The Star BALLOT 1 2009

YOUR CHOICE

WIN ONE OF THREE CRUISES ON THE MSC SINFONIA!

Please name your favourite in each category. At least 18 categories must be filled in for you to be eligible for The Star Your Choice Draw. Please see instructions and official rules below.

BEST SERVICES & SHOPPING

BEST COSMETIC MANUFACTURER
BEST TOILETRY SHOP
BEST SHOP FOR BARGAINS
BEST INSURANCE COMPANY
BEST COMPUTER STORE
BEST SHOPPING MALL/CENTRE
BEST OFFICE SUPPLY STORE
BEST SUPERMARKET
BEST CAMERA/PHOTO STORE
BEST PET SHOP
BEST NAIL SALON
BEST LIQUOR STORE
BEST SLIMMING SALON
BEST HAIR SALON
BEST MEDICAL SUPPLY STORE
BEST HEALTH SHOP
BEST TOY STORE
BEST PHARMACY
BEST GARDEN NURSERY
BEST FLORIST
BEST SHOE STORE
BEST WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE
BEST MEN'S CLOTHING STORE
BEST DISCOUNT STORE
BEST JEWELLERY STORE
BEST DEPARTMENT STORE
BEST GIFT SHOP
BEST PICTURE FRAMERS
BEST SECURITY COMPANY
BEST FURNITURE STORE
BEST CD/DVD STORE
BEST SPORTING GEAR STORE
BEST VIDEO STORE
BEST TRAVEL AGENCY
BEST PETROL/SERVICE STATION
BEST CAR WASH
BEST TYRE DEALERSHIP
BEST BICYCLE SHOP
BEST BABY GOODS STORE
BEST CELLULAR NETWORK
BEST AIRLINE
BEST INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER
BEST ARTS AND CRAFT SHOP
BEST LOCAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME
BEST BUS COMPANY
BEST CLOTHING/SHOE FACTORY SHOP
BEST TAXI SERVICE
BEST BOOK STORE
BEST CASINO
BEST OUTDOOR SHOP
BEST AUDIO VISUAL STORE
BEST PUBLIC HOSPITAL
BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEIVED
BEST PRIVATE HOSPITAL
BEST BOATING SHOP
BEST CAR SERVICE CENTRE
BEST EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
BEST BANK
BEST MORTGAGE LENDER
BEST COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY
BEST RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BEST GARDEN FURNITURE
BEST BED STORE
BEST GARDEN LANDSCAPER
BEST PLUMBING COMPANY
BEST CARPET SHOP
BEST HARDWARE STORE
BEST HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE
BEST SWIMMINGPOOL/JACUZZI
BEST AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY
BEST BUILDING CONTRACTOR
BEST D.I.Y STORE
BEST TILES/FLOORING
BEST HOME APPLIANCE STORE
BEST ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
BEST PAINT SHOP
BEST KITCHEN CUPBOARDS/B.I.C's
BEST BATHROOMS
BEST LIGHTING COMPANY
BEST INTERIOR DECORATING COMPANY
BEST GATES/FENCES
BEST BLINDS
BEST AWNINGS
BEST SECURITY DOORS

ONE WINNER FOR EACH BALLOT!
DRAW WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6 2009

YOUR CHOICE INSTRUCTIONS AND OFFICIAL RULES:

Entries must be submitted on an official/original entry ballot only. Entrants must be 18 years or older Staff members of Independent Newspapers, Starlight Cruises and their immediate families may not enter. At least 18 categories must be filled in. Ballots must include name, I.D, address and telephone number Entries not meeting these criteria will not be tabulated or entered in the draw for the prize. The Star reserves the right to verify all entries and to eliminate any category for any reason. Entries must be received by **2 November 2009.** The Star will not be responsible for lost, late, misdirected mutilated or otherwise undeliverable mail. All entries become the property of The Star. Winning entries will be drawn by a The Star representative. Winners will be notified telephonically and will have seven days from date of draw to reply and claim their prizes. If the winner does not claim his/her prize, an alternative winner will be drawn. No substitutions will be made for the prize. Winners agree to have their name or photograph published. An announcement of the winner of the grand prize will appear in The Star. The Editors decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winners in each category are determined only by readers' vote. No endorsement by The Star isintended or implied.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: MARKETING DEPT, YOUR CHOICE - BALLOT 1, PO BOX 1014, JOHANNESBURG, 2000 OR HAND DELIVER TO MARKETING DEPT, 47 SAUER STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

NAME:
ID NUMBER:
ADDRESS:
PHONE:
THE STAR SUBSCRIBER: YES NO
SATURDAY STAR SUBSCRIBER: YES NO
SUNDAY INDEPENDENT SUBSCRIBER: YES NO

Look for the official entry BALLOT No. 2 in The Star on OCTOBER 12 2009.

PRIZES SPONSORED BY: STARLIGHT CRUISES MSC CRUISES

2010 security planning is on track, says Fifa

SAMEER NAIK

INTERNATIONAL security experts from Germany, France and Interpol have given South Africa their full backing as the country prepares to host the world's biggest sporting event.

