

# All about **Benalmadena** and **Torremolinos**

Issue 242

www.theolivepress.es

June 22nd - July 5th 2016



## A different spirit



**Benalmadena is uplifting in more ways than one, and can be chilly even in summer, discovers Iona Napier**



**“A**FTER my wife died I spent three years travelling the world to find the perfect place to spend the rest of my life,” explains Bob Bainbridge, who moved to Benalmadena three months ago. “And there is something very special about this town, something undeniably different.” He isn’t kidding. We’re on a sleepy back road in Benalmadena *pueblo*, heading towards an enormous gold monument glinting spectacularly in the midday sun that happens to be the biggest Buddhist temple in Europe. A whopping 33 metres high, it was the final project of Buddhist master Lopon Tsechu Rinpoche, who was so smitten by Benalmadena’s multi-cultural mix that he built the stupa in 2003 in its honour. “The sense of calm and community feeling here is very strong,” continues Bob, who had become my self-appointed guide for the day. Touchingly, friendly Bob cut short his cana

**Continues on Page 20**

HEAVENLY: Keeping calm and discovering Benalmadena’s Santa Domingo church (above), Buddhist monument (top right) and Colomares Castle

Colomares

Castillo Monumento  
Castle Monument

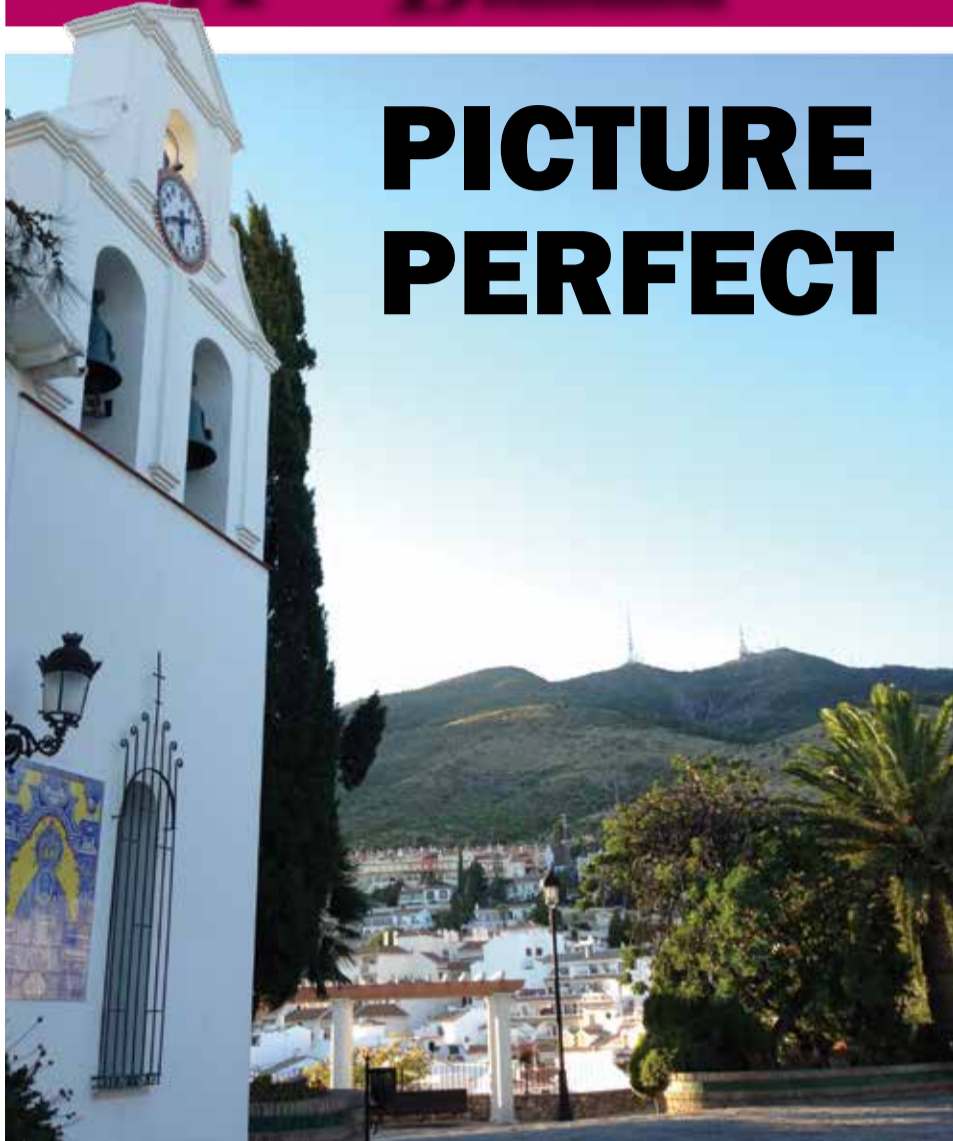
Horarios | Opening Hours

invierno | winter: 10h-13.30h - 16h-18h  
primavera | spring: 10h-13.30h - 16h-19h  
verano | summer: 10h-13.30h - 17h-21h  
otoño | autumn: 10h-13.30h - 16h-18h

days  
**365**  
días



Ctra. Costa del Sol, finca la carraca s/n · 29639 · Benalmádena Pueblo (Málaga) · Tlf. 952 448 821 · Mov. 678 034 011



## PICTURE PERFECT

From Page 19

to give me a personal escort around the village, chucking in his abridged life story for free.

Strolling around in surfer flip flops, with long grey hair, he is the very epitome of the sort of laid back, cultured traveller who would have first arrived in the village in the 1960s.

Up here, in the hills, it is a very different feel to the heaving tourist meccas of Benalmadena costa, Torremolinos and Fuengirola far down below.

The cluster of white houses sit at 280m and count on lovely sea views and a sense of green space and hills.

"You're close to the action but not in the thick of it, and there are some really good people here, not to mention great bars," enthuses 66-year-old widower Bob, a retired electrician from York whose new home overlooks the stupa.

As the temple represents peace, prosperity and harmony it's good *feng shui* although not something Bob considered on arrival. It's also only one of Benalmadena's many curiosities that intrigue visitors.

Enchanting Colomares Castle is another – an ornate palace built in 1992 by a certain doctor Esteban Martin in honour of Christopher Columbus – go figure.

Without a single architectural qualification to his credit he did a stunning job with this unlikely Gothic hillside structure whose ornate towers and spires rise skyward like a fairytale illustration. Once used for falconry



**ICONIC:** Watch tower in Benalmadena

shows until locals complained about the birds preying on their cats, everyone loves it for its Hans Andersen vibe.

And while you're up here, don't miss the *Mariposario* – another

extraordinary attraction housing 1,500 exotically-coloured butterflies.

