

The Front Desk

MARCH 2005



Dear Clients,

Welcome to the first edition of The Front Desk, letting you know what is happening with HPS, your property and the Costa del Sol in general.

HPS Website

We are doing a lot of work on our website at the moment which will be of particular interest to our clients who rent out their properties. Initially this work will be “behind-the-scenes” in order to make an immediate improvement to the website’s ranking and to increase the number of prospective visitors. Over the coming months we shall also be making the booking screen more user-friendly and introducing some new information pages.

Visitor Information Books

I am currently bringing our visitors’ information book up to date. If you feel that there is something that would be particularly helpful to include, feel free to let me know.

Property Management

I am sometimes asked to clarify what is included in our property management service. I am now bringing this information together in one place and will be writing to you again so that you will have a full summary.

New Service

As you know, it is necessary for non-residents to make an annual tax return to the Hacienda. We are now able to offer this service to you via our accountant, Guillermo. In most cases, where the report is straightforward, the charge for this service will be 125 € + IVA. Where the case is more complex, it will be necessary to price this according to the amount of work involved. Let me know if you are interested in this service and I will ask Guillermo to get in touch with you. Please be aware that some lawyers charge up to 600 €uros for carrying out this service.

Holiday Rental Marketing

We are in discussion with a UK holiday company which specialises in Spanish holidays, but which does not currently cover the San Pedro area. If we are able to reach an agreement with this company, we shall have access to their websites (public and trade) as well as a network of 2000 independent travel agents.

Quality Control

I know that there are times when you or your guests want to make a note about maintenance or cleaning issues. We will, therefore, be including a report sheet in the house brochure, which I hope will be helpful to us all.

Long Term Rentals

In the past few days we have received enquiries about long-term rentals. This is not the type of business that we have usually managed in the past. However, we are looking into the relevant legal issues and would be interested to hear from you, if you wanted to offer your property for a long term let, i.e. 12 month or more.

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Golfing

Because of the change of ownership we have had to renew all contracts with golf courses for green fee concessions. This process is almost complete and we will publish the new price list in March. However, are there favourite courses which we do not feature at present? If so, let me know and I will see if we can secure a discount on their rates.

Public Holidays

The next public holidays will be at Easter (24th and 25th of March). If you do plan to visit during Holy Week, there will be many processions in San Pedro and the surrounding towns and villages.

Semana Santa is celebrated during the week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Easter Monday, although a Bank Holiday in many countries including Gibraltar, is not celebrated in Spain.

Easter week processions compete with each other for splendour. Parades leave town churches to wend slowly through the streets carrying statues of Christ on the cross and the Virgin Mary in mourning. Religious brotherhoods (Hermandades) representing guilds of tradesman, in elaborate robes often with high pointed cowls covering their faces, carry the very heavy statues with a slow rocking gait accompanied by drum beat, incense and candles. See the picture below. The Costa towns and villages are full of pageantry and music whilst Malaga, famous for the size and grandeur of its processions, virtually comes to a standstill and is one of the best places to observe these rites. Apart from parading through the streets of their towns, the local brotherhoods hold exhibitions of their paraphernalia and possessions



Santa Semana Religious Procession



Holidays later in the year are: -

May 2 nd	Fiesta del Trabajo
June 11 th	Fiesta Local
August 15th	Asunción de la Virgen
October 12th	Fiesta Nacional de España
October 19th	Fiesta Local
November 1st	Todos los Santos
December 6 th	Día de la Constitución
December 8th	La Inmaculada Concepción
December 26th	Monday following Christmas Day

June 11th is a great opportunity to enjoy a spectacular firework display in Marbella. October 19th is the climax of festivities in San Pedro.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon.

Best wishes from,

Beverley

Beverley at the Front Desk