In 31 weeks' time, South Africa will host the World Cup, and authorities have already begun pulling out all stops to ensure the event will be safe and secure.

With the potential threat of terrorism during the World Cup, Fifa and the Local Organising Committee say they are confident of being able to deal with any risk or threat.

"Our belief in these commitments is reinforced by the fact that in the past South Africa has successfully hosted a series of major international sporting events such as the rugby and cricket world cups, the successful African Cup of Nations and the Confederations Cup in parallel to the British Lions and Irish tour," said Fifa spokeswoman Delia Fischer.

Fischer said they were pleased with the South African authorities' strong commitment to do everything in their power to ensure a safe and secure event.

With sex trafficking also a problem during big sporting events, Fischer said Fifa had taken its corporate social responsibility seriously.

"We fully support organisations such as Unicef and SOS Children's Villages, as well as initiatives to combat HIV/Aids and various activities to foster gender equality and respect," she added.

The World Cup will also be used to raise awareness about children's and women's rights, peace and anti-discrimination, and Fischer said Fifa had developed specific campaigns in co-operation with UN agencies and non-governmental organisations.

With regards to World Cup preparations, Fifa admitted it was concerned over transport and accommodation close to the stadiums, and training of stewards and staff for the event.

"The respective departments are working on all those areas and various initiatives are in place which make us confident that we will be ready," said Fischer.

The LOC and Fifa also recently completed a tour of six World Cup, stadiums and were happy with the progress that had been made.

"All the stadiums will be finished a full six months before the World Cup begins," said Fischer.

"The stadiums are now about 90 percent complete, with Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium already complete."

Fifa also said it had seen increased media coverage and awareness of the World Cup on a national and global scale.

"We have witnessed across South Africa the rising amount of advertising from our commercial affiliates, which additionally assists in bringing the host country into 2010 mood and whetting the appetites," added Fischer.

South Africa had also taken the initiative of introducing Football Friday to mobilise the country.

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe hosted an event at the Union Buildings yesterday to promote the World Cup.

So far 678 443 tickets have been sold for World Cup matches, with 356 555 tickets being obtained by South African residents.

The number of tickets sold in other countries is led by the US (85 943), UK (50 591), Germany (25 037), followed by Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, Mexico, Israel, Brazil, Chile, and Spain.

Visitors told of danger zones

SAMEER NAIK

TOURISTS making their way to South Africa for the World Cup have been warned to avoid townships, practise safe sex and exercise a "high degree of caution".

These are just few of the travel tips that have been given to UK, US, and Australian citizens planning to travel here for the soccer spectacle.

The UK, US, and Australian governments have updated their state websites to include the latest travel and security advice for their citizens planning to visit South Africa.

America's state website, usa.gov, has appealed to its citizens to stay away from the Cape Flats and townships, to be careful of mob violence and violent crimes such as armed robbery, carjacking, mugging and "smash and grab" attacks.

"In the Western Cape, police resources have been strained by continuing gang conflicts and vigilante violence in low-income areas and informal settlements in Cape Town" the US website states.

It also warns citizens to avoid any large gathering, particularly protests and demonstrations, as last year's wave of xenophobic attacks still remains the subject of a US travel tip.

"While there have been no reports of Americans or other non-African visitors being targeted, these incidents of mob violence have sprung up quickly and proven difficult for local authorities to control," it states.

Australia's state website, smartraveller.gov.au, has given South Africa a "high degree of caution" rating and warns its citizens against visiting places such as Hillbrow and Durban's beachfront at night.

It adds: "Given the high level of HIV/Aids in the country, you should seek immediate medical advice if you are sexually assaulted or otherwise injured."

The UK state website, fco.gov.uk, warns citizens to be careful when leaving OR Tambo International in Joburg as numerous tourists have been hijacked when driving out of the airport.

UK citizens are also advised to stay away from all picnic spots and isolated beaches in South Africa, and to be aware when visiting Table Mountain as several hikers and tourist have been attacked on the mountain.

The Rotunda bus terminus in Joburg, due to the high number of muggings in the area, also makes the UK's list of Gauteng's crime hotspots.

THROUGH A GLASS TASTILY

GIVE IT A SWIRL: A whisky tasting in Dullstroom precedes next month's FNB Whisky Live festival . PICTURE: SIZWE NDINGANE

MINESH BHAGALOO

LEGS open or legs closed?

Believe it or not that's whisky speak, and refers to the legs or lines you would notice at the top of a whisky glass after giving it a swirl to expose the aroma and natural colour of the tipple.

If the so-called legs are wide apart, it means the whisky is older and oilier, while if they are closer together it means the opposite.

Or so we were told at a recent whisky tasting in the picturesque town of Dullstroom. We were the guests of the FNB Whisky Live festival, which according to the organisers is the largest whisky and lifestyle event of its kind. It takes place at the Sandton Convention Centre from November 11-14 after moving up from Cape Town.

Tastings and workshops will be a big part of the festival this year, with 180 whiskies on offer, but with some new twists to make the show different from last year's.