The pueblo is a bijou gem of gourmet tapas bars clustered along narrow alleyways that

**H&B**  
SINCE  
1870

## HOLLAND & BARRETT

We're the U.K's  
leading retailer of  
vitamins, minerals &  
herbal supplements.

**FUENGIROLA**

Miramar Shopping Centre, Local B-20  
Tel. +34 952 586 849

**MARBELLA**

Ave. Ramón y Cajal, 7. Local 1  
Tel. +34 952 766 327

**SEVILLA**

O'Donnell Street, 32. Local 1  
Tel. +34 955 673 996

**GRANADA**

Puentezuelas Street, 18  
Tel. +34 958 254 954

New  
Opening



Holland & Barrett Andalucía

PICTURESQUE: Beachfront



emerge into picturesque floral squares.

Restaurants like Longhorn del Sol, stylish tapas bar Gastro La Tajeta, and Italian trattoria Palo D'Oro give the village a gastro-nomic edge.

It's not just Brits who flock to this enclave. Teresa Garcia, on holiday with her doctor daughter and adorable baby grandson from Madrid, waxes lyrical as they look out over the ocean from Colomares castle, getting to geographical grips with Benalmadena's triple decker topography that epitomises the something-for-everyone cliché - from feathered vultures wheeling skyward to fodder for culture vultures down at sea level, where you will find Moorish-inspired Bil Bil Castle, host to countless modern art exhibitions and concerts.

Bil Bil recalls the age when Muslim foreigners invaded these shores and brought huge prosperity to the pueblo in the hills where Benalmadena's story began.

The Moors developed agriculture, introducing sugar cane, figs, grapes and mulberry trees from the East during the 11th century, when the local population was concentrated within the pretty walled town.

But that's another story. Mine continues downhill to Arroyo de la Miel, jutting out like a balcony between the sky above and the sea below.

This is Benalmadena's sharp end where the real business of shopping, working and living gets done. It's

also home to one of the resort's most enduring family attractions - Tivoli World, open every day in June from 4pm to midnight and in July and August from 5.30pm-1.30am.

From here, via the iconic Teleferico cable car, you can go up or down. Once you get used to seeing sea, and not snow, beneath your swaying cabin you can appreciate being lifted up to the peak of Mount Calamorro, over the A-7 road, with spectacular views and live shows in summer. If you prefer to walk to the bot-

tom, take the route through stunning La Paloma park, a peaceful 200,000m<sup>2</sup> urban oasis of greenery with shady lakeside walkways and a menagerie of surprising wildlife.

They say the Spanish embrace siesta culture and Benalmadena at 4pm presents strong evidence to support this. But down the bottom of town I fall upon Irish bar El Chorrillo where the mainly British clientele are discussing Brexit over their pints of Guinness and G & Ts.

Iris Lawrence, 68, swapped south London for the south of Spain in her 40s, after a career as PA for one of BP oil's top executives. She has some tales to tell. Just like Bob, she came here on holiday to visit her friend Jill and 'never really left'.

"It's changed a lot here in 20 years with considerable development," Iris relates, gesturing at old photographs of donkeys and traps in the street, taken just decades ago. "But I still love it here."

Outside siesta time, breezy Benalmadena Costa is undoubtedly the beating heart of town with its bar-lined beach strip and pumping port. Two glorious kilometres of seafront stretch between the ziggurat-shaped Benal Beach apartments and the swanky marina while 10km of coastline can deliver the perfect beach - rocky cove, sandy strip or nudist colony - whatever your whim.

Here you will also find the incredibly popular Sunset Beach Hotel, probably the coast's most successful place to stay, balancing quality with value and rarely less than 80% full. Sybarites and socialisers head for Calle Bonanza, where the Lounge Bar is the unofficial Guri Army HQ but most visitors end up at the port, the jewel in the resort's crown.

Winner of the 'Best Marina in the World' award more than once, it's an all-white and more down-to-earth version of multicoloured Sotogrande Port, with pseudo-Moorish architecture and minaret domes suggesting Mr Whippy ice cream - and you can still get a 99 here.

Designer boutiques, bars and restaurants do a roaring trade, especially after dark when the waterfront twinkles with rainbow-coloured lights and the discos get going. By day there's scuba diving, Segways, bikes, dolphin cruises - it's not for lazy landlubbers.

In my best Spanish I ask four handsome seadogs basking atop a luxury white catamaran in smart shirts if I can take their

photo. Skipper Jason replies with an English 'yes'.

This working Brit guarantees to show you dolphins Monday to Friday and his two-hour booze cruises top Tripadvisor's list of outdoor pursuits in Benalmadena.

Just down the promenade, Laura Castillon can take you on a 10-minute Segway tour of the marina to give you a taste of these curious pogo sticks on wheels.

"I would say 70% of tourists here are Brits," she reveals.

"After that there's around 20% Dutch and the other 10% is a



FROM TOP: Iris, Medina tourist Teresa and drinkers in El Chomillo

melting pot with a tiny 1% of Spaniards."

She continues: "I should add that the English always behave impeccably and we love working with you."

Time to sample Benalmadena's coolest bar, entirely made of frozen water.

Essentially a walk-in fridge with blue walls, garish music and all revellers dressed in floor-length

fur ponchos, if you're seeking respite from the 40 degree heat, the Ice Bar has my full recommendation.

So don your furs - whether for an elegant, on-board soiree or a spell in the fridge bar - and strut your stuff until the wee small hours. The pueblo will still be there to soothe your hangover and quench your thirst for peace and quiet tomorrow.

**Winner of the 'Best Marina in the World' award it's a down-to-earth Sotogrande**



JEWEL: Benalmadena Port and (above) the Borrasco Experience boys

**LONGHORN**  
DEL SOL  
STEAK & BURGER

**Tom Parker Bowles**  
Gourmet writer

"Have just feasted Galician beef. F... me sergeant major. Epic, splendid and sublime"  
His reaction eating our Bone-in Rib-eye in London

**Kitchen Open:**  
Monday - Saturday 6:30pm to 11pm  
and Sunday 1pm to 10pm without a break!

+ BBQ "as often as you like" for just 16,50€ each Sunday from 1p.m. to 10p.m. and on Mondays 6:30p.m. to 11p.m

+ Best meat from Galicia and Argentina

+ Salmon Tartare and Steak Tartare

+ Specialities inc Spare ribs (12,80 €) and Mixed grill (12,90€)

+ Homemade desserts and more

'Menu economico' 3-courses for just 19,50 pp

Longhorn del Sol, c/San Miguel 29639  
Benalmadena Pueblo 36°35'37.8"N 4°34'24.2"W  
**Tel: 952 569 995**  
info@longhorn-del-sol.com www.longhorn-del-sol.com  
www.facebook.com/LonghornPueblo



WELCOME: Torremolinos

...there really is a pot of tourist gold for Torremolinos, the wizard LGBT holiday hot spot of Europe, writes Laurence Dollimore

“Crazy, this summer is going to be crazy,” predicts gay bar owner Paulo Molleda of Café El N.A in Torremolinos. “I make double the money in summer and I only have to work half the hours! Last week for gay pride we had 97% full capacity in all the hotels and bars.” Like the tens of other LGBT-friendly bars in the famous La Nogalera district, Paulo will be taking advantage of the thousands of ‘rainbow warriors’ who will descend on this party-friendly town west of Málaga

# Somewhere over the rainbow...



BUSTLING: Torremolinos prepares for LGBT summer crowds

city to tan and tippie cocktails with a colourful crowd of all sexual predilections.

