



All about Sierra Nevada

Vol. 12 Issue 281

www.theolivepress.es

December 20th- January 3rd 2018

alquileres
sierra nevada
apartamentos
+34 958 481 170
+34 675 470 669
www.alquileressierranevada.es

Creche course



The Sierra Nevada has all the white stuff for a winter wonderland getaway, writes Jed Neill (right)



“HE doesn't know how lucky he is, with the mountains on his doorstep,” says friendly expat Clive Jones, referring to his four-year-old son, as the Emile Allais ski lift takes us skyward, soaring above slaloming skiers zig-zagging down the pistes in colourful outfits.

The little boy stares unblinkingly down, as if wrestling with this thought, before piping up: ‘Daddy why are your skis bigger than mine?’

Fearless and icicle cool, the high adrenalin experience is easily accessible fun-filled day in the snow for this intrepid tot.

Mum and dad have bucked the parental trend of dropping junior off at ski school and are teaching him the ropes of the slopes themselves.

The smiles on their faces probably have something to do with leaving the Welsh countryside behind to live and work in the sunnier pastures of Aguilas in Murcia, under three hours away from Spain's premier ski resort.

I met the family on a gondola out of Pradollano towards the transport nexus of Borreguiles.

Continues on next page



Photo by Telemark

HK HOTEL KENIA NEVADA
★★★★★

C/Virgen de las Nieves 6,
18196 Sierra Nevada, Granada
Tel: 958 480 911
www.kenianeveda.com

CAFETERIA VERTICAL

Come to us for a warming Gluvine, Lumumba or Irish coffee plus brugers and bocadillos

Plaza de Andalucia, 4
Sierra Nevada
Tel: 958 480 217

Tex Mex Restaurant

Edificio Montebajo
Plaza Andalucia
Next to Club Deportivo Montebajo

Telephone:
958 48 11 93

NOW OPEN SATURDAY NIGHT

Tia Maria

BODEGA Casablanca

You'll keep coming back

Open from
12,00 to 24,00h

Edif. Impala, local 4,
Plaza de Pradollano
T: 610 728 571

From Page 17

Just 10 minutes above Granada's famous skiing resort, from here the mountain is your oyster, snow milling with 107 kilometres of pistes, nine distinctive areas to ski and a network of 124 runs coursing through it like capillaries.

They are the lifeblood of the resort.

And with 19 green runs, 41 blues, 50 reds, and seven blacks, you can be comfortable in the knowledge there is never a wrong turn, just a new adventure.

Two runs from Borreguiles through the Rio Monachil valley stay open at night, so no need to neck your drink and rush down after the other lifts close at 5pm.

With close transfer links to Granada airport and just two hours from the Costa del Sol, you can be on the mountains, toggled up and with beer in hand, long

Europe's most southerly ski resort shares Andalusia's sunshine record

before the last order bell rings out, which explains why it's busy at weekends.

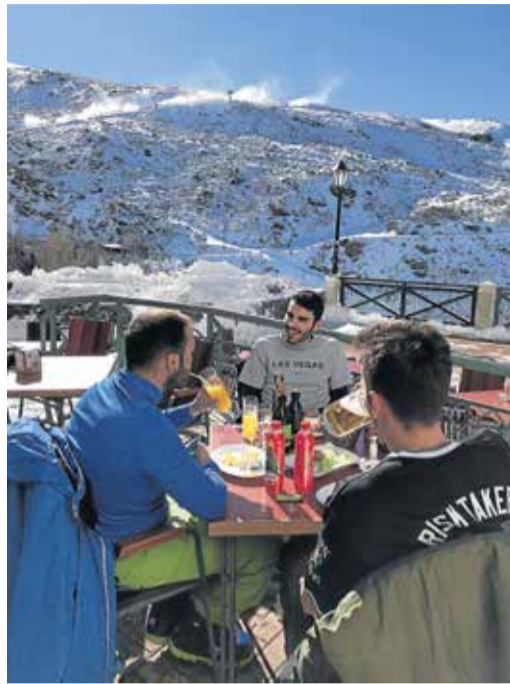
But young families who prefer less traffic on the slopes have an entire park to themselves in Mirlo Blanco, equipped with

magic carpets, toboggan ramps and gentle runs for novices and nippers to tackle.

Europe's most southerly ski resort shares Andalusia's enviable sunshine record. And there is nothing more amazing than standing in the white stuff and looking down on the coastline and beaches below.

But at Veleta, the resort's highest point peaking at 3,398 metres, the wind is screaming over like a frothy broth, and I quickly realise I should have packed an extra jumper and perhaps my long johns. On a clear day you can clearly see the outline of Morocco, as well as over 100kms to Ronda and Almeria.

But on my day to visit, it's a bit overcast and the clouds appear to have taken hostage of the Spanish landscape, blanketing the hustle and bustle below



SKI CENTRAL

in white mist.

After an exhilarating run down through the clouds, I arrive in Plaza de Pradollano, terra firma for the hungry and thirsty.

Trendy bars and restaurants crowd round this buzzing square and on a various streets around it.

This is the après ski centre of attraction as well as the commercial hub of the resort, which is run by

Cetursa, an offshoot of the Junta.

If you are in need of a ski pass, Carmen at the reservations centre will fix you up. In high season, prices top out at €48 for an adult, €44 for a juvenile and €35 for a child.

Carmen, 42, has been with Cetursa for 14 seasons and knows why people keep coming back.

"Everything about it just works, the snow, the sun

and the people make it unforgettable," she says.

In her job since 2003, she is used to welcoming visitors in a variety of languages thanks to the resorts cosmopolitan clientele ... Spanish mainly but also many Brits, Dutch, Germans and even Americans. In fact she thinks 'everyone who has a bit of spare time should come and get lost for the weekend'.

