

# All about Gibraltar

## A regal affair!

*Few places in the world conjure up such a sense of history, discovers Jon Clarke*

**T**HERE was something entirely appropriate about watching the *King's Speech* in Gibraltar. It was the night of the Oscars and the small, but well maintained cinema at the King's Bastion Leisure Centre - no less - was crammed to the rafters with local families and groups of friends, most of whom seemed to know each other.

As I sat back to enjoy the award-winning British movie that had earli-

**Turn to Page 3**



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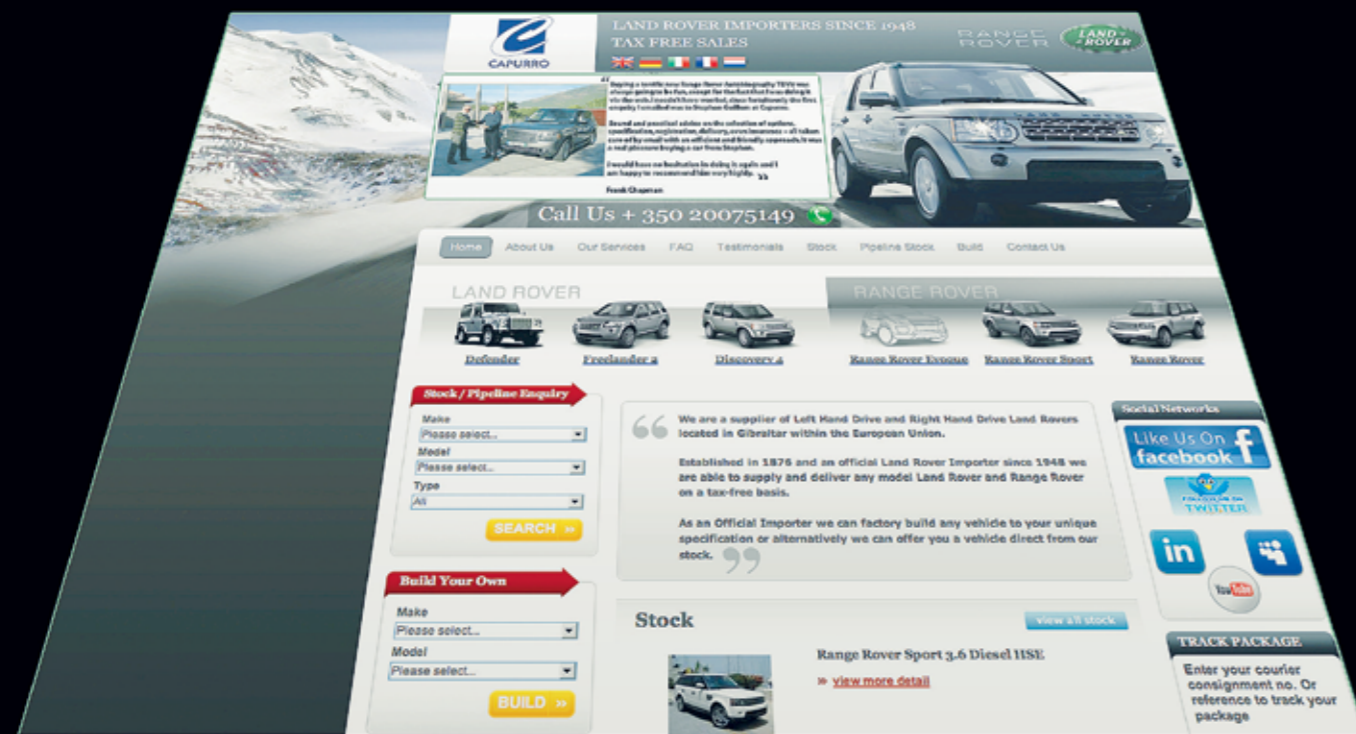
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RANGE ROVER



## Gibraltar special

From Page 1

er scooped four well-deserved gongs – a medium Coke and bag of crisps for just £1.50 on my lap – I could feel the very essence of this small enclave, popularly known as the Rock. There was a palpable sense of togetherness and pride among the rows of ordinary Gibraltarians who came from every persuasion and faith. In front of me was a row of Jewish friends, while below them was an Asian family and across the steps a Muslim man and his girlfriend.

This was a true melting pot of beliefs, but with one common trait: they were utterly proud to be British.

Few places in the world conjure up such a sense of history.

The tiny Rock of Gibraltar, which fell into British hands, over 300 years ago is literally crammed full of remnants and reminders of Britain's glorious past.

Away from the cheap cigarette and duty-free emporiums on Main Street; in the narrow back streets or away from the main tourist drags, you find constant references to history.

They are hard to escape.

The Rock literally bristles with the remnants of warfare, with countless barrages and gun emplacements at every turn. Battlements adorn the walls of the old town and in the evocative Trafalgar cemetery you can find the graves of those who died in the famous battle that was fought not more than 50 miles up the coast near Vejler.

Nearby, on Rosia Road, is a monstrous 100-ton Victorian gun marking the spot where Nelson's body was brought ashore – his corpse had been preserved in a barrel of brandy that was later drunk by sailors for good luck.

# A history tour with Nelson

The naval hero was a regular visitor to Gibraltar with his ship HMS Victory which was frequently repaired or restocked there.

Strolling around, it is easy to appreciate how Gibraltar must have been on an almost permanent war-footing after its seizure from the Spanish in 1704. A series of bitter sieges ended in the construction of shelters and further gun emplacements inside the rock.

Excavations didn't stop for over 200 years until, during World War II, there were an amazing 32 miles of tunnels inside the rock (many more, it should be stressed, than on the outside), and space to house 16,000 people.

Making it a veritable Swiss cheese – and arguably the most impressive defensive

system in the world – you can now visit the often claustrophobic tunnel network.

Children will love exploring the passages that once held the office of General Eisenhower and thousands of troops, who often did not see daylight for months at a time.

The strategic reasons for such sacrifice are fully appreciated once you climb – or take the cable car – to the top.

Look inland to the pointed peaks of the beautiful Serrania de Ronda; and out to sea, across the Straits to the Rif Mountains of Morocco.

At 1,398 feet you are at the top of one of the mythical pillars of Hercules – the other *Jbel Musa* just across the sea in Africa.

Peering down at one of busiest bottlenecks of water in the world (about 12 miles in

width) it is easy to understand why Gibraltar has been a key naval base for centuries.

Whoever controlled the Rock, controlled the Mediterranean a fact not lost on the Phoenicians, who were the first civilisation to build a fortified base.

Following the demise of the Roman empire, the Rock eventually became a bridgehead for a Moorish assault, when in 711 the governor of Tangier Tariq ibn Ziyab led his troops to vanquish the disorganised rabble of Visigoths.

The Arabs went on to rule the area for seven centuries. The Rock was christened *'Jbel Tariq'*, Gibraltar being an Anglicisation of it, rather like 'sherry' and 'Jerez'.

Nature lovers will enjoy the reserve that protects the top half of the rock. As well as boasting over 600 species of plants, it is one of the best places to watch the millions of birds that migrate between Europe and Africa every year. But the main draw is of a hairy kind. For it is up here that you will find the only wild apes in Europe.

Numbering some 250 or so, it is unsure exactly how the colony of tail-less Barbary macaques got here from North Africa.

While some say the Moors imported them, it is just as likely that they arrived when the continents were still joined.



**CANNON FODDER: Brave local and (inset) Yoko and John Lennon, who got married on the Rock**

It was then that the Atlantic rose to breach the isthmus that linked them.

Either way, the monkeys – who divide into half a dozen troops – are a thoroughly entertaining bunch.

Swinging around, interacting with the visitors, grabbing handbags, snatching food, and generally being cheeky, you can spend hours watching them.

Such is their legend that it is said that their departure will herald the end of the English presence here – a superstition that so worried Sir Winston Churchill during WWII that he imported a few dozen more to ensure their survival. One nearly got the better of me, when he crept up from behind and tried to grab my bag, which was luckily over my shoulder.

Heart pumping, it was the prompt to begin the hour or so stroll downhill into town.

The centre of Gibraltar is just as interesting. Closely reflecting the melting pot (Gibraltarians are a curious mix of Italian, Jewish, Maltese, British, Portuguese and German), many buildings have Portuguese tile façades, English wrought iron balconies and Genoese shutters.

An attractive race, born of three centuries of cultural synthesis, it was perhaps little surprise that the tiny enclave even produced a Miss World last year.

Gibraltar-born and raised beauty Kaiane Aldorino, 24, was mobbed by 15,000 people when she returned after her crowning in South Africa. "It is always great to be back on the

Rock," she told the *Olive Press*. "After recent trips to Japan and Brunei there is something incredibly calming about the place."

"It is partly the unique location, but it is also the incredibly friendly people."

Yet, Gibraltar has seen a long line of celebrities over the last few decades, the vast majority however, coming to tie the knot.

Cheaper and quicker to marry in Gib than in the UK, luminaries of note include actors Sir John Mills, Sean Connery and even John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

The most recent was Status Quo star Rick Parfitt, who married fitness instructor Lyndsay Whitburn, before settling on the Costa del Sol, near Alhaurin.

Wedding snaps taken against the looming backdrop of the Rock – the 426-metre sheer limestone escarpment – must look spectacular. Not that Parfitt hung around long enough to visit the fascinating colony.

The musician and his new wife had departed the postage-stamp size state – which is just two-and-a-half miles square – within an hour of the nuptials.

