

# The Front Desk



August 2009

Dear Clients,

Hola from a very summery Costa del Sol. It's difficult to believe that there are any problems in the world at the moment, as there is such a lovely holiday atmosphere on the Coast in the summer months.

## **Ferias and Fiestas**

July saw the Dia de Virgen del Carmen. This annual festival on 16<sup>th</sup> of the month is celebrated by the navy and all seafarers –which meant that the fishing ports of Estepona, Marbella, Fuengirola, etc saw a lot of celebrations, including carrying the effigy of the Virgin into the sea at shoulder height and rounding the day off with fireworks. In August we celebrate The Assumption of the Virgin on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August.

## **New HPS Golf Web Page**

We have created a new Golf web page [http://spanishrentalholidays.com/en/golf\\_courses.asp](http://spanishrentalholidays.com/en/golf_courses.asp). Previously our discounted golf rates were “hidden” in the Holidays section and we hope that this new initiative will attract more interest in the rates we can offer. We do not cover the full range of courses on the coast, but concentrate on those which have proved to be our clients' favourites. We believe that the prices offered are competitive with the main golf specialists. Please take a look - we will be interested in your comments.

## **Representation at Community Meetings**

Don't forget that we are available to attend community meetings on your behalf, if you are unable to attend personally. Michael has become something of an expert on community finance and is able to check on value for money when this issue is discussed. There is nothing wrong with giving your proxy to the President, but it is often useful to have an impartial representative.

## **New Building Regulations**

The Andalucian government has approved a decree declaring that from 2019 all buildings of more than two floors must have a lift installed – except where construction difficulties make this impossible. Breaching the law could lead to fines of up to 300k €. The law is designed to protect the interests of disabled and older residents, pregnant women and people with restricted mobility – representing some 40% of the population. Other aspects of the regulations refer to access to open spaces providing educational and recreational activities (including beaches) and public transport. The implications of this law have not been generally discussed so far, but it sounds like a good time to invest in an elevator company in Spain!!

**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), Urb. El Alto N° 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavís,  
29679, (Málaga), España.  
CIF N° B - 92606953

## **Málaga Airport**

A recent report in Sur indicated that passenger numbers were down by 100,000 in June. This is attributed in part to the economic situation, but also the impact of the new AVE train link with Madrid, which now provides a rapid service several times a day. Looking at the crowds on the beach over the weekend it is hard to believe these figures, but I suppose the statisticians have to put something together for their wages!

## **Costa Runs Out of Hire Cars**

The usual shortage at this time of year is water. This year it is hire cars, as some of our clients already know. Many companies have been forced to reduce their fleet size because banks have been refusing to make loans to purchase new cars. In an effort to meet demand many companies have started buying second hand cars. As a result prices for used cars have risen and the supply of good quality vehicles has dried up.

Whilst we remain well connected with Haro, even they have been unable to satisfy new requests for cars. Orders placed earlier in the year are being met and this shows the benefit of planning ahead. However, indications are that we shall have difficulty in sourcing new hire car bookings during August.

## **Benahavís – Ronda Road Link**

For those of you who regularly use the Ronda road and wonder when the new link to the Benahavís road will be open, the answer is that it is now in operation. As far as we know there was no opening ceremony or ribbon cutting. It is now possible to drive rapidly around the south of the Los Arqueros Golf course to reach the urbanisations of Las Encinas, El Lago, La Finca and the club house without taking the long route through the course itself.

## **“Aa” Emergency Number Introduced**

The Interior Ministry and Cruz Roja (Red Cross) have launched a campaign to get people to add the emergency contact “Aa” to their mobile phone address books. It means “Avisa a” (Contact) and should be followed by the number of a person to notify in case of accidents. The Cruz Roja believes that it will help to get a friendly face to the victim of an accident as quickly as possible.

Don't forget our own 24-hour out-of-hours helpline number 00 34 606 97 58 33. Please make a note of this – and advise your visitors and guests - in case there is a need to contact us in an emergency. Programming it into your mobile phone is also recommended.

## **Viva Las Rebajas**

Please remember there is still time to bag a bargain in the annual Spanish Summer sales. They actually continue until the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, so for all you keen shoppers out there – there is still time. Many of the stores in Puerto Banus remain open until the wee hours in August, so you can have a nice meal out, followed by a bit of retail therapy. What a perfect evening for most of us ladies!

That's all for this month, hasta Septiembre.

*Beverley*

**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), Urb. El Alto N° 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavís, 29679, (Málaga), España.

CIF N° B - 92606953