The Sierra Nevada gained international acclaim

**SKI & APRÈS-SKI AT
MELIÁ HOTELS**

MELIÁ SOL Y NIEVE

MELIÁ SIERRA NEVADA

MELIÁ SOL Y NIEVE

MELIÁ | SIERRA NEVADA

MELIÁ | SOL Y NIEVE

Information & Booking: (+34) 958 480 400/300

melia.com



STUNNING: The mountains offer amazing views and (far right) Rocio serves up food at Casablanca



Photos by Telemark



Don't boob this one

A COLLECTION of Sierra Nevada's bravest and silliest thrill seekers rush down the mountain in swimsuits for the last day of the season. Next year, the *V Bajada Swim*, will start at Borreguiles where participants hand in their clothes to take to the slopes into Pradolano where drinks and hedonism awaits. Budding nudists also get a discounted ski pass if they sign up to the official page. However, space is limited to 500 people and prizes are given to the best and most outrageous outfits.



when it hosted the 1996 world ski championships and interest has been growing ever since. Today a band is playing an open air concert to usher in the start of the new season, with Spanish pop music booming out in the late afternoon sun. Mothers are dragging their apprehensive children into the mix while the Sierra Nevada Observatory points telescopic fingers into the air, as if joining in with the merry dancers who've swapped their blades for snow boots. What's more, this atmosphere can be enjoyed at bargain basement rates. I was able to hire skis, clothes, gloves and a helmet for €30 a day. And if I had stayed for longer the price would have come down.

resort's seven black runs, weaving through spectacular scenery, When the sun begins to dip behind the mountains, the entire resort is illuminated in a dome of pastel colour, Spain's remake of the *Aurora Australis*. And with a two-man chair lift taking you direct from the town centre to the very top of the resort, and all the various accommodation options, you don't have to tramp for miles burdened under the weight of your ski equipment. But it's hungry work and after a day on the slopes, a proper meal is in order to fuel up for the following day's exertions. At night, ski clothes double as evening wear for the mostly Spanish (around 80%) visitors who fill the bars and restaurants. Establishments here carry on the great Granada tradition of free tapas with a drink, which makes Pradolano perfect pub crawl territory. The vibe is unpretentious and rugged, a far cry (happily) from your chic Courchevels and chichi Val d'Isere. But the shops could certainly be described as 'haute' couture, perched at 2,100 metres - only 200 metres less than Val Thorens, the highest ski resort in Europe. The altitude does not limit the choice of food which is totally international. Don't miss Tito Tapas, or any of its near neighbours, such as Braseria, which recently opened. I chatted to barmaid Rocio at Casablanca. She is starting her first season here and has already fallen under the

temperature,"enthuses the 25-year-old. She finds Christmas the most magical time, thanks to the festive ambience and all-night parties. But many nights, La Chimenea, and Hipodromo are busy with revellers until the early hours. With Christmas just round the corner, a day in the glittery Sierra Nevada will get you in the mood and, despite all that sunshine, there's no worry it won't be a white one. With 44 snow cannons keeping the going soft and powdery, there is never a bad time to slope off on the piste here!

Juan Garcia, 31, joined the ski rental company Masim nine weeks ago and there's little he doesn't know about snow sports. Skiing runs in his blood - his grandfather started at 16 and didn't hang up his blades until he was 80 - but Garcia got turned onto snowboarding 15 years ago by 'The Birdman' Tony Hawk. His girlfriend prefers skis. 'We are rivals when it comes to the slopes,' he laughs. Garcia thinks February is the best month to visit, mentioning the Young Blood Slopestyle Trophy. Held from February 9 to 10 in 2018, it pits teenager against teenager to see who can pull off the best trick. Then, from March 17-18 it's the pros turn at the Freestyle Ski and Snowboard Championships. Held at Sulayr Terrain Park, the testing course includes 110 different ramps and rails, the largest ski-jump in Europe and the biggest half pipe in Spain. For those who enjoy a challenge outside competitive spectacles, the Loma Dilar area contains five of the



Sierra Nevada's spell. "The climate is the best because we still get sunny days, which makes it possible to enjoy the snow and the skiing while also enjoying the



38 years of experience

SKISOL ALQUILER DE ROPA

Rent of skis, snowboards and snowblades...from 18€/day
 Rent of full kit (jacket, trousers, helmet and goggles) for just 31€
 All items also for sale



Festive fun

MAGICAL: Three kings trudge up the slopes on January 5

The resort is one of the most festive places to be in Spain, and the Spaniards know it, as they arrive in their droves for Christmas and New Year. 'Nochebuena' or Christmas eve, when the Spaniards celebrate the festive

season with a huge family meal and lashings of turrón, is usually a sell out. Meanwhile 'nochevieja', or New Year's Eve, where massive screens show the countdown in Madrid's iconic Puerta del Sol, with grapes galore, is a riot. For the eve of the Reyes

on Jan 5 the three kings duly arrive on skis. Kids will love it. Carnival, from February 6-14, also sees a mass arrival for the fancy dress competition, snow-sport contests and spectacles from Granada University.

Plaza Andalucia,6 Edificio Dornajo - Sierra Nevada
 T: 958 480 857 | E: info@skisol.es
 www.skisol.es

10% discount with this coupon



PURE ELEGANCE IN THE SIERRA
NEVADA. WINES BY THE GLASS,
CREATIVE NEW TAPAS BY THE WEEK

Edificio Montblanc in front of Hotel Melia
Sol y Nieve, Sierra Nevada



Plastic mountain

A RECYCLING project has been launched in the Sierra Nevada Ski Station in an effort to rid the mountain of plastic.

Some 90 shops, hotels and restaurants have joined in the initiative which is encouraging commercial outlets to segregate their waste, just as businesses on the coast do.

