

The Front Desk



October 2009

Dear Clients,

Bienvenido from the Costa del Sol. September is already bringing cooler weather and some heavy showers. Quite a change from the very hot weather of June through to August – and now time to bring out your light sweaters and jackets for the later evening.

Holidays & October Office Hours

I am sending this newsletter out a little earlier this month. As you will recall from last month's newsletter, Jamie and I leave for our holidays this week on the evening of 30th September. We will be back in the office on Tuesday 20th October. So, we have a busy few days before packing up on Wednesday evening. If you have plans to visit during October or have requirements that we do not already know about, please drop me a line or call as soon as possible.

While we are away Michael will be covering for me as well as assisting Rodd with maintenance service. He may even find time to do some of his own work!! The basic plan is for him to be in the office during the morning and out and about in the afternoon as required. As always our emergency phone will be operational 24 x 7 and you will be able to contact Michael or Rodd if you have an urgent enquiry.

Computer Problems

September has been a crazy computer month for Michael with just about everything going wrong. So, if you have had some strange emails from him – odd font sizes, dates, colours, etc – he hopes that you will be understanding. However, he has now retired his old computer and is treating himself to a new laptop. Hopefully calm will now be restored in the office.

Another Record in 2009

The Spanish Institute of Oceanography has reported that the temperature of the sea in August was the warmest for 25 years. The average temperature is 20.7^o C. However, in August it reached temperatures of up to 26.5^oC. Experts attribute this to the effect of the Levante winds blowing from the east.

Marbella International Film Festival

The 4th International Film Festival will take place between 1st and 4th October, attracting "A" list candidates, celebrities and musicians. Of 650 films submitted, 50 have been selected for screening.

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To Kiss or Not to Kiss?

Spain's Minister of Health, Trinidad Jimenéz, recently presented the government's swine flu prevention campaign, which included (amongst other things) a recommendation to avoid greeting people with the customary two kisses. Shortly after issuing this advice the Minister was photographed greeting a colleague with the customary two kisses.

Save the Planet

Spanish supermarkets are turning to recyclable and reusable shopping bags to replace the one-use plastic bags that we are used to. Carrefour is the first chain to join in the environmentally friendly campaign and is also selling raffia and cotton bags as well as fold-down trolleys. It's just like life when my Mum was a little girl...!!

Malaga Airport

Contracts have now been awarded to 21 food and drink outlets and 24 shops at Malaga airport, most of which will be in the new terminal. The aim is for this commercial centre to be the best in Spain. Many of the contracts have been awarded to household names in the UK, targeting British visitors who make up 40% of airport users.

Utilities

Just a reminder to keep an eye on your bank accounts in Spain. In the space of a week we have had three clients whose electricity, water and telephone services respectively have been disconnected. The Spanish have an odd system of not bringing forward outstanding balances on the following invoices and re-applying for the direct debit at that stage. Because the account collection follow up can be very slow, clients have had their services disconnected for invoices which might be several months old, even though they have paid more recent accounts.

Air Conditioning Systems

After one of the hottest summers on record, air conditioning systems have been working hard. If yours has not had a recent service, it may be time to think about this, particularly if the system also provides your heating.

Public Holidays

In October we are celebrating Spain's National Day on 12th and San Pedro's Day on 19th October. Our office will be closed on both days, but our emergency helpline will be operating as usual.

Hasta Noviembre

Beverley

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