If a resort can be said to have ‘come out of the closet’ it’s this once poor fishing village which spent its 1960s adolescence as the package holiday choice of *Birdie Song aficionados* and has come of age in the 21st century as Europe’s international LGBT hotspot. The first town on the Costa del Sol to be developed for jet-setting tourists of any ilk, its Pez Espada Hotel is almost a point of pilgrimage. This elegant grand dame was the Costa’s first luxury hotel, attracting the likes of Grace Kelly, Ava Gardner, Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra when it opened in 1959. Within a few years, other hotels, nightclubs and tourist attractions had transformed the sea-front strip into a bustling family resort. But Torremolinos was also the crucible of Spain’s gay holiday scene. Tony’s Bar – Spain’s first gay drinking establishment – opened its doors in 1962, at a time when homosexuality was still a criminal offence. While Spain remained firmly under the thumb of a fascist dictatorship, defiant Torremolinos dared to be different. And after the fall of Franco in the mid-70’s, the town was well-positioned to tout its attractions to the world as the home of the ‘pink holiday peseta’. Today, gay pride has emigrated from hole-in-the-wall subterfuge to out-in-the open sophistication with snazzy beach clubs

like Eden and Jimmy’s flying their rainbow flags over rows of white-cushioned cabanas clustered along 7km of beaches. They’re stylishly exclusive but all-inclusive in ethos. Everyone’s welcome, and its clientele of kids, teens, mums, dads and grandparents is proof. The town’s six main beaches are now linked by a stunning new promenade and there are other exciting plans afoot to broaden its appeal. By 2018, the Palacio de Congresos will boast one of the coast’s biggest leisure centres with a dry ski slope, a swimming pool with a giant wave machine and a shopping zone the size of 27 football pitches. Torremolinos has a 34 per cent share of the Costa del Sol’s hotel bed total and occupancy rates are high, reaching an average of almost 64 per cent (2012 figures) and over 66 per cent at weekends, compared to Marbella’s 50 per cent. Competitive prices have ensured it consistently ranks in the top four ‘value-for-money resorts’ in the world sur-



PROUD: Promenade statue (above) and gay flag (below)



vey carried out by the UK’s Post Office. Cocktails cost €3-4 less than your average Marbella concoction and eating out is similarly cheaper. But Torremolinos delivers more than a relaxing beach holiday that’s kind to your wallet. The old town weaving up higgledy-piggledy streets from the prom, is packed with character and quirkiness; its imposing bullring, which still hosts *corridas*, is guaranteed to elicit gasps of ‘ole’; and if you’re keen to unleash your inner Bear Grylls, the crocodile park

isn’t far away, home to 300 sharp-toothed reptiles and an array of exotic water birds and you can handle them all – with care! In case you’re not up for crocodile-infested waters, Torremolinos is also home to the oldest and largest water park on the Costa del Sol – sprawling 70,000m2 Aqualand, starring 34 thrilling water slides. And if your holiday romance leads to a more lasting love affair with ‘Torre’, you’re not alone. “The market is extremely busy right now,” says Rosa Cuato of Universal Inmobiliaria, “We are getting a lot more British and German buyers but also Scandinavian. “We have great transport and a great community here but also we offer good food, beautiful beaches and bustling nightlife, all at a much lower cost than places like Marbella.”



CLOTHING  
FOOTWEAR  
BAGS  
& ACCESSORIES

• ALL ITEMS •

# 25€






C/ Casablanca n° 2. 29620 Torremolinos (Málaga)  
T. +34 951 712 760



ICONIC: Bullring (above) and new promenade





## WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SHRINKING CAR INSURANCE COVERAGE?

**93%\*** SATISFACTION WITH OUR TRAVEL ASSISTANCE SERVICE



MECHANICAL  
ASSISTANCE



LEGAL  
ASSISTANCE



TRAFFIC FINE  
HANDLING



**linea directa**

**902 123 282**

SMALL ON PRICE. BIG ON SERVICE.

\*Information obtained from 2015 internal report.



# We're on a wave!

**With a huge range of facilities, activities and shows, it is no surprise that Sunset Beach Club is one of the Costa del Sol's most successful hotels, writes Jon Clarke**

**W**ITH its Padi dive school, gym and round-the-clock entertainment, you hardly need to look outside its four walls.

Add in three restaurants, a supermarket, hairdresser and beautician and it feels like a town in itself.

This is the Sunset Beach Club Resort, one of the most successful hotels on the Costa del Sol. Occupation has been up every year for the last decade, despite the recession, and the hotel caters for nearly 2,000 guests a day in peak season – and rarely under 1000 at any time of the year.

And is it any wonder, with the amount of activities on offer, including aerobics, cookery and Spanish classes all year round, not to mention billiards, live music and power walking. And then come the weddings, with around two dozen in the key months of May and September alone.

"We get over 90 a year and starting at €5,400 (40 guests) an event we think that is terrific value," explains manager Mark Wardell.

It doesn't seem much. But, of course, by the time you have factored in the guests rooms, their meals and mini-bar tabs (the majority are Irish, after all), it becomes a profitable business for the hotel.

Sitting on a fantastic headland next to two lovely beaches, it is perhaps no surprise that Sunset has continued to grow every year for the last seven, despite the recession.

An incredibly well-run ship, the hotel - one of the biggest on the Costa del Sol - consistently delivers to holidaymakers from all around the world.... over 50 different nationalities this year so far!