To that end, participating establishments have been supplied with more than 130 buckets and waste bins to help them keep the Sierra Nevada clean and green, and 40 adapted containers have been installed close by at street level, helping them to comply.

Each business has been given a key to their nearest adapted container, designed to 'greatly facilitate the deposit of previously separated waste'. Meanwhile a huge yellow blow up cup is encouraging children to conserve water.

BLOWING UP: Efforts to clean up

The slopes fit for a king



EVEN Spain's royal family can't resist a skiing session on these beautiful slopes.

Despite having the means to splash out on more expensive resorts, the

family have chosen time and time again somewhere closer to home for their family's snowy adventures.

This year King Felipe VI accepted the honorary presidency of the

World Championships at the resort.

He followed in the footsteps of his father, Juan Carlos I, who held the same honorary position for the World Alpine Ski of 1996.

Other Spanish household names known to visit the slopes include bullfighting brothers Fran and Cayetano Rivera, who like to unwind at La Bodeguita and La Tinaja for a taste of apres ski.

Customer is king

IT is a classic family business.

Jose Antonio Lopez and his wife Montse are often joined by their two children at weekends when the resort gets busy.

But thankfully it's not too far, the family living in nearby La Zubia, just at the foot of the slopes.

In an excellent location, their shop Skisol has some of the best quality skis and snowboards to rent and customer service is the key to its success.

"We always put the customer first and have plenty of returning business," explains Jose Antonio, who has been renting out skis in the Sierra Nevada for 35 years.

Best of all, the prices have not gone up for a decade.w

"And we don't just rent out any old equipment... we buy at least 50 new pairs of boots alone each season," he adds.



EXPERIENCED: Jose Antonio and Montse

Visit www.skisol.es or call 958 48 08 57

December 20th - January 3rd 2018



SMALL ACORN: First bar

The Funes family opened the Gondolas bar and shop two decades ago and now have half a dozen business

Healthy growth

COMING together for Christmas is what families are all about.

And the Funes' know this more than anyone, building one of the Sierra Nevada's most dynamic and bustling businesses.

Under the parent name of Las Gondolas, they have a supermarket, ski hire company, a school and three restaurants in the resort of Pradolano.

The Argentinian family all run their part, with the three children Lorena, 40, Gonzalo, 38 and Luciano, 36, primarily doing the daily graft.

It was their father who brought them over from Argentina two decades ago, wanting to come back to his natural home of Granada (he was born nearby in Lanjarón).

They had run a supermarket in south America, so it was perhaps natural that their first business in the Sierra Nevada was a similar



BIG BEEF: Gonzalo at Muralla while Luciano (right) with employee at Las Gondolas



type of shop.

It did so well, they had soon opened a bar and restaurant next door, before expanding across the street with a ski rental business.

To this, they have now added a ski school - run by Luciano's girlfriend Simone, a super friendly Austrian - as well as two more restaurants, the celebrated La Muralla and Entrecopas. Together they have become a force of nature in situ with Sierra's stunning scenery. "The key to our success is quality and excellent service and we bend over

backwards to help our clients," explains Gonzalo, who takes particular pride in the amazing steaks on offer at his main restaurant La Muralla.



LAS GONDOLAS
RENTAL & SCHOOL X SKI & SNOWBOARD



WWW.ALQUILERLASGONDOLAS.COM



ESCUELA X ALQUILER X TALLER LAS GONDOLAS

PLAZA PRADOLLANO, EDIF. TELECABINA · INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS: 657 454 448
EMAIL: LASGONDOLASRENTALSCHOOL@GMAIL.COM



la Muralla
Restaurante

Specialists in top quality meat on the grill



Edificio Mont Blanc, Local 26, Sierra Nevada
T: 958 481 162 / 677 413 331

AND THIS YEAR WE INCORPORATE OUR NEW GASTRO BAR...



ENTRECOPAS
FOOD, DRINKS & MUSIC
SIERRA NEVADA



LAS GONDOLAS
BAR RESTAURANTE X MÚSICA TERRAZA



MUSIC · FOOD & APRÉS SKI



RESTAURANTE BOCADILLOS HAMBURGUESAS BAR "LAS GONDOLAS"

PLAZA PRADOLLANO, EDIF. GENCIANA · FRENTE TELESILLA PARADOR · TEL. 675 825 756



BLIGHTY UNITED

It's two decades since intrepid expats Giles Birch and Jonathan Buzzard started working in the Sierra Nevada, writes Jon Clarke

WANT to find the cream of British skiing talent in the Sierra Nevada? Well look no further than seminal Crescendo bar at the foot of the slopes, where Jonathan Buzzard and Giles Birch met over two decades ago. This is their second office and where you will find them propping up the bar after a hard day's teaching on the slopes, which they know like a fox in a fox hole. Step back to 1996, a boom time in Spain, and Giles was looking for the ideal transport rep to help him grow his travel business, working with the likes of Neilson Ski alongside First Choice and Thompsons, that had just launched in Granada. Jonathan had all the right traits with his long flashers mac, 'big hair' and a friendly, outgoing persona. "I had no idea what was going on but

had been told that Crescendo was the place to find the Brits and the reps-in-the-know," he recalls. "Next thing in walks Jonathan with just the right attitude and he was soon helping me deal with the three to four flights we regularly dealt with on a Sunday." The pair are still working together, collectively running the extremely successful British Ski Center from their base near the resort. Great mates, they both now teach, as well as sort out holidays for hundreds of clients each year. "Of course things are completely different to back then," explains Jonathan, who lived in Marbella in the golden years before it was ruined by corrupt leader Jesus Gil. "Sierra Nevada used to see in thousands of foreigners every week, but after a couple of dry years in the 1980s the resort's reputation suffered badly



