

MARK A HALF CENTURY

**DENNIS PINTO****Managing Director, Micato Safaris**

"We used to pack our itineraries with activities. Every minute was planned. **Surprisingly, in the last few years, people want to do less.** We're pulling away from scheduling extra excursions in favor of scheduling extra time – time to yourself to sit on a rock and ponder a spectacular view, time to reflect on the meaning of life. Maybe it's because we're all engaged with our devices; I don't know. I think particularly for families, and especially those with teenagers, travel is better when you connect with each other instead of staring at screens all day. There's no place like Africa to truly unplug. I'm generally biased toward Kenya and what's available there experientially. If I had three days left to live, that's where I'd go. When you're in the Masai Mara, it's unlike anything you've ever seen and certainly beyond the scale available on your computer or from television. The place envelops you. As far as the eye can see, it is just endless vistas and animals and the smell of the grasslands. No matter what technology brings, it can't replace the magic of being *out there*."

It's a family affair: Dennis' parents, Jane and Felix Pinto, both second-generation Kenyans, founded Micato Safaris in 1966 and still host safari guests in their Nairobi home. Dennis' sister, Anna, and wife, Joy Phelan-Pinto, also help to run the company.

– AS TOLD TO DAVID HOCHMAN