

# All about **Estepona**

April 2012

A 16-page Olive Press special supplement

## White-village-on-sea

**Estepona has found the perfect balance between modern tourism and maintaining its Spanish identity, discovers James Bryce**

**W**ANDERING the narrow streets of Estepona's old town during siesta time provides the greatest clue to its enduring Spanishness.

While many other towns along the Costa del Sol have adopted northern European working hours in a bid to satisfy the hordes of tourists, it is still largely adhered to in Estepona.

The only signs of life in the deserted back alleys of the old town were the occasional cat and the odd hushed conversation coming from behind shuttered windows.

With the white-washed houses bedecked in window boxes bursting with vividly coloured flowers, I could easily have been in one of the celebrated *pueblos blancos* further inland.

Enjoying a coffee in the shade of an orange tree in a pretty plaza, I realised just how much more gradual the town's development had been compared to the rest of the coast.

One long-term expatriate resident Sonia Longman, 67, explained how in the 1950s there was practically nothing in Estepona apart from a smelly fish factory, where supermarket Carrefour is today.

"When we used to get a taxi from our home in Torremolinos to Gibraltar I remember my mum giving us hankies with cologne as we passed to mask the smell of the glue made from fish oil," she recalls.

Longman and her sister, who later moved there and have run the local English bookshop Longmans for decades, started life in the town working on Spanish newspaper, *Sol de Espana*.

Working under the tutelage of Lord Cowley, who was a direct descendant of the Duke of Wellington, they were given the job of producing an English page within the paper every day.

"We always liked to push the boundaries and even once got

Turn to Page 2



**PICTURE POSTCARD PRETTY:** Snapshot in the Old Town and the nearby beaches (inset)

**RESTAURANTE**  
**SUP**  
**CARNES ARGENTINAS**

**CARNES ARGENTINAS**  
(abierto todos los días) (open all days)

Tel. 952 792 876  
Plaza Ortiz, 10 Estepona

**BAR ROUGE**  
Irish owned bar

**AMSTEL**  
**CERVEZA**

Live music and entertainment  
CALLE CARIDAD, 64  
ESTEPONA

**EXCEPTIONAL Value, Service & Quality**

- ✓ POOL SAFETY
- ✓ HEATING
- ✓ PROTECTION
- ✓ REFORMS
- ✓ SOLAR & ASHP SOLUTIONS

Visit us at  
"Living on the Coast"  
Marbella

**AdvaSol Solutions**

951 965 309/664 871 133  
www.advasolsolutions.com

**BEST COCHES**.com

Tel : 952 88 52 50

Mon-Fri : 10.00 to 8.00 • Sat : 10.00 to 4.00

60 cars Available

"Never Less than the Best"  
N340, Km 162.5, Estepona



## 2 Estepona special

From Page 1

reported to the Bishop of Malaga for using a photograph of a sexy girl in a bikini climbing a tree.

"It was in the days of dictator Franco and the editor was summoned to Malaga to receive a dressing down from the Bishop," she continues.

"He got such a ticking off that we were forced to fill all the middle bits of every shot of women in bikinis with black felt pen so it looked like they had bathing suits on!"

She also remembers how - after moving to the town in the 1960s - her sister's donkey was 'towed away' by the local police for eating flowers in the main square.

"It was taken to the slaughterhouse and my sister had to literally beg the fat local policeman to give her a lift there to rescue it just in time."

How things have changed. In line with the growth of most of the Costa del Sol, the town and its surrounding area has become a magnet for property developers, estate agents, golfers, professional footballers and celebrities.

The marina now holds berths for over 250 yachts and the town boasts around 25,000 people residing there all year round.

# Nautical but nice



A distant cousin of its more affluent neighbour, Marbella, and situated 40kms from

Gibraltar, the town is part upmarket tourism and part package holiday resort.

But, what one really notices about Estepona is the fact that it remains resolutely a Spanish town, conserving much of its old part, that is in every way as attractive as Marbella.

"It has a distinct Spanish flavour," explains local shopowner Hugh Thompson, from stylish furniture and antique shop Retro.

Fellow expat Gwilym Rhys Jones, from internet/computer company Surweb agrees.

"It has never lost its soul like some Costa towns," he says. Originally given the title of *Estebbuna* by the Romans, the town is littered with historic monuments from old Phoenician and Roman burial

**PART PACKAGE HOLIDAY, PART UPMARKET RESORT: Marina (left) and a window in town**



grounds to splendid castles. Built on the old Roman road now the paseo, the town was destroyed by the conquering Christians in the 15th century and rebuilt by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand a century later. In 1729 Philip V granted the town a charter for 600 families and the town has continued its growth to this day. The old monuments are still very much in evidence from the scattering of watchtowers warding off the Moorish invaders to the Arab-built clock tower and the 16th century castle ruins, which are worth a visit. The best is the old Franciscan monastery which is now the Church of our Lady of Redemption. If you ask nicely you may still be allowed to walk to the top of the tower and enjoy the

vista of the whole town and mountains inland. Modern Estepona still maintains its ancient ambience and does not seem overwhelmingly saturated with foreign investment. Unlike, say, Fuengirola and its fish alley, there are only a handful of English bars in the old town and along the paseo. Local Spanish bars take precedence and there is plenty of good tapas to be had at very cheap prices.

### Sun worshippers often have enough room to draw up volleyball courts in the sand

The town also boasts one of the best beaches on the coast, the Playa de la Rada, which won a prestigious EC blue flag in 2009. Lining this golden stretch of coastline are a number of well known *chiringuitos* that have been established since the mid sixties.

