

The Front Desk



September 2011

Dear Clients and Friends,

August has been very hot – temperatures up to 40° on some occasions. However, the evenings are beginning to cool down a little and the day and night temperatures will soon be more pleasant.

News About Michael

I am pleased to say that Michael has returned to work full time. He has had a clear report from the hospital, so that is good news. His other good news is that he passed the first part of his A level Spanish exam with a grade B, just 4% short of an A. Not bad for someone of his advanced years! So, you can now happily ask him to do your translations for you!

Fiestas

We are now fiesta-free until the 12th and 19th October respectively. These dates fall in the middle of Jamie and my holiday to Mexico. We leave on the 1st October and return on 18th, so I will be spending September preparing for our absence. If you have any travel plans for October, please let me know as soon as possible in order for me to prepare the work schedules for your arrival.

IVA on Purchase of New Properties

The Government has reduced the rate of IVA on new properties from 8% to 4% with immediate effect until December 31st. The hope is that this will stimulate the sale of new properties and has been welcomed by the real estate industry. However, they caution that there is not a strong probability of this having a great effect in the short time available on the stock of 687000 unsold homes, of which 20000 are in Málaga province.

Water Supplies in Málaga

This year the water supplies have been plentiful in the local reservoirs, thanks to two consecutive wet winters. However, looking to the longer term, plans to build a second desalination plant on the Fuengirola-Mijas border (there is already one in Marbella) have been stuck in the planning process for six years. Although the design of the plant has been planned and approved and the construction contract has been let, the land for the construction has not yet been made available. Let's hope we have some more wet winters in the meantime!

On a more positive note plans are underway to construct a further 34 km of pipelines to supply recycled water from sewage plants to irrigate more golf courses. The first areas to be served by this network are expected to receive recycled water during 2012.

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Spanish Economy

In an uncharacteristic mood of collaboration, the ruling PSOE and the main Opposition party (Partido Popular) have agreed to an amendment to the Spanish constitution, to establish a legal limit on the level of government borrowing. The intention is to establish budget stability in all public administrations in the medium to long term. International pressure in the financial markets and from the French and German governments, combined with the impact of the forthcoming General Election, have manoeuvred the politicians into this agreement.

Fun in the Park

On Sunday 18th September at 6.30pm the International Theatre Studio (ITS) will present a charity evening **-Fun in the Park-** at the beautiful Parque Torre Leonera, Benahavís. All the proceeds from the evening's entertainment will go to the CUDECA Cancer Hospice in Benalmadena. In addition to music and singing, Jamie and I will be performing in a short comedy play. If you are here, bring a picnic along to enjoy in the park during the interval.

San Pedro Tunnel

The construction company has told San Pedro town hall that the project will be completed by December this year. The plan is to complete the surface work by the end of the summer, with efforts focussed on the one kilometre long tunnel during the remainder of the year. The project has a fixed budget 65m € and a contract condition that the project must be completed before 2012. Town hall plans to create a 90000 square metre park above the tunnel at a cost of 6m €, but no one seems to know where the money for this will come from!!

High Speed Train

The high speed train service between Malaga and Barcelona will be increased following its rise in popularity in the past few months. There will be four services in each direction. It is reported that prices can be as low as 57.35 € per journey, but finding these deals on the RENFE website is virtually impossible. If you are thinking of using the service, try booking via www.edreams.es by selecting the option "Trenes".

Malaga FC

Football fans will be interested to know about developments at Malaga FC where the new owner has invested significant sums of money in the purchase of players. The team finished in the middle of the league last year after hovering around the bottom for most of the season. This year fans have high hopes of greater success, but were disappointed by fact that the first match of the season against Barcelona was cancelled due to a national strike by players over unpaid wages!! The likelihood of being able to buy a ticket for any match is slim, as it is reported that the season is already a complete sell out.

And Finally...

After a couple of painful experiences, I am pleased to report that we can finally recommend a good (and gentle) Spanish dentist whose assistant speaks quite decent English. Hopefully this will not be required during one of your visits, but don't hesitate to call the office, should you experience any unexpected dental disasters and we will point you in the right direction! Until next month.

¡Hasta la vista!

Beverley

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