

Manilva, Sabinillas and Puerto de la Duquesa



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NATURAL WONDERS: Sights on Manilva's beaches include a shopping line of drying squids, while (inset) kids play on one of the many rocky coves

TS hidden craggy coves fringed with wild grasses and flowers owe more to Cornwall's rugged coastline than Spain's Costa del Sol. But these are the attractive protected natural beaches of Manilva, a

true haven for nature lovers. Worlds away from the heavily commercialised sands of nearby Mijas or Fuengirola, four kilometres of golden

playas are being kept wild as an ecological reserve.

Endangered western snowy plovers, chameleons and rare species of dune plants are among the flora and fauna in renaissance here since the conservation zone was created in 2011.

Unsurprisingly, eagle-eyed tourists are also beginning to be drawn

Chloe Glover discovers the raw natural beauty of the Costa del Sol's wild west

to the half dozen of unspoilt beaches, that lie below the main N340

These are some of the best beaches on the Costa del Sol and some of the least known," explains Bish Witkowski, owner of local Castles estate agency.

Indeed on many weekends outside of July and August, you can practically have the beaches to yourself... and a good number have great chiringuitos to eat on.

On one beach at Punta Chullera, you find the perfect place to explore rock pools and dive into the sea, while at another a handful of tourists

sunbathe next to a group of squids drying on a line. But the beaches are just one of the natural draws of Manilva, which is broadly split into three areas; beach-front Sabinillas, port-side Duquesa



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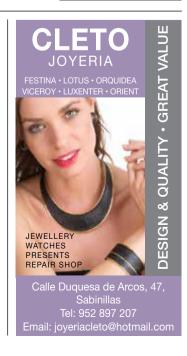
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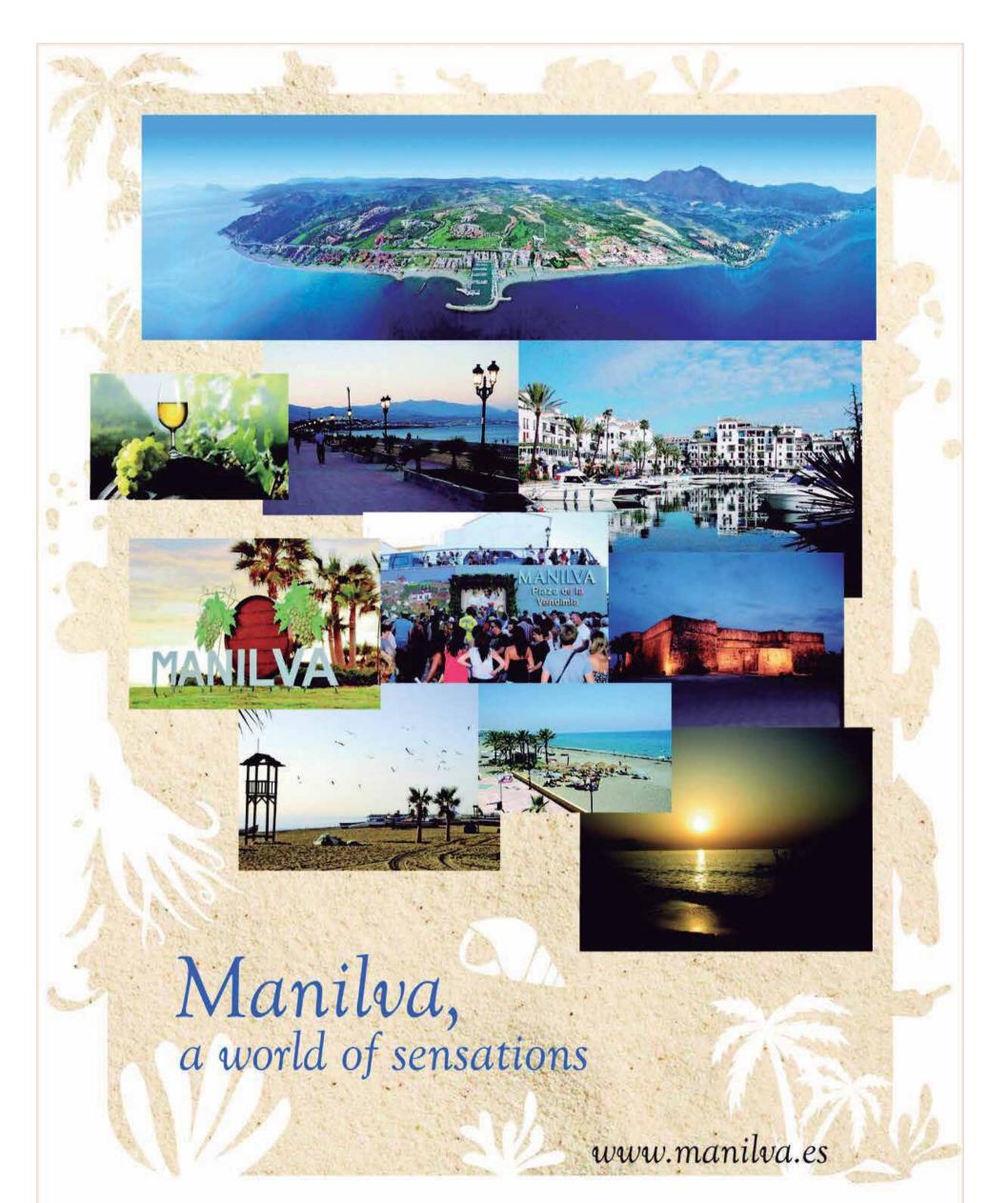
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Take Five

Cafe & Grill Bar - Sabinillas

















and the hillside village of Manilva proper "There is nowhere quite like Manilva". explains local expat councillor Dean Tyler

"We share a fantastic and unique micro climate nestled between the Sierra Bermeja mountains and the Straits of Gibraltar, there is a great mix of locals and tourists and there are excellent views of the north African coastline."

Avid walkers and mountain bikers can take a break from the seaside to enjoy the salty fresh air and the rolling countryside on one of several trails.