The festival will run from 6pm to 10pm daily, with various ticketing packages on offer. No under-18s will be allowed into the tasting hall, and dedicated driver tickets are available to get you home.

Food vouchers and a bottle of mineral water are included in the ticket price. Visit www.whiskylivefestival.co.za

Flamingoes are in deep due to rising sewage levels

Conservationists concerned over risk to one of six breeding sites in the world

SHEREE BEGA

CONSERVATIONISTS are worried an internationally renowned artificial breeding island for lesser flamingoes could be submerged because of rising levels of sewage and heavy rains – potentially jeopardising its breeding spectacle.

Award-winning ornithologist Mark Anderson, the executive director of Birdlife SA, created the artificial breeding island at Kamfers Dam near Kimberley for as many as 85 000 lesser flamingoes.

"At the moment, Kamfers Dam water levels are at the highest level they've ever been," he said this week.

"The island is about to flood. If it rains now and the temperatures stay cool, I reckon we're going to lose the island within a couple of weeks. A lot of the material that the island has been constructed with has been washed away."

Kamfers Dam is one of only six breeding sites in the world for lesser flamingoes and the fourth such site on the continent, but it is threatened by serious levels of sewage, which pour into the dam from the malfunctioning Homevale sewage works.

TAKING A BATH: A flamingo at Pretoria Zoo. PICTURE: LIZA VAN DEVENTER

"More and more sewage is being produced in Kimberley and we've had a bit of rain in the last few weeks. The sewage works haven't been upgraded. They (the municipality) haven't come up with a plan to treat it elsewhere," Anderson said.

"It worries us. The whole breeding event is in jeopardy. At other sites – like Etosha Pan – the flamingoes don't breed every year. Here they've been breeding every year for the past three years. This site is internationally important. Some parts of the island are completely under water," he said.

His wife, Tania, of the Save the Flamingo Association, believes that the chicks could suffer. "Now that there's water over much of the island, if the eggs fall off the nest the adults can't possibly incubate them on the ground as they've done before. Another concern is that chicks of only a few days old may fall off the nest and have a problem being kept warm by the parents in the water.

"The breeding activity so far also seems to be confined to a smaller area, but we're not sure if it has anything to do with the flooding. Last year, they spread out over the whole island, but as it's only the beginning of the breeding season, they may still use the nests in the currently unused areas."

Sello Matsie, the Sol Plaatjie municipality's spokesman said the municipality was fixing the collapsing sewage infrastructure.

"We're always concerned. It's not only them (the association) that are concerned. To date we've spent R30m. The problem is not going to be fixed overnight, but we'll work with everyone.

"Human beings live there next to the flamingoes. As a municipality we don't put animals before people. Our priorities are not upside down," he said, claiming the association had opposed its plans to divert the wastewater to neighbouring farms.

"The community is saying the association is putting human lives after flamingoes. It is more concerned with watching flamingoes on their webcam and overseas tourists," Matsie said.

Earlier this year, the Concerned People of Roodepan threatened to make "flamingo spit braais" because of the association's opposition to the R2 billion Northgate residential and commercial development opposite the nesting site.

209 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parktown North
Tel (011) 447-2339

Oriental Carpet Gallery

TRADING HOURS:
Mon - Fri: 9:00am - 5:30pm
Sat: 9:00am -5pm
Sun: 10:00am - 3:00pm

CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE SALE

KASHAN 4.00 x 3.00 R5500
BALOUCH 1.30 X 0.90 R775
CHOBI 3.00 X 2.00 R5900
KARACHI 3.00 x 2.00 R4950
GABBEAH 2.50 x 1.50 R2450

MUSHUANI RUNNER 2.75 x 0.65 R900

Two dogs survive snake bites after vicious fight

HELEN BAMFORD

TWO CAPE Town dogs came off second best when they took on a puffadder in Kommetjie this week.

Both were bitten repeatedly in the face but survived after they were given anti-venom. They needed 10 vials between them, costing a whopping R10 000.

Witnesses say it was a wild fight with the puffadder striking like lightning.

Owner Lynn Naude said the dogs, Tylo, 11, a white cross-German Shepherd, and Kia, 8, a German Shepherd, swelled up within seconds.

It happened at Wenga Farm in Kommetjie Road, a property owned by Tears which services nearby Masiphumelele.

Naude works for Tears and lives on the property.

The anti-venom was collected from local vets in Fourways and Glencairn and will have to be replaced by Naude.

Snake catcher Braam Malherbe said there were masses of snakes out at the moment with the warmer weather. He has caught 12 puffadders this month, mostly in Camps Bay and Tamboerskloof.

Many people's first reaction on seeing a snake is to chop its head off but Malherbe says snakes are vital to control rats and mice. Snake bites to humans are rare.

Brett Glasby of the SPCA's wildlife unit says that if you or your pet gets bitten, it is best to get away from the snake. He says it isn't necessary to try to identify the snake because it will be clear by the symptoms what type of snake it was.

The venom of a puffaddder is cytotoxic, which leads to cell damage and massive swelling, while a Cape cobra's venom is neurotoxic and causes paralysis.