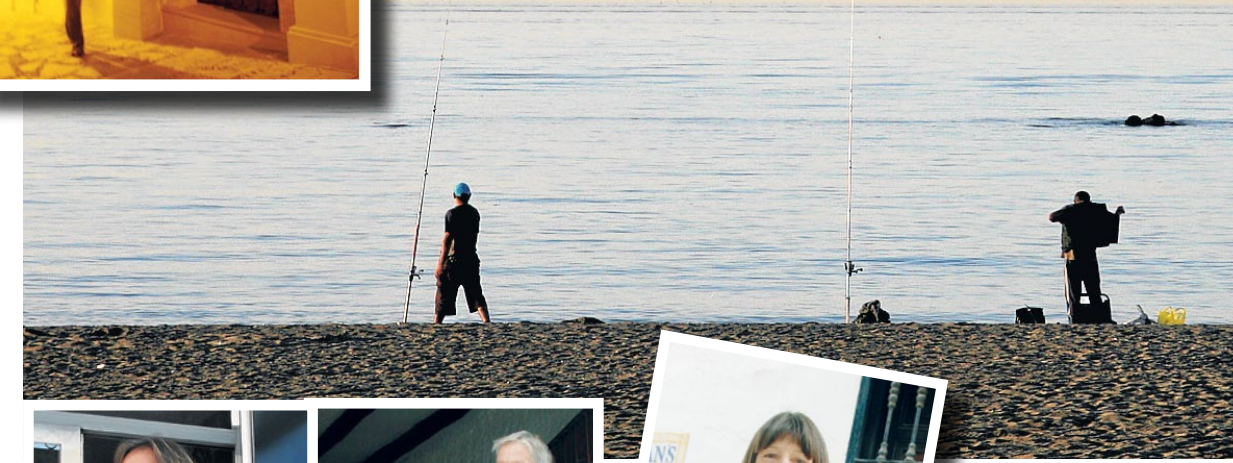
In the summer, those in the know will flock to this beach ahead of its mainstream counterparts down the road in Marbella.

As holidaymakers fight to grab some limited towel space in Puerto Banus, Estepona's sun worshippers often have enough space to draw up their own volleyball courts in the sand.

Others, such as expat Pauline Olivera prefer the 'secret beach' Playa del Cristo, just up the coast. "It is one of the only unspoilt little bays left on the coast," she says. "It is so nice I chose to get married there."

However, not only is the town great for sun-seekers but it

## 3 Estepona special



**HAPPY MIX: Expats Rhys Jones, Hugh and Sue Thompson from Retro and Sonia Longman**



**ANCIENT AND MODERN: Fishermen and an old doorway (inset)**

also serves up a storm for fans of quality sea food. Even now, dozens of small fishing boats leave the calm waters in the early hours, coming back laden with their catches.

Back in the olden days the

place had a fabulous restaurant called the Yellow Book. This alternative hangout was based around the notorious drawings of one local artist which had to be censored for their explicit content.

While they didn't leave any-

thing to the imagination, famous guests included Michael Parkinson, Jimmy Tarbuck, Ronnie Corbett and the late Frank Carson, who had a house near the marina. If you are celebrity-spotting today, keep your eyes peeled for the much-loved Cilla Black who occasionally pops over, as well as Spain's highest-paid matador Jose Tomas, who lives in the town with his girlfriend and young baby, born in November.

Even wrinkly rocker Rod Stewart used to live a few minutes drive away, up on the Casares road, where you will find a series of spectacular restaurants.

These days, however, you are more likely to bump into footballers trying to improve their handicap on a golfing break at El Paraiso or Valle Romano.

Either way, thankfully much of Estepona's old remnants remain intact, as a stroll through the old town confirms.

Just don't go wandering too far as it may just bring you back into modern times.

## BIG BLUE BOX

Next to CC Diana on CN340 km 168

Massive 2,000 m2 showroom

We buy and sell new and nearly new furniture

Top quality for a fraction of the new cost

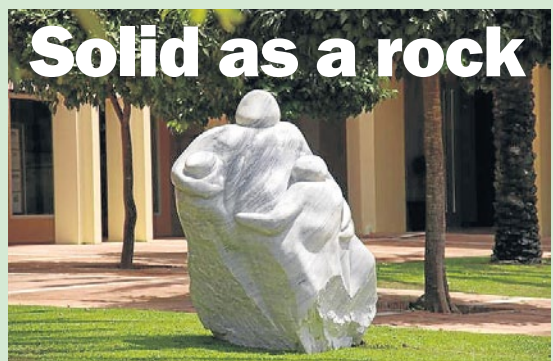
We also supply furniture packages

**4 CONTAINERS OF NEW HALF PRICE STOCK**

Also **CATERING EQUIPMENT**

**T: 952 886 067 M: 689 000 754**  
**info@bigbluebox.es - www.bigbluebox.es**

## Solid as a rock



**THEY** are actually rather difficult to miss. But it is worth keeping your eyes peeled for a series of massive sculptures by Scottish artist Toby Govan around the town.

Having lived in Estepona since he was seven - his parents were both artists - it is perhaps fitting, that the sculptor has recently lent the town five of his works. The sculptures, weighing up to 2,500 kilos, are made out of stone and white marble from nearby Ojen, can be found in a number of places. Here, *Mothers are Unique* is to be found outside Estepona's Casa de la Cultura.

Estepona's trading centre for quality refurbished items



# RETRO

**FURNITURE ~ ANTIQUES ~ PICTURES**  
**MIRRORS ~ OBJECTS D'ARTE**




Open Monday to Saturday ~ 10.30 to 14.30

Calle Nueva 8, Estepona. Opposite the Tourist Office

Telephone: 952 802 221 Mobile: 636 538 877

**FURNITURE TO SELL?**  
Contact us now for a no obligation quote



**Automatic Gearbox Specialists**

All models including classic cars, services, repaired and reconditioned. Also 4x4 transfer boxes and power steering

C/Juan de la Cierva, 26. Poligono Industrial Estepona.  
transmatic2005@yahoo.com • tel: 952796166 • www.transmatic.es

## J.J.'s Restaurant

*Good food - Great Times*

International Cuisine - Traditional Sunday Lunches and Regular Special Nights

Open for breakfast lunch and dinner  
Monday to Friday: 8am - 3.30pm & 7pm to late  
Sunday Lunch and Dinner 1pm - 4pm & 7pm to late

Centro Comercial Benavista  
km 167 N 340  
Tel: 600 589 407

www.elemiwellbeing.eu

## Elemi

**Bistro Vegetariano**

Tel: 951 273 885  
Opp. Estepona Bullring Nr. OpenCor

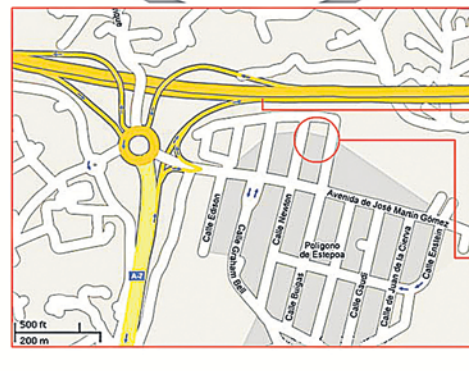
Vegetarian Whole Food Restaurant  
Menú del día 8.95€ every day  
Evening menu and specials  
Dairy free and Gluten free options  
Beers, Organic wines, Fair trade coffee  
Fresh juices, wheatgrass, smoothies  
Also to take-away