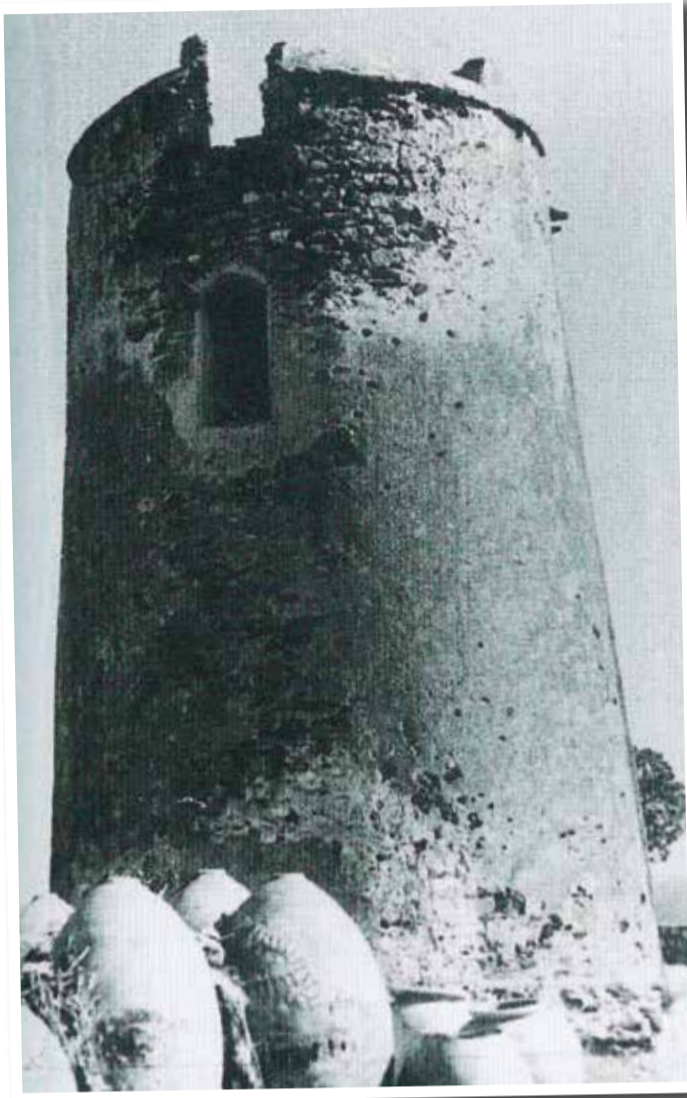
And it definitely does not scrimp and save on food, entertainment – or indeed on its fantastic rooms – having spent a whopping €22m upgrading its facilities since the Millennium, and millions more being spent to keep the standards up.

Without a doubt the price/quality level is one of the best in Southern Spain and the food in all three restaurants is excellent.

Locals rave about the live concerts – some of the best on the coast - which are free to expats, as well as the beach restaurant and fantastic pool and playground area for kids.

"My ideal guest never leaves the premises and is never in need of anything," explains Dubliner Wardell. "Security and safety would always be our number one priority but on a day to day basis from the moment the cleaning team moves in at 2am to the last bar closing at 4 am our real job is to make people happy."

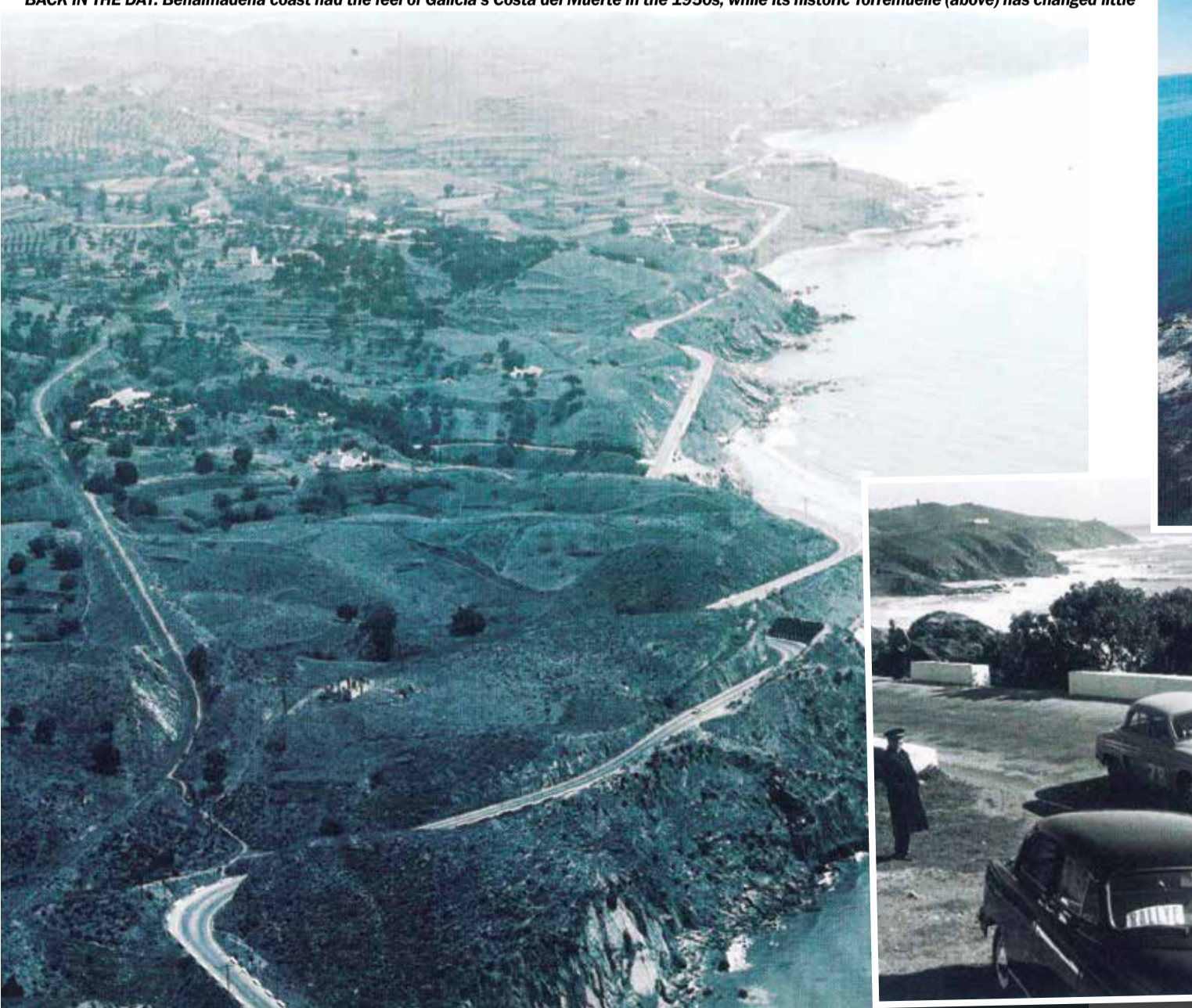
"We are now investing regularly to keep us at pole position on the Costa del Sol."