A few years ago that might have been justified. When I visited the British protectorate in the early 1990s, the Rock was little more than a tacky, rubbish-strewn enclave, full of squaddies and Union Jack sticks of rock. Its best known restaurant was a Wimpy.

Known for the endless queues to get past the Spanish border guards – the frontier was shut until the early Eighties when reaching the Rock meant a long boat trip via Morocco – most visitors did little more than buy duty-free fags and sink a couple of pints of warm bitter. They might as well have been in Benalmadena.



**EVOCATIVE: Leafy square by Elliot hotel**

## A MILLENIUM TRIBUTE



SHE is the heroine of the one of the biggest blockbusters of recent years.

So it is a huge plug for Gibraltar that the so-called *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* chooses the Rock as her ideal escape at the end of the massive selling *Millenium* trilogy by Stieg Larsson.

Jumping on an early morning flight to Malaga character Lisbeth Salander takes a taxi straight to the enclave where she spends three months relaxing.

Her third trip to the enclave 'a place that is not like anywhere else', she feeds the Barbary apes and goes on an all-day bender starting at Harry's Bar.

As well as picking up a Financial Times-reading German businessman at the Rock hotel, she spends time with her secretly gay lawyer Jeremy Stuart MacMillan, who is administering her huge multi-million euro fortune from his small back street office.

An upbeat end to the third of the trilogy of books *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, the book paints a strong and vivid, if slightly controversial, picture of the place.



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# Gibraltar special

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From Page 3

## Our Rock is truly rocking!

But things have changed. Not only can you cross the border in under five minutes (having parked your car nearby in La Linea – for under five euros for the day), but the squaddies, who are now outnumbered by the monkeys, have been replaced by new tourist enterprises and a spruced up image.

This means fashionable, waterside restaurants, a slick new marina at Ocean Village, trendy hotels and even Jazz evenings.

There is a cinema, a new hospital, a casino, as well as all the high street shops (M&S, BHS, Oasis, etc) you would expect in a lively British town. Largely due to a rapprochement between Spain and the UK, there is plenty of new development going on and even talk of sharing Gibraltar airport, a huge step considering that until recently no Spanish plane could land here.

A brand new 100 million euro airport terminal is approaching completion and is expected to open later this year.

## Gibraltar is a completely revamped product while a decade ago it was scruffy

"Gibraltar is a completely revamped product," says Dustin Orfila, of Invest Gibraltar, a government body encouraging investment. "A decade ago it was scruffy and dirty, today it is cleaner and brighter and appealing much more to upmarket tourism."

The changes are seeing an increase of 1.5million tourists a year and the enclave has hardly felt the world recession at all. "Only the construction side has suffered," continues Orfila. Full of remnants of the former colony, one of the best places to take afternoon tea is at the Elliot hotel in the centre, which has a terrific Jazz night once a week. As I headed off up the road to San Roque and its famous golf course the following day, I looked back at the imposing landmark with completely different eyes.

Finally I could see what all the fuss was about. Our Rock is truly rocking!



# I missed my Rock, says former Miss World

THE world looked on with amazement when the tiny enclave of Gibraltar produced a Miss World in 2009.

And the truth is you could not expect to find a more down-to-earth, well

adjusted girl than Kaiane Aldorino, 24. Now back in Gibraltar after her year travelling the globe, she told the Olive Press how happy she is to be home.

The hospital administrator, who handed over the crown to new Miss World Alexandria Mills in December, said: "I love coming back to live a normal life again."

The down-to-earth girl continued: "Gibraltar is totally unique, a really special place."

"There is nothing like the amazing views from the top, which stretch across Africa and into Spain."

"I also love the beaches, the lighthouse and the people are so friendly."

## She is a very special lady who put Gibraltar on the map, said chief minister

The bilingual beauty spent the whole of 2010 travelling around the world in the role, visiting countries including Korea, Japan and Brunei. She is still amazed at the 15,000 people who turned up to her victory parade in December.

"There were more people on the streets than even National Day, it really took me by surprise," she said. Aldorino, whose boyfriend works on a cruise ship, was described by Chief Minister Peter Caruana as a "very special lady, who has put Gibraltar on the map!"

Denis MacShane MP, the former Europe Minister, described her win as "a victory for a Spanish-speaking European woman who lives on the Mediterranean under the British flag."



HANDOVER: Kaine hands over her crown to new Miss World

## FOLK ON THE ROCK Profile on fashion designer John Galliano

### Rocky road for Galliano

THE ROCK can claim one of the world's leading fashion designers as one of their own.

Recently fired by leading French fashion house Christian Dior for a fascist rant, John Galliano, was born in Gibraltar in 1960 to a Gibraltarian father and a Spanish mother.

The family later moved to Streatham, London, which led to Galliano attending the prestigious Central St Martin's School of Art and Design where he gained a first-class degree.

Despite being named British Designer of the Year in 1987, Galliano found it hard to establish a successful commercial line.

It wasn't until 1995 that his genius was fully acknowledged when he was made head designer for Givenchy and received widespread praise from the media and fellow designers.



His success with one French fashion house led him to another when he took over at Christian Dior in 1996 where he remained, creating six lines annually, until his recent dismissal.

Galliano's designs are proudly worn by Hollywood's A-list such as Nicole Kidman and Charlize Theron at red carpet events.

While he may have moved away from the Rock, Galliano's roots show through in his work, with the flamboyant colours of the Mediterranean showing through his creations.

His 2008 Autumn/Winter collection was shown in Gibraltar and clothes were modelled by locals.



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## Gibraltar special <sup>7</sup>

# Las Vegas of Europe

It is, without a doubt, the Las Vegas of southern Europe and thousands of romantics have made the trip south to tie the knot in Gibraltar over the years. Few of these are more famous than the man behind romantic ballads *She Loves You* and *I Want to Hold Your Hand*. John Lennon and Japanese wife Yoko Ono both said "I do" on the Rock in 1969, before famously spending a week in bed in Canada. The couple managed to tie the knot in secret.

### Experienced wedding planners are at hand to help you through the tricky procedure

Since then there has been a steady stream of lovebirds taking advantage of the years of history, siege and intrigue, which has given Gibraltar its passionate spirit. Each year hundreds of couples fly in from all over the world to get married or simply to renew their vows. But Gibraltar's appeal as a romantic sojourn is not new. During the 1950s Hollywood stars Lawrence Harvey and Margaret Leighton were one

### Getting married in Gibraltar is not just for the big celebrities, writes Jon Clarke

of the first high profile couples to marry on the rock. Many other celebrities, including Sean Connery (twice) and Sir John Mills, followed in their footsteps and most recently Status Quo rocker Rick Parfitt married his missus on the Rock.

But there are a few things that need sorting out in advance, if you wish to get married in Gib. You will need, perhaps obviously, your passport, as well as your birth certificate, and a document of non impediment, proving you are free to marry.

Due to its popularity it is also advisable to apply early for a suitable date at the Registry Office in Gibraltar. A number of experienced wedding planners can be found to help you through the tricky procedure. One of the best of these is Sam Dimond from All Things Nice, which has its own shop selling all range of wedding clothes and paraphernalia in the enclave. Her company works closely

with the Register Office and other venues around the enclave, in particular the Caleta Hotel, which has been voted Gibraltar's leading hotel for two years running. Certainly one of the finest places to get married in southern Europe, the Caleta has a stunning Ocean View terrace, with the Straits of Gibraltar as a backdrop.

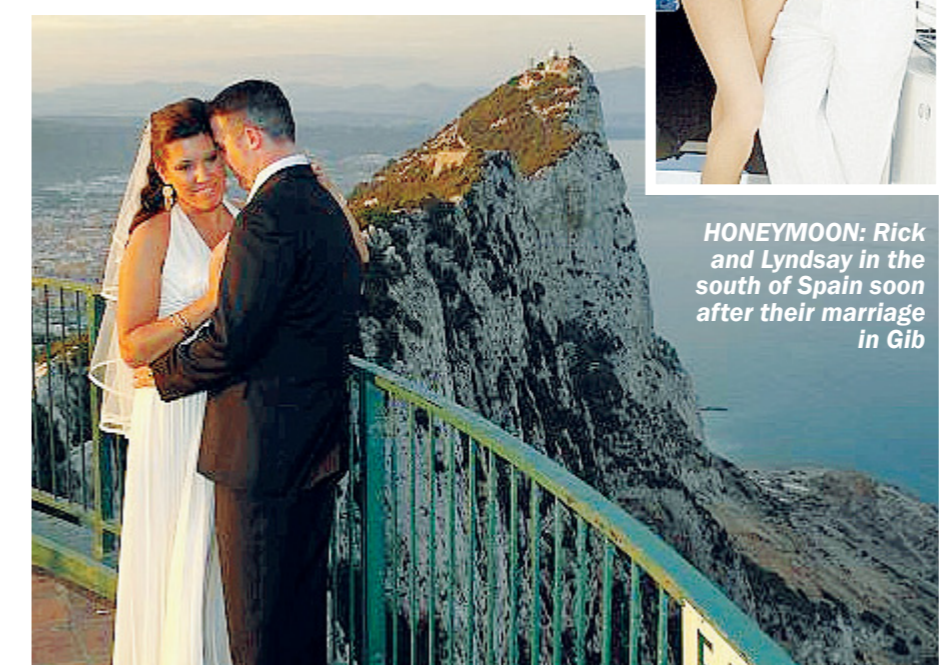
The hotel is well set up for weddings and can provide everything from a small intimate affair to a grand bash for up to 220 guests.