Open every day 12:00-16:30  
Friday & Saturday evenings 19:30-22:45



# FURNITURE WORLD

DELIVERY THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND GIBRALTAR  
Open all day Monday - Friday 9.30am to 7pm and Saturday 10am to 3pm



Calle Juan de Mena 18  
Poligono Industrial  
Estepona (exit km 153 A7)  
Tel. 952 79 82 77  
email. info@esteponafurniture.com

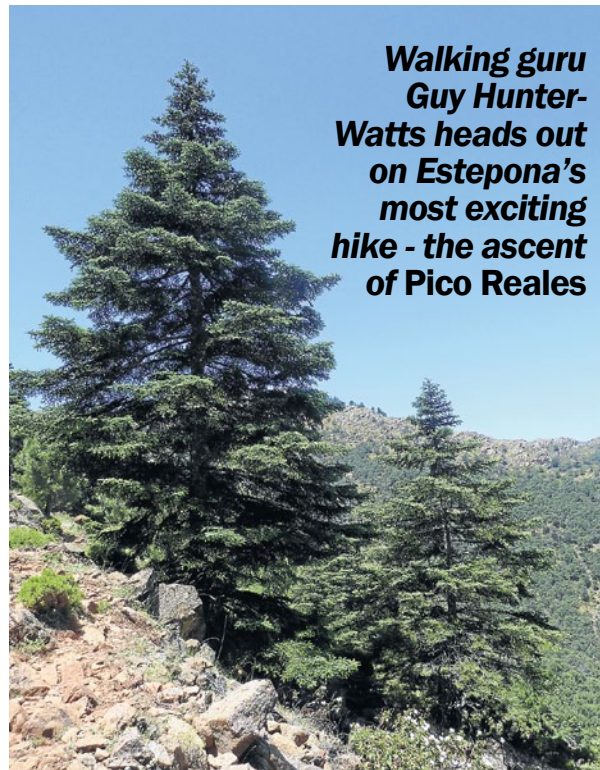
A7 Main Road  
**WE ARE HERE**

www.esteponacarpetworld.com  
www.esteponafurniture.com

## 4 Estepona special

**T**HIS easy circuit leads to the highest point of the Sierra Bermeja nature reserve, known as the Pico Reales. Standing just eight kilometres inland from Estepona, this mighty vermilion massif rises to 1450m - that's not far off the height of Ben Nevis! From its antennae-topped peak there's a dizzy, panoramic vista of a huge slice of Andalusia: north to the Sierra de las Nieves, east to the Sierra de Ojen, west to the Alcornocales Natural Park and south to Gibraltar and Africa. And to add to that, the walk goes through the Pinospar de los Reales, home to one of the few existing stands of the uniquely beautiful pine, *Abies Pinsapo Boix*. This botanical jewel is only found in half a dozen places in the world. Furthermore, there's a second great viewing point on the walk, the Mirador de Salvador Guerrero, which entails a short diversion but which is well worth the extra effort. And the drive up to the starting point is something of an adventure in its own right. To reach the trail head you'll need to follow a snaking mountain road inland from the town for about 20 minutes. But that's all part of the fun.

# ROCKY



**Walking guru Guy Hunter-Watts heads out on Estepona's most exciting hike - the ascent of Pico Reales**

GAINING HEIGHT: Mediterranean pines replace pinsapos

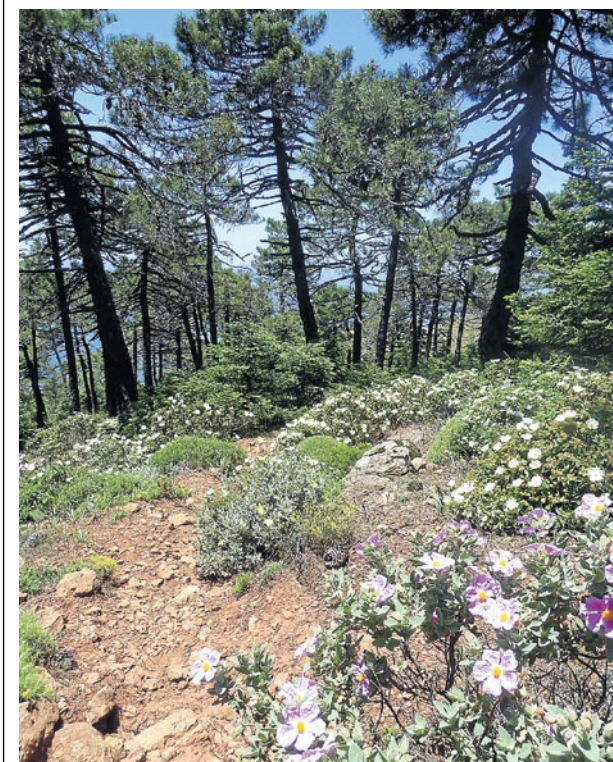
### Getting to the beginning of the walk

From Estepona take the MA8301 towards Jubrique (it begins next to the Mercadona supermarket on the north side of the town) for 15kms to the top of the pass, Puerto de Peñas Blancas. Here turn left past a sign for Los Reales, pass a green barrier then continue for 2.75kms to

a signboard to the right of the road marking the beginning of the Pinsapo walk, Paseo de Los Pinsapos.

### The walk

From the signboard Paseo de los Pinsapos head down a narrow, rocky path which drops away from the road into



DENSE: The forest path is a walk through nature

the pinsapo forest. 75m after crossing a small concrete bridge you reach a junction. Cut left following a sign Los Realillos/Los Reales 2.2kms. The path leads past a signboard about pinsapo pines then on past a ceramic sign of a poem by Lorca inspired by trees. The path climbs steeply through dense undergrowth: as you climb higher Mediterranean pines begin to take the place of the pinsapos.

