

The Front Desk

November 2006



Dear Clients and Friends,

All is now returning to normal in the HPS office, after Jamie and I escaped to the Caribbean for a week's holiday. We had a great time, but managed to contract food poisoning, not while we were away, which is so often warned about, but on our return journey. I am pleased to say we are now on the road to recovery.

Culture Vultures

Hopefully now that the weather is cooler, sightseeing will not be so much of an endurance test. Felicity and Michael visited the Alhambra in Granada in August, but it was really too hot to appreciate all the finer points. It is about 2.5 hours drive from that Marbella area and is well signposted with easy parking. You need to book ahead and can do this via the internet.

New Eatery

For those of you who like dining with the locals, Michael and Felicity can recommend Bar Restaurante Gil in San Pedro. Located in Calle Linda Vista and run by the Gil family (Mum, two brothers and sister), the restaurant has been providing a friendly welcome and good value lunch and dinner for twenty five years.

New Air Route to Gibraltar

Bristol International Airport recently announced that direct flights to Gibraltar will begin from April 2007 with low fares airline Fly Gibraltar. Bristol becomes one of just four key regional airports in the UK to operate the new direct route, opening up links between the Rock, Southern Spain and the South West. The news follows the historic three-way accord made between Spain, Gibraltar and Britain in September, which opens access to the Rock across the border from the end of the year.

San Pedro Feria

Fans of the San Pedro Feria will be pleased to know that it lived up to its reputation for being the start of the rainy season. In fact two weeks of torrential rain surrounded the festival. Although this did not dampen the spirits of local and visiting revellers alike, the rain did keep our maintenance team busy dealing with one flooded property, losses of power and many drains blocked with debris.

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World Travel Market

The World Travel Market takes place at the ExCel exhibition centre in London during the week commencing 6th November. This is a major trade show, which is also open to the public. HPS is advertising its rental services via an advertisement in a special Sur in English supplement, which will be handed out at the show and will also be inserted into the edition published in Spain on 10th November. In addition, Michael will be visiting the show to meet the travel operators who have links with the Costa del Sol.

Public Holidays

As mentioned in last month's Front Desk, 1st November is a public holiday and the office will be closed. As a reminder, further dates for your diary are 6th December (Constitution Day) and 8th December (Immaculate Conception). If you are planning to be here during early December, you will need to bear these dates in mind – lawyers, builders and many other trades usually close down for the whole week.

Visits to the Costa

Just a reminder to owners to give us as much notice as possible of your intended visits or those of your guests, in order that we can prepare your apartments and villas. It is always very helpful for us to know the expected arrival and departure times (as well as the dates!).

Winter Maintenance

As we move into the quieter season of the year, it is time to think about periodic maintenance. If you did not book a spring air conditioning service this year, it is probably a good opportunity to do this now in order to avoid the summer rush (and panic). Some clients have asked us to refresh their properties with a coat of emulsion paint and others are asking us to fix little niggles, e.g. faulty locks, winding handles on terrace blinds, and so on. Others are planning to upgrade with new terrace tiling and glass curtains. If you have something in mind, please let me know.

Happy Birthday

Finally, I would like to wish my Mum, who lives in Yorkshire, a very Happy Big Birthday for the 1st November. My brother and two of his children have flown in to surprise her all the way from South Africa, so although I would have loved to have been there to join in the celebrations, I am sure she will be very busy soaking up the deserved attention. Have a great time, Mum, we will be thinking of you.

Until next month.

Kind regards

Beverley

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