfolding corporate crisis. He will be joined by Richard Howson, Carillion's former chief exec; Keith Cochrane, the firm's interim chief exec; and former chair Philip Green, who was also once a Number 10 adviser.

The high-profile investigation of Carillion's top decision-makers takes place as liquidators pick through the contrac-

tor's assets, and revelations about the company's past continue to emerge.

Last week, the government announced the first redundancies from the liquidation process. The Official Receiver, Carillion's liquidator, said 377 workers had lost their jobs. However, 919 jobs were saved as staff were transferred to other contractors.

The British Business Bank has also stepped in to offer £100m in funding for loans to small firms affected by Carillion's collapse.

The Official Receiver, which is working with PwC, has not set a date for an auction of Carillion's assets, but Greybull Capital is eyeing up parts of the business. The former owner of Monarch Airlines could take on assets in the UK, Canada, or the Middle East.

MPs participating in the parliamentary inquiry have not pulled their punches so far. Last week Frank Field, chair of Work and Pensions Select Committee, railed against the "oligarchy" of the big four accountancy firms.



Keith Cochrane (left), Richard Howson (centre), and Philip Green (right)

CONTINUES ON P3

ONE YEAR ON Wall Street awaits Snapchat owner's annual figures



LYNSEY BARBER

@lynseybarber

SNAP will become the latest Silicon Valley giant to update Wall Street on its performance tomorrow, with analysts torn over the firm's prospects for 2018.

The company behind the popular Snapchat messaging app is posting its debut set of full-year results following a blockbuster initial public offering (IPO) early in 2017. Shares have traded below its \$17

IPO price for the majority of Snap's time as a listed firm, closing at \$13.71 on Friday.

"Snapchat is doing really well when it comes to engagement; its users spend a significant amount of time on the app, and young users in particular are still very active," said eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson.

"But that hasn't translated to strong revenue growth. In part, that's because advertisers continue to funnel more money to Instagram."

Forecasting is not a mug's game for Commerzbank and Morgan Stanley

JASPER JOLLY

@jjjolly

ECONOMIC forecasting is a tricky business and politicians are currently locked in battle over the latest official Brexit-related growth predictions. With Leavers and Remainers falling out over the Treasury's analysis, new research

reveals which City firms have been making the right calls.

Analysis by ETX Capital shows that Morgan Stanley, Capital Economics, Commerzbank, the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), Oxford Economics and PwC have made the most accurate predictions of economic trends.

The analysis was based on deviations from the out-turn from the Office for National Statistics' data for GDP growth rate, consumer price index (CPI) inflation and the sterling index from 2015 to 2017.

Commerzbank had the smallest average deviation over the period measured of just 0.33 percentage points from the actual CPI and GDP

figures over the three years – far better than the industry average of 0.61 percentage points.

Economic forecasts have played an important political role in that period, as contentious predictions about what Brexit will do to the economy have come to the forefront. Last week government minister Steve Baker was forced to

withdraw criticism of Whitehall economists over their Brexit scenario models.

During the year the vote was held Morgan Stanley enjoyed a particularly strong performance, with an average deviation of just 0.15 percentage points off the actual figures, while the industry average was 0.47 percentage points.

TRAVEL

40

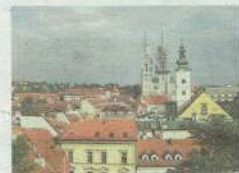
HOURS IN...

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA



WHERE TO STAY

The chic **Hotel Cubo** offers its guests free bicycles and picnic baskets carefully arranged for your trips to the city park, plus spacious rooms and luxe linen make this place a total haven. Visit hotelcubo.com



WHERE TO GO

Visit the trznice (marketplaces) dotted around multiple squares behind the Cathedral of St. Nicholas and search for the local specialties such as smoked trout on baby spinach and sour cherry pie for pudding. Visit [facebook.com/repetekt](https://www.facebook.com/repetekt)