LONG TERM: Giles and Jonathan



ON AND OFF THE SLOPES: Team in the bar and on their skis



and things all began to change. "Luckily the snow came back, albeit not yet this year, but these days it is all independent travellers and the agencies have all but disappeared." Of course there have been some bad years such as 1995 when Jonathan recalls cycling up Borreguiles run on a mountain bike in shorts on Christmas Day. This year however, is one of the best. "But generally it is as good as most

other international resort and the range of skiing and schools is hard to beat," explains Giles, who is now in his benchmark 21st season in Granada. Since arriving he has married (a Portuguese girl), had three children and taught literally hundreds of clients. So what makes the Sierra Nevada so special, according to him? One aspect is the length of the season. We start in late November and stay

open until early May while other resorts don't open until mid December and end their season in April." This is partly due to the resort's altitude and the quality of the snow which is constantly worked on during the night. "That's why you'll never see slush even in the latter part of the season," he adds. **Visit www.britishskicenter.co.uk for more info.**

Sierra Nevada

British Ski Center
www.britishskicenter.co.uk
info@britishskicenter.co.uk
T: 670 461330 / 646 178406

English Ski School with Native Instructors

www.riosport.net



ROADBLOCK: While some years - such as 1995 - there was almost no snow - other years were legendary and it took weeks to carve a route in

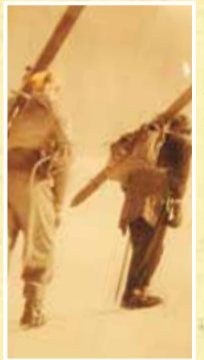
Snow bound

WHAT was once an isolated farming region in the back garden of the Alhambra Palace has changed beyond recognition. The Sierra Nevada has long played an important role in Spanish history, its natural barrier marking the border between the Roman provinces of *Hispania* and *Taracconense*. The ski resort has a more unusual tale to tell. The idea of turning it into a winter sports resort was first floated in the 19th century by the Spanish consul to Helsinki, Angel Ganivet.

The Sierra Nevada ski station turns 120

Ganivet, who was born in Granada, suggested that a 'Finnish Granada' should be created to rival the sporting traditions of his homeland. In 1898, a group called *Diez Amigos Limited* (Ten Friends Limited) was formed, made up of writers and artists seeking inspiration in the mountains and thrills speeding down them on two planks of wood. They later changed their name to *Sociedad Sierra Nevada*, Spain's third

oldest club, and built the mountain's first refuge in 1912. Soon after, in 1914, Spain's National Sport Week was celebrated there. In 1920 a road was built between Granada and the Sierra Nevada and by 1964, Cetursa was founded to run the resort. However, it was not until 1996 with the World Alpine Ski Championships that the resort gained international acclaim, becoming a Spanish National Park in 1999. In 2010, the World Freestyle Cup diversified the resort's portfolio again, putting it on par with Alpine resorts.



Ci Vediamo

THE SIERRA NEVADA'S MOST ELEGANT RESTAURANT



MICHELIN TRAINED CHEF ESTEBAN SILVA,
PRODUCE CLASSIC ITALIAN STYLE DISHES
WITH A MODERN TWIST

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY TO SUNDAY
12.00-16.00/ 20.00-24.00

| Find Us on Google Maps with 360° degree view |
Plaza Andalucía, Edf. Salvia s/n · Pradollano · Tel. 958 480 856 · civediamosn@gmail.com

We're flying

The Sierra Nevada is fast becoming a natural haven for Spain's top snowboarders

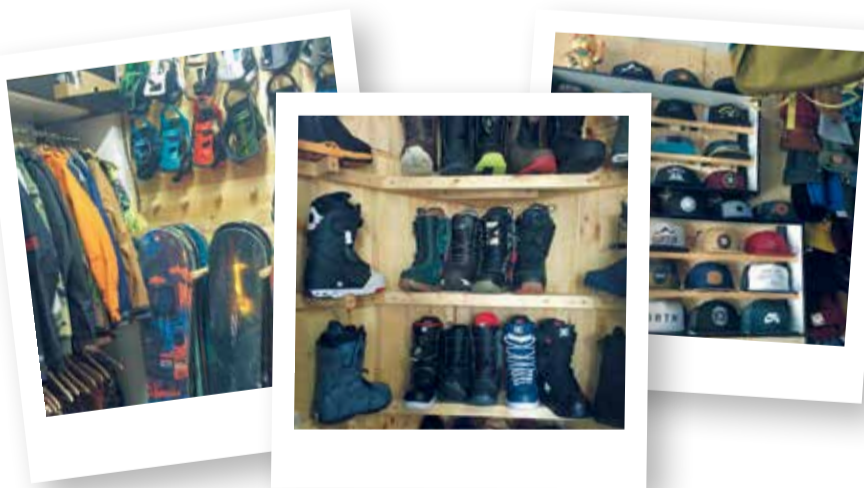


LOCAL PRO: Jesus at South Star shop



**SOUTH
STAR**
SNOWBOARD SHOP

'Your snowboarding centre
in the Sierra Nevada'



'Lessons, gear, advice and tips'

Plaza de Pradollano 3 y Plaza Andalucía
Edificio Salvia, local 16 · Granada

Tel. 958 48 07 31



LOCALS boast of its cream snow. So it is no wonder the Sierra Nevada is a Mecca for thrill-seeking snowboarders, who come in their droves to take advantage of a soft and sumptuous ride. For beginners and experts alike, Spain's highest resort is a glorious setting. With its stunning scenery and top-class facilities, it was no surprise that it won the bid to host the Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships this year. One of the best places to catch the top riders in action is at SuperPark Sulayr, Europe's largest freestyle snowboard park. Sitting at an altitude of 2,700 metres on Borreguiles, the famed snowboarding park houses the country's biggest permanent half-pipe. Measuring an astonishing 165 metres in length

with a height of six metres, the special design flattens the snow on the side of the half-pipe so that snowboarders can jump on both sides. Rookies will also find a place to carve their noses in the resort, thanks to the gentle gradient of the central station, Borreguiles. Here, lifts deposit snowboarders on a smooth, well-groomed area where they can hone their skills. Many professional snowboarders class Sierra Nevada as their home and a few shops specialise just in snowboarding. These include South Star, where Jesus and his brother juggle their passion for the snow sport by running their own shop. "It's a fantastic place for snowboarders, one of the best in Spain, if not Europe," he explains. "I've grown loads over the last few years and we're always busy."



