

The Front Desk



January 2009

Dear Clients,

Firstly, let me wish a Feliz Año Nuevo to all our clients, friends and colleagues around the world. The weather here over Christmas and New Year has been generally sunny. Michael confesses that it was warm enough on several days to sunbathe on his terrace in his bathing shorts. This is probably too much information!

Fiestas and Ferias

Talking of festivities, if you want to join in the festive fun of Spain, or avoid it, here are the feria and fiesta dates for your diary.

Public Holidays in Andalucía – 2009			
1st January	New Year's Day	15th August	Assumption of the Virgin
6th January	Epiphany, Three Kings' Day	12th October	Spain's Nacional Day
28th February	Andalucia Day	19th October	San Pedro de Alcántara
9th April	Maundy Thursday	02 November	All Saints Day
10th April	Good Friday	7th December	Constitution Day
1st May	May Day	8th December	Immaculate Conception
11th June	San Bernabé (Feria)	25th December	Christmas Day

Please remember that banks, offices and most shops will be closed on these days, although most bars and restaurants will be open. Our office will be closed on these public, although our 24-hour client helpline will operate as usual.

Tres Reyes

After recovering from New Year, the next major event in the Spanish calendar is on January 6th, Three Kings Day, when traditionally Spanish children receive their presents from Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar. The Three Kings themselves will be arriving all the way from the Orient along with their entourage on Monday January 5th for the procession known as 'cabalgata'. Tons of sweets will be thrown into the crowds by the Kings, so children (and grown ups) are advised to take a large bag with them!

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Spanish Economy

Figures released just before Christmas showed that Spain - the fourth-biggest economy in the euro zone - has slipped into a recession, defined as two or more consecutive quarters of negative growth. Responding to the shrinking economy and the collapse of the country's once buoyant construction sector, the Government recently unveiled an 11 billion euro stimulus package aimed at creating as many as 300,000 new jobs. The Prime Minister is predicting a start to the recovery by the second half of 2009. Let's hope he is right!!

Meanwhile the good news is that Spain's inflation rate toppled 1.2 percentage points in November to 2.4 percent from 3.6 percent in October to reach a 15-month low. It was the fourth month of reduction in a row, led by a drop in fuel costs.

Somewhere New To Eat

Try Restaurante "La Alborada" (The Dawn) in Estepona port close to the Club Nautico. This restaurant has won all kinds of awards – especially for its paella. The service is first class and the staff extremely welcoming and friendly. For a restaurant right in the middle of the tourist zone, the quality and price represent excellent value.

Road Safety

The Guardia Civil Trafico report that their aggressive road safety campaigns and the heavy fines being imposed appear to be taking effect, although accident rates remain high due to motorists driving too fast or not wearing their seatbelts, or more often than not, both. So, although matters are improving, stay alert.

Los Arqueros Entertainment

A note for your diaries for January... On the 26th our local Theatre Group, The International Theatre Studio, have been asked by the Restaurant at Los Arqueros Golf Club to provide an evening's entertainment, which naturally we have accepted! There will be two One Act Plays with the show kicking off at 8pm. Yours truly is performing in the second play, which is a comedy called 'The Worst Day of My Life', by Alan Richardson. For more information and booking, please call the restaurant on 952786437.

Once again, may I wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

Hasta la vista!

Kind regards,

Beverley

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