**BACK IN THE DAY:** Benalmadena coast had the feel of Galicia's Costa del Muerte in the 1950s, while its historic Torremuelle (above) has changed little

*Benalmadena has transformed dramatically since*

# Rolling back the years!



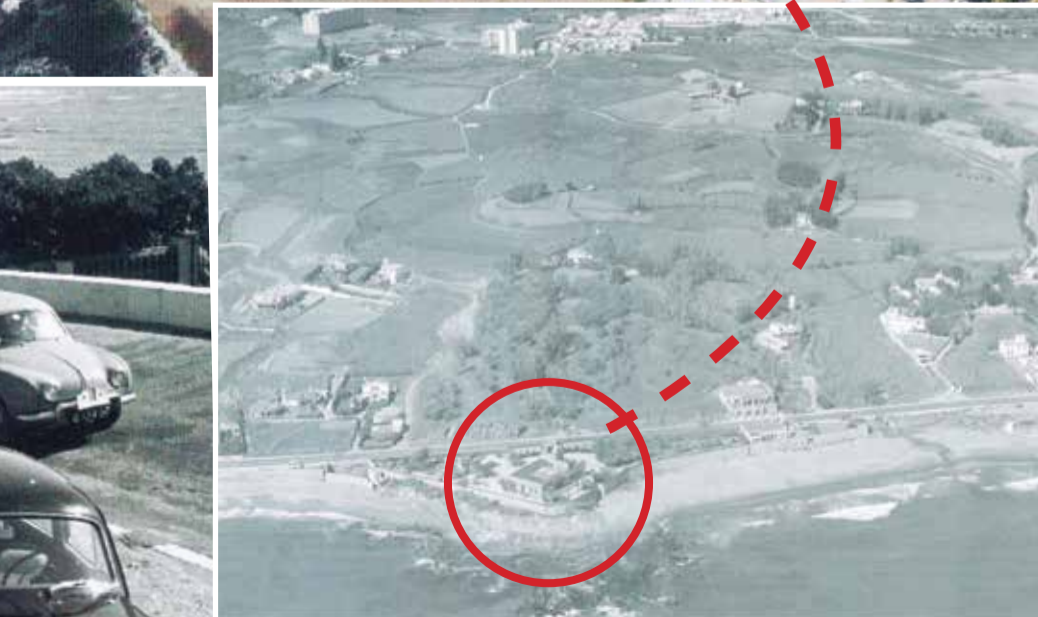
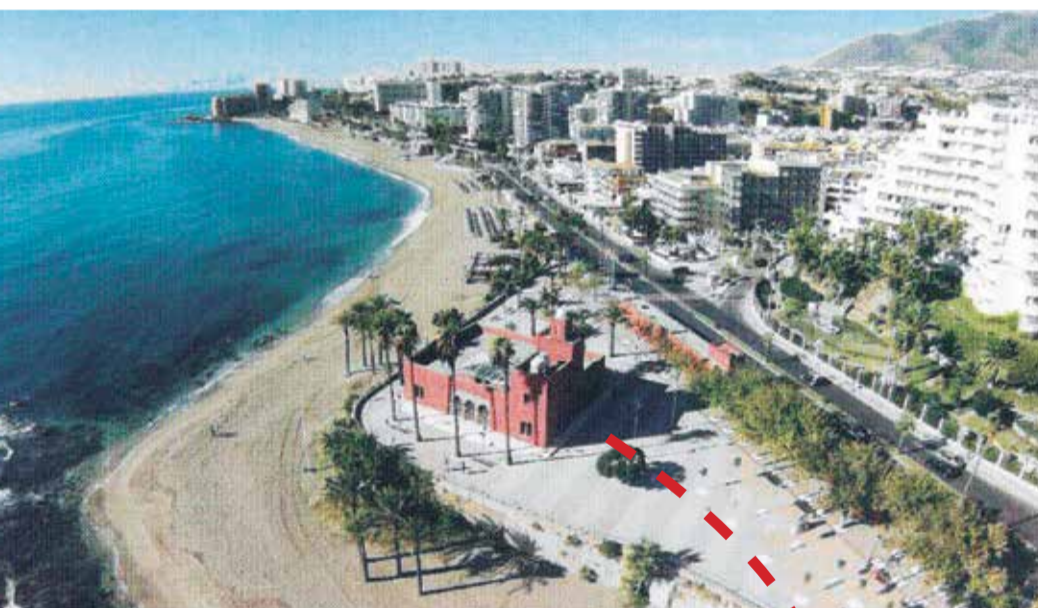
ce its modest fishing village days

ck

**I**T'S hard to imagine Benalmadena as anything other than the buzzing holiday hotspot it is today, but it was once a poor modest fishing village accessible only by dirt roads and nestled on a sprawling countryside reminiscent of the Scottish Highlands, or, closer to home, Galicia's rugged Costa del Muerte. The town was transformed in the 1950s when it became among the first to be developed into a resort for UK and European jet-setters who could afford a break away from the likes of smoggy London and Berlin. But since the tourism boom throughout the 70's and 80's and the package holiday phenomenon of the 90's, hotels, restaurants and beach clubs have sprung up here at break neck speed - and it's hardly surprising. Resting just west of Malaga, a short drive from the airport brings you to 7km of gorgeous sandy beaches packed with a multitude of restaurants and bars along its newly improved promenade. But there are still remnants of the old Spanish village up in the *pueblo*, with its traditional Spanish architecture and culture. From churches to historic look-out towers, it's comforting to see the remnants of these now tourist hotspots still exist beyond just black and white photos.



Photo by Jon Clarke



**SURROUNDED:** Bil Bil Castle today and 50 years ago

**OFFEX**  
MALAGA

Royal Mail

ups

**HAVING DIFFICULTY  
SENDING AND RECEIVING MAIL IN SPAIN?**

OFFEX offer a Secure, Reliable and Cost Effective Solution for both Businesses and Individuals requiring Mail & Courier Services To / From Spain

**Postal Service:**

Full range of Royal Mail Services

**Priority Courier:**

Worldwide door to door Courier Service for time sensitive Documents and Small Packages

**Economy Courier:**

Worldwide door to door Courier service for less urgent Documents, Small Packages and Parcels

**Budget Courier:**

European door to door Service for non urgent items

**Luggage Service:**

Low Cost Unaccompanied Baggage Service for your Personal Effects

**Iberian Peninsula Courier:**

Overnight Deliveries within Spain

The Post Shop,  
Avda. de Tivoli, C.C. Las Ventas,  
Local 13, Arroyo de la Miel,  
Tel 952 577 816



Mon - Fri 10.00 - 17.00 / Sat 10.00 - 12.00

# Portrait of a pueblo

If you want to discover the inner workings of picturesque Benalmadena Pueblo, Trevor Johnston of De Costa Properties is your man.