Careful! Some five minutes beyond the ceramic sign of Lorca's poem you reach a junction marked by twin cairns. Here cut hard left and continue your ascent, zigzagging up through the pines and the reddish rocks. Passing a small breach in the rocks the path runs up to the top of the ridge where views open out to the southwest and the Bay of Algeciras. (30 mins)

Here the path bears left towards the transmitter antennae atop the Reales peak, through another swathe of pinsapo pines. Marker posts help guide you up. Passing across another jagged ridge the path bears right and continues to climb. Reaching a flatter area and bearing left it runs on up to the antennae. Here, reaching a white hut, cut right right, pass a second hut then follow a narrow path up to the trig point marking the top of Los Reales (1450m). (50 mins)

This is a great spot to take a

## 5 Estepona special

# MOUNTAIN WAY

VIEW FROM THE TOP:  
A truly wonderful vista of the coast

break and gulp in the incredible panorama that lies before you. Leaving the peak retrace your footsteps back towards the first white hut which you passed earlier. Five metres before the hut cut right on a narrow path which drops down to the track leading to the transmitter masts where you'll see a signboard for Sendero de los Realillos. Here angle right down a stony track which loops down the eastern flank of Los Reales, shortly passing by another transmitter mast. Looping on down past a group of forestry buildings you reach a junction with another track and a plaque dedicated to Edmond Boissier who first catalogued the unique pinsapo pine. (1 hr 10 mins)

Here, cutting right for 100m you reach a picnic area, *Area Recreativa*, where there are picnic tables and, just beneath, the Mirador de la Costa del Sol. There's a tap with water to the right: a sign warns that it isn't chlorinated but the taste is all the better for that. Continuing on along the track you reach a turning circle and a sign Mirador de Salvador Guerrero. From here continue along a narrow path to reach one of the Costa del Sol's most spectacular viewing points. After visiting the mirador trace your steps back to the Boissier plaque then follow the track on for approxi-

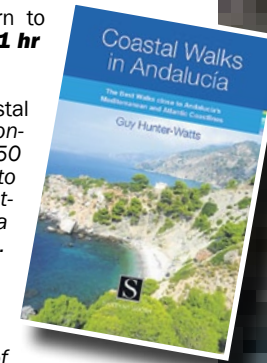
### Circuit to the Pico Reales and the top of the Sierra Bermeja

#### THE NITTY-GRITTY

**Distance:** 8 kms (up & down)  
**Time required:** About 2.5 hours (inc. breaks)  
**Rating:** Easy/Medium  
**Total height gain:** 5300m  
**Map(s):** IGN 1:50000 Jimena de la Frontera 1071 (14-46) & Estepona 1072 (15-46)  
**Water:** Tap with unchlorinated water @ 1 hr 15 mins

mately 1.6 kms to return to your point of departure. (1 hr 55 mins)

Guy's new book *Coastal Walks in Andalusia* contains a selection of 50 stunning walks close to southern Spain's coastline from the Costa de la Luz to the Costa Tropical. The walks vary in length and difficulty. It is available at most bookshops as well as from amazon.co.uk. For details of Guy's other walking guides check out [www.guyhunterwatts.com](http://www.guyhunterwatts.com)



## Hospiten & Sanitas: your health, now twice as safe

Hospiten and Sanitas are sharing their dream: a world in which you and your family's health is twice as safe.

The two companies have united their strengths assuring you free direct access to their excellent facilities in Estepona. So if you are already a Sanitas member you have already taken the first step to caring for your health with the exclusive use of Hospiten.

Enjoy your health.

HOSPITEN ESTEPONA  
Partido de Velerín, c.n. 340 - Km. 162  
29680 Estepona MALAGA  
T 952 760 600  
Outpatient department: 952 760 606  
estepona@hospiten.com  
www.hospiten.com

sanitas.es







**TERRA MERIDIANA**



**TMRT1128** Charming townhouse in Estepona  
3 beds, 1 bath, 119 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 90 m<sup>2</sup>  
Terrace - 295,000€



**TMRA1164** Fantastic frontline beach  
penthouse in Costalita  
3 beds, 3 baths, 316m<sup>2</sup> including terraces  
795,000€



**TMRA1066** Luxury frontline beach garden  
apartment in Cabo Bermejo  
2 beds, 2 baths, 127 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 45 m<sup>2</sup>  
Terrace - 550,000€



**TMRA1061** Spacious frontline beach  
apartment in Venalmar  
3 beds, 3 baths 218 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 35 m<sup>2</sup>  
Terrace - 740,000€



**TMRV0923** Modern-style semi-detached  
villa in beachside gated development,  
Casasola - 4 beds, 3 baths, 250 m<sup>2</sup> Build,  
130 m<sup>2</sup> Terrace - 690,000€



**TMRV1153** Charming country property in  
Estepona - 4 beds, 2 baths  
186 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 10700 m<sup>2</sup> Plot, 137 m<sup>2</sup>  
Terrace - 495,000€



**TMRV1158** Immaculate luxury villa with sea  
views, Estepona - 5 beds, 4 baths, 450 m<sup>2</sup>  
Build, 2055 m<sup>2</sup> Plot, 100 m<sup>2</sup> Terrace  
1,390,000€



**TMRV1168** Lovely villa in residential area  
of Estepona  
3 beds, 2 baths, 200 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 790 m<sup>2</sup> Plot  
599,000€



**TMRV1915** Stunning country home in  
Gaucin, priced to sell  
4 beds, 4 baths, 300 m<sup>2</sup> Build, 30000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Plot - 895,000€

Terra Meridiana S.L.  
Property Consultants  
77 Calle Caridad, 29680 Estepona, Spain

Tel: +34 951 318480  
Mob: +34 678 452109  
Fax: +34 952 808791

Email: adam@terrameridiana.com  
Skype: Terra Meridiana (Adam Neale)  
www.terrameridiana.com

Member of Leading Property Agents of Spain (LPA) AEGI (Asociación Empresarial de Gestión Inmobiliaria) Infocasa and IDD Network Members

## Estepona special

**A**N overwhelmingly Spanish town with a great mix of properties and people, is how Adam Neale of estate agent Terra Meridiana describes Estepona.

"It is very Spanish and is always a nice place to come home to," adds the agent, who arrived here nearly a decade ago 'entirely by accident' with his wife Theodora.

Living slap bang in the centre in a delightful town house, which was once a flamenco school, the family-of-five are well integrated into the town, speaking Spanish and sending their kids to local schools.

The English/Belgian couple have also just seen their agency have its best quarter for over five years.

This comes despite all the negative press the Spanish property market has had to endure in recent years.

An influx of foreign buyers from economies unaffected by the Spanish crisis and a strong pound are factors which have contributed to the unexpected jump.

"Many people have waited three years for armageddon but it simply hasn't happened," reasons philosophy graduate Neale. "I think there is a sense of realism returning to the market."

Some of the success must certainly also boil down to the town's easy-going attitude and charms.

"It's in a great location for the Costa del Sol and also Gibraltar and has everything infrastructure-wise," explains Theodora, who met her husband while working in marketing in Moscow.

"The town is very child-friendly and there are countless after-school activities," she adds. "We have a sailing club, equestrian centres, tennis clubs, so much for the youngsters to do."

