



InSites

South Coast & Leisure Guide

<http://ebrowse.bluelyppa.com>

'AFTER 6'
It's now on STAGE!

world class live band
live dance show
international DJ

9 bed
an exceptional experience for a reasonable budget

tel 088 251901 / 251902 Fax 088 252901

GARDENS... enhance concrete

By Anna
Vielens

The Shangi-La Rassa Ria Resort is located in Tuanan, a 45-minute drive from Kota Kinabalu. The resort building is welcoming, according guests a sense of being cared for.

This atmosphere is further enhanced by a well-kept garden, just like something one would desire for one's home compound.

On one side of the hotel, facing the sea, is a meandering pathway that leads to the Ocean restaurant and wedding pavilion, and a nicely kept garden with flowering plants. The plants seem to shower the area with white and yellow flowers.

Alongside the walkway, the grass is kept trim, giving a sense of unending greenness to the lawn. An egret walks around nonchalantly adding quaintness to the whole scenery.

Flowers adorn the side of



the pathway, right up to the pavilion where the white bougainvillea blooms.

The area seems to be dreamily inspired by dewy eyed brides and dashing grooms about to take on a whole new world.

The place is beautifully touched up to lend it an ethereal beauty especially when hues from the sunset add colour to the plants and flowers there.

The head gardener, Jaisel Mojun, 23, originally from Kota Bharu, is very proud of the fern garden. Although the area is quite small, the plants there seem to enhance the space. For the imaginative,

one almost feels that stepping into the garden, one has been transported somewhere else, such as beneath a jungle canopy.

The palm area is also well worth a visit. There are many types of palm trees that are only found in the jungle or in sago palm plantations.

They are planted in such a way that it gives the resort an eco-friendly atmosphere, almost so that it seems the concrete just makes way to jungle.

Taking care of the hotel garden is no mean feat as it covers six acres and has 164 types of plants growing on it, including flowering plants, ornamental shrubs and trees.

The gardeners, five of them at any one time, maintain the whole area. They have to prune, fertilise, water and generally ensure that the plants do not wilt or die. They also have to plan new landscape materials periodically.

Besides that, Jaisel and his team ensure that the resort has enough flowers to adorn its various rooms and corridors, including rooms, corridors, eateries and the lobby.

Jaisel, who has worked for the resort since 1987, takes everything in his stride.

"A resort garden is like a dress. When it is beautiful and well maintained, the building, which is concrete and quite impersonal, will look welcoming and pleasant," he says.

"Gardening is an enjoyable job when you can look beyond the hard work and anticipate the end result. It is rewarding for me, when I see beautiful healthy plants and flowers in the garden."

"I always look forward to introducing new flowers and plants on new landscapes," he adds.

It is not a wonder therefore that Rassa Ria has a nice garden. This is because of the dedication that staff members like Jaisel have for their job.

And equally, it is no wonder that guests are appreciative of such a pleasant atmosphere.



SARAH
TIMES

18.05.2006

Make sure
you grab a
copy of

**INSITES TRAVEL
& LEISURE GUIDE**
every Tuesday.

Thursday
and Saturday

