

# A piece of paradise just down the coast

*Reporter Wendy Jasson Da Costa visited the Algerian team's World Cup base camp at Peermont's Mondazur*

**I**MAGINE waking up to a crisp sea breeze and with Bambi lurking on your doorstep.

The sort of a place normally seen only in magazines and where luxury and relaxation go hand in hand.

Such an escape, away from the the noise of the city, lies just two hours down the South Coast at Peermont's Mondazur resort at San Lameer.

The resort is home to more than 100 types of birds, and Mondazur is a four-star hotel with rooms and suites to suit every need and even has 20 self-catering villas with door-to-door deliveries from the well-stocked supermarket on the estate.

Apart from the obvious luxury, the beauty of taking a break there is that it provides for every need.

It has an 18-hole championship golf course, an action cricket net, floodlit tennis courts, and squash court and volleyball facilities.

However, if all that sounds like hard work, then a leisurely stroll through its countless nature paths or a swim in the sea at Marina Beach - which enjoys Blue Flag status - may do the trick.

Many of the older kids seem to enjoy the paddle-boats and, if it's a rainy day, there are always traditional board games like monopoly or even pool to keep you entertained.

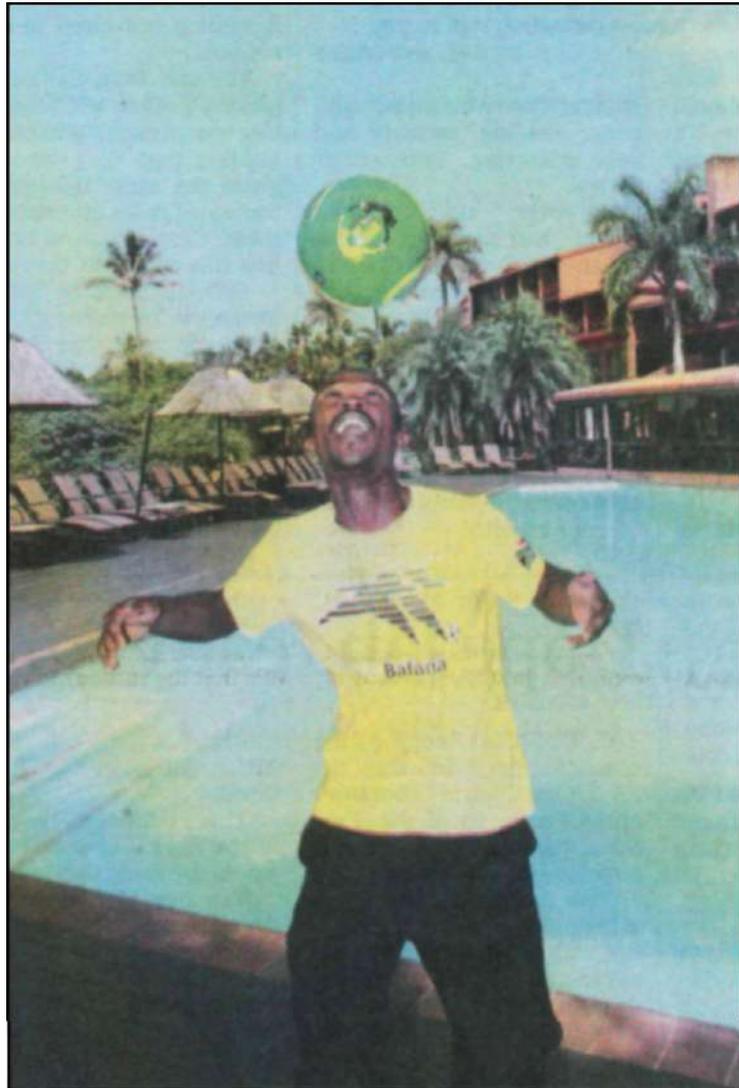
While Mondazur is all about lounging on deck chairs around a pool and sipping tropical cocktails, it is also a place where serious business gets done.

Then-president Thabo Mbeki used the San Lameer estate to host his last meeting with his International Investment Council in 2008.

This year it will be Africa's top football team, Algeria, who will call it home away from home.

The Desert Foxes, as they are known, are using the resort as their base camp in the run-up to and during the World Cup.