You can also now get married at the Alameda Botanical Gardens, with the Rock as a backdrop, or in Ocean Village or the Gala Casino.

"There are a number of good places to get married now and the wedding photos and almost certainly the weather will be perfect," says Dimond.



**HONEYMOON:** Rick and Lyndsay in the south of Spain soon after their marriage in Gib



**HAPPY EVER AFTER:** The Rock provides a great backdrop for the big day

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CAPTION:

**W**HEN Richard Brooks and Derek Dalmedo got together it kick-started a high octane partnership that was always bound to take off. The pair of petrolheads behind the exciting new motoring website Mototrader.gi have already proved that their knowledge of the industry would reap dividends. They have set up the only website dedicated to new and used cars in Gibraltar and on the Costa del Sol.

**The pair are constantly on the move promoting the new business and its products**

Launched in October 2010 the website now has hundreds of cars and motorbikes for sale from all parts of the region. Allowing dealers and individuals alike to upload their vehicles for sale, including pictures, videos and information, it is already receiving tens of thousands of visitors a month. They have just linked up with one of Spain's most prestigious dealerships C. de Salamanca, of Marbella, which recently sold Spain's most expensive car, an Aston Martin One-77 for 1.8 million euros. "Boss Victor told me the owner is

## Zooming up the costas

**Petrolheads Derek and Richard from Mototrader.gi are rapidly expanding their website along the Costa del Sol**

an European businessman, who has a house in the hills above Estepona," explains Yorkshireman Brooks, who moved to Spain with his fiancée and dog woody three years ago.

"I am working hard to find out exactly who it is." As well as the latest car of the week, there are special offers, and a funny, informative blog written by Brooks about the motor trade.

A true Jeremy Clarkson for southern Spain his knowledge of the car trade was honed back home in the UK, where his partner Dalmedo also used to work. Dalmedo, a Gibraltarian by birth, worked at a Toyota dealership in the North West of England and was the first man in the UK to sell the green Toyota Prius.

"Richard might not agree, but I still think they are amazing cars," he explains. "I am all for anything

that saves fuel and is good for the environment." Based out of a great central location just behind Casemates Square, the pair are constantly on the move promoting the new business and its products. Explains Richard: "We view this launch as moving vehicle sales into a new era. A significant spend on publicising the web page has been committed over the coming months, together with a planned move into the Costa del Sol and Costa de la Luz markets. "This will provide Gibraltar business with another avenue for promoting its products and driving through sales for the benefit of the local community. I strongly recommend that people check out the site for themselves."

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## Mission: To seek and destroy

**There is so much military intrigue surrounding the Rock, but a plan to blow up the enclave during the Falklands War is one of the most fascinating**

**D**URING the Falklands war, an Argentine sabotage team was tasked with blowing up ammunition sites on the Rock and sinking British warships in the harbour. An Argentine admiral has admitted he sent a team of crack saboteurs to base themselves in La Linea overlooking the enclave.

**They were tasked with the job of purchasing mines and plastic explosives**

The raid could have caused havoc to the Falklands task force supply lines and taken a number of lives among the 34,000 strong population. One of the key targets was a fuel dump which Royal Naval ships used to refuel en route for the South Atlantic. Other sites containing missiles, torpedoes and naval nuclear weap-

ons were also on the list for destruction. The plan involved Argentina sending a team of four military men, who all arrived at Madrid's Barajas

airport in early May 1983. Sent apart on different routes, they were tasked with the job of purchasing mines, plastic explosives and other equipment they would

need. From there they headed down to La Linea by hire car, where they researched a list of targets for almost a month, confirmed former Argentin-

tine navy officer Maximo Nicoletti.

"Our aim was to place the charges, allow them time to detonate, get the cars, drive to Barcelona and then cross into France and on to Italy, from where we would be flying back to Argentina," he said.

The plan was to swim using underwater equipment the one kilometre to Gibraltar dockyard and begin sabotaging key British military sites.

Fortunately, British intelligence had been tapping telephone conversations between the Argentine embassy in Madrid and the government in Buenos Aires so were fully aware of the plan, code named Operation Algeciras.

And before they could do any damage, the men were arrested by Spanish police five miles from the border and deported back to Buenos Aires.

None of them were interrogated or appeared in court but the decision by the Spanish government to arrest them caused a diplomatic rift between Spain and Argentina.

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**Sarah Drane on the significance of the new World Trade Centre coming to Gibraltar**

## 'The world's greatest business address'

**W**ITH 99 per cent of office space in Gibraltar either sold or let, it has become a constant battle to find premises for new businesses. So the news that Gibraltar had landed a licence to set up a World Trade Centre (WTC) was a fantastic boon for the enclave. "Gibraltar will now have the world's greatest address if you are in business," explained businessman Greg Butcher, who is in charge of the project. "It is great for Gibraltar, and we are delighted to have been awarded the World Trade Centre licence. Now the real work

begins." Set to be built on the site of a current car park beside Ocean Village, the seven-storey 15,000m<sup>2</sup> space already has outline planning permission. The centre will effectively treble the office space already sold or leased at the Ocean Village development. The new spaces will be the largest available in the whole of Gibraltar, and present a key benefit to local firms now inconveniently operating from

split locations. The design also works well for newcomers attracted by Gibraltar's new low 10 per cent rate of corporation tax - down from 22 per cent, introduced this January. The prestigious super-structure will also include features such as business club executive lounges with dining facilities, exhibition and display areas and state-of-the-art video conferencing facilities. It will also have electronic security access, CCTV and, of course, vital for Gibraltar, ample parking. There will be a concierge reception for visiting Heads of State, alongside dedicated executive meeting rooms to accommodate these guests in comfort. And, since WTC's are reciprocal, members can access these facilities at all operating WTCs around the world - some 300 in number. "There is a real willingness from Government and local and international business leaders for this project to succeed and, with interest already shown from potential occupiers, we are on target," Butcher told *the Olive Press*. "We would expect foremost brands such as American Express, Morgan Stanley and ABN Amro that already operate from WTCs to consider participating in Gibraltar's - especially given the beneficial tax environment here." Gibraltar's application to establish a WTC was approved by the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) in October last year. This gives Gibraltar the 335th licence to be awarded across the globe to develop international trade. The World Trade Centre brand was established in 1970 to facilitate international trade. It is more than a building or an organisation - it puts all services associated with global commerce under one roof and then fosters cooperation between them. Gibraltar joins a membership that includes nearly 300 WTCs in almost 100 countries with over 750,000 affiliated companies.

**With interest already shown from potential occupiers, we are on target**



STYLISH: An artist's impression of how the new World Trade Centre will look

### FOLK ON THE ROCK Profile on Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy

#### Our rock of refuge

HEAD of the Sephardi Jewish community, Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy, has spent much of his working life away from the Rock, but his family is steeped in Gibraltarian history. It was to Gibraltar that Dr Levy's clan had been forced to flee in 1704 after being forced out of both Castille and Morocco during the anti-Jewish pogroms of the time. Levy, who was born in 1939, comes from a line of prominent Jewish figures who settled in Gibraltar, his uncle being the late Sir Joshua Hassan, last Chief Minister of Gibraltar. And he's certainly followed in their footsteps, achieving an immense amount in public service. In 1980, he was made Spiritual Head of the Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation, the oldest Jewish community in England. As well as achieving an array of honours, including an OBE for services to inter-faith co-operation in 2004, Levy has never forgotten his roots. "Gibraltar is one of the few places in the world that can be truly described as socially and religiously harmonious," he says. "Respect for differences drives forward the actions of Gibraltar's political and religious leaders." Indeed, Levy says he will retire on the Rock when he is 75.



FLED: Dr Levy's clan arrived on the Rock in 1704

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## <sup>12</sup> Gibraltar special

# We will be the next Singapore

**Chamber of Commerce chief Edward Macquisten tells the Olive Press he is expecting a good deal of diversification over the next few years**

### What are the Rock's main industries?

The three pillars of our economy are tourism, shipping and offshore finance, though the latter is about to go through some changes with the arrival of the new tax laws. Gibraltar still remains an important location for ships to refuel as they cross the Strait. On average we see 10,000 ships a year.

### How much has Gibraltar changed over the last 20 years?

Up until the late 1980s, Gibraltar was a full-time military garrison, but since the collapse of the USSR, it has seen a big transformation. Local traders have changed their offering. The old linen shops have changed to well-known high street stores and employment has grown steadily from

14,000 to 20,000 jobs, which is testament to an educated, well-skilled population.

### What kind of new businesses do you think we'll see cropping up in the future?

We are certainly very well developed in certain areas, such as the insurance industry, but I see Gibraltar becoming a key fund administration centre. While financial management will still have to be dealt with in the world's leading banking centres, such as London, there's no reason why Gibraltar cannot become important for financial services. In fact, a lot of people would say we are already there.

### Do you think we'll see an influx of new boutique hotels and international restaurants in Gibraltar?

With a population of just 30,000 it's easy to see why there hasn't been much interest from the more diverse ends of the food and hospitality market in setting-up shop here in Gibraltar. One main obstacle for there not being a huge range of restaurants is the lack of infrastructure to support it. But that's not to say there aren't good quality restaurants already here. And changes are certainly coming from the outside. The relocation of businesses to Gibraltar from outside has brought with it new needs and demands. For example, a couple of high-end business hotels (The Elliot/Caleta, etc) have emerged, which are commercially successful. 20 years ago you didn't see them here.

