

# The Front Desk



September 2008

Dear Clients,

As August drew to a close there was a definite change in the weather in the mornings and evenings with temperatures distinctly cooler. In fact we experienced a brief downpour of rain – nothing like that experienced in the UK this summer, but rain nonetheless! There is no need for jackets just yet, but ladies may need to wear a light shawl after dinner.

## **Fiesta**

September is free of fiestas. The next date for your diary is the Feria for San Pedro de Alcantara on 19<sup>th</sup> October. There will be lots of partying, events and a big fun fair – and rain (according to tradition). The Feria falls on a Sunday this year, which means that Monday (20<sup>th</sup>) will be a local public holiday in San Pedro

## **Hottest Summer in Malaga...**

The Meteorological Office in Spain says that the months of July and August have been the hottest in over 60 years, and this is mainly because of the high number of hot winds, known as 'terral'.

Temperatures exceeded 35 degrees on 19 days from June 21st to the end of August. In the summers of 2001, 2003 and 2007 temperatures of 35 degrees were recorded on 15 days. Weather experts say that the average number of days in which there is 'terral' in the summer is normally seven or eight; this year that number doubled. August 1st was the hottest night recorded in 40 years with temperatures reaching 27.6 degrees.

## **Smile Please!!**

Have you ever thought of having professional photos taken while on holiday – wedding anniversaries, family birthdays, golf events, etc? As many of you choose to celebrate these events at your home in Spain, it is a good opportunity to have a memento.

We have retained the services of Rosalind Scott-Gibb who has worked on a number of assignments for us, including photo-shoots of clients' properties. If you have played golf at Los Flamings, you may already have met Rosalind where she is the course photographer. Please contact me to find out more.

In addition to her photographic work Rosalind broadcasts a weekly classical music programme on the international radio station OCI (101.6 FM 09.00 – 10.00 and 22.00 -23.00) and has been a contributor to and editor of a number of international publications.

**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](http://www.spanishrentalholidays.com) E-mail: [enquiries@spanishrentalholidays.com](mailto:enquiries@spanishrentalholidays.com)

HPS Property Services Siglo XXI (SL), Urb. El Alto Nº 16, Los Arqueros Golf, Benahavís, 29679, (Málaga), España.

CIF Nº B – 92606953

## **Maintenance and Repairs**

In previous summers guests had experienced major inconvenience because of air conditioning breakdown. In spite of the record heat, I am pleased to report that this summer was almost incident-free, thanks to clients' investment in a/c servicing.

Wherever possible we endeavour to attend to and resolve maintenance issues on the same day. However, it is important that we know about a problem at the earliest opportunity – some guests this year have been inconvenienced for several days but have only advised us on Friday evening, but which time it is almost impossible to get a specialist tradesman to attend before the following Monday.

## **Saturday Night Fever**

If you are looking to take a pleasant evening stroll on a Saturday evening, the Paseo Marítimo at both Estepona and Marbella are great places to go. Estepona is full of Spanish families walking to and fro enjoying the evening air and looking at the craft stalls as they pass by. Marbella (near the leisure marina) is another good place to “people watch”, but with the added benefit of plenty of beachside restaurants and bars.

## **Cleaning Schedule**

We have had one or two hairy moments when cleaning has been requested at the last moment. Our new team of cleaners have been very cooperative and have managed to help out wherever possible. Please give us as much notice as possible of your intending travel arrangements and requirements. Details of provisional plans are very helpful – it is easier for us to cancel a job at short notice than to find additional pairs of hands at short notice to do the work.

When you plan your visits or those of family, friends and clients, please remember that cleaning on Sundays and public holidays attracts a premium charge. We publish the dates of public holidays in our January news letter, so that you can plan ahead. We always try to avoid working on these days, but if for example there is a same day changeover on a Sunday or public holiday, we have no choice but to do the work.

## **Rock and Roll**

Michael has now been promoted to teacher's helper (“crew” in the jargon) at his Rock and Roll dance class – he even has a T-shirt to prove it!!! Local classes are now held on Mondays in Marbella (near Los Naranjos) and Tuesday (near Cancelada) – experienced dancers and newcomers are all welcome.

I realise that he has not grown up yet as he is making a pilgrimage to the UK at the end of the month to see the Moody Blues and Status Quo. Worse still he is going to see Deep Purple at the Estepona bull ring. Anyone else going through their second childhood might like to check the following Spanish website which lists musical and other events in Spain: [www.ticktacket.com](http://www.ticktacket.com). Tickets can often be purchased locally at the FNAC store in La Cañada.

Hasta la vista

Kind regards,

*Beverley*

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