Resort manager Elmare Kotze says that during the stay of the



A Bafana Bafana supporter gets ready for the World Cup and the Algerian soccer team's stay at San Lameer as he practises his ball skills next to the pool deck

Algerians, the hotel and hotel facilities will be off-limits to all owners and guests, in keeping, with Fifa's strict conditions.

She says all alcohol will be removed from the premises in respect for the Algerians, who are Muslim.

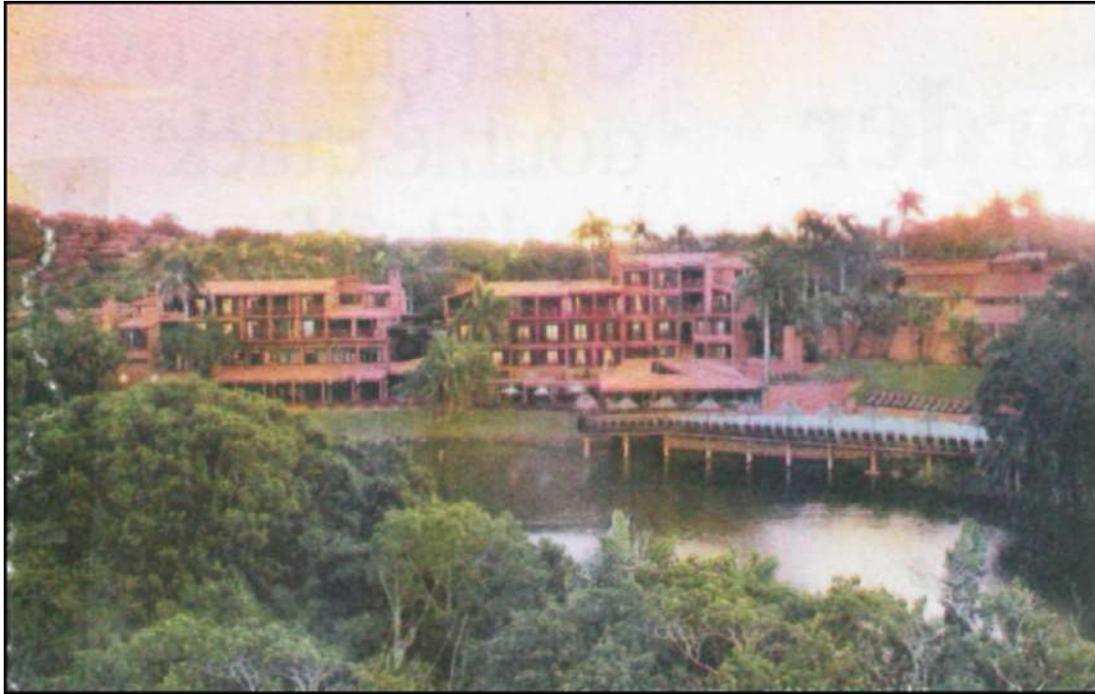
Kotze says her kitchen staff are excited about the chance to work with the Algerian chefs who will be coming with the team.

Also, the Algerians are expected to host football coaching clinics in the community.

## Win a luxury stay

THE Mercury and Peermont's Mondazur resort at San Lameer are giving away a weekend for two at Mondazur.

To stand a chance to win, SMS'San Lameer' followed by your name and surname to 31455 before 11pm today. The winner will notified by phone before May 31. Standard SMS rates apply.



An aerial view of the San Lameer's tranquil setting and lush vegetation.



The beautifully set tables make meals at the resort a pleasure.

## *Food and Wine special on Mercury's menu*

THE Mercury takes its Good Life pages to a new level next Wednesday with the launch of a new Food and Wine special.

The latest addition to The Mercury's value-added features will be packed with everything from delicious recipes and seasonal specials to healthy tips and captivating

features by acclaimed food writers.

In the first issue, wine writer Nicola Jenvey gives some golden oldies a whirl, while Anne Stevens puts the zing into winter soups and stirs it up in the kitchen with Madame Elsie Mauvis.



Father's Day favourites are also on the menu, along with lunch box surprises.

Don't miss The Mercury's Food and Wine next Wednesday, then prepare to be wined and dined on the last

Wednesday of each month.