### With plans for the new 100 million euro airport terminal underway, will Gibraltar see a big surge in air traffic?

Gibraltar has a fantastic airport and is vital to our tourist industry. There will definitely be an increase in the number of flights that airlines schedule to Gibraltar when the new terminal arrives. In fact, even before it opens we are expecting to see increased air traffic. This week, for example, Liverpool is being added as an Easyjet route and the airline has vowed to increase the number of flights during summer.

### Where do you see Gibraltar in 10 years?

I think we'll see gentle evolution with a more diverse economy. Our greatest asset is our population and we've invested heavily in the people here in terms of education and training. I see Gibraltar as the next Singapore with a strong market-based economy and a strong reliance on an educated and skilled workforce.

Interview by Amie Keeley

## Beetle mania

A NEW species of beetle is threatening the fate of Gibraltar's palm trees.

Experts from the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens confirmed that the death of a palm in the grounds of Sacred Heart School, was the result of an infestation of the red palm weevil.

Two other trees in the grounds are also affected and steps are being taken to remove and incinerate the dead palm.

The authorities are now working hard with a new biological control treatment to try and stem the problem.



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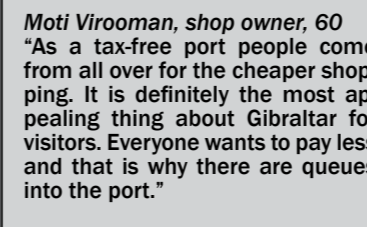


## Gibraltar special <sup>15</sup>

### Why Gib is a top place to live?



**Jonos, barman, 25**  
"It's definitely the monkeys that bring people here, but there's a lot of naval history here with Lord Nelson and the Royal Navy. That's a great draw."



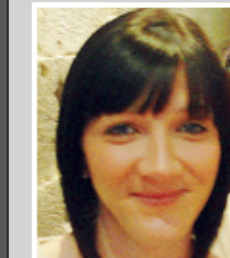
**Moti Viroman, shop owner, 60**  
"As a tax-free port people come from all over for the cheaper shopping. It is definitely the most appealing thing about Gibraltar for visitors. Everyone wants to pay less and that is why there are queues into the port."



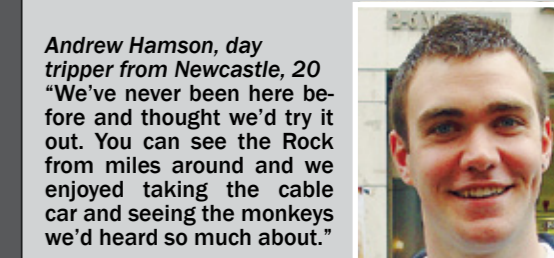
**Paul Vallejo, café owner, 31**  
"We've got lots to see here such as rare wildlife and trees, and you can also pothole and look at historical monuments... but for some reason the tourist board concentrate mostly on the monkeys."



**Joseph Benrimoj, lifelong resident, 84**  
"It's very safe and friendly and has the feel of an English village. There are also excellent facilities for watersports and, of course, in the summer the weather is fabulous."



**Alona McIlhoney, moved to Gibraltar last week, 29**  
"It's a very relaxed and safe place and it feels like a real community. People like that kind of atmosphere. It's also a great base for the Costa del Sol and Andalucia in general."



**Andrew Hamson, day tripper from Newcastle, 20**  
"We've never been here before and thought we'd try it out. You can see the Rock from miles around and we enjoyed taking the cable car and seeing the monkeys we'd heard so much about."

### FOLK ON THE ROCK Profile on dance teacher Paulette Finlayson



#### Darcey of the Rock

GIBRALTAR's very own Darcey Bussell, has seen hundreds of young people pass through the doors of her Gibraltar Academy of Dance.  
And it's no wonder, when Paulette Finlayson can claim to be Gibraltar's only dance teacher to have attended the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance. Even beauty queens have called on her expertise!  
Last year Paulette helped Miss Gibraltar reach the top 10 of Miss World with an impressive choreographed dance routine. And now, her attention is turning to the annual European Dance Championships which many of her pupils will be entering. Paulette choreographs all of the solo and group performances as well as designing some of the stage sets and costumes. She says her love of dance stemmed from

watching flamenco on TV and listening to her dad's classical music. After being spotted on a talent show aged 11, she was accepted into the prestigious Laban Centre, in London. To pay her way through seven years training, she had an early morning cleaning job which gave her time to practise and audition throughout the day. After gaining a wealth of experience as a performer, Paulette established her dance school on the Rock. "Dance is a wonderful way to introduce children to musicality, discipline and balance and most importantly how to take care of their body," she says.

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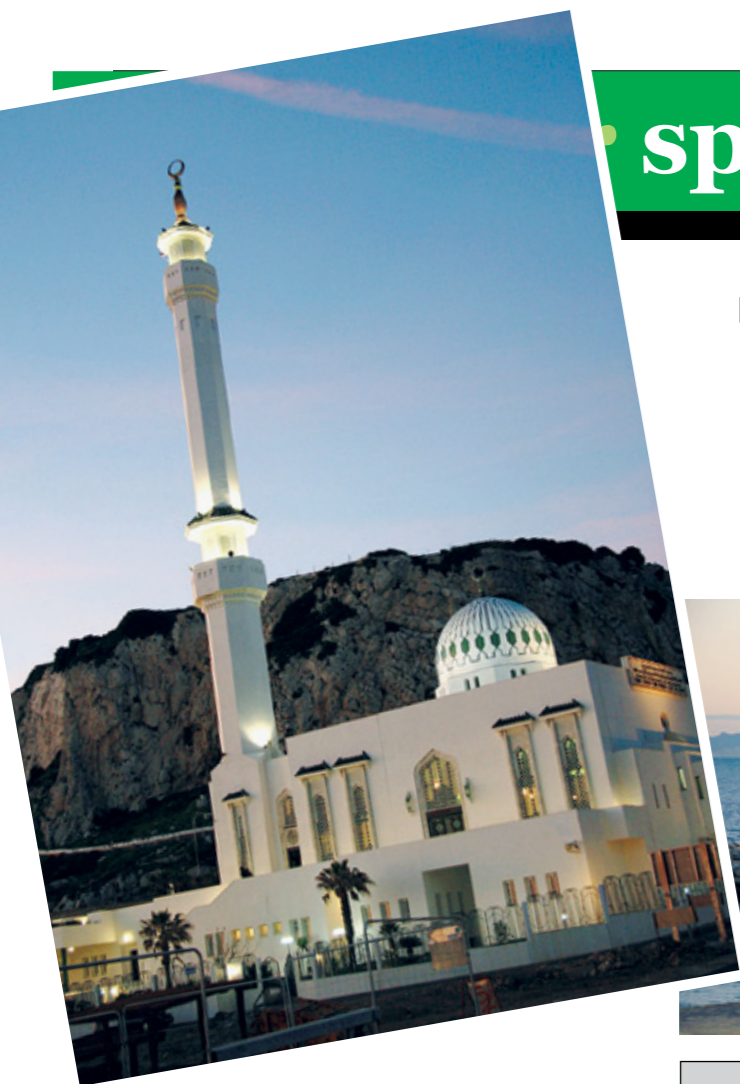
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# Twilight zone



*There are few better places to be than on the south of the Rock when the sun sets in the evening. The lighthouse and mosque (above) at Europa Point are both atmospheric and fitting for the headland that is within touching distance of Africa. It is a place to find Gibraltarians at leisure, running, cycling or simply fishing with the fabulous backdrop of Morocco in the distance.*



## Stopping the traffic

*Even the delivery men are attractive in Gibraltar, as this young lady demonstrates taking three cases of beer across the road near Casemates square.*

# A true mixture of cultures

*Gibraltar is a distinct mix of cultures from the famous British connection, with its Bobbies, phone boxes and letter boxes to the southern*

*European styles of its architecture and the number of Muslim and Jewish residents. Here, we see a mixture of street scenes, as well as a classic shot of the modern side of Gibraltar in Ocean Village.*

# Behind the rock

*Take a drive around the Rock and you will find another world full of tunnels and even a sleepy hamlet Catalan Bay, with its great beaches.*



Mike Nicholls, MD of Chesterton Gibraltar (right) on why his estate agency is currently so busy



# Religion, schools and of course, tax: the dozen good reasons to buy in Gibraltar

## 1. Economy

It's a safe place to invest money. The economy has been well managed and has grown annually for the last 10 years and continues to do so. Last year it reached record employment levels. Public sector debt is just 15 per cent of GDP compared to around 60 per cent in the UK and higher elsewhere.

## 2. Pension income

Opportunities exist to transfer per-

sonal pensions out of UK regulations into EU regulations. Then pension income is taxed where the individual is resident. The tax rate in Gibraltar for the over 60s receiving qualifying pension income is exactly ZERO per cent! Pension planning is complex, but with the right advice and planning, Gibraltar is one of the best places to retire in the world.

## 3. Inheritance tax

It's a great place to die! Not so

much for you, but for your beneficiaries. Inheritance tax does not exist in Gibraltar. Compare that to 40 per cent tax on the estate in the UK (above £325,000 threshold) and a sliding scale up to 81.6 per cent tax (on the beneficiaries) in Andalucia.

## 4. Corporation taxes

Corporation tax is just 10 per cent, which explains why so many companies relocate here. When companies relocate, their staff

relocate. We are sourcing penthouses for the bosses and flats for the masses. Indeed, so many companies are relocating that office space is running out.