Some wind their way up to the pretty white village of Manilva itself, a community that has thrived thanks to its many vineyards established in the 16th cen-

Unique

The must-see Nilva Wine Museum is a mecca for thirsty walkers and wine lovers alike, who come to take tours of its grape

plantations and indulge in tastings. It has been backed by eight Michelinstarred Basque chef Martin Berasategui, who personally selected Nilva wine for his eponymously-named restaurant's wine list.
"He has completely backed our project, sponsored some vines and supports our vision," said Nilva boss Argimiro Martínez Moreno.

Those without money to splash on a three course meal with wine at Berasategui's restaurant can pick up a bottle from the museum for as little as €5.

The adjacent Plaza de la Vendimia (Wine Harvest Square) boasts a vibrant mosaic depicting grape-pickers at work.

During the first weekend in September, a throng of visitors pile in to help celebrate the annual harvest festival (la vendimia), tread the grapes and toast the fruits of their labour with large glasses of local

A hidden oasis lies waiting just a couple of kilometres further north, right on the border with Casares; the Roman baths of Hedionda.
Julius Caesar is one of many to have tak-

en advantage of the medicinal sulphur springs gushing from the valley's limestone outcrop.

The four cloudy blue pools and arched brickwork offer a fascinating step back

The invitingly warm waters are the per-





LAID BACK: Robinson Crusoe charm at Floria, and (top) Castillo de la Duquesa

fect spot for a late spring picnic under the shade of the surrounding eucalyptus

The impressive site is joined by a host of other local Roman archeological gems. Excavation work in 1989 uncovered the ruins of a former bath house near Plaza de los Banos Romano and a Roman necropolis lies just north of Castillo de Duquesa, another fascinating stop-off.

Occupying the site of a former Roman villa, the 18th century edifice was constructed to ward off continuous coastal attacks by pirates.

Nowadays, it enjoys a more pacifistic role as the home of two museums, a library

and an exhibition room.

Visit the archeological museum to see displays of prehistoric artefacts and other curiosities, such as a fourth century hoard of coins.

The intriguing fencing museum next door is testament to Manilva's long involvement with the sport and it remains an 'epee centre', as the local fencing club still practice their blade skills in the cas-

For sport with a more nautical nuance head to Duquesa's yachting marina which bustles with a happy mix of locals and British and German tourists

Taste the globe without budging a centi-

RURAL: Hills above Manilva, Duquesa port and the Roman baths

It has boomed

to become a laid

back tourist resort

with a thriving

community

metre from the waterfront, lined with restaurants touting everything from Chinese stir fry and Indian curries to Italian pizzas, Moroccan cous cous and British fish and

A short walk east along the beachfront will bring you to San Luis de Sabinillas, affectionately known by locals as 'Sabi.' Traditionally a small seafaring village with fisherman's shacks on the beach, it has

boomed over the past few decades to become a laid back tourist resort with a thriving ex-

pat community. Gaze at impressive views of Morocco's Atlas Mountains from its main beach, which fans out invitingly.

The beach is the epicentre of Manilva's massive full moon party each August, a dazzling all-night celebration.

Inspired by the legendary parties of Thailand's Koh Pha Ngan island, the familyfriendly event features Chinese sky lanterns and other eye-catching displays

Manilva's scintillating events calendar brings together locals and visitors the whole year around. There's even a day dedicated to tourists who are celebrated through dance and song.

There is no rest for the town, even on a Sunday, when one of Costa del Sol's most fascinating flea markets (Rastro de Sabinillas) rolls into town.

Held weekly at the fairground off the Camino de los Baños de la Hedionda, it's a bargain hunter's delight with some 300 stalls selling everything from fruit and veg to antiques, secondhand snips, artisan products, clothing and jewellry

After a day discovering Manilva's mani-

fold charms, it's time to put your feet up.

From lux to low key, the town has lodgings to suit any depth of pocket. Enjoy the lively seafront vibe of the port at Harbour Club Aparthotel Duquesa or

live like the lord of the manor at El Molino del Duque, an 18th century mill remodelled into a stunning self-catering hacienda that also

serves as an unforgettable setting for

weddings and special events.
With its authentic Spanish coastal village feel. Sabinillas is a perfect laid back choice for families and couples alike with

numerous places to stay. For a day or to stay over, magical Manilva is the perfect antidote to its brasher Costa neighbours. And with natural attractions by the bucketload and spades of authentic charm you won't have to dig deep to discover it all.





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F the idea of travelling around the world in 80 restaurants floats your boat, bustling La Duquesa Port is the perfect spot to drop

A walk around this whitewashed marina takes scarcely longer than five minutes but just count the blackboards promoting cuisine from all over the globe: China, India, Japan, and Singapore, and a plethora of European ports of call too!

In the maze of alleys behind the port you will also find Hemingways, its bustling Irish neighbour Kinsales, as well as Tim's fish and chips, Italian pizzerias and authentic Spanish eateries, packed together more tightly than wheels in the car-park

Excellent

It could be argued that La Duquesa lacks Spanish identity, with more English voices than yachts and more burgers than tapas.

But step out either side of the port, where Spanish chiringuitos (and boatfuls of grilling sardines in summer) fringe expansive soft sand beaches and you'll be left in no doubt which country you're in.

This social meeting point sings through its restaurants, cafes and bars, the people who work in them and the visitors who sit in the sunshine enjoying them.

This elegant enclave of turrets and towers. pretty plazas and steps leading to different levels juts out from the mainland, encircling its attractions like an oyster encloses a pearl. Quirky and eclectic, it's like a younger sister to Puerto Banus – less glam perhaps, but less snooty too; more affable and, importantly, very much more affordable

This sociable spirit is enhanced by the people who work here, who hail from all over the world and are woven into the ethnically diverse fabric of La Duquesa.

