

# The Front Desk



April 2007

Dear Clients,

Hello from warm and sunny San Pedro – at least, that is how it was this morning. March is the month that is supposed to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb. Well the lion certainly roared at the end of March, with strong winds and heavy rain. The forecast for the next 10 days is for “showers”, which is better than rain. So let’s hope that there is some “sol” in between the “lluvia”.

## **Fiesta – Semana Santa**

This week is Semana Santa and is the most important of the Spanish religious festivals. As you may recall, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> are public holidays and the office will be closed. Our emergency helpline will be available for any urgent issues that arise. The next public holiday will be the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

## **Building and Contents Insurance**

Most of us pay our annual premiums and never have a need to claim. However, when a problem arises, what we need is prompt service. In the past few months, a number of clients have made claims via call centres and faceless lost adjusters, leading to frustration and upset. For this reason we recommend our neighbour, San Pedro Insurance Service, a family business which has been established for around 10 years. Their rates are pretty competitive – and when it comes to making a claim – you can be sure of personal and quality service. When your renewal notice arrives, contact me and I will put you in touch.

## **Residents’ Permit**

New government legislation passed recently stated that non-Spanish European Union residents no longer need a “Residencia” with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> March. In future EU residents will be issued with a certificate from the Oficina de Extranjeros (Foreigner’s Office).

However, the new law requires all EU citizens planning to reside in Spain for more than three months to register in person at the Oficina de Extranjeros or at designated police stations. They will be issued a certificate stating their name, address, nationality, identity number and date of registration. EU citizens in Spain who already have residence cards will not need to re-register until their residence card expires upon which they will be issued with a certificate.

More information on the new requirements will be available on Spanish Ministry of Interior’s website [www.mir.es](http://www.mir.es) in due course.

**Tel: (0034) 952 78 49 83 (3 Lines), Fax: 952 78 34 08**

**Emergency Helpline: 00 34 606 97 58 33**

**Web site: [www.spanishrentalholidays.com](http://www.spanishrentalholidays.com) E-mail: [enquiries@spanishrentalholidays.com](mailto:enquiries@spanishrentalholidays.com)**

**Head Office Address: HPS Property Services Siglo XXI (SL), C/ Dr.Esteban San Mateo, N° 10, Local E, 29670, San Pedro de Alcántara, (Málaga), España.**

**CIF N° B - 92606953**

## **More Speed Traps Planned**

The Spanish Government's Traffic Department is installing 68 new speed traps throughout Spain before Easter. The number in Malaga Province will increase to seven. The aim is to reduce the number of serious accidents and fatalities on Spanish roads. The radar installations will be clearly visible and can also be located on the Traffic Department's website – the intention is to reduce speeds and not to increase income from fines. In addition to these locations, the Guardia Civil will be operating mobile speed traps throughout Malaga over the coming weeks.

## **Take Care in the Sun**

Fair skin, blue eyes, blond hair.... this could describe many of our clients in search of the sunshine. However these ideal weather conditions people can take their toll. According to a recently published report, this is one of the regions of Europe with the most cases of skin cancer with the growing presence of residents from Scandinavia, Central Europe, Great Britain and Germany. The advice is to use plenty of high factor sun creams, wear a hat and to be sensible about exposure to the sun.

## **Website and Email**

We are delighted that our website has reached a Google page rank of 5. For those of you in the know, you will appreciate that this is quite a significant achievement for a business of our modest size and that it gives HPS much wider exposure. We are grateful for all the work of our web developers Grave Web Services (<http://www.gravewebervices.com>).

Hostway, who operate our website and email hosting services will be shutting down for essential maintenance for some periods between Friday the 6th of April at 15.00 through to Saturday the 7th of April at approximately 20.00. If you receive any strange messages during this period, you now know why.

## **Home Security**

We have done some work with an independent security consultant, who may be able to give you some helpful advice. If you have a alarm system in your property, it needs to be connected to a monitoring service in order to conform to Spanish regulations. If you would like further information, please let me know.

## **Local Theatre**

If you are in San Pedro on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, our theatre group is putting on a play reading (The Spy Who Came in for the Phone) and supper. Michael is performing as a policeman...again!!!

¡Hasta la vista!

*Beverley*

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