## 5. Other missing taxes

No capital gains tax, no VAT and a top rate of income tax of just 29 per cent (which then reduces to five per cent on really high earnings). This compares well to the 50 per cent top rate high earners pay in the UK. Gibraltar residents

can buy goods online from the UK and not pay the 20 per cent VAT. Gibraltar simply imposes a 12 per cent import duty, and hey presto you gain 8 per cent. Amazon does not even charge for delivery.

## 6. Schools

Gibraltar has a wide range of junior schools feeding into two senior schools: one boys and one girls. They follow the UK national curriculum. Whatever you think of single sex education, it seems to

# All aboard the Ocean wave

**With 80 per cent of its properties sold on launch day, Ocean Village is one of southern Spain's top spots to own**

views in Gibraltar, across the Straits and on to the Atlas Mountains of North Africa.

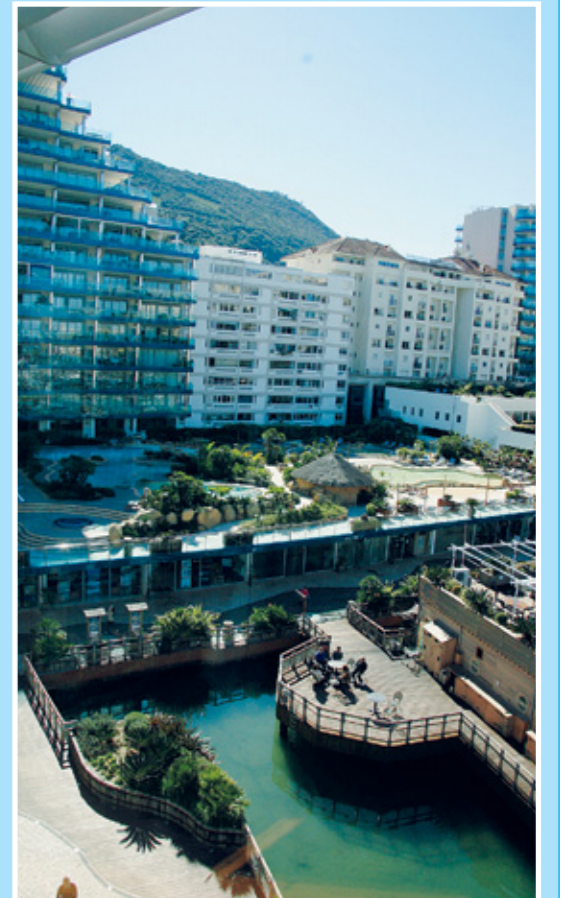
**A popular stopover point the Rock's marinas sometimes turn away 100 boats**

"The penthouse suites are some of the most sought after in southern Spain," explained Mike Nicholls, of estate agent

Chestertons. According to sources a number of celebrities and key business figures have bought into the development. "We had one Russian buyer who recently bought two apartments in one fell swoop," said one local agent. All Ocean Village's residents share an oasis of seven swimming pools, a state-of-the-art health club and secure underground parking. Within the village is the popular Gala Casino as well as a legion of restaurants, excellent pubs including O'Reillys

and some great fashion shops, such as Aftershock. The Ocean Village Marina meanwhile is always bobbing to the brim with boats. A popular stopover point between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, the Rock's marinas turn away 100 boats a day in peak season. This has led to the award-winning marina growing from 225 berths to 323 to match demand.

Over the last year a number of huge boats have docked here, including the 50 metre Mariu which was commissioned for fashion designer Giorgio Armani. And, for the traditionalists, in August last year 21 metre Phoenicia (a traditionally built exact replica of a 600BC Phoenician cargo ship) dropped by, BBC film crew in tow, whilst recreating the epic first circumnavigation of Africa. They eventually returned to its starting point in Syria in October after 20,000 miles and two long years at sea.



work well in Gibraltar. The schools have traditionally performed well compared to their UK counterparts.

## 7. Healthcare

St Bernard's Hospital moved to its new modern location in Europort in 2005. Its facilities and care surpass those that one would expect of a nation with a population below 30,000 residents. If you pay into the local social insurance system, then you too can benefit from decent healthcare.

## 8. Things to do

From Neanderthal man to the caves where Eisenhower planned his assault

on North Africa, scratch the surface and discover Gibraltar's fascinating history. There are thriving sports clubs, sailing, fishing, easy access to Spain's golf clubs, a two-screen cinema, an ice rink and a bowling alley. Everything is close by.

## 9. Shops

Morrisons in Gibraltar is the most profitable Morrisons globally. Add Marks and Spencer, Top Shop, Next, BHS, Wallis, Monsoon, Oasis and Dorothy Perkins and it can feel like a UK high street. Blend in the cheap wines, spirits and tobacco shops, the local jewellers and boutiques and all of a

sudden it is a most intriguing shopping centre.

## 10. Friendliness

It is difficult to measure a nation by its friendliness. But having moved from the UK in 2002 with my wife and young family I could not help noticing how friendly everybody is. People have time for each other, the family unit remains predominantly intact, and strangers greet each other.

## 11. Religion

Sadly, religion has been and continues to be the cause of so much strife around the world. It can pull communities and countries apart. Here in Gibraltar, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus and Jehovah Witnesses live side by side, not only in harmony, but more often than not, any are openly friendly with each other.

## 12. Chesterton

Tax is at the heart of most of our property transactions, whether residential or commercial. We are the only Gibraltar estate agent managed by a chartered accountant. Presently, most activity in the Gibraltar property is from incomers from the UK. We are the only estate agent in Gibraltar with offices in Britain. Our business is evolving into a professional relocation service. And selling Gibraltar is both easy and fun, virtually selling itself.

## TOP TIPS

**PASSPORT.** Don't forget it. Gibraltar is British territory and passports are required by both British, Spanish and other nationalities to get in. You may not get asked but don't take that chance.

**POUND STERLING.** This is the Gibraltarian currency and, although euros are accepted, be prepared for a poor exchange rate and your change in pounds. It's well worth getting some British money. Cash withdrawals are free with a British bank account.

**TRAFFIC ON A FRIDAY.** It is very bad. From about 2pm there is deadlock in the city as commuters and

visitors vie to leave and return home. The border checks are usually, but not always, quick but they can only pass through so many cars at a time.

**MOTORBIKES.** They are everywhere in Gibraltar and when driving one should take extra care to check their wing mirrors for bikes coming on the outside.

**PARKING.** Can be very difficult inside the port and you may struggle to find somewhere for free. Also, make a note of where you are parked because Gibraltar can turn into a real maze if you get lost.



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# The Ape Escape

**How an animal charity is fighting against the odds to re-house a pair of monkeys, literally trapped on the Rock**

By Wendy Williams

**L**EGEND has it that as long as the monkeys remain on the Rock, the territory will stay under British rule. Indeed Winston Churchill was so mindful of the superstition that when their numbers dwindled to just seven during the Second World War he called for the population to be bolstered up. Which makes it a complete mystery as to why two pig-tailed macaques are having such a hard time getting off the Rock. The Alameda Wildlife Park is currently trying to re-home two pigtailed macaques, who urgently need to find a new home elsewhere in Europe. But what would appear straightforward is currently proving impossible. While the animals can be smuggled in illegally, the organisation cannot get them back across the border. "We are literally stuck between a rock and a hard place," says 33-year-old manager Jessica Leaper. The problem is that Tonta and her son Boss, who was born in 2003, have now completely outgrown their surroundings. Approaching full maturity, Boss does not have an adequate social group with dominant males to keep him in check (in the wild pigtailed macaques live in groups of up to 80) and is taking his frustration out on his mother. It would not be an option to just let him out onto the Rock with the main group of monkeys, who are different



**BEHIND BARS: Boss is trapped on the Rock**

species of Barbary Apes. "Boss is just too strong," explains Leaper. "It is a sad situation. His father escaped in 2005 and had to be put down for safety reasons. I really don't want anything like that to happen to Boss. "These macaques are large, very intelligent and quite destructive, so are quite a liability for a small park like ours." The park has finally found a solution to the problem thanks to a zoo in Scandinavia that is keen to take the animals in addition to another male and female from Germany. "Boss can learn to be a proper monkey and have proper relationships instead of just living with his mother," says Leaper. The problem however is that they cannot take them across the border by land. "All airlines refuse to take live animals on board and it is impossible to pass them into Spain by road, even in transit due to Spanish Border laws," Leaper explains. "The problem is unique to Gibraltar and is part of the ongoing conflict with the border. Several years ago we tried to transport some of the animals across the border and despite the fact we asked permission beforehand and had all the correct paperwork, they were held for 48 hours which is just completely unfair on the animals, who are effectively political prisoners. "They get distressed and we

**It is completely unfair on the animals, who are effectively political prisoners**

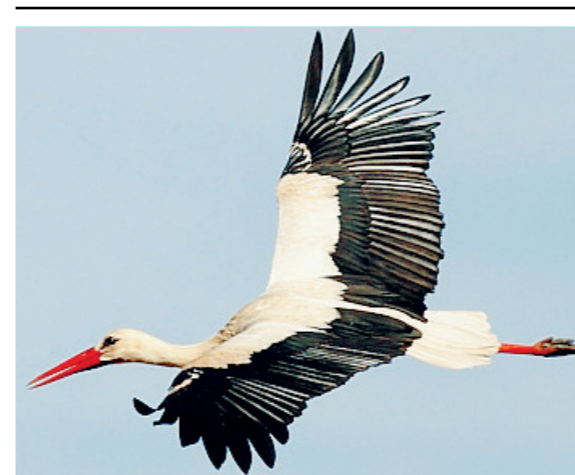


can't risk that happening again." The only option currently available for the park is transporting them by private jet but it is too expensive. "We get some government funding for very basic living costs for the animals

but for the most part we rely on donations and entrance fees. We simply don't have the money," continues Leaper. In order to try and raise the money needed to fly them out by private jet, the park is holding a skydive on April 9. "But we need a long term solution," she says. "Without the possibility of transporting animals out of Gibraltar we are forced to limit or halt breeding to avoid over-population.