It makes sense that one of the men heavily

Open: 10am - 7pm Mon to Fri, Sat 10am - 2pm

Duquesa is the true gem of Manilva with dozens of restaurants and an international clientelle to match



Tel: 952 897 477

SCENIC: Duquesa port and its restaurants

involved in the port's growth is Moroccan Zac Hauswirth. He owns five restaurant here - with Casablanca, specialising in food from his

He also runs the Ocean Café, where one of the bartenders Christian, who has lived in Spain

since 2006, raves about his 'workplace

"It's friendly, trendy and always busy, rain or shine. Because of the people the port is alive and rapidly growing."

While Christian admits the average age of cus-

tomers is over 30, that changes during busy weekend 'happy hours' which are

popular with young and old alike. And of course, it's hip to 21st century requirements, with wifi freely available in all the cafes and every possible amenity a short distance

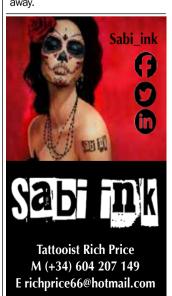
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Plaza Vicente 9A Espinel en Sabinillas Manilva

Go Rastro-farian



RUMMAGE: Everything from onions to electricity meters for sale

Join the fun of Sabinillas's bustling weekly market

ARGAIN hunters travel from miles around for a rummage around the cel-

ebrated 'rastro de Sabinillas', said to be the best flea market on the coast.

Held on a Sunday, it offers the perfect opportunity for bargain hunters, with its hundreds of stalls, laid out in the fairground off the Camino de los Baños de la Hedionda, en route to the Roman Baths.

And as it's open from 9am to 2pm you don't have to get up too early.

The market is 26 years old and has become a

central part of Manilva life.
Ramp up your haggling skills as you wander through an eclectic mix of antiques, beautiful vintage oddities and brand new goods and you too can become a dab hand 'rastro-farian'.



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Il about **Manilva, Sabinillas and Puerto de la Duquesa**

Tax watch and more

Looking for a team to trust when dealing with legal issues and tax return? Look no further than Gabi Recio and his team

HE Recio & Madrona team have been helping businesses and individuals in the Manilva area for decades. The homegrown team provides legal,

tax, accounting advice as well as specialist assistance with partnerships, vehicle transfers, non-resident paperwork, rentals, sale and purchases, property registry, liti-gation, wills and inheritance. Boss Gabriel 'Gabi' Recio Madrona is an economist, who has also been a specialist

in tax affairs since 1995. Also knowledgeable in administration man-

agement, he is currently the only person in Manilva who can register a vehicle under a new name after sale.

He is also in high demand for changing cars' foreign number plates to Spanish

He relies on a team that includes cousin Juana, a lawyer since 1997, as well as Carlos, a specialist accountant.

Juana takes care of legal issues and property sales, ensuring sellers are legitimate, handling town hall liaison, and guides you through the whole process of buying a house smoothly.

Juana can also take care of your yearly non-resident taxes and IBI.

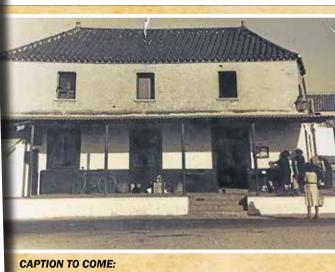


A TEAM: Gabi (right) and Carlos

They have had many British clients and communicate well in English.

For info call 952 892 097 or email info@ costamanilva.com







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Stop off for centuries

It was once a key lunch stop on the coast... now it is a wine and lottery shop

OR decades it was the stop off for artists, politicians and celebrities.

So, it was something of a tragedy when Venta Madrona was knocked down due to the construction of an underpass through Sabinillas a decades ago.

One of the main stop-offs for travellers between Gibraltar and Malaga for centuries, the historic restaurant was always full and served up an excellent range of dishes

served up an excellent range of dishes.
"We had an amazing range of visitors, including Frank Sinatra,
Ted Heath and former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez," recalls the
son of the former owner.

Now running his own wine and lottery shop, La Mar de Vinos, at the same spot, Jose Antonio Madrona recalls the frequent visits from famous flamenco stars like Valerin and Cameron, Spain's most famous flamenco star.

most famous flamenco star.

"He was often here as he was a friend of my uncle. He stayed the night and frequently sang. I remember even dancing for him as a child."

as a child."

The venta, which was built in 1929, also counted on the founder of Andalucian nationalism Blas Infante as a regular. "He had plenty of meetings here in the run up to the civil war," added Jose, who studied history at Malaga University, before studying viticulture.

The shop - which has almost 1000 references of wines - sits right next to the roundabout and is very much one of the main hubs of the community - like Venta Madrona before it.





ON THE STREETS: Local families enjoy the laid-back nature of Manilva in the 1960s

As well as a fantastic selection of Spanish wines, from around the whole country, there is a good mix of champagnes and sherries.

In addition, the shop stocks a great array of delicacies, including pates,

In addition, the shop stocks a great array of delicacies, including pates, cheeses and sauces... and, of course, the coast's favourite English newspaper, the Olive Press!

Visit La Mar de Vinos at Calle Bolivia, 1, Sabinillas

Manilva over millennia

6,000 BC - Neolithic farmers were the first to discover Manilva's assets. Some of their tools and pots were recently uncovered in the remains of the Sierra de la Utrera caves, on the northern edge of Sabinillas

3,000 BC - Other civilisations moved in. Excavations have unearthed pottery of Phoenician traders and foundations of walls, suggesting that a Bronze Age agrarian fort once stood in the area.

2000 BC - Fish salting basins, a market, necropolis and a villa were all built by the Romans in Sabinillas, which historians believe they named Saltum. Olives and grapes began to flourish, while a kiln was constructed on the site of Manilva's current park to make bricks, tiles and pottery.

711 AD - The Moorish invasion established the settlement of Martagina on the southern edge of Los Castillejos de Alcorrin. Here, locals grew bananas and figs until the 18th century

 $1400\text{-}1500~AD~\text{-}~\text{Barbary pirate raids forced}\\ \text{most of the population to flee into the hills for security.}\\ \text{However, many still returned daily to fish.}$

1515-20 - The Duke of Arcos conceded the first lands for vineyards which celebrated their heyday in the 17th and 18th centuries.

