

Taste of leisurely living at the Farm

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Peggy Loh

streets@nstp.com.my



Some young residents playing garden chess in one of the 14 pocket parks at the Canal Park of Leisure Farm.

PICTURE waking up each morning and opening your windows to panoramic views of lush greenery and gurgling sounds of water running in canals.

It is indeed a welcome change from staring at the neighbours' walls or a sea of identical rooftops in a concrete jungle.

This refreshing countryside vista can now be experienced at the Leisure Farm Resort (LFR).

Over the last 15 years, LFR has gradually taken shape as a modern residential community located within a resort environment.

This award-winning, low-density development has seven thematic precincts and is also the only one in Iskandar Malaysia (IM) to offer canal-front villas in an exclusive enclave.

More than 10 years ago, LFR embarked on the green concept project to create sustainable resort homes, where modern lifestyles are nurtured and living requirements managed by a healthy and thriving natural environment.

LFR's first double-gated garden community, Garden Court, has 82 cluster garden houses set in a tropical resort setting. This tropical village has its own residents' clubhouse and pocket

parks along meandering walkways.

In 2005, LFR completed the Pinggiran Bayou village homes.

Designed to resemble quaint Italian hillside homes, the 122 units of charming Mediterranean-style waterfront villas are linked by cobbled driveways and have access to a riverside promenade.

These strata-titled duplexes feature rooftop gardens, double-volume living area and private indoor garden courts.

On the other hand, houses in the Bayou Water Village are built with a clever blend of modern ingenuity and local tradition.

The 213 units of bungalows, semi-detached houses and courtyard homes are designed to maximise natural lighting, cross ventilation and rainwater retention.

With balconies on stilts that overlook a 1.2km meandering canal, residents enjoy refreshing views of this waterway and can even go fishing there.

Bayou Water Village is also proud to be the first residential development in Iskandar to be supported by Telekom Malaysia's UniFi high-speed broadband communication services.

This allows the residents to enjoy uninterrupted and fast Internet connection, real-time access and monitoring of their closed-circuit television cameras or alarms, video conferencing and to make online bill payments, among others.

With UniFi, residents can also watch their favourite TV programmes according to their own schedules and in high definition.

"Leisure Farm is home to people from 36 countries, ranging from Europeans and Americans to Asians," said Mokhtar Singh, LFR's Resort & Property manager.

In addition to its beautiful botanical setting, owners often choose to invest in LFR properties because of its impressive security, which is manned by Nepalese Gurkha personnel.

Six levels of security, complemented by state-of-the-art systems, enable the residents to enjoy total peace of mind.

The distinctive feature of the dining hall in Bale Club is its roof, believed to be tallest thatched roof in the region. Both residents and resort guests can enjoy sumptuous meals created by chef Zamani Kibam.

Two of his recent gastronomic creations are the lip-smacking grilled chicken burritos and the succulent seafood pizza.

"The last Sunday of each month is also Recycling Day," said Mokhtar.

Between 10am and noon, residents will bring in paper, plastic, glass and other items for recycling and in return, Chef Zamani will reward them with a sampling of the following month's food promotions at Bale Club.



The 1.2km Canal Park offers a tranquil and calming atmosphere.

One of the main attractions in LFR is the 1.2km long Canal Park, which has a promenade parallel to the canal, dotted by 14 thematic pocket parks and amusements on either side. A walk here can include stops to enjoy a maze garden, a terrace garden, an arbour park, a duck sanctuary, and a playground for children.

A trek through the Kayu Manis Orchard, which is filled with fruit trees, herb gardens and vegetable plots, is both recreational and educational.

Many trees are already bearing fruits while recently planted vines still have a way to go before any grapes can be harvested.

On a hillock, the Rabbitat is home to hundreds of LFR rabbits.

Mokhtar said the economic recovery had seen an increased demand for properties in Johor Baru.

The property sector has also benefited from Iskandar Malaysia as it encouraged developers to deliver quality products and raise the standard of residential properties in the state.

In the 2008 Asia Pacific Property Awards, LFR was named the Best Development in the region and won the Malaysia Landscape Architecture Award in 2007 and 2009.

LFR's components also won the International Real Estate Federation (Fiabci)'s globally recognised Prix D'Excellence award in 2005 and 2006, Fiabci's Malaysia chapter property awards in 2005 and 2007 and the Persatuan Akitek Malaysia's Architectural Awards in 2003 and 2005.

Merbok Creek was also awarded the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia's (ILAM) prestigious Malaysia Landscape Architecture Award 2009.

For more information, call 07-5563007 or 5563360; or log on to www.leisurefarm.com.my

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