

# The Front Desk



September 2009

Dear Clients,

Hola from the Costa del Sol in September! I wish I could say that we are now experiencing cooler temperatures, but alas, it's still scorchio.

## **Booking Information**

Thanks to all for providing full information about your arrival and departure times throughout the summer. This information makes a huge difference in my ability to programme cleaning and the preparation of apartments and villas in an efficient manner. Over the past 18 months we have been building up a new, young and enthusiastic team of cleaners who are very flexible and are committed to providing an excellent service to clients.

## **Holidays**

Jamie and I will be taking holidays from 1<sup>st</sup> October, returning to work on 20<sup>th</sup>. We are off to St Lucia to enjoy my 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Ok, Ok, bit of a white lie there, but I'm sure you all get the idea. We are currently planning the work schedule for the period that we are away and I shall be grateful if you will let me have details of any travel plans you or your guests may have (however tentative), so that we can plan ahead to prepare your property. Similarly if you have any maintenance, golf and car hire requirements, I shall be able to organise these. Michael will staff the office and Rodd will be on hand to assist with any urgent maintenance.

## **Terral Wind**

The dreaded hot wind that blows into Malaga province from the inner plateau of Spain, blew on one day out of every three in July. This is more than double the average for that month and accounts for the higher than normal temperatures. The national Meteorological Agency has confirmed that temperatures reached historic heights, recording more than 39°C on five days – something that has never previously been recorded in July in the Malaga province. The hottest temperature was recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> July when thermometers almost reached 42°. In these temperatures dehydration is a serious risk and drinking plenty of water is advised.

## **Malaga Airport**

Work on the new terminal is nearing completion and trial operations will take place early next year with a sample of 2500 passenger and 4000 items of luggage. The new airport will bring the capacity up to 30 million passengers a year. They will check in at 179 desks and 48 boarding gates with a capacity to cope with 9000 passengers per hour. The car parking area will have space for more than 3500 vehicles. The second runway, almost doubling flight capacity, should be complete by the end of 2010.

**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)

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29679, (Málaga), España.  
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## **Dongle**

What is a “dongle”? You may well ask. It is a little piece of kit that you can plug into your laptop and which allows you to “keep in touch” from any spot, where you can receive a signal. You can buy one in your home country and bring it with you, but you will be paying international call charges, or you can buy one in Spain through the main suppliers’ shops, e.g. Vodafone, Orange, etc. I understand that they are also available from other sources, but that they may not be so reliable. If you have any helpful tips about dongles that we can share with other clients, please let me know.

If, however, you are like me and Jamie and you go on holiday to “get away from it all”, don’t buy a dongle. Who wants to be in touch with the boss when you are on holiday? Ooops!!! Sorry, Michael!!

## **No Smoking!! The story continues...**

The Ministry of Health is considering modifying the law which came into operation in January 2006 to include a complete ban on smoking in public places including bars. Currently smoking is only permitted in bars which are less than 100 square metres in size. This means in practice that the law only applies to 40,000 of the 350,000 bars in Spain and the owners of these are obliged to have separate areas for smokers. Although there is much opposition from bar owners to these proposed changes, surveys indicate that 70% of the population would be in favour of such a move, including half of Spain’s estimated 12 million smokers.

## **Pay-As-You-Go Mobile Phones**

The Spanish Ministry of the Interior has issued a reminder to the public that they only have three months to register pay-as-you-go mobile phones which were purchased before November 2007. Numbers can be registered by taking a photo-id in to any Vodafone, Movistar, or Orange shop. Users who do not register their SIM cards by 09 November 2009 will find themselves without a telephone line and will lose their number. The initiative is an attempt to eliminate the use of unregistered telephones by organised crime groups and terrorist gangs. By changing the law to require mobile users to register their numbers, authorities hope that they will now be able to detect and investigate serious crime more easily.

## **Stars At Night**

We have all enjoyed a visit by cable car this year to the top of the Benamadena mountain, where keen local astronomer Ken Campbell lectures three times a week during July and August on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. In addition to the illustrated talk, Ken points out interesting features in the sky and there is the opportunity to view the heavenly bodies through his powerful telescope. Too late for this year, bookmark a visit for 2010 and visit Ken at [www.kencampbell.info](http://www.kencampbell.info). Of course, the cable car is open throughout the year and a visit is worth it at any time of the year.

Hope you have a good September.

¡Hasta Luego!

*Beverley*

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