 $1530\,$ - The hilltop village of Manilva proper began to take shape thanks to its Duke, who parcelled off pieces of land to encourage people to settle there.

 $1722\,$ - The Church of Santa Ana in Manilva village was destroyed by an earthquake.

1796 - Manilva gained independence from Casares, when it was given a 'royal privilege of the town.'

1936-1939 - During the Spanish Civil War Mussolini marched fascist Italian troops down the main Sabinillas artery, now the N340.

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Il about **Manilva, Sabinillas and Puerto de la Duquesa**



MY MANILVA

The Olive Press talks to Manilva mayor Mario **Jimenez Rodriguez**

Why did you run for office as mayor of Manilva?

I've spent 14 years in public office, and have had the privilege of holding posts such as councillor of sport, youth and infrastructure. I previously worked in the technical office in the Association of Municipalities of the Western Costa del Sol. So it was a natural move to become the head of Manilya town hall.

How would you define yourself politically?

First and foremost, I'm just another member of the community, and my door is open to everyone. I want a town hall which involves its residents and which can count on all political parties to work together.

After a few months in office, what do you hope to achieve?

My main aim is to return Manilva to the place it deserves to be. In the past few years our town has moved backwards in terms of infrastructure, services and management. We need to go back to the progress and excitement of before, and to make a town with the best tourist opportunities and quality of life.

What steps need to be taken in order to achieve the type of town you want?

We're very lucky that Manilva has a lot of potential in terms of tourism, sport and culture. My plan for the future is based on creating new infrastructure projects, maintaining what we already have, and ensuring that Manil-va's economy is based on offering a magnificent service to our residents and visitors.

Any current or future projects you want to highlight?

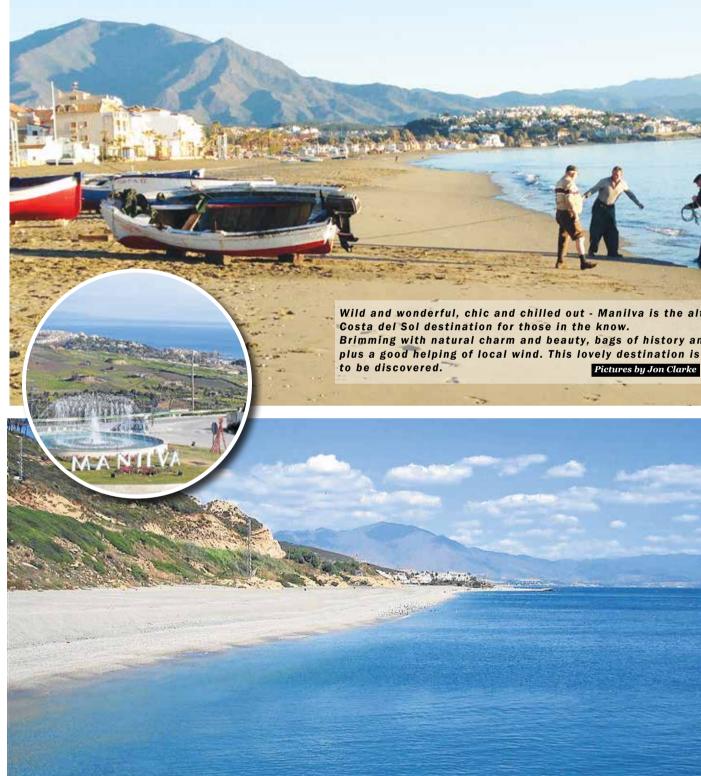
We've already finished the Plaza Ginebra, in Sabinillas, a job that needed urgent attention. Now we're planning to start the Lidl pathway and the remodelling of Calle Mar, in Manilva. I'm very excited about the new pedestrian footpath – it's a really important connection between Manilva and Sabinillas. In short, we're going to improve our infrastructure, which will improve the lives of our residents.

What are you hoping for in the future of Manilva?

Health, security and sanitation are fundamental for making a progressive town. We also need to fight against unemployment and offer our young people opportunities for the future. With these plans, I'm convinced that we can make Manilva the shining light of the Costa del Sol.



PICTURE PERFECT



FEW people think of Manilva as a snorkelling hotspot but its rocky coastline provides clear water for observing the undersea panorama.

That includes octopus, eels, turtles and even dolphin's if you swim out far enough.

ocal aficionado James Partington has been snor-kelling here for over a decade. Now 23. he

lived has Manilva since moving from here Wales North when he was five He advises f first-time

UNDERWATER WONDERLAND

snorkelers not to overtheir preparation. "You just need fins, a mask and a snorkel. It might be a bit chilly in

winter but normally you won't need a wetsuit."

Equipment should be tightfitting but comfortable, and you can get rid of fog on your eye-mask if you spit on it before you put it on, he adds

He also advises novice divers not to go out alone. "Make sure you have a buddy to watch your back, as the currents around Manilva can catch you off

your guard." You can snorkel from any of the beaches in Manilva, and there are a number of companies such as GoFun Costa del Sol which organise tours and equipment



DIVING MAD: James Partington

A FIESTA FEAST

Take our calendar tour of Manilva's festival musts

Carnival, February 24-25

Fun for all the family, this weekend celebration features impressive cos-tumes, music, dancing and chirigo-tas, satirical Andalucian folk songs.

Easter Week, April 9-16

One of the most important weeks in the Spanish calendar. This festival celebrates the life, passion and death of Jesus with processions through the local

San Juan's night June 23

This evolved out of an old pagan ritual marking the summer solstice, which has been united with a christian saint's day. Bonfires on the beach create a magical atmosphere throughout the night.

Day of the Virgen del Carmen, July 16

The villagers of Castillo de la Duquesa and San Luis de Sabinillas carefully decorate fish-ing boats with effigies of their patron saint, the Virgen del Carmen, and sail them up and down the coast.



EFFIGY: A huge statue set to be burnt on San Juan night

Day of Santa Ana, July 26

Saint Ana is the patron saint of Manilva, and her feast day is celebrated with a parade of floats, music and dancing until the early

Day of San Luis de Sabinillas. August 25

The feast day of the patron saint of San Luis de Sabinillas is hon-oured with sports competitions, music, laughter and dancing.