WHAT A CARVE UP: At the largest half pipe in Spain

December 20th - January



MECCA: For snowboarders across Europe

design
be so
niche
ts of
n and
skills.
a Ne-
ralise
d his
with
of the
t has
e are

The largest ski school in Spain since 1986
A name you can trust

The Official Ski School Sierra Nevada was founded in 1986 with Diploma for Teachers RFEDI (Royal Spanish Winter Sports Federation), to offer winter sports enthusiasts better service and a personalized and appropriate education on each level.

WE OFFER:

- Bilingual teachers English-Spanish
- Lessons for kids from 3 upwards
- 31 years experience on the slopes
- Snowboard and skiing for all levels
- Dreamland ski area for children

EOE DIRECTOR
Juan Luis Hernández Linares

HEAD TEACHER
Fernando Arias Fanjul

Ski & snowboard rental
958 480 906 www.monitortecno.es

tel: 958 48 00 11 reservas@sierranevadaescuela.com
www.sierranevadaescuela.com

El Balcón, Paradolano y Edificio Montebajo, Plaza de Andalucía Sierra Nevada, Granada



Alquileres Sierra Nevada

INMOBILIARIA

Teléfono: 675 470 669

Plaza de Pradolano, S/N · 18196 Sierra Nevada · Granada

"From budget to luxury"



Apartments from just 80,00 €/ night



www.alquileressierranevada.es



Telemark has been catering for families and adventurers on the snow since 1989, writes Jon Clarke

White World

THERE are not many inches of the Sierra Nevada that Luis Casanova and partner Jesus Fernandez don't know. Be it hiking, biking, cross country or off-piste skiing, they have slipped, slid or skidded down the lot for the last three decades. Celebrated for their famous off-piste mountain adventures that last from a morning to two days, they are perhaps the most experienced and wisest pair in the Sierra Nevada. But their ski and snowboard school, set up in 1989, is now focusing very



much on families and children. "We have realised that our knowledge and know-how is perfect for families who want the perfect personal one to one skiing break," explains Casanova, who spends half the year in the resort and the other half in Africa. The company also still runs amazing wilderness trips that literally end up in another world... the charming cobbled villages of the Genil valley, in the Alpujarras. These one or two-day adventures take you through deep off-piste snow onto narrow mountain tracks. "We try to put an emphasis on ecol-



FAMILY FRIENDLY: Skiing is for all ages and the Telemark team are famous for looking after all ages



ogy and nature and it is impressive to see the typically old farmhouses in the area and how little they have changed," adds Luis, in perfect English. "It is a real, fun adventure, something you will not forget. "Best of all, a team of mules ends up helping to bring your stuff back to Pradolano," he adds. The day trip costs just €100 per person and includes transport and lunch. Another popular pastime for those,

who don't fancy risking life and limb on the pistes, is to have a day of cross-country skiing on two or three well established paths around the resort. "It is great fitness and you do get to enjoy the fabulous views and nature at the same time," he adds. The company can also help organise hard-core uphill climbing for mountaineers to a half day soft snow walking trip with snow rackets. **Contact the team on telemark@telemark.es or call 958 48 11 53.**

SCHOOL RENTAL

- Alpine
- Snowboard
- Telemark
- Mountain Ski
- Crosscountry
- Snow Racquets

SIERRA NEVADA TELEMARQUE
ESQUI • SNOWBOARD • AVENTURA

FREERIDE EXCURSIONS
MOUNTAIN GUIDES

958 481153
telemark@telemark.es

We speak good english

December 20th - January 3rd 2018



PALS: Jose Luis and Juan Angel

THEY are the definitive dream team on the slopes.

With over 50 years experience between them, Jose Luis Pascual, 65, and Juan Angel Gallardo, 34, have all the bases covered.

The pair, who run Pascual Ski, can organise everything from ski hire to lessons and ski repair to jumping practice.

Based out of a shop just 50 yards from the main ski lift, they speak English and have no less than 10 teachers working for them.

"But what we do is really look after the clients," explains Jose Luis, who did his military service at the age of 19 with the so called 'legion blanca' in the Pyrenees.

"We can do repairs that people might

DREAM TEAM



think are impossible and we take particular care of the boots we rent out." His partner Juan Angel is one of the top qualified teachers on the slopes and has been competing in freestyle skiing since the age of 12.

"I was a national ski trainer and en-

joy nothing more than teaching kids how to do jumps or ski mugs," he explains.

For more information contact them at 958 481048



The friendliest bar on the slopes



FREE TAPA WITH EVERY DRINK

Open 10am - 3am

**Edificio Mont Blanc Bajo, 15 Sierra Nevada (Granada)
Tel. 659 439 428**

PASCUAL SKI

tu alquiler de Sierra Nevada



**SKI HIRE AND SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL TEAM
working on the slopes
for FOUR decades**

**PRIVATE LESSONS
two pupils for the price of one!**

**ALL TYPES OF HIRE AND REPAIR
of skis, snowboards and boots**

Tel: 958 481 048

Plaza Andalucía, s/n, local 8
18193 Sierra Nevada, Granada, España
Next to the main cable car (30mts)

www.alquileresquissiernevada.com

WHERE TO STAY

WHITE OUT!