Properties offered by the firm range from traditional village houses, such as Casa Matas for 100,000 euros, to front line luxury villas worth up to five million euros.

"You can even pick up a two bedroom apartment for as cheap as 80,000 euros or a nice country property for 300,000 euros," adds Neale.

Neale is not the only person seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

Chairman of Experience Group Alan James has run his Costa del Sol empire for 42 years

## A real Spanish town

*Estepona is a great place to go house-hunting, writes James Bryce*



**TYPICALLY SPANISH:** Two classic stylish fincas for sale and (inset) Adam and Theodora Neale

from Estepona and has seen it all, including surviving three previous recessions.

"It isn't easy but it can be done," states James, 73, whose companies have been behind many developments and over 5,000 homes.

"People get fed up with austerity and having a holiday and buying a holiday home becomes a priority again, and of course what makes the Costa del Sol so appealing is the weather."

"We've just had our best financial results since 2005 and we're looking forward to another good year."

The entrepreneur has also recently launched a new fast internet and phone service for the coast - from Cadiz to Murcia - which is proving popular.

"People want to be online all the time now," he explained.

"Businesses need to be connected, but equally most normal people expect it as well."

In a previous guise he used to run charity golf events, including one with Jimmy Tarbuck, who once owned a home in El Paraiso.

Visit [www.terrameridiana.com](http://www.terrameridiana.com) and [www.experiencegroup-spain.com](http://www.experiencegroup-spain.com).



### Own your own oasis

IN the 1980s it was owned by a renowned German physician Dr Karl-Otto Heede, who gave Finca Tierra Sana (healthy land) its name.

As well as planting a veritable paradise of herbs he installed numerous trees, including lemons, oranges, nisperos, chirimoyas, persimmons and avocados.

Just a short drive from the coast, this stunning estate is now a breathtaking oasis.

A place with a uniquely special ambience, for the last three decades it has been a venue for medical practitioners, doctors, artists, writers, painters and musicians.

The current owners Christine and Udo have run and hosted courses at the 13 bedroom property for the past 15 years.

There have also been music festivals, yoga retreats and art exhibitions. Ideal for seminars, vacation rentals, a B&B, rehabilitation or healing or as a beautiful retreat for a large family.

It is now for sale directly from the owners. Contact them at [finca@tierra-sana.com](http://finca@tierra-sana.com) or call 952 798 050 more info.

## EARN MORE INCOME!

GET MORE BOOKINGS FOR YOUR COSTA DEL SOL HOLIDAY HOME WITH NOVASOL



REGISTER FOR FREE!

Feel the power of Europe's No 1 holiday home company behind you:

- Exposure to 16 million website visitors
- Over 1.5 million guests booking each year
- Distribution of more than 2 million brochures
- Sales network of 15,000 travel agents
- You get paid before guests arrive
- Guaranteed income if guests cancel
- Manage your own property or subscribe to our value-for-money rental services.

No other company can give you the same support!



WORKING TOGETHER TO TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR HOLIDAY HOME NEEDS

CALL NOW (0034) 952 83 95 95 or email: [info@homecareontheweb.com](mailto:info@homecareontheweb.com)

Offices throughout the Costa del Sol

[www.homecareontheweb.com/novasol](http://www.homecareontheweb.com/novasol)







# Spanish charms



There is a wonderful range of architectural styles in Estepona old town, from church in Plaza San Francisco (above and below), a section of the old Arabic wall (left), another church (far left) and a typical square



Beach lovers will love a visit to stylish Laguna Village between Estepona and Marbella, where you can find stylish shops, such as Tibet (above), great restaurants, such as Terra Sana (main) and beach clubs such as exclusive Puro Beach (right)



Pictures by: Jon Clarke

## Estepona Osteopathic Clinic

Paul Knight BSc (Hons) Osteopath (U.K. Registered)



Offers an effective holistic treatment for back, neck or joint pain, sciatica trapped nerves, sports injuries, posture problems, problems during pregnancy and symptoms of arthritis.

Clinics in Estepona & Gibraltar  
Home visits also available



Avda de España,  
124 - 1D, Estepona  
Tel: +34 625 957 673 (Spain)  
+350 200 40563 (Gibraltar)



Panama Hats  
Spanish & Italian fashions  
Pareos Samsara

Laguna Village  
Local 30, Estepona  
T: 607 638 320



## Something for the weekend?

For the latest, most incisive and up-to-date insider guides for southern Spain download a full-colour *All About Andalucía* pull-out today... Brought to you by the Olive Press, Andalucía's best English-language newspaper

Looking for somewhere to explore this weekend, or perhaps this Spring? There is nothing better than having all the latest inside knowledge to pinpoint the hottest new restaurant or charming local hotel. *The Olive Press All About Andalucía Insider Guides* offer you a refreshing alternative to the old fashioned guidebook. Written exclusively by our team of local journalists and writers - including celebrities such as *Driving Over Lemons* author Chris Stewart, they are up-to-the-minute magazine-style supplements.

Published as downloadable 'pdfs', they can be printed out or carried around on your phone or iPod. Regularly updated, each supplement offers a real taste of what this beautiful region has to offer.



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

**FREE OF CHARGE**

## A home from home

Estepona's eastern extremes are a real expat haven, discovers James Bryce

**S**ITTING at the eastern extreme of Estepona is something of a Little Britain. A long stretch of shops and restaurants strung along the side of the AP-7, Diana Commercial Centre and next door Benavista, offer something of a home-from-home for expats. The parade includes an English butcher, an Irish pub, golf shops and furniture emporiums, as well as a string of excellent restaurants. One of the longest running businesses Big Blue Box was set up four years ago and sells everything from antiques to new and nearly new furniture.

"You can furnish your house here for half the price," says Debbie Glynn, who has lived in Estepona for 12 years. "We have 2,000 square metres here so there is plenty to see. We have just liquidated a furniture shop up the coast and have five containers of brand new tables, chairs and sofas just in." Another incredibly popular place for British expats is the Benavista Bowls Club.

"People relax when they come in the bar because they can sit and have a drink while the kids are enjoying themselves in the play area," explained Jez Bloom, manager of the adjoining Los Arcos bar.

The standout option among a range of eateries is JJ's Restaurant, which offers excellent value from its fantastic lunch and dinner menus.

"I love waking up to blue skies and palm trees, it's a nice relaxed lifestyle," enthused owner Julian Kerr. Peter Williams, owner of Golf City, added: "The area is not too over-populated and there is lots of open space to enjoy."

