

# The Front Desk



June 2009

Dear Clients,

## Cleaning Schedules

We are already planning our cleaning schedules for the summer months and it looks as though we shall be having a busy time in July and August particularly. This will include the recruitment and training of staff to assist us during the peak season, so we need to get the numbers right.

If you or your guests have any plans to visit (however tentative), please let us know as soon as possible. It is not only important for us to know the **dates**, but also **arrival** and **departure flight** details. This enables us to prioritise our cleaning schedule. Thanks to everyone who has sent us information so far.

## Mijas Blues Festival

Aging hippies like Michael will be seen beating a path to Mijas Pueblo on the weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> for this year's Mijas Blues Festival ([www.aintnothinbut.co.uk](http://www.aintnothinbut.co.uk) – check the Festival section), which will be held at various venues around the village. This is becoming a very popular event attracting the most unlikely “grey heads” who can enjoy the music of their youth without any risk that their children or grandchildren will catch them enjoying themselves. It is said that Michael and some of his dancing chums plan to put on an impromptu rock and roll jiving display. You have been warned!!!

## San Pedro Tunnel

The delayed closure of the Malaga-bound carriageway of the A7 (N340) through San Pedro was marked by a thirteen kilometre traffic jam on the first morning. The main problem seems to have been that the engineers engaged to re-phase the timing of the traffic lights did not leave for work early enough in the morning and were themselves caught in the traffic jam – arriving to do the job at 11.00 a.m.

The diversion starts opposite the Guadalmina shopping centre, travels south of the A7 through Nueva Alcantara and emerges at Cortijo Blanco at the Ronda Road roundabout. There is an “escape point” which allows drivers into central San Pedro by the El Ingenio roundabout by MacDonaldis. After the first day's chaos, the flow of traffic seems to have settled down and delays have so far been minimal. The big test comes when the Estepona-bound carriageway is closed – date to be announced.

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

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

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

**Head Office Address:** HPS Property Services Siglo XXI (SL), Urb. El Alto N° 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavís, 29679, (Málaga), España.  
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## WiFi Zone

Visitors to the Los Arqueros Golf Clubhouse will be able to enjoy the benefit of accessing the internet, while enjoying the view and some suitable refreshment. You will need to take your laptop or other mobile device with you which has a wireless connection and Hey Presto you will soon be surfing the net. Of course, those of you who are trying to escape the omnipresent internet can simply choose to enjoy the club's bar and restaurant facilities or, of course, go to one of the thousands of hostelryes on the coast that are more "traditional"!

## Fiesta

Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> sees the arrival of the Fiesta of San Bernabé, the patron saint of Marbella. This falls in the middle of a week when Marbella goes wild – no change there really!!! Marbella celebrates its 'San Bernabé' fair from June 7th to 14th, with a pilgrimage on Sunday kicking off the festivities. Early birds can enjoy a free 'churros' and hot chocolate breakfast at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday morning, just before the pilgrimage begins at 9 a.m. . The now famous Firework Display will be held on the El Fuerte beach at 11 p.m. on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. For a full programme of fair events, activities and venues visit [www.marbella.es/fiestas](http://www.marbella.es/fiestas).

The HPS office will be closed on Thursday 11th and, in accordance with Spanish tradition, we will be taking a "Puente" on Friday 12<sup>th</sup>. The emergency helpline will of course be in operation as usual.

## Liberalised Electricity Market in Spain

On July 1<sup>st</sup> the liberalisation of the electricity market arrives in Spain and brings it into line with many other major European countries. Customers who have not signed with a new company by that date will remain with their present company (Endesa Sevillana in our case) and be charged the basic tariff set by the government. This tariff is called the TUR (Tarifa de Último Recurso, i.e. tariff of last resort) and is available to customers with a contracted demand of 10 kilowatts or less. This represents most private homes, small and medium-sized businesses. However, currently projected savings only amount to around 2%, so the incentive to change is currently not very great.

## Lower Income From Rental Property

A recent survey in Sur in English reported that landlords are now coming under pressure to lower rents to existing tenants during the course of a tenancy contract. For example, tenants are seeing the monthly rental rates on neighbouring properties fall and are negotiating reduced rates with their landlords as an alternative to terminating their rental contract and moving. Landlords are happier to receive a lower income than no income at all. In other cases they are not applying inflation increases to rental even when these are permitted.

Another feature of these lower rental rates is that young Spanish couples who could only afford to live in small apartments with few facilities, can now afford to live in more spacious urbanisations with gardens, swimming pools, parking and other desirable features.

Hasta Julio, Until July,

Kind regards,

*Beverley*

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