**MONKEY BUSINESS:** (Above) Gibraltar is famous for the Barbary Apes living there

**NO WAY OUT:** Barbary Macaque Poppy (right) is also stranded



## Bird paradise

**G**IBRALTAR has long been a key location for spotting migrating birds. The Strait of Gibraltar is the narrowest crossing point for birds migrating to Europe and Africa, resulting in over 200 species of birds regularly being recorded flying overhead. The vegetation on the Rock provides an inviting temporary home for these species of migratory birds that stop to feed before continuing on their journey over desert and sea. The main bird-watching season runs from February to October, but those wanting to see the greatest variety of species should visit between mid-April and mid-June. During this time, birds such as the Egyptian Vulture and storks are still migrating north and most of the summer visitors have arrived to breed.

**The aim is to re-home confiscated animals to larger wildlife parks or sanctuaries**

"And it limits the role the park can play in international breeding programmes, as we can't pass on animals to other parks." Opened in 1994, the small park situated within the Botanic Gardens started as a collection of parrots, tortoises and monkeys that were all confiscated from illegal traders who were passing through Gibraltar. The aim has always been the same; to re-home confiscated animals to larger wildlife parks or sanctuaries. But with no way of getting the animals out of Gibraltar, this is becoming little more than a dream. Meanwhile the collection has grown to 153 animals. The Alameda Wildlife Park is open from 10am-5pm daily.

For more information visit: [www.alamedawildlifepark.org](http://www.alamedawildlifepark.org)

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Yearly Family Pass: £15

## The Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park

Home to both 'exotic' and native species, The Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park is the only Wildlife Park in Gibraltar. We care for exotic animals confiscated by Gibraltar customs, unwanted exotic pets and animals such as the Cotton-topped tamarin, on loan from international Zoos, to raise awareness of important endangered species.

An essential role of the park is the conservation of threatened species. Through captive breeding programmes, we hope to play an important part in the international effort to conserve rare and endangered species.

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22 **Gibraltar special**

**F**OR a state the size of a postage stamp Gibraltar punches way above its weight in the financial stakes. While it only counts on a population of just over 30,000 people, spread over 6,800 kilometres squared, it has a GDP of over £800m a year, more than double a decade ago. Indeed, such is the strength of its economy, that it is ranked as the fifth most stable in the world, by Jane's country risk rating. "The scale of Gibraltar's economic success makes it one of the most affluent communities in the entire world," insists Peter Carua-

**Our economy rocks**

**Gibraltar might be postage stamp in size, but its economy is Penny Black in value listed as the fifth most stable in the world and being in the top ten for banking and financial services**

**By Jon Clarke**

na, the Chief Minister. Indeed, the tiny enclave is now ranked as the ninth

most important country in the world for financial services and tenth for banking. It has also seen a five per cent growth in GDP for the last two years and is expected to post the same at

the end of the 2010 tax year this March. Even better perhaps the government has a budget surplus of around £30m, which is a cushion of almost 10 per cent over its expenditure. "Gibraltar's economy has never been more prosperous, stable and robust than it is today," says Dustin Orfila, of the InvestGibraltar Office. "It is a successful and buoyant jurisdiction, and cur-

**Gibraltar special**

**Our economy rocks**

rent economic indicators all point to significant growth, despite the global downturn. Much of this has been due to an influx of bookmakers and gaming companies, such as Bet and Win and Party Gaming, as well as stock market traders. "It is hardly surprising when Gibraltar offers an English-style lifestyle, but with all the perks of living in the sun beside the Med," says Aaron Edwards of Marex, an

international trading firm.

"We have got a lot of people looking to come out here to work from the UK and we have to vet them carefully." The reasons behind this is obvious with the generous taxation laws in place in Gibraltar. In April last year, high earn-

ers in the UK started to pay a top rate of 50 per cent income tax in the UK," says Ian Le Breton, of the Sovereign Group. "They could be losing up to 80 per cent of their income in tax."

**Gibraltar offers an English lifestyle, but with the perks of living in the sun by the Med**

"Here, the amount of tax they will pay is just £26,000. It is a no brainer." It is this sort of tax break that has helped to see employment figures rise to around 21,000 people, with average earnings

reaching over £22,000 in 2008. There is almost full employment on the Rock. "There is no capital gains tax here, nor wealth tax," says Orfila. "And we won't tax you if you sneeze." In terms of its economy, the once heavy reliance on the naval dockyards has shrunk from 60 per cent of the local economy in 1984 to seven per cent today. Today, Gibraltar is a service-based economy dominated by financial services and tourism, which due to its cruise ships and day-trippers, accounts for 24 per cent of the economy. Many British and international banks have operations based in Gibraltar. The Jyske Bank claims to be the oldest after acquiring Banco Galliano, which started trading in Gibraltar in 1855. The huge growth of private banking and professional services began from around 1967, when Gibraltar brought in the Companies (Taxation and Concessions) Ordinance, which provided for special tax treatment for international businesses. These days, the Financial Services Commission regulates the finance sector.

**Why set up a business in Gib?**

- | It's an international business hub in financial services, e-commerce, shipping, property and tourism
- | There is no VAT, there are few restrictions in moving capital and there is low corporate tax
- | It has a highly regulated legal system with a stable political and economic environment
- | There is a great range of corporate accommodation, plus workspace for manufacturing
- | There is an international airport with scheduled flights to the UK and around Spain
- | No shortage of bilingual and skilled workers
- | With warm summers and mild winters - 300 days of sunshine - there is a high quality of life

**No longer a tax haven**

**I**T has taken no less than 14 years, but Gibraltar has finally become a fully integrated part of the EU. From January, Gibraltar lost its 'tax haven' status, meaning it is now embracing the rules of the rest of the continent. Also on the so-called OECD 'white list' the Rock has become compliant with EU financial services regulations, in particular concerning money laundering. In the past, non-residents enjoyed very favourable tax rates,

**It has taken 14 years, but Gibraltar is now fully integrated in the EU, finds Amie Keeley**

with businesses paying low or no corporate tax at all. Meanwhile local businesses in Gibraltar paid a tax rate of 22 per cent. Now, all businesses, local or foreign, will pay a very reasonable

uniform flat rate of 10 per cent. It's still a much lower rate than anywhere else in the EU, but more importantly, brings Gibraltar into the mainstream financial world, not just a tax haven. Indeed, the Act has ended the distinction between 'onshore' and 'offshore' business making the Rock a more respectable finance centre. Other key economic factors are certain to help further development and to attract new investment. In particular, Gibraltar has an educated and bi-lingual population making it an attrac-

tive location for businesses to locate knowing there is a highly skilled workforce at the ready. The legal system, based on the British system, is well regarded and a wealth of lawyers and accountants are on hand to help businesses. Infrastructure is improving by the month, with a new airport terminal, in particular, is due to open later this year. Property company Ocean Village has also announced plans for a World Trade Centre style development in Marina Bay encompassing 11,000 square metres.



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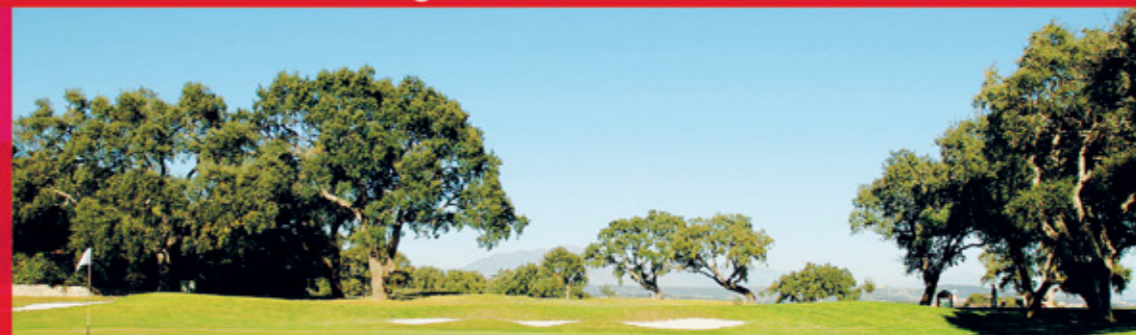
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## 24 Gibraltar special

**W**HEN it comes to shopping, there is an awful lot more to Gibraltar than cheap cigarettes and electrical goods. Over the last decade there has been a real revolution in the quality of shops to open here.

As well as Marks & Spencer you will find all the best UK high street shops, like Top Shop, Next and Mothercare. There is also a BHS, a Dorothy Perkins and even an Early Learning Centre.

**If you don't go to M&S before the Immaculada holiday there will be nothing left**

You will find the latest Apple products at Newton store, while the celebrated Morrison's supermarket is said to be the most lucrative for the whole chain.

Most of the luxury brands are represented in the enclave, including a Rolex shop at the Red House on Main Street and Chopard a few blocks up.

