

The Front Desk



March 2007

Dear Clients,

Hello from warm and sunny San Pedro - a perfect time to be enjoying a break on the Costa del Sol. I should particularly like to welcome the many new clients that have joined HPS in recent weeks.

Fiesta – Semana Blanca

This week has seen us celebrate Andalucia Day which fell in the middle of Semana Blanca. This is a week of holiday for students in Spain. It is similar to the Spring half-term school holiday in the UK.

Typically the holiday will involve a visit to the snow-covered ski resorts in Sierra Nevada or the Pyrenees – hence the “white week”. Those of you from Northern Europe, who already see plenty of cold weather, may prefer to spend Semana Blanca in the sun!

In An Emergency Dial: 112

The European emergency number, 112, received over eight million calls throughout Andalucia during 2006. This number should ONLY be used in emergencies: health care, fires and rescue, police emergency, etc. Your call will then be put through to the department or departments needed to deal with the case.

The same number is used throughout Europe. It is free and can be called even with a mobile phone that has no SIM card. Your call will be attended to in English, French, German or Portuguese. Clients, who have used this service, speak very highly of its efficiency.

Beaches

I am often asked for suggestions about which beaches to visit. We have now placed some information about the many beaches in the Marbella area on our website. Go to www.spanishrentalholidays.com, select the “Holidays” page and scroll down to the bottom.

San Pedro Theatre

Many thanks to clients who are coming to support my direction (and appearance in) “Bad Blood” at the theatre in San Pedro. Tonight is the first night – so, I will report back next month, if I am spared by the audience!! It is my first effort at directing a play in San Pedro and I am pleased to be bossing Jamie around in his spare time as well as during working hours!

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 E-mail: enquiries@spanishrentalholidays.com

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San Pedro de Alcántara By-Pass and Underpass

The biggest bottle-neck on the entire Costa del Sol over recent decades has always been in San Pedro, with long queues of traffic leading into and out of the town, especially during the summer. Plans to build a by-pass have been on the cards for many years too, and include the building of a tunnel underneath the area just south of the town centre, where the main road (old N340) presently runs.

This month the construction work on the new tunnel finally began, causing more – but temporary – traffic problems for all who live in the town and have to travel through it. A major objective of the scheme is that vehicles travelling long distances – which means heading for Algeciras or Malaga – will not need to go through the San Pedro urban area, but will be directed to take the by-pass instead.

The plans for the work, which is expected to last for two and a half years, have been put on public view in the Town Hall in San Pedro. It appears that foreign residents are most concerned with the project - eight out of ten people requesting information on the plan and provisional traffic circulation details are foreign - above all British.

Watch this space...

Be Safe and Secure

Sadly we have had reports that visitors to the Costa del Sol have experienced thefts of cash and credit cards – from handbags in the supermarket, from their golf bag (while playing!), from jackets in restaurants. Whilst these thefts have not involved any violence, the experience is nonetheless upsetting – never mind the inconvenience. Please remember always to be vigilant and to take all the sensible precautions that you would at home.

Easter Holiday – Semana Santa

For those of you planning a visit at Easter, this is a reminder of the opportunity to enjoy the festivities of the most important holy festival in Spain. For those of you who have not experienced the nightly processions during Holy Week, it is a definite “must”. The public holidays in Spain at that time are on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th April. If you are coming out earlier in that week to transact any business, e.g. meeting your lawyer, it will be as well to ensure in advance, that they do not decide to close their office for the whole week!

As Easter eggs are not a feature of Spanish culture, Michael has already brought over a supply of chocolate cream eggs for me and Jamie. I hope that he will be carrying a larger case on his next trip!!

¡Hasta la vista!

Beverley

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