

# The Front Desk



July 2008

Dear Clients,

Summer has officially started in the Costa del Sol. On the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> June we celebrated the “noche de San Juan” on the beach, with firework spectacles, bonfires, music and dancing lasting long into the night. The celebration takes place on the shortest night of the year in almost every Spanish town and city. According to legend people who jump over a bonfire on this night will be cleansed and their problems burned away. A dip in the sea at midnight also brings good luck – and soothing relief if you have just been jumping over bonfires!!!

## **Office Hours**

As the season gets busier, I thought that I would just remind you of our office hours. These are 9.00 – 13.00 and 14.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday (Spanish time). In order to avoid a wasted visit, please telephone first to check that we are here as we are frequently in and out of the office.

Outside these hours, we do not routinely monitor emails or messages left on the office answer phone. If you do have an urgent request or need to make contact with us in an emergency, our 24-hour helpline is **00 34 606 97 58 33**. It is worth keeping a note of this number to hand – often guests with a problem call the owner for help because they do not have our emergency number to hand.

## **Football Crazy**

As fans of “futbol” we have been following the fortunes of the Spanish team and are delighted that Spain is the European champion. We apologise to all our clients whose teams were not successful in the competition! As you can imagine the towns of Spain went crazy with celebrations late into Sunday night and early Monday morning. Monday itself was a quiet day in Spain – I wonder why.

## **Phew! It's Hot**

The Health Department has guidelines for protection against the effects of high temperatures – mostly common sense, but worth repeating here.

- Avoid exposure to the sun and exercise during the hottest part of the day (11.00 – 17.00)
- Wear light (weight and colour) cotton clothing and always keep the head covered
- Keep windows closed and curtains drawn
- Drink plenty of water and fruit juice – avoid alcohol at the hottest times of the day
- Eat plenty of fruit and vegetables

## **New Client**

We are pleased to add a client from another Scandinavian country – Norway this time – to our portfolio.

**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)

HPS Property Services Siglo XXI (SL), Urb. El Alto N° 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavís, 29679, (Málaga), España.

CIF N° B – 92606953

## **New York**

Combine your trip to the Costa del Sol with a trip to New York!! There are now direct flights from Malaga three times a week, leaving at the very civilised hour of 2.00 p.m.

## **Transport Strike**

This month saw a lorry drivers' strike affecting deliveries of fuel, food and building materials. Only a relatively small number of mainly independent haulage contractors was involved, but the effect of picketing increased the impact of the strike. The striking drivers were protesting about the price of fuel and the impact on delivery costs.

There was a certain amount of panic buying initially and some minor inconvenience. However, the government arranged police escorts of essential supplies and the problem was resolved.

## **Driving Offences**

The Guardia Civil Trafico are conducting a number of campaigns during the summer. The top offence is speeding (there's a surprise). The Golden Mile between Puerto Banus and Marbella is a particular black spot and you should be very wary of the speed limits, even if a Spanish driver is tailgating you and flashing his/her lights!

The second most common offence is using a mobile phone while driving, followed by driving under the influence of alcohol. Beware!!

## **Cruising from Malaga**

Malaga is now the home port to ten cruise liners. Three major international companies – Royal Caribbean, Pulmantur and MSC now arrange departures from Malaga. So, if you are planning a diversion from your normal Costa del Sol holiday, this may be something to think about.

## **Email**

We apologise for delays in handling emails at the end of last week. Our hosting service was upgrading its service and one of the consequences was that temporarily we could not send emails. Part of this upgrading was to implement more rigorous Spam filtering. This should not normally affect emails received from you, but occasionally (for completely inexplicable reasons) one of your messages arrives as Spam. So if you have written to us but have heard nothing for a couple of working days, feel free to give us a prompt.

Similarly, you may find that some of our emails to you arrive as Spam. Your Spam manager should allow you to "train" it to recognise emails from HPS as being OK and to allow them to go to your inbox.

Hasta la vista

Kind regards,

*Beverley*

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