LIBERTYINSURANCE

Car Home Life Accidents Leisure Commercial

# CASHBACK

## RIGHT NOW ON YOUR CAR AND HOME INSURANCE

### CAR INSURANCE INCLUDES:\*\*

- 24 hour Roadside Assistance
- Key Loss Cover
- Courtesy Car or Taxi Reimbursement
- Up to 65% No-Claims Discount
- Extensive Breakdown Cover
- Up to 30% Tracker Device discount
- 10% Named Driver Discount
- English Plates

### HOME INSURANCE INCLUDES:\*\*

- In-Home DIY Repair Assistance Cover
- Excess Water Consumption Cover
- Home Computer Assistance
- Internet Commerce Protection
- Windows & Solar Panels Breakage
- Landlord Defence Cover
- Wind Damage Cover
- Home Exterior Theft Cover

**CAR 60€ CASH BACK\***

**HOME 20€ CASH BACK\***



## EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

Take out Car or Home Insurance from Liberty Seguros for the best cover, plus we'll give you cashback into your account.\*

Call or click NOW for an instant quote and the name of your nearest broker.

**902 255 258** [www.libertyexpatriates.es](http://www.libertyexpatriates.es)

\* Premiums must exceed 450€ for Fully Comprehensive Car Insurance and both must be paid by direct debit. Not for renewals or replacements. Once the policy is validated, the cashback value will be refunded directly to your bank account. Conditions apply. (Not for Motorbikes or Commercial). Offer valid until 30th April 2012.



**Liberty Seguros**

Because you never know.



*Days gone by*



**OLD CHARMS, LITTLE CHANGED:** A lot has certainly changed in Estepona over the last 100 years, yet in the heart of the old town, many of the historic buildings still remain. Take a snapshot (above left) of Calle Caridad today and then compare it to the same street next to it in 1913. Or compare a shot of Calle Real today (top left) with a picture of its square in 1929. Also witness (top right) the virgin being paraded during Semana Santa... and finally (right and above) three more old shots of the centre of town

**Unicentro Language & Culture School**



**Language courses**  
Want to speak Spanish? Learn basic conversation, through intermediate stages to advanced courses. We are conveniently situated next to Plaza de las Flores with classes from Monday through Saturday.

**The Estepona Experience.**  
Unicentro also offers walking tours of Estepona.

**Tour 1.** A walk through the old town of Estepona visiting places of historic, cultural and local interest. This tour includes drinks and tapas at the end of the walk in the popular Plaza de las Flores.

**Tour 2.** Starting at the Estepona bullring we take in the museums then a walk through the port area and finish with drinks and tapas.

**UNICENTRO**  
escuela de español • spanish school

952 79 79 39 or 615 60 04 35  
email: info@unicentro.info  
www.unicentro.info

**Homecare caring for your home!**

It is an exciting and useful addition to the Estepona area. Leading property company HomeCareontheWeb can help locally whether you need a boost in your rental income or simply want someone to take care of your property while you're away. Working on the coast since 2003, the virtual 'one-stop shop' provides every management service you might need. This includes changing light bulbs, providing clean towels, paying bills and even installing boilers. The company, which also undertakes renovations, employs a team of 'tried and tested' contractors. "By subscribing to our home inspection service you can be sure that any unforeseen problems are identified and dealt with promptly," explains a spokesman. One popular part of the service is that each client has secure online access to their own comprehensive Owners' Management Area. "Owners can view and update their online calendar and monitor all activity from wherever they are in the world," he continues. The company is also now working with Europe's largest holiday company Novasol, to help clients bring in more bookings. HomeCare can advise on whether to look for long or short-term rentals and can, above all, bring in some much-needed revenue. Most of all, homeowners like the peace of mind from knowing that HomeCare is an established, well-respected company with a friendly customer service team always there for them and quick to respond. Visit [www.homecareontheWeb.com](http://www.homecareontheWeb.com) for more info

**We've treated a tarantula with a wonky leg**

By James Bryce

**Animal-loving community has grown up around local equestrian centre**

YOU could be forgiven for not knowing it exists. But a unique community on the edge of Estepona is thriving thanks to the popularity of a leading equestrian centre. The enclave, a few kilometres inland, has developed in recent years around the School of Equestrian Art and now offers a range of services including a vet, a dog groomer, a green grocer, a restaurant and even a reiki practitioner. "Our usual patients are cats and dogs but we get our fair share of chameleons, snakes chinchillas and rabbits," said Dr. Nazli Kreft - van den Kieboom from the Pointer Veterinary Clinic. "We've even treated a tarantula with a wonky leg," added the Dutch vet, who has worked in Spain for 15 years. Next door, Reiki therapist Dr.



CARING: Team at the Pointer Clinic and (right) horse statue

Margarita Taylor-Schleppe offers a more natural form of therapy for humans, as well as animals, including the centre's horses. "Reiki is a complementary therapy and does not replace traditional medicine but can support other therapies," explained Dr. Taylor-Schleppe, who runs the Andalusian Institute of Reiki. As for the equestrian centre it-

self, there is little doubt as to its popularity with the next generation of budding horse riders. Rider Ashlin Karlake, 14, who spends her school holidays at the centre said: "The facilities are really good and it is a great way to make friends."



**Getting you back in gear!**

"I WANT to see the back of my clients," explains osteopath Paul Knight. "Once they know how to stand and take care of their bodies, there should be no reason for them to come back." Knight is one of the coast's few fully registered, UK-trained osteopaths. Qualified in 2001, Knight has a base in Estepona, from where he detects and treats damaged parts of the body such as muscles, ligaments, nerves and joints. "Like a well tuned engine, when the body is balanced it will function with the minimum of wear and tear, leaving more energy for living," he explains. Contact Paul at 625957673

*Reiki*

Instituto Andaluz de Reiki  
Dra. Margarita Taylor-Schleppe  
Escuela de Arte Equestre  
Complementary Natural Healing for both Humans and Animals

Tel: 0034 - 648 141 889  
margit@reiki-margarita.com  
www.reiki-margarita.com

**POINTER VETERINARY CLINIC & SURGERY**  
ESTEPONA

We offer a high standard of veterinary care in our small animal clinic, in a friendly, personal and professional environment. The staff at Pointer's, Estepona, are dedicated to their work, enjoy caring for the welfare of the patients, and undergo continuous training to maintain the quality and standard of care on offer.

Rio Padron Alto S/N, Escuela Ecuestre, 29680 ESTEPONA  
Open Monday - Friday 09.00 - 18.00 • Saturday 11.00 - 14.00  
Phone 952 804 165 • Email info@pointerclinic.com

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



It could be said to have gained a Royal seal of approval after being used at the Royal Palace in Madrid.