The grape harvest, September 2-3

A festival to celebrate the grape harvest, including grape-treading to produce the first wine of the year, which is offered to friends and visitors to taste.

Drink to that

d culture

just waiting



T has found its place on the menu of one of the

best restaurants in the world.

Nilva's dry, fruity wine made a big impression on the eight-Michelin-starred chef, Martin Berasategui, who personally selected it for his list only months after the vineyard opened in 2015

But that was just the start of the meteoric rise to fame of Manilva's very own tipple, which now is the proud bearer of of its own Denominacion de Origen mark, which recognises Spain's fin-

est wine producers.
"A lot has changed in such a short space of time," said Argimiro Martínez Moreno, the man at the forefront of Manil-

va's exciting new project.
"In this initial phase the most important thing has been to create a wine of maximum quality to frame Manilva as a high quality producer.

"We have taken a big step by being added to the DOG of the Sierras de Malaga, which certifies the

quality of our wine.
"We are also in the process of being included under the 'Sabor a Malaga' umbrella, a project that selects the

best quality products in the province.
"We have also won this year's Luxury Travel Guide's prize for best culinary experience of

The string of enviable achievements is testament to the passion of Mar-tinez, who developed the two hectare Peñoncillo vineyard and town centre wine museum and bodega to re-establish Manilva's historic wine industry.
Wine connoisseurs now flock to

the village to sample the juice of his muscatel grapes at the bodega and take advantage of ineyard tours.

Martinez has many more aims this ear for his wine, which is poured into only 2.250 bottles.

"We think we have an advantage due to being the first wine on the market from the Costa del Sol," said Martinez.

'We are continuing to expand our points of sale and our big aim is to get it into the most presti-gious restaurants in the region."



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Fortress to be reckoned with



Family affair

Make no mistake, Castles is a family run business. Whether you're from Liverpool, San Roque or Bermuda, you're made to feel one of the team.

CHRIS ROWLANDS

Chris (below) has been working at Castles for two decades, and has seen Sabinillas trans-form from a tiny village into a bustling coastal

"It's crazy how much it has changed here since we launched... in fact the only thing that's re-mained the same is the



"I love working in a family business, with my stepfa-ther and brother and previously sister and mum but we treat everyone here like a family, it's how we work together so well, it's funda-mental to what we do.

"I know family businesses aren't really the fashion right now, but it's all I've known and I think it's

CLAIRE HALLIWELL

Claire came to Spain from Liverpool 14 years ago with a young family and has enjoyed every minute of raising them in this beautiful area, believing it an idyllic place to raise children. She has been an estate agent specialising in this area for six years, however she is the newest member of the Castles team having joined them only 18 months ago. "I feel completely at home here, I have been welcomed as a member of the family. I have the best job in the world, matching people to property and helping them through the process, and within such a great team, I am very

EVA PEREZ

Eva, who commutes daily from Estacion de san Roque, has worked at Asesoria Castles for the last 23 years, having graduated in the University of Jerez de la Frontera, in Law and Business studies. She has seen many changes during her time here. She is now the longest standing member of the asesoria side of Castles and her role within the fiscal team is dealing with taxes for resident self-employed people and companies.

SUE JOHNS

Sue came to spain from England 35 years ago and for the last 14 years has been working at Asesoria Castles. Her main job among others, consists of preparing taxes for non-resident property owners. She believes that Castles' strength and suc-cess is due to the fact it is so integrated into the local community, having an equal number of Spanish and English employees. Sue comments with a smile, hov that not everybody is happy with us as no one one enjoys paying taxes!

NATASHA PEDRO

Agent Natasha swapped Bermuda for the Cos-

ta del Sol some 15 years ago, "The team here is great. It's a family environ-ment, but make no mistake, we work!"

"I first worked in sales and marketing in flower shops and animal charities, then settled with

the Castles family four years ago.
"We have already had sales in the first months of this year so it's a very positive outlook at the moment, bring on 2017."



JUST OPEN: First week trading in 1986

Castles estate agency has been established for three decades in Manilva, discovers **Laurence Dollimore**

HEN Bish Witkowski and his wife Poppy set up Castles three decades ago, Sabinillas was little more than a beach with a few buildings and fishing boats scattered around.

Fast forward 31 years and the area has transformed into a hub for businesses, banks and restaurants, and is counted as home to thousands of expats, most of them

Much of this is thanks to Castles, which can count on up to 10,000 clients over the years, who have either bought through the company, or used it for accounting and ad-

Setting up in part as an agent and in part as an asesoria, in 1986, the company was able



to act as a sort of one-stop shop for anyone looking to live or buy in the Manilva area.

"When we first set up there was nobody else around," explains Bish's stepson Chris Rowland, who now runs the company on a daily basis alongside his brother Mike

'The nearest village was Castillo and it would take three hours to get to the airport and there was only basic infrastructure and amenities.

'The name comes from the idea that every man's home is his castle, and that is what we are selling here; decent good value

The company's formula is a successful one, having survived a trio of recessions and growing from a team of just two to more than a dozon. than a dozen.

"Our growth has been steady but strong, and it's a customer-based business so we ensure to treat people very well," continues

That's how we have lasted so long, and there is nothing like positive word of mouth when it comes to a business, especially on



HAPPY FAMILY: The Castles team today counts a dozen staff working from the Sabinillas base

The company - which handles everything from wills to company formations and from tax returns to home conveyancing - also prides itself on treating its staff like a fam-

ily.
"It's very important to us that we build a familial environment and we all get on well with one another. adds Chris. "It makes the day to day running of the business a heck of alot easier."

And with a few sales already under the belt this year, the company is looking forward to a strong

While Brexit made British buyers some cautious, other nationalities have managed to fill in the void.

"The main client base here has always been the British and it still is," explains Chris, "And while they have been a little bit cautious since Brexit I am very confident that they will be back in full force once things settle down and some certainty returns.