It is hard to describe Pradollano as an authentic mountain village. But, with a metre of snow on the ground and the sun finally out, it certainly has its charms.

There are lots of places to stay but easily one of the most charming has got to be the authentic Hotel Kenia Nevada (www.kenianeveda.com), which is well located near the centre of town and open most of the year.



COMFORT: Kenia Nevada and Melia

Run by the friendly Don Pedro – who used to ski for the country as a youngster – it is clean, well run and serves up one of the best breakfasts in Spain.

It also has a gym and spa, with an in-house masseur, and plenty of communal areas, filled with charming old furniture.

If you are looking for somewhere to rent then Sierra Nevada Alquileres (www.alquileressierraneveda.es) is a good bet, with the company having over 100 places on its books. Boss Antonio (left) is knowledgeable and friendly.



You could also go upmarket and splurge on one of the two wonderful Melia hotels, right in the heart of the resort. The rooms at the Melia Sierra Nevada have been recently renovated and the new Premium rooms have been built on



floors 7 and 8. Meanwhile the nearby Meliá Sol y Nieve hotel offers The Level experience, which is the group's most exclusive commitment to luxury and personal service.

WHERE TO EAT

Even fondue!



Sierra Nevada has so much more than raclette and gluvine, writes Jon Clarke (pictured above) with a fondue set

It may not be San Sebastian but there's literally mountains of great places to eat in the Sierra Nevada.

Indeed, the sheer variety of restaurants in Pradollano is as good as anywhere in Andalucia... and the quality keeps getting better.

Much of this is thanks to a strong influx of foodie restaurateurs in recent years, with the latest offerings including an excellent Italian **Al Dente**, a new **Mar Sala** and the excellent **Braseria**.

"You really need to have your specific niche and I really like to do things differently," Yolanda, from **Braseria** told me.

This certainly rung true when she brought out a delicious starter of thinly sliced foie gras with mango and strawberries and a rocket salad, followed by a churrasco de ternera served with a ripe melon and brown sugar!

She has recently opened this trendy joint with partner Jaime, after working for six years at the nearby Nevada **Suisse** restaurant, and I am ex-



NEW BROOM: Al Dente and (top) at Nevada Suisse

pecting great things. But, without a doubt, still leading the way in the creativity stakes is Stevie Silva and his hip young



Tlf: +34 958 17 72 93

Plaza de Andalucía, Edificio Montebajo, Local 1, 18196, Sierra Nevada National Park



Tlf: +34 638 58 83 73

Plaza de Andalucía, Edificio Montebajo Local 2, 18196, Sierra Nevada National Park



MEAT FEAST: At Braseria

team at **Ci Vediamo**. Along with his girlfriend Luna Coronado, who runs the sala with aplomb, this former professional snowboarder carves it up as well these days in the kitchen. Always on the look out for new dishes it helps that he travels widely each year in the quiet season, including recently Indonesia. One day this boy will earn himself a Michelin star... at the very least a bib gourmand for his wonderful dishes such as *uzukuri* of turbot with yuzu and *kimchee*. He now bunches his oriental style delicacies in a separate 'rebel food' menu, which changes

by the day depending on what he can get at the markets. There are always various cerviches and tartares and his soft crab tempura with winter vegetables is a fantastic one for a cold night. There is also a fabulous dish called '*tuetano*' basically the sinews from the shinbone of beef, served with stunning fresh prawns. And let's not forget the 'gambas pil pil' hamburgers, the Nero spaghetti with champagne sauce and king prawns, and some of the best pizzas around. Also creative is **Tito Tapas**, run by long term pals Luis and Javier, who also own two **Tito Luigi** restaurants in the resort

No torch to this

AS stalwarts go, few top busy Antorcha, which sits by the Kenia Nevada hotel. Run by Antonio and Maite for a decade, it is a warm and friendly place on a cold evening. Each table gets its own 'sausage tree', while the speciality of the house is the 'hot and spicy platter' on which you can cook your own rump steaks, up to 400gr.



TEAM: At Antorcha

It's a cool spot with great food and wine and perfectly complements their more traditional restaurants, which are always packed at night, serving up fantastic food, including pizzas, salads and pasta dishes, with my current top pick: the amazing squid-ink spaghetti with prawns. In particular punters love the historic 'cave' at the back, which counts dozens of famous guests including the former king. The photos are there to prove it. On the same run - which should be called Foodie Corner - you must also check out **La Muralla**, run by Argentinian Gonzalo Funes, and appropriately with the best steaks in the resort, not to mention excellent wines by the glass. The 'tostas' are also great and come in various guises, while I loved the milhoja of foie gras. He and his brother Luciano now have a stylish new restaurant **Entrecopas**, almost next door, which is great tapas including gyozas and provolone cheese with spicy peppers. And don't forget the broth-