# Rolex, Land Rover and good old M&S

**There is a lot more than just duty free and electrical shops on offer**



**WINDOW SHOPPING: In Ocean Village**

You will also find a Land Rover dealership, a Mercedes garage and you can even pick up a Lamborghini if you have a few spare pennies.

"It used to be a nightmare doing any shopping here," says Jane Pizarro, an account handler at marketing company Copywrite, who

moved to Gibraltar two decades ago.

"But slowly things have changed and now you can find many of the top global brands here.

"In the run up to Christmas it is packed with Spanish and expats from all over southern Spain.

"In fact, if you don't go to M&S before the Immaculada holiday on December 8 there is practically nothing left on the shelves."

Fashionistas should definitely sashay down to Aftershock in Ocean Village, where new collections always seem to be arriving from London.

Ocularly speaking, Gache Opticians, which celebrated its 180th anniversary last year, offers a fantastic choice and

## 25 Gibraltar special



**BUSTLE: Main Street is always packed with shoppers**

an impeccable, friendly service in a stylishly remodeled shop in Cathedral Square on Main Street.

Shoe, also on Main Street, is a great little shop with friendly staff and which claims the distinction of being the only shoe shop in Gibraltar that provides a full children's measuring service.

"One in three children require a different fitting between their left and right feet," explains Jenny, who runs the shoe shop with her sister Diane. "We have the unique Fit Left Fit Right System, which tailors the fit individually to each foot."

There is a great range of shoes from Hush Puppies to Lelli Kellys and boots from Uggs to Hunter wellies. Another good fashion shop

is Bon Marche, which has finally arrived in Gibraltar, offering real fashion for real women at real value UK prices sizes from 12 to 24.

If it is alcohol and cigarettes you are looking for there is certainly no shortage of good shops, but one of the best is the Liwii Drinks shop at the entrance of Ocean Village.

Not only will you find some unbelievably good prices, such as one litre of vodka for just £2.90, you get an hour of free parking at the Ocean Village car park. Even better you can get your taste buds sizzling with a free drinks tasting before you buy.

Finally if it is furniture you are after, then look no further than the excellent Imperial Outlet a ten minute drive away in Los Barrios.

### A question of the law

LOOKING for a good law firm in Gibraltar you are certainly spoilt for choice.

There are a number of big companies such as Hassans, Isolais and Triay & Triay as well as numerous smaller family companies.

One of its oldest companies Marrache & Co came unstuck last year when two out of its three bosses were arrested over its involvement in a multi-million euro fraud.

Brothers Solomon and Benjamin were refused bail over the affair that could see them get 10 years in prison.

There are also a number of specialist firms, including Janis Evans Solicitors which specialises in family and matrimonial law.

Said partner Lorraine Armstrong: "Our staff are friendly, understand your needs and provide a sympathetic ear."

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**G**IBRALTAR'S racial and cultural fusion brought about by the influx of European and other economic migrants over the last 300 years, is amply reflected in the gastronomic diversity on offer.

Choosing between them however, can be a daunting task. So, when paralysed by indecision, you could do a lot worse than finding a place filled with locals and pulling up a chair.

On this basis, Corks and Cafe Rojo in Irish Town would certainly be near the top of your list. Annette's marvelously atmospheric Cafe Rojo offers great food at reasonable prices and always scores highly on Trip Advisor for this reason.

Across the road Corks goes one step better for local business clientele and is literally rocking from 1pm to 3pm when the hordes descend.

None of this is surprising with the well-travelled businessman Gino Jimenez at the helm.

The former London-based gold trader runs a tight ship with two chefs, one who used to work for celebrated Spanish restaurant Moro in London.

"A number of the dishes in their famous cookbook are actually Carlos's recipes," explains Jimenez. "One of them is actually called *Calamares de Carlos*."

The popular restaurant changes its menu by the day and there are always spe-

# A PROPER MELTING POT

*Gibraltar has a huge range of styles and flavours on offer for dining, discovers Jon Clarke*



**FABULOUS:** Charlie's has a great children's menu and games room

cial like tuna stew, soups and salads.

"I am passionate about food," continues Jimenez. "I love discovering new ideas and travel as much as I can around Andalucia and up to San Sebastian in the north of Spain, for example."

Just up the street is another true Gibraltar legend Sacarellos, which has the best coffee and cakes on the Rock as well as free wifi for its clients.

Another fabulous place to eat is Charlie's, which sits in an amazing spot at Marina Bay, in Ocean Village.

The newly refurbished restaurant has charming decor and specialises in succulent steaks and mouthwatering grills, along with a full Indian menu.

Kids are made particularly welcome with a great children's menu, while there is a separate lounge bar with

at the restaurant.

Another excellent place to try inside Ocean Village is O'Reilly's Irish pub. The popular bar, which has nine draft beers including Guinness, not to mention cocktails and a great choice of champagnes, is always full of local business people, particularly when the sun is out. Run by the talented Hunter Twins - along with the Lord Nelson, the Star Bar and

**I can personally vouch for the succulent sea bass, while burgers are great**

the Gibraltar Arms - it has a good range of traditional Irish dishes as well as salads, burgers and other meat-laden dishes. The pair certainly had a reasonable

head start in the pub business, growing up with their parents in the UK hotel trade. "We are trying to be all things to all people with O'Reilly's,"



**TALENT:** Gino at Corks

explains Andy Hunter, who worked as a computer engineer before switching to join his brother John in the hospitality business 20 years ago. In particular they are

pitching for the evening trade at the Star Bar & Gibraltar Arms with a new special deal of two meals for just £9.50 until April 1. A special mention must also certainly

go to the outstanding Waterfront restaurant. Under the stewardship of Tim Turner, this not-so-little gem combines a great setting - down on its own marina - with some of the best seafood on the Rock.

Sit beside the boats as the sun goes down and enjoy one of the longest established restaurants in the enclave that has been around for 15 years.

I can personally vouch for the succulence of the Vietnamese sea bass, while the burgers rarely let you down. Last but not least you might try the well connected Gaucho's restaurant, an Argentinian steak house next to Casemates Square.

This evocative spot has a great outdoor dining terrace and a true sense of history. Run by talented couple Sam and Colin Dimond, it has some of the best steaks on the Rock.



**STALWART:** Waterfront restaurant has been serving up food for 15 years

# Jazz, beaches and history

**T**HE visitor to Gibraltar is spoilt for choice when it comes to top-quality accommodation.

Of the myriad options available, however, three particularly stand out.

Best of these would have to be the Caleta, where you wake up to the sound of breaking waves and seagulls and a wonderful view off towards Africa.



**Built on the rocks on the east of Gib you can literally step down onto a beach**

Built on rocks on the eastern side of Gibraltar it has been voted the enclave's best hotel for two years

**CALM:** Wake up to the sound of waves at the Caleta

running and is the only one where you can literally step down onto a beach.

Alternatively, right in the heart of town, set in a tranquil leafy square, is the O'Callaghan Elliot hotel, run by the genial manager Mary Kinch.

It is in a great location, a short walk to most of the sights, and has a superb

jazz night not to be missed on Thursdays.

Last, but not least, you should consider trying out the stalwart Rock Hotel, which was built by the Marquis of Bute in 1932.

It sits a little walk out of the centre in nine acres of landscaped gardens and is a real throwback to colonial days.

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## Gibraltar special

29



**G**IBRALTAR is slowly becoming one of the key centres for the e-Gaming industry. Home to 20 gaming groups and employing over 2,000 staff, it is now the Rock's largest employer. Thanks to the enclave's low tax rates, it has led to an influx of young professionals, not to mention lawyers and accountants. The Rock is now home to the world's largest online gaming business after PartyGaming managed to acquire its main rival Bet and Win (BWIN) in a deal worth 1.95 billion euros.

**We have a healthy obsession with with proper control and management and regulatory accountability**

The new company, Bwin.party will have its HQ in Gibraltar, where over 500 staff are based. Gibraltar's ex Minister for Trade and Industry, Peter Montegriffo, said competition and tight regulation laws were vital to the gaming sector's success. "Gibraltar has 20 operators but has had hundreds of applicants - most turned away. "Perhaps most importantly we have a healthy obsession with with proper control and management and

# Taking a punt on the Rock

**E-gaming has made Gibraltar one of the world's main gambling capitals**

**By Amie Keeley**

regulatory accountability." While online gaming does present challenges, such as its reputation (gambling is often associated with organised crime and addiction) the industry has learnt a lot from a 2006 disaster when America passed a law banning millions from using credit card payments with gaming companies. Online gaming businesses halved in value overnight but fortunately for Gibraltar they have all managed to recover and are stronger than ever. But much of their success is down to Gibraltar's highly sophisticated fibre optics network that CEO of Gibtelecom Tim Bristow has described as 'the bedrock for the Rock.' Ten years ago, Gibraltar's internet routes went through Spain and there were a number of connection flaws. But through big investment - Gibtelecom ploughed 50 million euros into Gibraltar over the last decade - the development of an advanced telecommunications system has been established.