WHERE TO DRINK

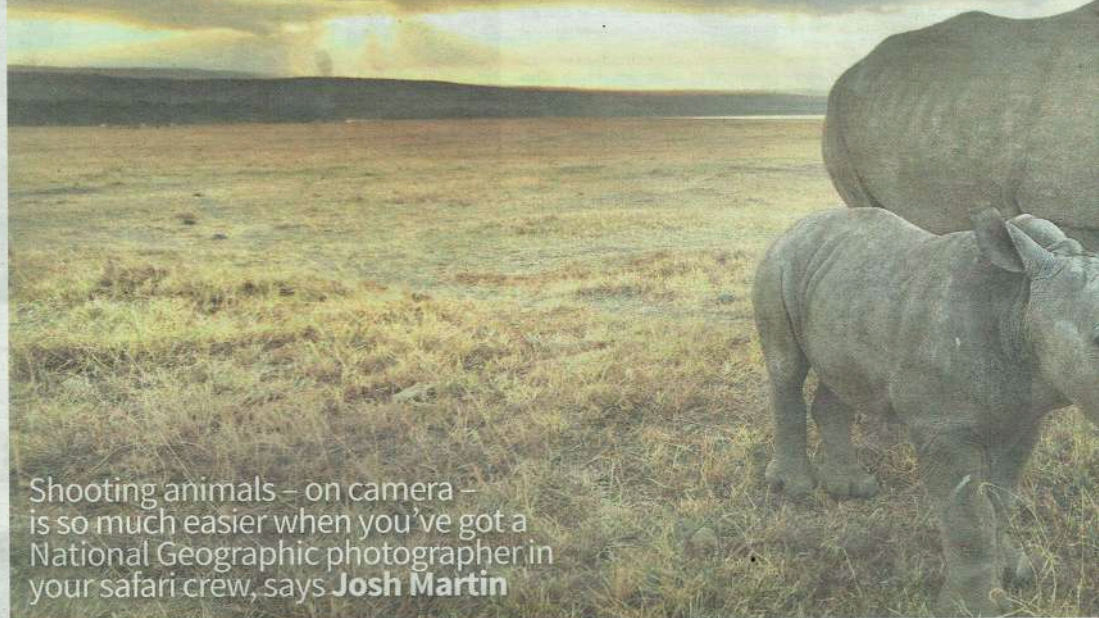
Book a table at **Repete**, a cosy bistro that hosts live jazz and serves up daily specials. We suggest you look out for local specialties such as smoked trout on baby spinach and sour cherry pie for pudding. Visit [facebook.com/repetekt](https://www.facebook.com/repetekt)



WHERE TO EAT

Wine Bar Suklje houses 300 labels, half of which are local. Sit out by the river and order a flight of their favourites, such as family's own Modra Franking red from the vineyards in the southeast. Visit barsuklje.com

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO SHOOT THEM



Shooting animals – on camera – is so much easier when you've got a National Geographic photographer in your safari crew, says **Josh Martin**

Normally at hotels I'm rather picky about who joins me for breakfast, but this time I made an exception. Or as much of an exception you can claim to make when a herd of wild Rothchild's giraffes wander over uninvited to pop their necks through the lodge's windows in search of a bite to eat at sunrise. I don't think protesting their arrival would have been especially effective.

The beasts are regular visitors to the aptly named Giraffe Manor, and once they'd had their fill of breakfast – and made a mess of the white linens with their slobbering, contortionist tongues – they posed for a couple of impromptu shots and then promptly left, crossing the rusty dirt and back into the bush on the outskirts of Nairobi.

The spectacle of a series of curious giraffe heads poking through the windows of a refurbished 1920's brick manor house had ruined a perfectly good bowl of muesli, but made for great Instagram fodder. "How did they get the taxidermy to look so natural?", one friend asked. The event stood us in good stead for a week-long photography safari hosted by National Geographic photographer Robin Moore.

Moore is the official photographer for The Safari Collection, which owns and runs four properties across Kenya. For years he's captured everything from migrating wildebeest to Samburu tribe warrior dances. Now, in an effort to attract visitors in an increasingly competitive safari market, he's turned tutor for the guests.

And it's worked. The leader of our team of six had booked her stay a full year in advance after seeing



Moore's name on the docket, and the fan-girling starts from the first tutorial. Personally, I don't know my aperture from my ISO, and I'm concentrating hard by the time Moore reaches the fourth slide of his introductory PowerPoint presentation.

But you don't need a zoom lens to see why this lodge attracts so many visitors. Unzipping the door to my circus tent of a Swahili-Moroccan themed safari suite reveals wrap-

around verandas, super king beds, al-fresco showers and plush pillows. The private plunge pool seems only marginally more refreshing than the watering hole enjoyed by the family of elephants on the river bed below.

Sasaab Lodge certainly isn't roughing it. As if to emphasise the point, there's a menu for private helicopter tours on my desk, with prices starting at \$7,500 per person. And if taking to the skies for an escorted landing at the top of Mount Kenya isn't your bag, this all-inclusive safari camp hop offers a varied, week-long itinerary that leans heavily on the side of luxury.