'Meanwhile we have seen more Germans,

Dutch. Scandinavians and even some more French coming down to the coast, so we have been able to offset the fall in British

And it's the company's overriding ethos of integration that has got them this far.

"That's how it all started," explains Sue Johns, who has worked on the company's taxes for 14 years.

Bish had lived here for a number of years and spoke good Spanish so he would help expats who couldn't speak Spanish to deal with the town halls and all other businesses, including other agents.
"He had become well integrated into the community after living in Ibiza for years and running a bar in Duquesa so it was logical for him to become

a middleman between British buy-ers and Spanish agents, hence he de-cided to make a business out of it."

Now some thirty years later, Castles is the longest running estate agents in Sabinillas, and one of the longest running on the coast.







PORT OF HOPE: Early days in Sabinillas, and (middle) Bish with wife Poppy

Doing business since the mid-1970s

Every time I went

out on my boat it was a

disaster so these days

I buy and sell classic

cars as a hobby

IS background couldn't be more different to the majority of expats on the Costa del Sol. For starters he speaks fluent Spanish, not to mention went to art school, before travelling off around the world to see India, Nepal and even Afghani-

And then there is the creative, innovative side of Bish Witkowski that first saw him start an art gallery in Ibiza, design and sell for a local magazine and even mend vintage cars.

Now, the owner of Castles, in Sabinillas, the 69-year-old entrepreneur is happily settled into local life, enjoying the culture of Manilva, the nearby countryside and

playing the occasional round of golf.
"It's a charmed life and great to have all my family around nearby," he explains in his top floor office at Castles, surrounded by thousands of files from current

and previous clients.
"I know so many people and very much enjoy my job. On top of that we love to get away for trips to Portugal in our camper van or up to Jerez for a spot of golf and culture."

golf and culture." He first fell in love with Spain when he and wife Poppy visited Ibiza for holidays in the 1970s and moved to the celebrated 'white island' in December

"We had to do a bit of everything to survive in Ibiza," he explains. "The tourist season then was only two months so in the winter I did a bit of everything from

repairing cars, selling advertising space for a magazine and running my own art gallery."

While there he put his art degree from Birkenhead college to good use and painted portraits and even set up a potter's wheel, making pots and ash trays for tourists.

"Anything to bring in a bit of money," recalls Bish, who lives in nearby Valle Romano. But eventually after six years of trying, they decided it was too hard and they moved to the Costa del Sol in 1982, via a short six

month stint in Portugal.
"It was a lot less closed off here and my brother had an old school friend in Duquesa so we decided this would be our area," he continues. They soon identified that the recently finished port had few good places to eat so they opened the Ibiza Steak Bar, which became one of the key social hubs of the port within months. "We had a



DAY OUT: Bish and family on a day trip to Ronda

complete mix of people turning up and it was a lot of

But he had other ideas and realised that more than anything the rapidly growing expat population of the area needed a company to help them in their needs and sort out their problems.

"I was thinking more of an asesoria, than an estate agency, as so many people needed my help with things.

"But we combined the two with my wife and stepson handling the sales side

and me doing the paperwork side." He continues: "It grew very quickly and we have had probably nearly 10,000 clients over the years.

We have hundreds of clients at any time and we do literally hundreds of tax returns every year." These days, when not sorting out a myriad of issues for his clients, he likes to fix up a range classic cars, having given up on boats.
"Every time I went out on my boat it was a

disaster so these days I buy and sell classic cars as a hobby.

In total, he has had dozens, including Rolls Royces, Bentleys, Jaguars and Mercedes. And he also has a faithful camper van

that frequently takes he and his wife on weekends to Jerez or Ronda, or fur-

ther afield to the Algarve for holidays. "It is a lovely area to be based in. So near to so many amazing spots and with the most perfect climate," he concludes.

As they say, an Englishman's home is his castle... well Sabinillas is well and truly Bish's home.



ARTY FARTY: Bish began life in Spain, in Ibiza, working as a potter in his own art studio. while (above left) one of his paintings and (left) on a journey to India in his turban, while (below) in his office today



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ll about **Manilva, Sabinillas and Puerto de la Duquesa**

Blossoming



Manilva's newest property company is on the up

RIMROSE Estates is looking forward to another year of suc The Duquesa-based real estate

company has grown from strength to strength since opening just a little over two years ago.

Managing director Lynn
Van Wilderode (right) is
now looking to expand and Lynn will be hiring new staff by

"Last year was a crazy year," says Lynn,
"Spring was especially successful, and although there was British hesitation post-Brexit, the slack was picked up by the Scandinavians as well as



BARGAINS: Primrose Estates helps customers find the best deals

a few more French."

Belgium-born Lynn, who speaks English, Dutch, French and Spanish, prides her company on offering the best bargains between Estepona and Duquesa. "Although

we are seeing healthy price rises in terms of sales, we have still got some great bargains on our site.

Blood

Lynn puts the success of Primrose down to her genes; her father worked

extensively in the property business in Belgium and Europe

'It's definitely in the blood," she says, "I grew up in the property market and have worked in the business along the Costa del Sol since I was 19, it's the only thing I've known!"

Following a strong 2016, the company has invested into its holiday rentals and main websites to make them

more user-friendly.
"With a growing business we needed to make things a lot easier for our cli-ents, the new website lets them book rentals online a lot more efficiently, and it's a lot easier to navigate than before."



PRIMROSE

Turning your dreams into your home



Terrazas de Guadalupe — Ref 116 Price: €159,000

Set within a small urbanization with great sea views, it is very quiet whilst still being at a short drive from supermarkets, schools, shops and the towns of Sabinillas and Duquesa.

Bedrooms: 2 M2 Built: 77 m2 Terrace: 23 m2 Bathrooms: 2



La Almadraba - Ref 295 Price: €215,000

This stunning 2 bed, 2.5 bath duplex apartment has been renovated with 2 new bathrooms, new kitchen and many other improvements in and out of this comfortable home or holiday flat.

Bedrooms: 2 M2 Built: 116 m2 Bathrooms: 2.5 Terrace: 10 m2



Marina del Castillo - Ref 330 Price: €395,000 REDUCED TO €375,000

Beach front apartment with sea views and sunny terrace in Puerto de la Duquesa, Manilva, Malaga, Costa del Sol.