Now an innovative product is set to feature on driveways and patios throughout Andalusia thanks to an Estepona-based building firm. Stencil Tech - which allows concrete areas to be resurfaced without being dug up - is one of several pioneering products being introduced to the coast by Concept Building SL. Set up five years ago, the firm operates between Soto-

Concept Building has a range of exciting new products to launch in Andalusia this year

# Building confidence

grande and Malaga and is the official Spanish distributor of a number of international building products. "We realised there was a gap in the market when clients were asking for materials that weren't available in Spain," director Steve Eggenton told

the Olive Press. "We have built the company up through word-of-mouth and we are constantly searching for new ideas and innovative products," added the 47-year-old Yorkshireman. Having worked on some of the area's most expensive properties - including many in the premier locations along the coast - Concept Building works on projects ranging in price from 10,000 euros to over a million euros. Its team of builders can be seen driving up and down the Costa del Sol in their trademark grey vans. The firm's website will feature a client zone allowing customers to keep an eye on the progress of their project and make changes to the specifications. Concept Building will host an open day on May 5 for members of the public and tradesmen alike, including a Stencil Tech demonstration. Fellow director Danny Robertson explained: "We are based in Estepona as it is a great



DRIVEN: Concept's team at Estepona HQ

location for this end of the Costa del Sol. "We are sure that with the

exciting range of products we have there will be plenty of tradesmen and homeowners

interested in what we are offering." Visit [www.concept-building.com](http://www.concept-building.com).

## Window on the world

WINDOW and door specialists Tecnoaluminio has been serving the local Estepona community for nearly two decades. Its experienced team has worked on hundreds of houses, hotels and apartments around the town. The slogan says it all. "We provide you with the windows today and solutions for tomorrow".



Spain's Official Distributor  
**Stencil-Tech**  
STENCIL PATTERN CONCRETE  
"Why replace it, reface it"

Is your driveway/patio tired or damaged? Stencil Tech is a tried and tested alternative to the expensive and slow business of digging up your driveway and replacing it with new concrete or tarmacadam. Stencil Tech even gives you the ability to create a bespoke design.

Stencil Tech is a proven method of resurfacing your driveway or patio with a patterned surface and colours of your choice from our extensive range. It can be completed quickly and usually at a fraction of the cost of more traditional methods. Currently is use in over 50 countries.

- How it works**
- Old concrete is cleaned and repaired
  - You choose any combination of colour and pattern
  - Surface is topped, sprayed and sealed

**New Areas**  
If you require a new concrete area, the same process can be used giving choices of colours and finishes. Stencil Tech has many advantages over traditional pressed concrete:

- More colours
- More patterns
- The ability to mix and match colours and patterns on the same driveway or patio



Calle Juan de Mena, Nave No. 21, Poligono Industrial de Estepona 29680, Estepona, Málaga, Spain.  
T: (+34) 951 203 966 F: (+34) 951 273 984 E: [info@concept-building.com](mailto:info@concept-building.com) [www.concept-building.com](http://www.concept-building.com)



Above is a project completed by Concept Building SL on an exclusive urbanization

# A new Eden!

LAST September enthusiastic organic farmer James Machin struck a deal with owner of the then ailing Eden garden centre, on the outskirts of Estepona. Sick of hearing Javier Gaudio continuously complain that his palm trees were not selling and the centre was struggling, he came up with an idea.

"Divide the plantation into 100 separate plots and I'll get them all rented out," he told him. And so was born the new 'Club Eden'. For James the current recession has actually been a godsend, because at last he has been able to inspire people to 'grow their own'. One of a growing band of converts, who shun supermarkets for organic boxes and muddy huertas, he believes his new scheme is the perfect way to feed a growing family.

Divided by rows of palms, each plot is rotivated and organic compost dug in so tenants can begin planting. After a slow start, 30 of the plots have now been taken and the place is literally

Jane Jewson visits an enterprising new organic allotment scheme



BEARING FRUIT: Connie and Sophie tend their patch

pulsing with life. On any given Sunday, entire families can be found digging, planting and watering their plots. I spoke to Connie and her daughter Sophie who were

planting strawberries. They arrived a month ago and already have lettuces, herbs, onions and many other young plants to nurture. While Sophie swung from a nearby tree, Connie explained: "It's such a good atmosphere, everyone is so friendly, my daughter loves it, she's learning like I am. Plants are swapped and given away and we have great parties".

## Mustang must-haves



SMART: The popular cars are now more economical

It is certainly one of the Costa del Sol's most eye-catching collections of sports cars. And pride of the pack at Estepona-based garage Best Coches are its Mustangs, ranging from 10,000 euros to 50,000 euros. "Mustangs are very, very popular cars, people come from all over Spain to have a look at them," said owner Willy Van Hove. "Traditionally they were real gas guzzlers but the new technology has made them very economical." The garage has a great selection of other cars, including Hummers, Porsches and Mercedes. But the garage, which sells one car a day, also has a range of bargain cars from 5,000 euros.

Tools can also be shared and there is ample well water for irrigation

Even better, market gardener Jesus is always on hand with expert advice and, of course, seeds and young plants to sell. Tools can also be shared and there is ample well water for irrigation. When not tending his own plot James is rallying troops to build a 'Chiriguito Eden' to provide shelter from rain, some shade and somewhere to socialise. As he explained: "We can grow all year round, no chemicals are allowed so everything is organic. "It doesn't matter what you know...anyone can grow their own".

For more information contact James at [milliontc@mercuriyn.es](mailto:milliontc@mercuriyn.es)



Surweb Computer services has been supplying and repairing all major brands of Computers since 2001 We speak English and also provide a callout service

We'd like to be your IT support team for your home, home office or business needs. From troubleshooting a wide variety of problems to setting up your computer, our broad range of services will fit your needs

We have PC desktops starting from 299€ and Laptops starting from 399€

If you would like to visit us, we are right across from the Estepona football Stadium in Plaza San Fernando.

