

is friendly and efficient and the prices are moderate. There's a fine view of the sea from the glassed-in dining terrace. "Safari" is extremely popular with residents and tourists alike, so you'd do well to book for dinner. For reservations, call 23540.

Just opposite the Hotel Algarve is "O Mekong" — one of the Algarve's very few oriental restaurants. It offers Chinese and Vietnamese food. Among the house specialties are chicken chop suey that appeals even to people who don't like shop suey! The owners are Vietnamese who came to the Algarve via Brussels. Partner Phan Cong Huong speaks English and French and is happy to explain the more unusual items on the menu and to give lessons in the fine art of using chopsticks. The only non-Asiatic touch is the Portuguese singer who comes in nightly to sing Fado. "O Mekong" is open year around from 12 noon until 11:30 p.m., every day except Monday. You can order anything on the menu, at any hour.

Restaurante "Hyttten", next to the Hotel Jupiter, is only a month old but Scandinavian visitors have already given it their seal of approval. The Danish owners, Brigette Christensen and her brother, Ernst, have done a beautiful job here. The restaurant is one flight up and seems worlds away. You can eat on the large open air terrace or in the pleasant, uncrowded dining room. There are indoor and outdoor bars and a "beer garden" is planned for later in the summer. Most of the fare is Danish, but "fondue bourguignin" is a specialty. Snacks such as "Tost Hyttten" — toast, tomato, fried egg and mushrooms — are available from

The charcoal-grilled kebab of pork, beef, chouriço, onions and peppers comes with a mountain of chips and is really enough for two. You can ask for an extra plate or order a smaller version at a lower price. Grilled chicken at 160\$00 can also be divided to serve two. A favourite dessert is the coffee-flavoured "Malakoff", as light as air. "Refugio" is open daily from 12 noon and is well worth a visit.

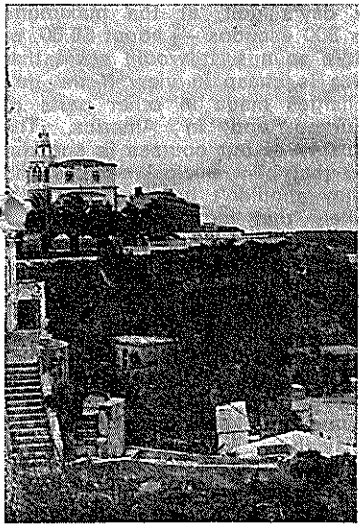
Most of Praia da Rocha's residents do much of their day-to-day shopping in nearby Portimão, only five minutes away. But Praia da Rocha has several small shops and boutiques, some now open even during the winter months. One of the most unusual of these is "Coralarte", below the Hotel Jupiter. It deals in coral and sea shells. Shell-collectors will appreciate some of the more unusual specimens, but there are all sorts of shells which have been mounted for purely decorative purposes. "Coralarte" also carries necklaces and bracelets of coral and shells.

"Ma Boutique", near the western end of town, makes clothes to order and has a good selection of ready-made skirts and blouses, as well as bikinis and beach towels. You'll also find hand-painted pottery bowls, dishes and pitchers and small items of copper and brass.

The beach is, of course, Praia da Rocha's largest attraction. But those who want to do something more active than sunning and swimming can hire a small boat or drive over to Penina for a round of golf. Tennis players can rent one of Tony Ferreira's three fine courts, near the Hotel Algarve, and wouldbe players can take lessons from a registered coach. Racquets are available for hire. Sr Ferreira speaks a number of languages, including excellent English.

At the end of the day, the streets of Praia da Rocha become a little more crowded as the sunworshippers come up from the beach. Still, it isn't a town known for its swinging nightlife. One of the most pleasant spots to go for a drink, day or night, is "Martin's Bar", a popular-meeting place opposite Hotel Bela Vista. You can sit inside or outside and during "Happy Hours" (11:30 am — 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm) all drinks prices are reduced.

Praia da Rocha is not only the Algarve's oldest resort, it is also possibly the cleanest and neatest. People who live there love it and many tourists return year after year.



PERCHED ON THE CLIFF TOP: HOTEL BELA VISTA

12 noon until 2 a.m. There are also cold plates, salads and open-faced Danish sandwiches. The regular menu includes mussel soup, a mixed grill, pork steak and fondue bourguignon — cubes of filet steak cooked by the diner in hot oil and accompanied by several sauces, including mushroom sauce and sauce Bearnaise. "Hyttten" will be open all year.

Just outside of town, at the Praia da Rocha — Praia do Vau roundabout is "Refugio", also new this year. It's an Afro-Brazilian restaurant and grill owned and managed by partners Walter and Soares, both football players for Portimonense. The atmosphere is completely informal. Among the specialties are feijoada Brazilian-style (made with black beans) and grilled chicken, African-style (basted with a special sauce).

MARTIN'S BAR

PRAIA DA ROCHA
Tel 24185



Made-to-measure clothing * Costume jewellery
Decorative articles * Ceramics * Handicrafts

RESTAURANTE

Refúgio

Afro-Brazilian décor. Quiet, cozy atmosphere. Charcoal-grilled meat, chicken and fish, plus many specialties of the house. Open daily from 12 noon.

Located just off the Praia da Rocha - Praia do Vau traffic roundabout, 1.5 kms from the centre of Praia da Rocha.



Coralarte

Shells and coral for decoration and collection. Open every day, year around.

Loja 6, Hotel Jupiter
PRAIA DA ROCHA

BAR - RESTAURANTE

HYTTTEN

Scandinavian specialties. Fondue Bourguignon. Open from 12 noon until 2:00 a.m. every day, year around.

Near the Hotel Jupiter
PRAIA DA ROCHA

SAFARI
RESTAURANT AND BAR

African and Portuguese fare, fresh fish and shellfish. Glassed-in terrace overlooking the sea. Open for lunch and dinner. For reservations, call 23540.

Rua António Feu
PRAIA DA ROCHA