

The Front Desk

November 2005



Dear Clients,

With half term, the Volvo Masters and Halloween behind us, it's that time again! Yes, it's only 54 shopping days to Christmas! And for the family member or friend who has everything, why not treat them to a few days in your sunshine home. I have checked out some of the budget airline flight prices and out-of-season fares are incredibly good value. Personally, I would prefer a bottle of perfume, but I don't have everything...yet!

November Office Hours

As reported in last month's newsletter, Jamie and I will be on holiday in South Africa for three weeks – from 1st to 21st November. During this time Michael will be helping Rodd with property maintenance and gardening. So we have decided to open the San Pedro offices until 1.00 pm (Spanish time). For routine enquiries outside these hours, call 00 34 667 75 74 50 and you will be able to reach Michael on his mobile phone. For emergency maintenance, you will be able to reach Rodd on the usual out-of-hours helpline number 00 34 606 97 58 33.

Public Holidays

Don't forget that 1st November, All Saints Day, is a public holiday in Spain. We certainly need another one after having only recovered in the past few days from the holidays on 12th and 19th October. No wonder the Mediterranean lifestyle is so healthy.

And in preparation for Christmas, there will be two further holidays in December 6th (Constitution Day) and 8th December (Immaculate Conception). If you are planning to be here during early December, you will need to bear these dates in mind – lawyers, builders and many other trades usually close down for the whole week.

Skype Takes Off

Last month I introduced Skype (www.skype.com) – a means of making telephone calls for free via your broadband internet connection. Two clients are already using the system to talk to us and we are regularly using the Skype to talk to business partners in the UK. If you want to test the system, my Skype address is [reception-spanishrentalholidays](skype:reception-spanishrentalholidays), Michael's is [michael.baker](skype:michael.baker) and Guillermo's is [accountsspanishrentalholidays](skype:accountsspanishrentalholidays). With Christmas just over the horizon, it is going to be a great way to make calls to friends and family...and us, of course!

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Emergency Helpline: 00 34 606 97 58 33

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CIF N° B - 92606953

Occupancy Rates

I am pleased to report that, despite the reported downturn in business on the Costa del Sol this year – some reports speak of a 30% reduction, owner and HPS occupancy rates have kept pace with 2004 figures. Whilst we would all like it to be higher, I am pleased that we have bucked the trend. Michael will be writing to “renting” owners with more detail.

Website

Our website has been further upgraded this month. We can now update the News and Events page and the Special Offers on a regular basis. It can also now handle holiday booking enquiries, calculate the charges and take credit card payments automatically. However, we emphasise the personal nature of the company and invite prospective renters to make direct contact with us prior to booking, if they want to learn more about a particular property.

We are grateful to those clients who have already offered to set up a reciprocal link between their company website and the HPS site. Hopefully this will be of mutual benefit and we would welcome similar offers from other clients.

Atalaya Golf

We have just secured a contract with Atalaya Golf and are now able to offer discounted rates at this course. If you are interested in learning about these rates and those at other courses which have offered us a discount, please let me know and I will send you a list of green fees.

New Year's Eve

Restaurants are already taking bookings for New Year's Eve. Normally, they require full payment in advance. As a price guide the Los Arqueros Golf Club is charging 135 € per head. Other mid-range restaurants in San Pedro and in Puerto Banus are charging around 100 €. However, do remember the very strict drink/driving laws and plan to take a taxi home. You cannot book a taxi in advance and will have to call the cab company a little while before your planned departure time.

Bye for now!

Best wishes,

Beverley

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