The expat from York, who previously owned a free house and hotel, moved here in 1984 after visiting on holiday, although fate had a large hand in the matter.

On a bus bound for Mijas in the 70's, he and wife Wendy got off at the 'wrong stop', fell in love with the 500 year old pueblo, came back in 1984 and have lived and worked here ever since.

De Costa Properties specialises in property within the picturesque village centre and 1km radius in each direction, collaborating with other agencies along the coast.

"During the 20 years we have worked here, I have seen Benalmadena's market go through its ups and downs, and one property I have sold three times is a great example of this," Trevor says.

"The two-bedroom townhouse sold for €240,000 15 years ago in 2001, €347,000 in

## Three decades in the life of a unique Spanish Village



2006 and more recently changed hands for €270,000. You can really see how the market has changed through that."

July and August used to be a quiet time, but last year they sold more during those two months than they usually do in a year and they're gearing up for a similarly eventful summer.

People here fall in love with being only 2 kilometres from the beach whilst enjoying the tranquility of a Spanish white village and the

wonderful views to the sea.

"They want two things: a nice terrace and sea views," he continues.

Trevor, Wendy and daughter-in-law Mandy do their best to cater to the expat dream that so many arrive with.

Of course, the village has changed dramatically since the old days, when there were donkeys on the roads and open countryside between Arroyo de la Miel and the Pueblo.

"When I arrived here, there were about 25 cars in the pueblo and two of them were mine," laughs Trevor.

"Now, more people drive, much of the centre of the old village has been pedestrianised and there has been plenty of new construction."

A building boom from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s saw urbanisations spring up all around, he confirms.

"The market in the 1990s was better than the 2000s but they were still buoyant – and then the crisis hit all over Spain when prices were forced up by demand to unreasonable levels and it couldn't continue."

He continues: "Recovery is going well and the village continues to be a magnet for the many Nationalities including Danish, Finnish, Norwegians and, of course, the British."

Trevor confirms there has been a noticeable hesitation in business in the lead-up to the EU referendum with UK clients.

While tourism in Greece, Turkey, and Tunisia look less and less appealing, millions of tourists will come to Spain this summer and Benalmadena village is definitely one for their must-visit list!

**Call +34 952 586 426 for more information, visit [www.decostaproperties.com](http://www.decostaproperties.com) or email [sales@decostaproperties.com](mailto:sales@decostaproperties.com)**



NEARLY NATIVE: Trevor and Wendy at their pueblo in the 1990s



VISTA: View from Benalmadena's village



Ref 2820  
€650.000

· Superb 4 bedroom villa in small urbanisation ·  
Including furnishings & heated pool



Ref 2808  
€1.350.000

· Luxurious Villa with total privacy and panoramic sea views ·  
Completely & expensively furnished

**De Costa Properties**

[www.decostaproperties.com](http://www.decostaproperties.com)



Avda Juan Luis Peralta 11, Benalmádena Pueblo · Málaga 29639 · Spain · Tel. +34 952 586 426



# SalitosBar

Chill out by the sea!



SEAFRONT CHILLOUT BAR, BENALMÁDENA COSTA • OPEN UNTIL LATE



# Luna

BEACH CLUB

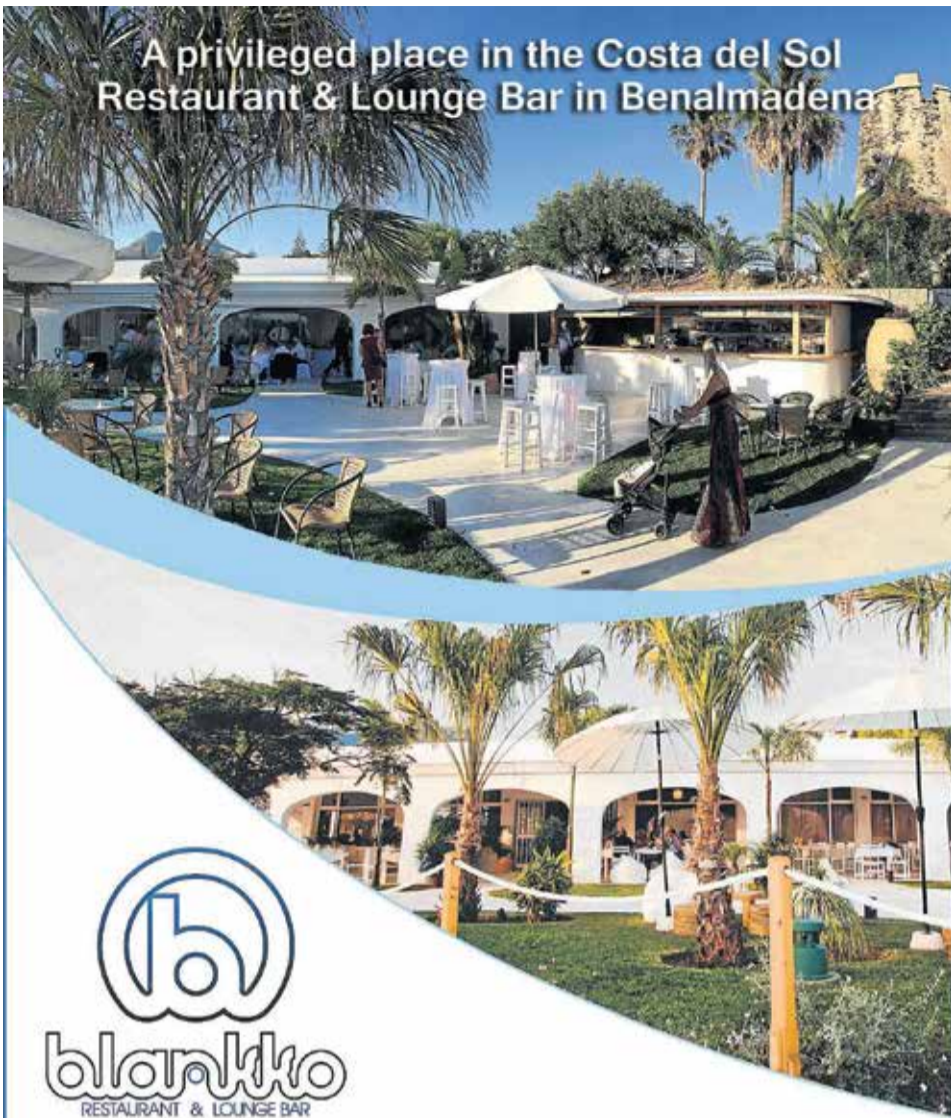
- Chillout music • A la Carte menu & BBQ
- Special events • Weddings & Parties
- Wifi zone • Benalmadena's best beach



