

The Front Desk



July 2009

Dear Clients,

Bienvenido from the Costa del Sol where June has been “muy scorchio” and quite humid and hazy. A warm welcome also goes to new clients from the UK and Switzerland. We have finished this month with the Noche de San Juan on 23rd June celebrating the longest day of the year – always a good date to keep in the diary with massive bonfires and firework displays along the coast, as well as the usual partying.

Office Changes

My new office furniture is going to be installed today, on **Friday 3rd July**. For this morning and maybe some of the afternoon the office will be closed while the workers (Jamie and Michael) create chaos. I will not have access to my emails or phone line during this time; however, I will be at the end of our emergency line for urgent enquiries.

Cleaning Schedules

Thanks to everyone for providing us with information about your travel plans, cleaning and laundry requirements. This has all been extremely helpful. In spite of the economic gloom and doom, we can see that July and August are going to be very busy and we are recruiting additional staff this week. Please keep the information flowing, however tentative.

San Pedro Tunnel

Although there were one or two problems when the eastbound carriageway was closed, there has been surprisingly little disruption to the “normal” flow of traffic. To me it seems no worse than usual and I continue to be impressed with how well the project is being managed. Naturally you need to avoid the various rush hours. But aside from that it’s business as usual.

The plans to close the westbound carriageway of the A7 have been delayed until mid-September. Apart from concerns about the timing in relation to the peak tourist season, the delay is also connected with “Operación Paso del Estrecho” (Operation Crossing the Strait). This is the annual migration of around half a million North Africans who travel back home via Algeciras and Tarifa to Morocco.

Andalujo Guide

Click here for an online version of this very informative guide to interesting locations in Andalucía:
<http://www.pagegangster.com/p/pkJ4S/>.

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Musical Events in July

Those of you with a musical leaning may be interested to know that Nerja Caves are celebrating 50 years of being open to the public with its annual festival of classical music and dance, featuring José Carreras amongst others. Meanwhile at Cordoba the annual guitar festival will be in full swing with many international and Spanish musicians appearing. Nearer to home are the events at the Teatro Cervantes in Malaga, including performances by Burt Bacharach and Jerry Lee Lewis. And at Tivoli Gardens in Benalmadena you will be able to sing along to YMCA with the Village People...

Chiringuios Reprieved

Never mind the world economic crisis! What's happening to our traditional chirunguitos (beach restaurants)? Many of these traditional eateries have been built on protected areas of coastal land and at last the government Coasts Department decided to clamp down on these illegal restaurants, either relocating them up the shoreline or closing them if there was no alternative.

However, after a vociferous campaign by owners and staff, the prime minister himself has intervened and re-allocated the responsibility for chirunguitos to the Andalucian Junta, which will be more sympathetic to the needs of the local tourist and business interests. So your beachside grilled sardines are safe for this year at least.

Property Market

According to a recent report in Sur in English there are 21000 completed new homes which are unsold in Malaga province with a further 16000 under construction. The optimistic view of the Association of Builders and Promoters is that there is sufficient interest for these properties to be sold over the next two years. The problem as they see it is with the banks' inflexibility in lending policies.

Meanwhile in the second hand market many Spaniards are turning to the traditional method of bartering in order to trade up or down. By doing this they do not have to re-negotiate mortgages with the bank – they do, of course, need to pay the cash difference where appropriate.

Babysitting

For those clients wanting an evening "off duty", we are able to recommend some excellent lady babysitters who have worked with us over many years and have not lost any of the little darlings!! Some are also able to sit during the day, for example if you are planning to have a round of golf.

Copies of Passports

We often need to contact suppliers on behalf of clients and this often requires us to have an up to date copy of passports. If you would like us to act on your behalf, e.g. for something as simple as collecting a registered letter from the post office, please bring your passport into the office next time you are here and we will take a copy. You can also send a scanned copy by email. Faxed copies are too indistinct.

Hasta Agosto

Beverley

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