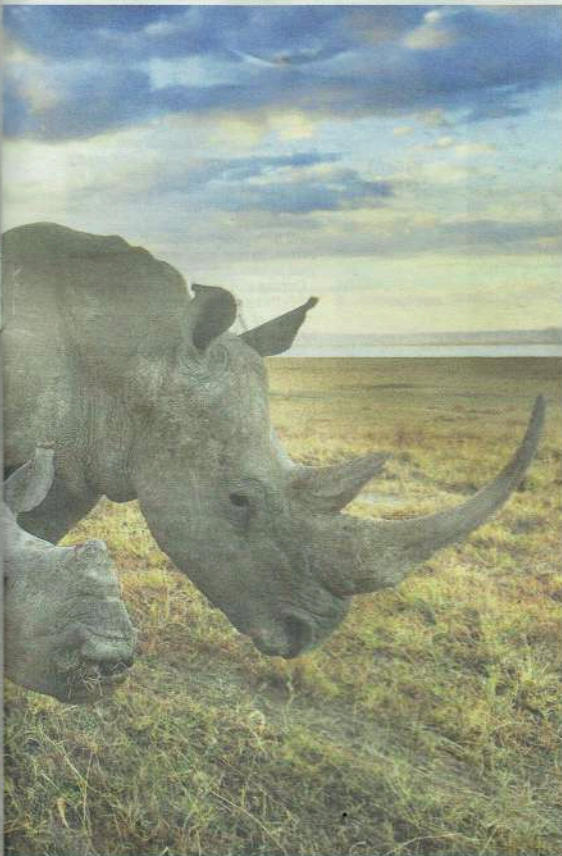
I drink sundown cocktails with white rhinos at Solio Lodge and take early morning excursions to visit local Samburu tribes. I witness traditional dances in which colourfully clothed young Samburu men sing in circles and try to out-jump each other to impress the heavily beaded local ladies. Peacocking has existed here for millennia, and the



locals didn't bat an eyelid at being harassed by ogling tourists armed with Canons and Nikons.

It is abundantly clear from the moment I touch down just how close to nature I am. My Sasaab hosts welcomed me with a veiled warning. "A guide with a torch will always take you to your suite at night," although I wasn't so convinced that a torch would be much of a match for a 100lb leopard. Thankfully my only neighbours were a polite pair of cartoonishly cute dik-diks, a tiny antelope. The al-fresco shower was grand, but had me constantly looking over my shoulder, concerned that in an environment where both food and water are scarce, an offering of steamed homasapien would be irresistible to nearby would-be diners.

Later one of the hosts, a former TV presenter, played to the audience as he carefully removed a small spitting cobra from the main kitchen. "Oh, she's a feisty little thing," he said, avoiding a squirt of



venom from his newfound friend. The baboon howling and carnivorous growls sound closer than they actually are. At least that's what I told myself in my pitch black suite. Repeatedly.

Of course, in the soft light of dawn it was a whole different story. I wanted to be as close to the wildlife as possible, and was desperate to spot anything with four legs. It wasn't long before our guides spotted drama unfolding in the West Gate Community Conservancy. A lone female leopard sprinted past the back of our truck, bolting through the scrubland to escape a lioness twice her size. The big cat trailed her close behind, hoping to kill this rival predator. There was hardly time to adjust exposure settings as we watched the chase unfold from front-row seats. And with such a small group of novice photographers spread across two vehicles, there wasn't any jostling for space when we did come in close contact with ani-

mals. The only rivalry was in who could shoot it all best, a contest I got better at as the week went on.

As the flight lifted above Nairobi, I scrolled through the thousands upon thousands of shots. My favourite wasn't the lion vs leopard face-off on the savannah, but the cheeky giraffe nicking people's breakfast, taken on a smashed up Samsung Galaxy in the dining room at Giraffe Manor.

"There's some great technology out there and you can learn a lot if you study it, but sometimes you're just in the right spot at the perfect time," Moore had replied when I complained that my amateur camera was not quite up to the National Geographic standard.

Ever the workman blaming his tools, I wrapped the fleece blanket tighter around myself and waited for the sun to rise over Mount Kenya. If you've got to stake out for the perfect shot of silhouetted white rhinos, there are worse ways to go about it.

NEED TO KNOW

The next departure dates for the **Robin Moore Photographic Safari** are between 16 - 22 March 2018. Rates start from \$5,960 per person sharing.

Rates at **Giraffe Manor** start from \$550 per adult sharing on a full board basis and including airport transfers.

For more info on **The Safari Collection** visit thesafaricollection.com



The view from the veranda of Solio Lodge, one of several lodges included in The Safari Collection

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