

# The Front Desk

October 2005



Dear Clients,

Well, it's been a lot cooler this month and it rained on a couple of days – but not enough to spoil anyone's visit. Jamie and I are looking forward to our holiday in South Africa at the end of the month. We shall be away for three weeks – from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November. Michael will be manning the front desk during this time and Rodd will be looking after property maintenance and gardening.

## Trading Places

Michael was recently at a Trade Show in England covering, amongst other things, property rentals in Spain. Our most successful rental clients do a lot of marketing themselves via local advertising, development of their own websites, business contacts, etc.

If any of our rental clients want any help in this area, e.g. recommending owner web sites, writing text for websites, handling the administration of owner enquiries, etc, please let me know and I will put Michael in touch with you.

We are looking into the possibility of attending some further holiday trade shows during the winter months, both in the UK and in Spain.

## Blackpool Blues

Felicity is back in the UK for a while attending to her political activities. Our shy and retiring Marketing Director and co-owner is also a county councillor and chairs the planning and licensing committees in North Somerset, as well as being deputy chairman of the Woodspring constituency that has returned Dr Liam Fox MP (currently British Shadow Foreign Secretary and prospective candidate for the Tory Party leadership) to Parliament for the past 13 years. You may also see her on TV making her presence felt at the Tory Party Conference in Blackpool – in the bars if not on the podium!

## ♪The Rain in Spain...♪

Apart from being the hottest summer, this year has been the driest year in the last decade. As a result reservoir levels are quite low throughout Spain. Fortunately, the Marbella desalination plant (built in 1995) has been brought into action and is producing 450 litres of drinking water per second – sounds like a lot of water to me! However, we still need a lot of rain to fill the reservoirs and I hope that this will come when Jamie and I are in South Africa! You have been warned!

**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.  
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## **While on the subject...**

...of holidays, please remember that the month of October has two public holidays. The first is on Wednesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October (Nuestra Señora del Pilar) which is a National holiday. The second is the local San Pedro Holiday, one week later on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. If you are in Spain during the San Pedro Feria week, please remember that our office will only be open in the mornings in this week, as we like to enter Into the Feria Spirit.

## **SKYPE's The Limit**

Clients who have a broadband internet connection can now talk to us free of charge via their computer. All you need to do is to download the software (for free) and plug in a microphone/headpiece head set. The reception quality (so far) has been fantastic. The system lets you know when the call recipient is logged onto the internet and so you know when to call. The recipient has the choice of accepting the call or not – for example, if we were dealing with a client at the time, we would not be able to take the call. Try it at [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com).

## **Pain in the Back**

Many of you may know that Isabel, who is our Head of Housekeeping, has been away from work for a few weeks with a back injury. She is a very conscientious person and is very sorry that she has not been able to oversee the cleaning during the summer. It will probably be a few weeks before she returns, but she hopes to be back in time for the staff Christmas party! In the meantime, I am pleased to say, the equally capable Mari Carmen (Isabel's sister and second-in-command) is holding the reins.

## **Taxing Issue**

Talking of Christmas, don't forget that you income/wealth tax return for 2004 has to be completed and paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2005. Guillermo is dealing with this on behalf of a number of clients, but where you are using your own advisor, you will need to keep an eye on the timetable.

## **Maintenance Man**

Now that the peak of visiting is over, it is a good time to look to maintenance tasks and improvements. Jamie will now be reviewing properties to recommend items that require attention. However, you may have some ideas of your own. For example, is it time to fit a sunblind on the terrace, how about upgrading the terrace doors and windows, what about fitting a fly screen so that you can enjoy natural ventilation at night, does the paintwork need freshening up, etc? Let me know if you would like us to provide an estimate for you.

Best wishes,

*Beverley*

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