

Breathtakingly beautiful living



Nature and building in harmony at Zimbali.

By SANDRA McALLISTER

As the grand finale to the Courier's quest to share the secrets of gated estates, we visited Zimbali Coastal Resort.

The 700 ha Zimbali Coastal Resort runs alongside a breathtakingly beautiful sweep of beach and ocean that is visible from most vantage points, with easy access for residents.

Each of the six residential areas that make up the estate has definitive architecture with an Indonesian theme, making as much use of natural materials as possible.

While stopping to take photographs or just absorb the views and ambience, people passing by were friendly and relaxed as they puttered along in their golf carts, lending a holiday feeling to the area.

Fences are forbidden, except for around swimming pools and kitchen yards, which allows free movement to the diverse range of creatures that live in the area, which include the painted reed frog, bush baby, bushbuck, blue duiker, an elegant range of butterflies, and some rare and wonderful bird species. The indigenous vegetation favoured by the estate keeps the fauna well fed.

Due to the sensitivity of the conservation areas, including the dunes and coastal forest reserves, access is limited to residents and guests. The planting of indigenous species in private gardens is encouraged, although a few exotic species have been deemed acceptable.

The children's playgrounds, the beach access, the hotels,

lodges, self catering holiday accommodation, restaurants and other visitor facilities do not appear to interfere with the peaceful, successful feel of the acreage that makes up Zimbali.

Their signature golf course is rated as one of South Africa's finest golfing experiences and a second signature 18-hole course is underway.

The Fairmont Zimbali Hotel and resort, representing a US\$250m investment is becoming an international destination of choice.

Resident of 16 months, Dinesh Patel said that he chose to move there after his daughter was born.

"We were in Leonora Drive in Ballito which was lovely, but we did have the occasional guy wanting to break in, and sometimes this ends in violence." He said that his job as a hospital trauma director is stressful and that as he drives through the gates, his pulse rate drops and it is like 'natural valium.'

The family joins in supper evenings, the children's playground is great and being there reminds him of the 'good old days' when it was safe to be outdoors.



One of the hairier residents enjoying the view.



Tucked between natural bush and the deep blue sea.

Sectional title apartments built 355
To be built 267
Total sectional apartments 622

Houses built 429
Vacant sites 218
Total possible houses 647

Total units 1269

Pricing is highly variable but a general idea is R3m - R9m for apartments
R5m - R30m for freehold homes

