

WILD RED STAGS

RIGHT: Another young 10 pointer which was passed up.

previous hunts. Accepting his offer, we were both picked up the following morning by Raynardt. It was well before first light when we headed for a different area to glass. His plan was to drive to the open farmland bases and glass the high faces for deer. Then, after finding and evaluating them with the spotter, we would plan a stalk. As luck would have it, John spotted a nice stag up high and, after closer evaluation, we decided to go for him.

The climb was steep, arduous and took well over an hour to complete. I won't lie; the boys were both a lot fitter than me, but we finally made it up there. Closing the gap to less than 200 metres we were finally in line with the stag and a few hinds when the wind changed, alerting the deer and ruining our chances. To cut a long story short, that afternoon the hunting gods finally looked my way and my chance came. A lone old bush stag, well past his prime, appeared on a grassy shelf some 400 metres away. All went like clockwork



as we moved in to position for an easy shot at no more than 150 metres. The old boy didn't know what hit him and dropped where he stood. I was relieved, to say the least. A closer inspection revealed a very heavy 11-pointer, well past his prime and obviously regressing.

After lots of photos, Raynardt offered to cape the stag out for me and took it back to the studio, where it would be salted and dried out in their dehumidified room. This special process removes moisture a lot quicker than just salting and within 48 hours, the cape was almost cardboard dry. He also boiled out the skull and prepared the required paperwork, as I wanted to bring the cape and antlers back with me.

Glen Dene is a first class operation with all option's covered and plenty of wildlife to see and hunt. I've already planned a return trip for next year and intend to take my wife with me. Not to hunt, but more so to stay in one of their first class Geo Domes and venture out on the many tours and activities also available through Glen Dene. So, knowing she will be looked after while I'm out hunting is reassuring.

If you'd like further details regarding a hunt on Glen Dene, you can phone John Royle of Canterbury Tahr Hunting Guide on 0011 64 27510 4637 or call Richard Burdon direct on 0011 64 27226 0983 or email richard@glendenehunting.com 📧

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