Continues on Page 30

La Antorcha RESTAURANTE

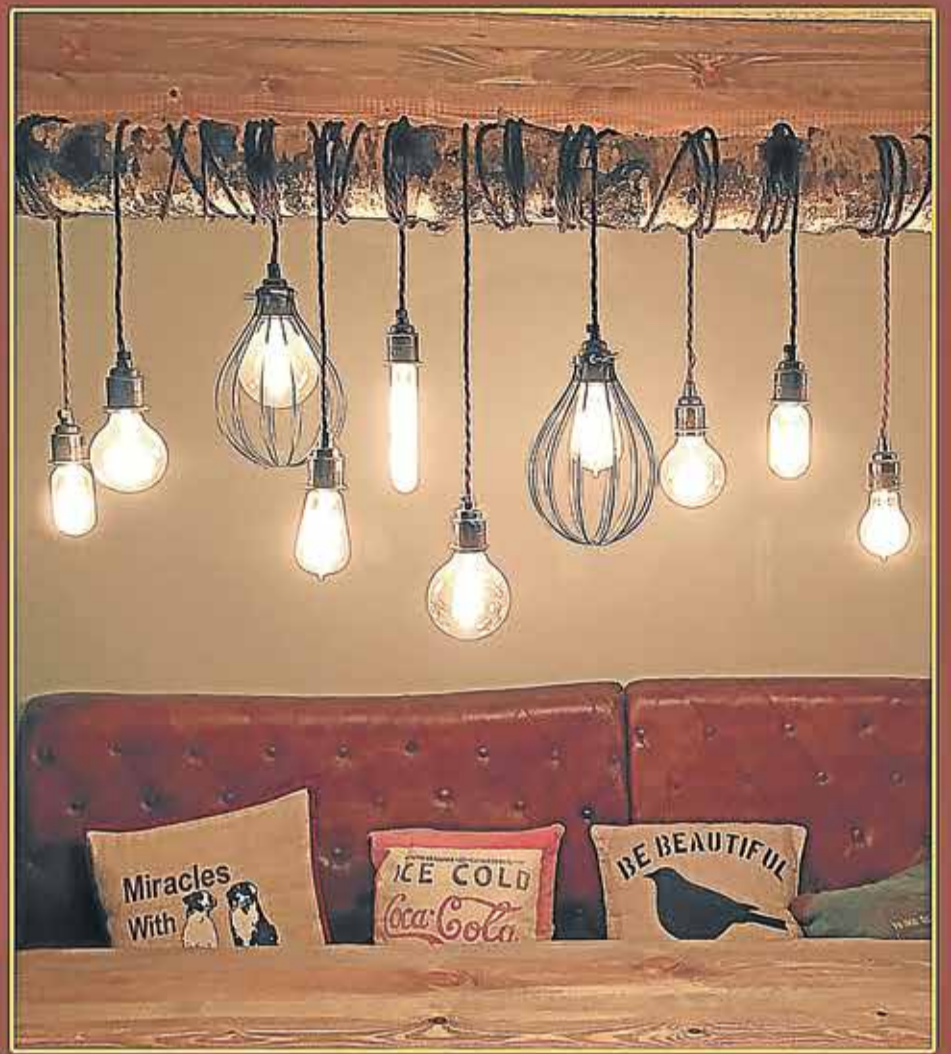


"Our speciality, meats on the authentic stone"

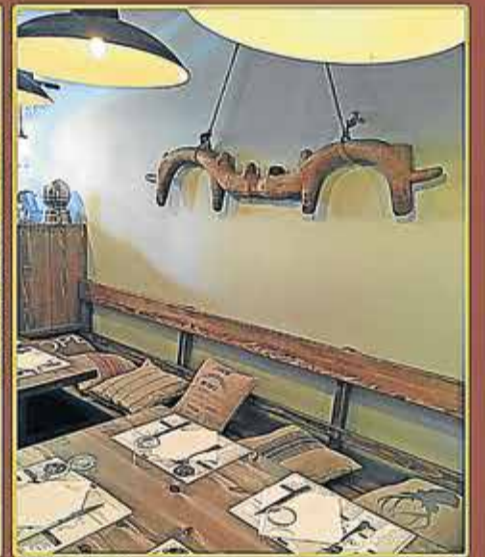
Edif. Atlas/ Bajo Hotel Kenia . T 958480345/654345117 Sierra Nevada . Granada



THE BOSS: At Vertical



From classic to modern



EDIFICIO MONT BLANC, Local 31
Tel: 958 480 882

TITO LUIGI 2

EDIFICIO AMÉRICA. Zona Intermedia
Junto Parada Telesilla Paradot
Tel: 958 481 215





OFFERING: La Mar Sala and (right) La Visera

From Page 29

Foodie feast

ers' other bustling spot **Las Gondalas**, right in the heart of the town and perfect for some apres ski light bites, a hot drink or a beer. The cool sounds playing to the terrace attract a cool crowd and you will struggle to find a seat on many days. Just up from here, look out for the amazing **Bodega Casablanca** run by Jose Carlos Villanueva, who grew up on the slopes, with his father opening one of the first hostals in the 1960s.



The historic photos add to the atmosphere (as does a framed *Olive Press* article!) and the heart-warming soul food is always excellent, and includes stews, lentils as well as prawns wrapped in potato with a soya mayonnaise and lovely lamb chops with whisker-thin wild asparagus. Newer and really leading the charge food-wise is **La Mar Sala**, where Carlos has created an ambient spot, perfect for tapas and wines by the



glass. This prime spot by the Melia hotel is normally filled to the rafters and counts on some excellent wines by the glass and the very best seafood from Motril, including boquerones, cigalas and conchas finas. A genuine find. He has also just opened another place on 'Foodie Corner' called **La Mar del Bueno**, which is a very stylish place and promises to be a true winner this winter, with a decent, creative looking menu.



ALWAYS BUSY: At La Muralla



Reserves: +34 695 425 633
www.lafonduedenoa.com

Address: c/ Virgen de las Nieves, 3P29. Sierra Nevada



www.labraseriadesierranevada.com

Reserves: 622 809 275

Address: c/Virgen de las Nieves, 3 Local 1. Sierra Nevada.



December 20th - January 3rd 2018



STEVIE WONDER: Some of the delicious creations from Stevie Silva at Ci Vediamo (pictured right) with Maitre Luna



Another excellent place overlooking the slopes is **Tia Maria**, which has a good mix of dishes and is a great place for breakfast.

Run by Carlos, the brother of Tito Luigi's Javier, this is an institution and place to while away the day.

Next door, you will find perhaps the most scenic place to take lunch in Spain.

Recently opened, **Al Dente** has a superb mix of Italian and Spanish dishes.