Come and see this fantastic apartment in the luxurious resort of Marina del Castillo in Duquesa. It is a spacious 3 bed on the 4th floor, south facing and sold fully equipped and furnished along with extra storage and parking space in the secure underground parking.

The resort is well know for its quality finish throughout, its facilities which include 24h security onsite, communal pool and sauna and its ideal location; only a short stroll along the promenade into the Marina of la Duquesa or the fishing village of Castillo.

Call us today Bedrooms: 3 M2 Built: 165 m2 to arrange a viewing! Bathrooms: 2 Terrace: 51 m2

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MANILVA CASTLE: A fitting location

team has an

impresive

cache of

medals

Sword of honour

HEY have fenced with Hollywood star Viggo Mortensen (above).

It is just one of the many accolades that sits in the trophy case of Club Internacional de Esgrima Andaluzia, Manilva's very own fencing club. Established 10 years ago, the swashbuckling group must have one of the most fitting practice rooms in the country, in the belly of the historic 18th century Castillo de Duquesa.

It was built at the height of Europe's love affair with the sport, whose modern form has its origins in Spain.

Now, thanks to the club it is also home to Spain's only Museum of Fencing. "We try to preserve and maintain the heritage of this beautiful and thrilling sport, which is a true part of our culture explained Alb Cerrada Fernandez, the club's

title-winning founder.
A doctor, he set it up when he moved to the area from Madrid to work in a health centre.

"My passion has always been fencing and when I moved here I wanted to continue practising

"I had to travel very far because there were no local clubs so it occurred to me: Why not create one of my own?"

The club's first base was in Estepona, where its continued success helped convince Manilva authorities to allow it to host both practices and contests in the Through Cerrada's expert leadership and dedication the team has racked up an impressive cache of medals and now counts world class members among its ranks

'We train four times a week at the castillo and in Estepona and every year we get to be champions or runners-up of Spain in lower categories," said

Cerrada.

"At Andalusian level both individual and team we have more than 100 medals with champions at the level of children and adults.

"Jan Bade, who is Finnish, is one of our latest signings and came fifth in the world championships

"Our youngest member is four years old and we have almost as many women as men, because

in fencing you can compete in mixed bouts. "My latest achievement has been becoming the Spanish champion of historic fencing (different to modern in style and technique), a title I won last November.

"But our main aim is not to win medals: It has always been to create a group of friends who enjoy and love this art and to care for the development of each of our members in a personalized way.

"We also want to spread the important val-ues of fencing, such as education, temperance, respect and work in a warm and friendly environment." Esgrima Andaluzia has also proved its movie star credentials.

We've participated as masters of arms in films, television, theatre and musicals in Spain and beyond, said Cerrada. "We have had the honor of working, with

Diamond Nails & Beauty Room Nails, Beauty, Lashes, Brows, Facials & more all at great prices! 🚮 Diamond Nails and Beauty Room El Goleto Hotel, Los Hidalgos - Tel. 647 154 077 Chirine Ayoubi Jewellery BESPOKE JEWELLER Engagement Dings Demodelling Wedding Dings Stone Deplacement Ear Diercing chirine@ayoubijewellery.com Chirine Myoubi

Manuel Bandera in the Zorro, with Vigo Mortensen in Alatriste and 2017 Goya winner Carlos Santos in Los Mosqueteros who was our Hamlet in the work that we present in the Castle of La Duquesa some vears." Cerrada's love affair with fencing led him to set up Spain's only museum dedicated to the past-time. "Because I am a col-lector of objects related to fencing, Manilva Council offered me the possibility of establishing it. "We decided to put it in the castle and it has become one of Manilva's main tourist attractions. Cerrada hopes the club and mu-seum encourage more people to take up swords. "I love it because of the strategy, strength, speed, concentration and spirit. Long may it live on.

For more information on the club, call Cerrada on 639-359972 or visit the website at ww.esgrimandaluzia.com

PLACE TO BE

It's the perfect time to buy in

According to Brian Berney of Coast to Coast properties, there's no need to look any further for your holiday home. "Having been in the property business now for 8 years, it has made me appreciate the local area and the improvements that have been made.'

"I think this in particular is the reasoning why we now have so many northern European buyers who are attracted to

"Puerto de la Duquesa, in my opinion, is the nicest marina on the Costa del Sol is and probably always will be the main draw to the area.

"Saying that, Manilva, Sabi-nillas and Casares have so much to offer particularly with the culture, the cuisine, the beaches and the wildlife and countryside."
He added: "We have seen

prices in properties drop drastically over the past few years but now we are seeing a steady recovery, all the more reason to buy your home in the sun in Manilva."

For advice on how to buy, sell or rent contact sales@ c2cproperty.com or call 952 892 517



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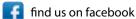
The penguin bar

The Penguin Bar is a real local traditional Pub where locals and holidaymakers meet for a chat and a drink in a very friendly atmosphere with a great terrace and There are TV screens showing different events or matches.

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Il about **Manilva, Sabinillas and Puerto de la Duquesa**

BUSINESS PROFILE -

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS KING!

Jon Clarke meets the entrepreneur behind the eight-restaurant Bar and Cafe Group



IT is a round trip of around 90kms taking in eight restaurants and dozens of staff.

But Zac Hauswirth still has time to serve, sometimes, hundreds

of clients in a day... and always with a smile.

The entrepreneur behind the Bar and Cafe Group, that set up 12 years ago, insists that it is this friendly, open demeanour that has been the key to his success.

"I'm a customer service fanatic and everything must be perfect for the clients," he explains over lunch at his flagship The Cafe American Bistro, in Duquesa port. "I

American Bistro, in Duquesa port. In hope I lead by example."
Having set up 10 restaurants since launching the company in Spain with his wife Anita (with him above) in 2004, he knows the staff are the key to his business.

