



## Argentina football team manager Diego Maradona throws yet another tantrum

I want  
top-end  
toilet  
seats



**ROYAL FLUSH:** Diego Maradona wants two state-of-the-art bidet toilets like the one on the right

PICTURES: AP, INTERNET

**T**HE Argentina football team, led by manager Diego Maradona, have put in a long list of requirements ahead of their World Cup expedition.

Among the Argentina manager's requirements are two state-of-the-art bidet toilets to be installed for him at a World Cup training camp in South Africa.

His private suite had to undergo a £1,400 (\$2,800) overhaul to accommodate the bidet toilets, costing £311 each, and described as the "best toilet seat in the world" according to website sandman.com, reported the Daily Mail.

Mr Colin Stier, manager at the High Performance Centre in Pretoria where the Argentine team will stay, said: "(Bidets) are quite common in Argentina but hard to get hold of here.

"In the end we managed to track down a seat which has bidet nozzles. But to make it fit we ended up having to replace the whole bathroom too.

"Of course we were happy to do so. If it makes Diego more comfortable during his stay then it's worth the effort."

That's not the only change. Two bedrooms were joined to create a large bedroom for Maradona's pri-

ivate suite.

The team's other requests included a demand for the rooms to be painted white and for six PlayStations to be installed for the players use.

The Argentinian Football Association also demanded to be served 10 hot dishes every day, together with 14 different salads at every meal and no fewer than three desserts.

Kids might enjoy the Argentina team experience since another requirement is for ice cream to be available at all times during their stay.

### Catering details

The catering details were revealed by South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper during an interview with the training centre's kitchen manager, Ms Linda Tyrrell.

Not to be outdone, Argentina's rivals, Brazil, have also made a string of demands ahead of their arrival.

They have demanded their pool to be heated to exactly 32 deg C by the time the players arrive at the Fairway Hotel in Johannesburg.

The squad will also bring two of their own Portu-

guese chefs, but they "would not be taking over the kitchen".

Argentina's demands overshadow the fact that they barely qualified for the World Cup with a string of poor results under Maradona's leadership.

Cesar Menotti, coach of the Argentina team that secured the country's first World Cup in 1978, was forthright in his criticism, saying: "Argentina seemed to have no ideas; they're confused and disorganised."

Menotti's words echo those of the Argentine media, who have scorned Maradona since a humiliating 6-1 defeat in Bolivia for calling up over 100 players during his time in charge and meddling with his tactical systems.

Maradona responded vehemently in the wake of qualification, reported AFP.

His words provoked a scandal and prompted Fifa's disciplinary committee to issue a two-month suspension from all footballing activities, forcing him to miss the World Cup draw in Cape Town last December.

"The most important conclusion is that the team appears to have a defined playing philosophy.

"Debatable, certainly, but defined," said Argentine sporting daily Ole.