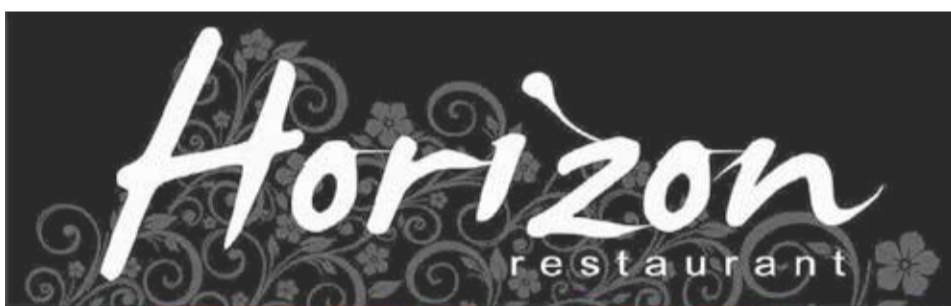
[www.lunabeachclub.com](http://www.lunabeachclub.com) | Tel : 952 579 401



A privileged place in the Costa del Sol  
Restaurant & Lounge Bar in Benalmadena



Urb. Torremuelle · Paseo de Bellavista, 7 · Benalmádena 29630 Málaga  
Open all year Monday to Sunday (Closed Tuesdays)  
T. 952 44 33 98 · M. 661 55 57 92 · reservas@blankko.es · www.blankko.es



STEAK HOUSE & GRILLED FISH  
CARNES Y PESCADOS A LA BRASA



-10%

For Reservations / Para Reservas  
Tlf: 952 560 094

Avda. Antonio Machado, Benalmádena 29630



TEAM: At Horizon and (right) romantic Luna Beach



# Super meals



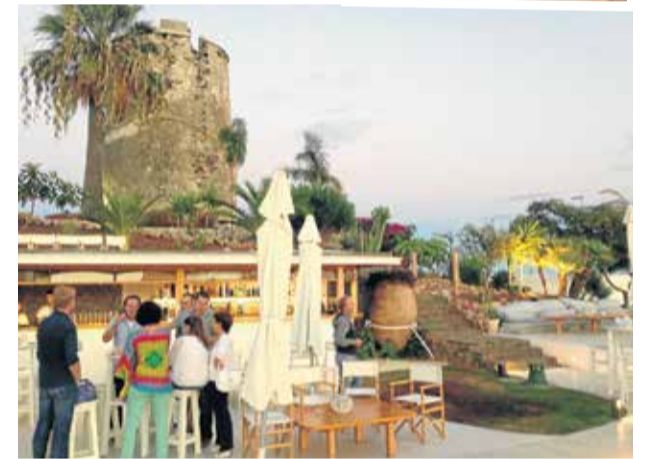
**Benalmadena has some great places to eat when you know where to look, writes Jon Clarke**

In the bustling tourist hub that is Benalmadena you could be forgiven for failing to find anywhere genuinely decent to eat.

With mass tourism the norm, hundreds of average Fish Alley-style establishments bash out bog-standard fodder, whether it be in the port, sea front or up in Arroyo de la Miel.

There are, of course, exceptions, but your best bet is to head up to the *pueblo*, where there are a decent number of excellent places to eat. One of the best is easily Italian **Pala d'oro**, which is set around a patio and with cool, stylish interior.

Hosts Sandro, Alessandro and chef Matteo Manzato, from Venice, have a great repertoire and you will love the gnocchi stuffed with courgette and a



IDYLIC: Incredible Blankko and (above) prawns at Luna Beach

natural goats cheese Asiago, especially imported from Italy, while the speck ham with rocket and walnuts and a balsamic sauce had just the right balance.

A stunning dish of pappardelle with truffle (top, right) comes highly recommended, while the wine list is appropriately angled towards top Italian vineyards, and appropriately the owners are soon to open a wine bar in Malaga city, not to mention a sister restaurant.



CREATIVE: A variation on 'porra' at La Tajea

good as the ajo blanco, with pine nuts, grapes and cherry tomatoes, while the artichokes with *jamon iberico* and foie was rich and delicious.

For steak lovers there is only really one place: **Longhorn**, in the village (see article right). Down on the coast, it is well worth seeking out the recently-opened **Horizon**, which is easily missed sitting in a line of restaurants, near the McDonalds. Standing out like a sore thumb, this place counts on the very able pair of Olivier and Nicola Lewin, who have worked around the world for dignitaries including Lord Mcalpine, the Duke of Edinburgh and French legend Paul Bocuse.

The place was set up out of a friendship between another co-owner Nick, who met Olivier, while running a restaurant/bar a decade ago in the quaint Costa Brava village of Roses, most famous as the home of El Bulli. You can tell the quality from the door, where a fridge shows off a fantastic array of produce, including the freshest fish and some delicious-looking meats.

The place is normally packed at night, so you need to book, and the wine list is equally alluring, with a decent choice.

Also on the coast, nearby is the amazing chiringuito **Luna Beach**, run by the nearby hotel **Sunset Beach**. You literally couldn't ask for a more romantic spot, right by the water with the waves lapping at your feet.

the 22nd - July 5th 2016



## Steaks are high

LOOKING for a meaty treat? Well steak your money on Longhorn Restaurant in Benalmadena pueblo.

The incredibly popular Sunday and Monday BBQs are legendary.

From 1pm-10pm on Sunday and from 6.30pm on Monday, you can eat as much as you like for €16.50, including a great range of meats, mixed salad and a baked potato.

With a beefed-up kitchen team, the restaurant is now open every evening from 6:30pm. But the dish to get every meat-lover's juices flowing is the speciality 'dry-aged' steaks. Hung for between 21 and 28 days at 1°C and at 60% humidity, the meat's flavour subtly deepens due to enzyme activity.

Only cows older than eight and reared exclusively on pasture are used, and the result is a full-flavoured steak, big enough for up to three.

Visit [www.longhorn-del-sol.com](http://www.longhorn-del-sol.com) or [www.facebook.com/LonghornPueblo](http://www.facebook.com/LonghornPueblo)



Subtly-lit, this natural spot - all thatched

roofs, simple deckings and rope fences - also counts on an excellent menu, at extremely good value.

I particularly liked the grilled langoustines, which came with a choice of sauces and a very generous green salad, while the brochette of chicken and salmon looked great too.

A starter of veggie spring rolls were excellent in sweet chili relish, while a rack of lamb is available for the more hearty eaters.

A wine list includes the excellent Payoya Negra from Ronda, as well as the good value Habla de Silencio from Extremadura, at €22.

Also on a romantic tip, you definitely cannot beat the incredible Blankko, which sits under an old defensive fort in Torremuelle with views up and down the coast.