"I can tell in five minutes if someone will be a good barman or waitress," he explains. "It doesn't matter if they

he explains. "It doesn't matter if they know nothing, I can train them up. Above all, they must be friendly." The talented businessman, 43, currently employs 55 staff and this number normally rises to over 80 in the summer.

It is one of Manilva's biggest businesses and he is certainly not stand-

nesses and he is certainly not standing still, having opened two new res-

ZAC: With manager
Alex in Duquesa port
for six days of the week," explains the father-of-one, "I have two great managers under me, but I still love working."
He honed his trade in the London restaurant Group (Chiquito, Carfunkle). Franking & Pennyich) evering great a days rectaut.

Garfunkel's, Frankie & Benny's) covering over a dozen restau-

But he was certainly not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Brought up in a small apartment in Casablanca with six brothers and sisters, he studied hard and eventually made it to university

and sisters, he studied hard and eventually made it to university in Cape Town, where he studied economics. From there he moved to London, where he met his Austrian wife Anita, who is a major influence on the kitchen and undertakes each restaurant's interior design. Together for 17 years, they fell in love with Spain on frequent visits to see friends in Marbella. But their business empire was to begin in Manilva and, in particular, Duquesa Port where they opened their first restaurant, the Mexican Grill and Bar, in 2004. This followed with a Moroccan restaurant, Casablanca, the Ocean Cafe and Bar and the Cafe American Bistro, which can Ocean Cafe and Bar and the Cafe, American Bistro, which can now also be found in Sabinillas, Marbella and Estepona. A new restaurant Passion Bistro opened last year in Puerto Banus.

Coast with the most

Manilva has a great mix of places to eat, writes Dining Secrets of Andalucia editor Jon Clarke

ITH such a wild and wonderful coastline it is fit-ting that Manilva has such a great range of res-

Starting in Duquesa port you have a warren of great places to eat including Parapiros, one of the longestrunning Italian restaurants on the coast.

Set up in 1985, it has a fantastic range of pastas and pizzas, as well as one of the best veal chops, stuffed with ham and parmigiano, while a beef carpaccio starter was delicious loaded with fresh mushrooms and celery

Also in the port, look out for the excellent Casablanca and its neighbouring joint, the Mexican Grill and Bar, which is authentic to the extreme.

Meanwhile the Ocean Cafe and Cafe, American Bistro are among the most popular places to eat for tourists and expats alike.

For fish and chips though, you'll have to seek out *Tim*, a Devon boy, who knows a thing or two about fish and has been keeping the port punters happy for years.

TOP TUCKER: At Tim's

Meanwhile, the Penguin Bar is a splendid traditional pub, which shows all the big football games and is a great meeting spot.

Another great place for fish

and chips is nearby institution *Marlows*, on the main road, which first plied its trade in Gibraltar in the 1960s. A true institution, owner

Steve Marlow, has run restaurants around the world and is a classically trained chef, with a good knowledge of the business, having learnt everything from his father.

Punters drive for often over an hour - from Ronda, for example - to sample the

amazing cod and chips. Up the coast in Sabinillas, the beach is lined with restaurants, but one of the best is *Miel*, run by friendly Dutch boss Kaat.

An institution with high standards for breakfast, lunch and dinner, it is hardly surprising it is usually full.



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FABULOUS FISH: A tasty tapa at Marengo and (right) at Sal y Sol

It was here that

Keith Floyd spent

some of the last

few weeks of his

life

Another fine place to eat is Marengo, just two years old, but with a distinctly differ-

ent feel to its nearby rivals. Run by Isa-bel, from Madrid, and with amazing art-work on the walls from her partner, it has a great range of tapas and dishes share.

Another emblematic place is Café Nenit, where Jose and his team serve breakfasts and pastries from



WELCOME: At Miel

early morning, tapas for lunch and bar snacks into the evening. And don't for-

get to ask for Ana's special, which changes by the day. And don't forget Pollo Pronto, which is a long time institution for take away roast chicken and chips on the main

N340 drag.

Finally, the most exciting launch of the year so far has been Floria Rustico, which is where Peter and Karen are now plying their trade, with fantastic fresh fish and the best 'pil pil' prawns on the coast.

PS... it would be impossible to write about Manilva with-out mentioning the amazing Roman Oasis, just inland on the road to the Roman Oasis, of course.

Over three decades old, it was here that legendary UK chef Keith Floyd came to spend some of the last few weeks of his life.
A massive fan of the eclec-



TRADITIONAL: Pizza at Parapiros

tic, original spot, he and owner Paul were close buddies and this is obvious by the amount of photos of Floyd on the walls.

It goes without saying, this is one of the most original and unusual places to eat on the coast, when open in the summer months.

WHEN a flood of biblical proportions destroyed his celebrated chiringuito, many might have expected Peter Nette to run to the And that is exactly what he did

to hide out and nurse his sor-rows, but to a

new rural venue, with wife Karen,

where he has come out fighting

when popular Floria was ripped in half by a raging torrent after heavy rain in December (see below).But not to the hills



OUT WITH THE

with a fabulous new project. Called Floria Rustico, it has been born out of the success of the fa-mous beach restaurant, that has fed and watered OLD: Floria

thousands - including many rich and famous - for over a decade in

Based in the former home of Armstrong's and Taste by Dirk - on the road to the Roman Oasis - this charming, chilled-out spot counts on a wonderful leafy garden and a similar menu to its former sister

RUNNING IN THE HILLS





NEW NIGHT: Wednesday Jazz restaurant on the beach.

Even better its domed wooden ceiling allows for excellent acoustics, perfect for the concerts that continue to be a key element of Floria's success.

While the Lola Boys will continue to be regulars, alongside Stelvis and Tony Watson, the most exciting new addition is the regular

Wednesday night Jazz session. Put together by talented Dutchman Mitch, the Chocoband. late Charlie and the Jazz Factory simply blow the place apart with an eclectic mix of jazz standards.
"One of the best

jazz nights I have ever witnessed. insisted local es-

tate agent Bish Witkowski. "As

HOSTS: Karen and

good as anything I have been to in London," he add-

Featuring an Argentinian and two local Spanish musicians this is one night not to be missed.



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