My tomato, mozzarella bruchetta with basil and black olives was original, while I particularly loved the Saltimbocca, which is fillet steak stuffed with ham and with a rich ricotta sauce. There were some delicious 'niscallo' mushrooms added for extra measure.

Recently opened by a friendly Granada lawyer Antonio, his team are knowledgeable and service is crisp.

He also co-owns the well established **La Visera** next door, along with chef Pepe, who is a very capable chef and always leading the charge in



PALS: Javi and Luis at Tito Luigi (also right)



CASABLANCA: And (left) Entrecopas

the kitchen.

For coffee, breakfast, and in fact just about everything, **Vertical** is hard to be beaten and also has a great range of snacks and light bites, including hot dogs for the British clientele.

Next door, **Bar Ski** will not disappoint if you want to have the real McCoy, local Granadino food and banter.

This is THE place to hang out and have fun and the owner, Michi, is, as they say in Spanish 'a crack'.

Last, but not least, and if you really still harp for something very traditional... but with a very Alpine twist, head to **Nevada Suisse**, where Yolanda, who owns Braseria knows how to serve up traditional Swiss fare.

This is where you come for a classic fondue and you can have it in half a dozen different ways, a Mexican style called 'Chingona' and even a 'Curry House' which is bound to be a hit with the Brits.



La Mar Salá

El mar en Sierra Nevada

*El mejor pescaito
directo del mar
a la sierra*

bar RESTAURANTE

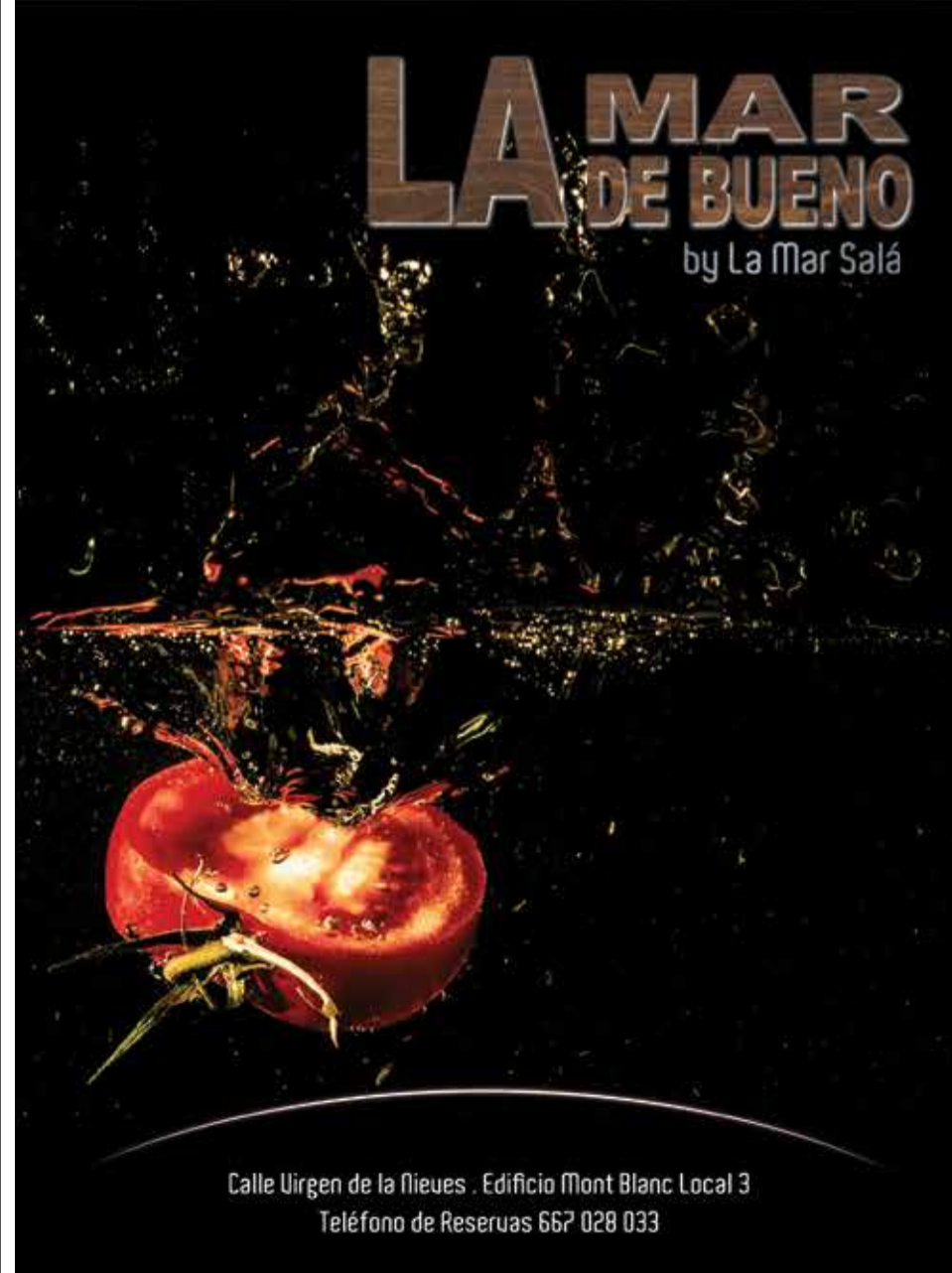


Hotel Melia Sol y Nieve - Local 2

Teléfonos Reservas 958 480 841 - 667 028 033

LA MAR DE BUENO

by La Mar Salá



Calle Virgen de la Nieves . Edificio Mont Blanc Local 3
Teléfono de Reservas 667 028 033



sierranevada
granada · Andalucía



intensely
sun and snow



family · friends · apreski · night skiing · snowpark · competition

winter season **2017-2018**