Set up by a pair of capable Iranian businessmen, you sit overlooking the sea, with stylish white tables and an exciting menu.

There are plenty of creative flourishes, such as the caesar salad served in a crunchy case and a delicious squid salad with fennel.



VENECIAN STYLE: Tasting wine at Palo d'oro and (top) the team



[www.gastrotaperialatajea.com](http://www.gastrotaperialatajea.com)



C/ Dr. Jerónimo Garriga, 13  
Benalmádena Pueblo

+34 952 569 061 / 619 311 931  
[gastrolataperia@gmail.com](mailto:gastrolataperia@gmail.com)



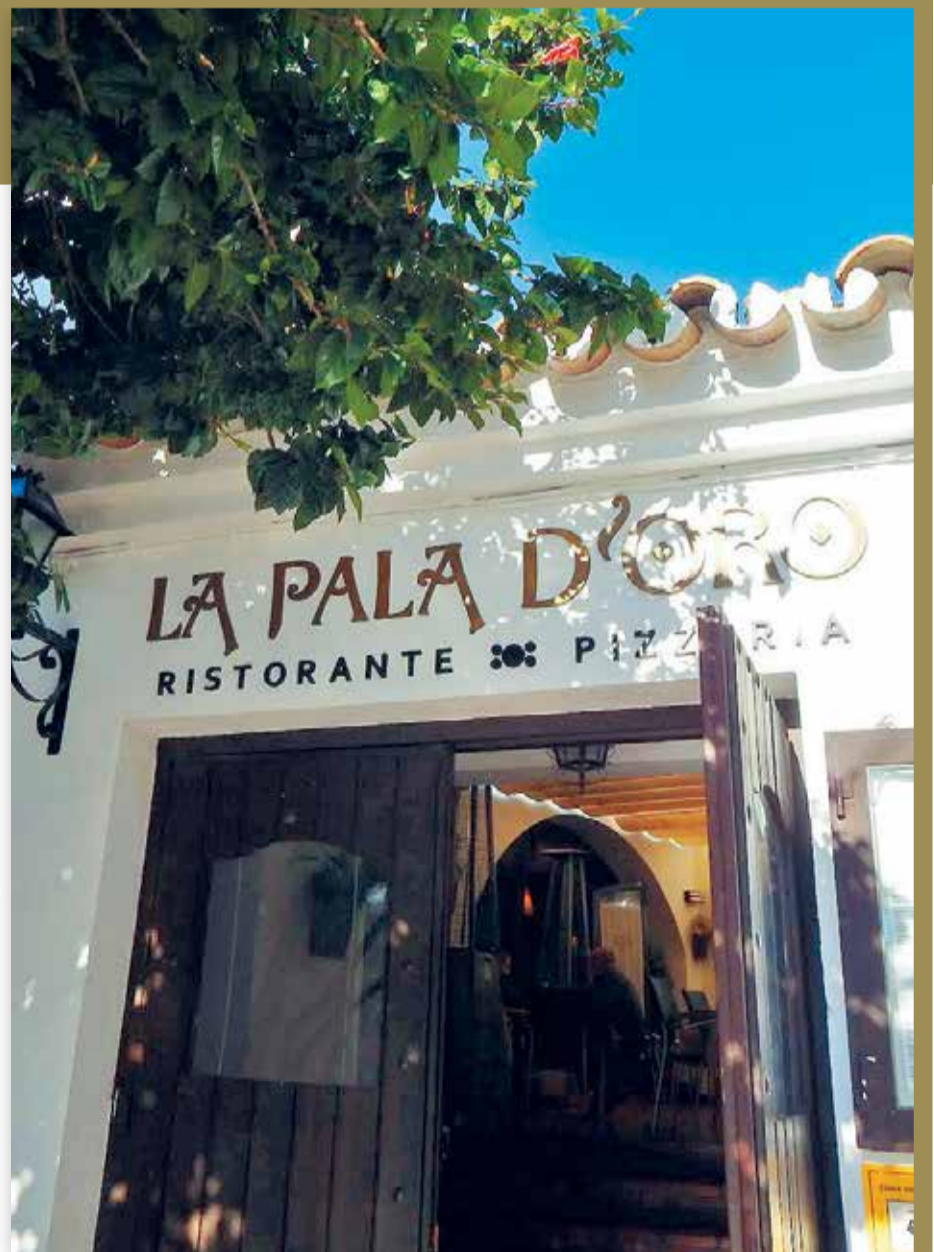
# LA PALA D'ORO

From Venice to Spain, come to enjoy a traditional cuisine of northern Italy, on a route of flavors



[www.lapaladoro.com](http://www.lapaladoro.com)

Pasaje Alcalde Valderrama, 6 · Benalmádena Pueblo · Tel. 952 44 89 07  
Horario / Opening Hours: 13:00 a 16:00 / 19:00 a 23:30



# V.I.P. - Cars



**LAMBORGHINI MURCIELAGO ROADSTER**  
E-GEAR FULLY EQUIPED, LIKE NEW, YEAR: 2005,  
ONLY 4.000KM **PRICE: 189.999€**



**MERCEDES BENZ S500 COUPE 4MATIC**  
FULLY EQUIPED, NEW PRICE 200.000€  
YEAR: 2014, 4.000KM **PRICE: 144.999€**



**MERCEDES BENZ SL500 AMG**  
PERFECT CONDITION, LIKE NEW, YEAR: 2014  
18.000KM **PRICE: 89.999€**



**BMW X6 M 555HP**  
FULLY EQUIPED, LIKE NEW, YEAR: 2011,  
38.000KM **PRICE: 65.999€**



**BMW X6 XDRIVE 40d**  
NEW PRICE: 98.000€, FULLY EQUIPED,  
YEAR: 2016, 4.000KM **PRICE: 79.999€**



**BMW X5 XDRIVE 3.0d**  
FULLY EQUIPED, LIKE NEW, YEAR: 2015,  
19.700KM **PRICE: 69.999€**



**MERCEDES BENZ S350 L BLUE EFFICIENCY**  
PERFECT CONDITION, FULLY EQUIPED  
YEAR: 2010, 118.000KM **PRICE: 37.999€**



**MERCEDES BENZ S350 BLUETEC**  
NEW MODEL, IMMACULATE CONDITION  
YEAR: 2014, 29.000 KM **PRICE: 69.999€**



**FISKER KARMA ECO SPORT**  
LIKE NEW, YEAR: 2012, 29.000KM  
**PRICE: 64.999€**

We speak English

Hablamos español

Мы говорим по-русски



+34 952 86 70 68 | [info@vip-marbella.com](mailto:info@vip-marbella.com) | C/ Juan de la Cierva nº2 Marbella