Some popular services include:

Set up your new computer(s) - Migrate data from old computer to new computer. Create a website for you - Set up wireless networking - Virus, spyware and adware elimination

SONY VAIO - APPLE MAC - HP - ACER - TOSHIBA - DELL - COMPAQ - FUJITSU - BROTHER - EPSON - MANHATTAN - ASUS - NVIDIA - ATI

[www.surweb.es](http://www.surweb.es)

Tel 952 802 337 or 625 613 894  
Surweb Informatica S.L., Plaza San Fernando Edf Luna  
Local 12, 29680 Estepona (Malaga)

AWNINGS, BLINDS, INSECT SCREENS, SECURITY GLASS ROOF PANELS  
GARAGE DOORS, GLASS CONSERVATORIES

Please give us the opportunity to save you money on your next project, let us give you a FREE quote  
Our extensive knowledge of the current building regulations can help you create the perfect window, door or screen

Telephone & Fax 952 805 267 Mobile 600 082 288  
info@tecnoaluminio.com - [www.tecnoaluminio.com](http://www.tecnoaluminio.com)  
WORKSHIOP - C/Cerillo, 4 Poligono Industrial, 29680 Estepona Tlf: 951 273 933  
SHOWROOM - Nuevo Estebbuna, C/Monterosso, 82 Estepona Tlf: 952 805 267  
The showroom is situated opposite the Fair Ground in Estepona



**Where to eat**

**P**ERCHED on a headland with one of the most incredible views towards Gibraltar and Africa, it is little surprise that Tikitano has become one of the coast's leading wedding venues.

With its high wooden beam ceilings and a splendid terrace leading to the beach, it is the perfect place to tie the knot.

Constantly adapting and improving over the last decade, Tikitano also happens to be one of Estepona's top places to eat.

Built by a visionary Dane, who also owns local estate agent Livingstone Estates, it has just the right combination of style and panache.

With a team of internationally experienced chefs, the menu is extensive and changes regularly by the season.

Expect to find an excellent selection of fish and meat dishes and the out of hours 'snack menu' is also loaded with plenty of goodies.

Just along the coast, in Laguna Village, is another fantastic beachside joint, the highly rated Terra Sana, one of eight in the chain of popular organic - and environmentally-friendly - restaurants.

# Coast with the most

**There are some great beach restaurants in Estepona... and a few chestnuts in the town centre too, discovers Jon Clarke**



**HIGHLY RATED: Healthy options at Terra Sana**

One of two run by friendly Zahid (the other in Fuengirola's Miramar Centre), the Londoner can occasionally be found

rolling up his sleeves and preparing the food, or even washing the dishes. Always full at lunchtime,

even after expanding across the street, the buzzing team knock out a great range of healthy options.

In particular, the Moroccan style wraps, which come with subtly seasoned couscous make a delicious infusion of flavours. And the juices are amazingly fresh.

Another fantastic beachside option is Lolailo on Playa del Cristo, Estepona's best beach.

Run by amiable Albanian Juliano expect to find great fresh fish, paella and top Italian dishes every day of the year. Yes, 365 days of the year, he insists!

Always a great place to visit at the weekends when there is entertainment, this is one spot that is rarely lacking in clients.

If you are looking for a completely vegetarian restaurant then you are very lucky for in Estepona you have the highly-rated Elemi, near the marina. Owner and chef Ray Valentine known as 'The Vegetarian Crusader' creates a fabulous array of original and delicious food in his kitchen.

"If my food converts just one meat eater to become vegetarian, I will die a happy man," he says.

**LIFE'S A BEACH: At Lolailo and (below) Sur**



Up the coast in Benavisa you need to keep your eyes peeled for JJs

A huge, freshly made burger complete with thick cut chips, salad and coleslaw was just the ticket after a morning spent wandering round the shops.

The clean, welcoming interior is stylishly decorated and has clearly received as much thought and attention to detail as the equally inviting lunch and dinner menus.

Over in the heart of Estepona town is another fantastic option.

Fast becoming the town's most highly recommended restaurant, Sur is THE place to have a steak.

Run by an Argentinian dynasty, this is a classic family affair where you will often find the boss, his wife, daughter and son-in-law (a local businessman) helping out.

There is a lively, but not noisy, mix of Spanish, English and

Irish and the subtle lighting and warm colours make for an atmospheric meal.

In summer you sit in the newly pedestrianised square with its fountains and views across the sea.

Juicy empanadas arrive followed by delicious spinach and pine nuts wrapped in filo pastry and served with a tropical salad.

There is a good mix of lamb tagines and fish dishes, but it being an Argentinian joint you really need to try the steaks, which are fabulous.

Up from this square, in Calle Caridad, you will find the town's best selection of tapas restaurants, including Tipico Andaluz and Taberna de Lucia, which serves up Spain's highest rated Cinco Jotas jamon.

After a tapas crawl you should ensure to end up at friendly Bar Rouge, where Irish owner Thom Maher is a mine of local knowledge.

"This was once the last bar on the edge of town before you got to the cemetery," he explains. "All the hearses used to pull up so the mourners could have a final pint before the funerals."

**All the hearses used to pull up so the mourners could have a final pint**

**Lolailo**  
Playa del Cristo - Estepona

Stunning beachside bar and restaurant  
Open 365 days a year  
Live entertainment every Saturday & Sunday 2pm - 5pm

Plus something a bit different!  
Fish therapy and teeth whitening



**WEDDING BLISS: But the food at Tikitano is also excellent**

**TERRA SANA**  
LAGUNA VILLAGE - ESTEPONA

The best for breakfasts, juices, salads & wraps  
Enjoy, eat well, stay healthy :) Real food. Real good.

C.C Laguna Village  
T: 951 901 050

Also visit us at Miramar Shopping Centre, Fuengirola T: 952 667 839 [www.terrasana.net](http://www.terrasana.net)

**TIKITANO**  
BEACH RESTAURANT & LOUNGE  
[www.tikitano.com](http://www.tikitano.com)  
[info@tikitano.com](mailto:info@tikitano.com)  
Tel. 952 79 84 49  
Exit 164 off the N340  
Open 7 days a week

Please bring this advert with you for a complimentary cocktail

WEDDINGS FROM 99€ PER PERSON + FREE WEDDING PLANNING

05 MAY- THE RAT PACK LIVE!  
ENTRANCE 5€ INCL. WELCOME COCKTAIL

SUNDAY LUNCH FROM 25€

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND





*Andalucía – Costa del Sol*



## Seminar House for Sale



Tierra Sana is a paradise of beauty, peace and harmony.

This idyllic property with a lot of space has a special flair and is an ideal location for seminars, yoga retreats, coaching, healings, time-out and more - a perfect place for spiritual growth and creative development.

This unique Finca is offered for sale either as a whole or as an opportunity for joint ownership.

[www.tierra-sana.com](http://www.tierra-sana.com)

[finca@tierra-sana.com](mailto:finca@tierra-sana.com)

Tel 0034 952 79 80 50

or 0034 608 599 967