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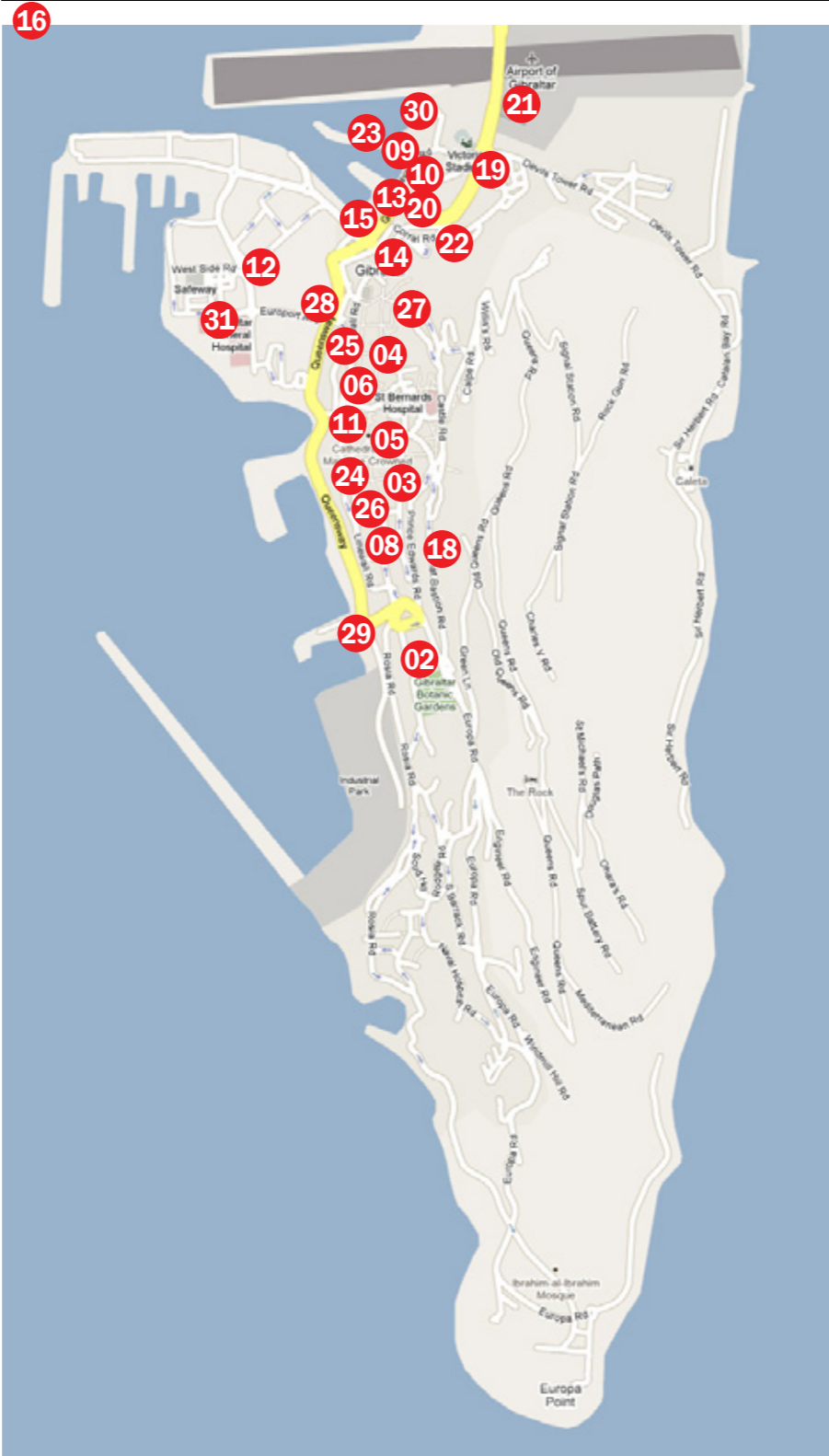


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## 30 Gibraltar special



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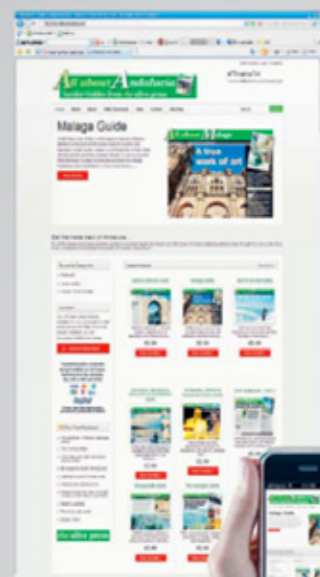
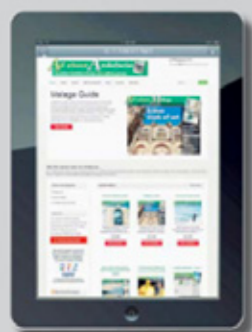
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## Gibraltar special

It is a popular misconception that men do not like shopping. Men love shopping. What men do not like is being dragged around by their dearly beloved on Cup Final afternoon looking at curtain fabric and bathroom tiles in an emasculating Morrisons experience. The highly evolved proficiency with which the single man shops, however, may offer some solace to those blighted couples for whom a trip to Gibraltar's iconic supermarket spells marital meltdown. Although the single man's shopping trolley is unquestionably Darwinism at work, it should be noted that this miracle of evolution does not come without its share of personal anguish and soul searching.

### The fresh fish counter remains hostile territory to our single male shopper

Force-fed the inexorable fodder of the 'new age man' being an über-enlightened, eco-minded friend-of-the-earth, his sashay down aisle-one encounters its first crisis at the fruit & vegetable section. Still belching last night's biryani, he resolves to 'go green' and proceeds to cram his trolley with all manner of the most exotic flora and fauna he can lay his hands on. He is off to a flyer, since he regards this seminal step as marking not only the renaissance of a long-lost healthy diet but also a belated baptism in the impenetrable art of home cuisine. Sadly, six tandoori nights and a kung-po chicken weekend later, our hapless hero will find himself filling a voluminous bin liner with the malodorous and festering foliage which now nestles so invitingly in his trolley.



SHOPPING: Darwinism at work for men

# Morrisons and the single man

The secret of the single man's shopping supremacy lies in the fact that his purchasing criteria remain blissfully simple and never deviate from the Three Golden Rules, namely:

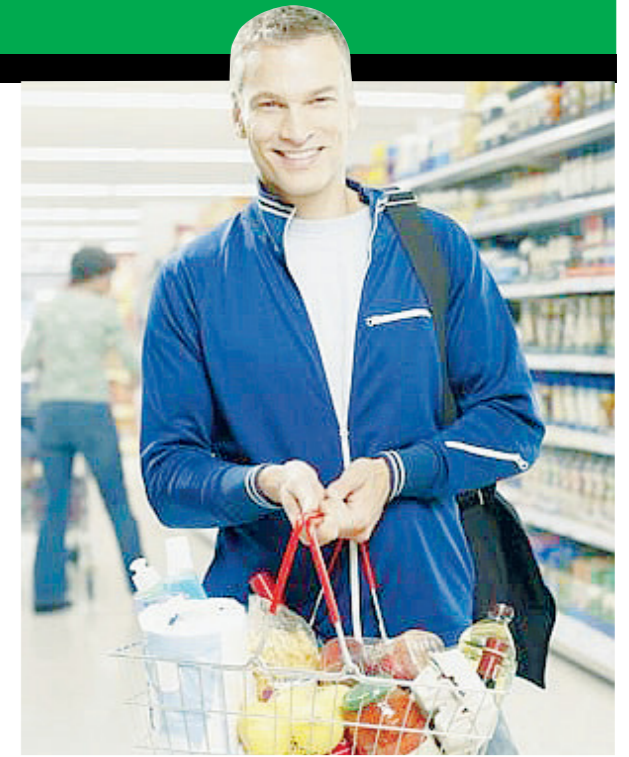
- 1 If you had it before, liked it and you don't have to cook it, buy three of them.
- 2 If you have never had it, but it smells nice and doesn't need cooking, buy three of them.
- 3 If you have never had it, never heard of it, don't know anything about it, but it's in a nice packet and doesn't require cooking, buy two of them.

Morrisons 'deli' section is without doubt the most important part of the entire supermarket, for it will provide the single man with the most important meal of the day; the one he is going to eat on his way back to the car. For this reason, chorizos, vegetable samosas, sliced ham and cooked chicken drumsticks are a must on any check-out conveyor belt. The single man will never knowingly set foot in the frozen food section for two im-

### Dale Nottingham on his regular and lonely shopping trips to Gibraltar

portant reasons. Firstly, the single man eats when he is hungry, not six hours and a good defrost afterwards. Second, the most attractive women in supermarkets are never to be found in the frozen food section, the sole exception being the ice-cream counter since it is well documented on Wikipedia that all really desirable women live on Haagen Dazs. Similarly, the fresh fish counter remains hostile territory to our single male shopper. Not only do fish not smell nice but they also require cooking and even the most conservative calculation will tell our intrepid shopper that if the vegetables smelled that bad after a week, the fish are going to be dancing around the kitchen juggling bananas. The drinks section offers little resistance to the single man's honed skills of selection. Two bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau because he's a paid-up member of the European Union, a bottle of Stolichnaya because he hates Beaujolais Nouveau, and twenty-four cans of San Miguel because he will need something to put in the fridge after he's thrown all those

vegetables away. When it comes to toiletries, the single man invokes the wisdom of a higher authority. TV sports presenter Sara Carbonero assures us that Pantene Pro-V is fabulous. Sara Carbonero is fabulous. The single man buys three. And as we all know, most fashionable deodorants smell like napalm and turn your shirts purple. But if former Gibraltarian Miss World Kaiane Aldorino says that Agent Or-



STILL EVOLVING: A single man

ange makes her tiara tingle then our single shopper is in no mood to split hairs. He buys three of them. The supermarket checkout is the single man's mating call. Like a bullfrog puffing out his cheeks in a pre-mating fanfare, our single shopper extravagantly unloads his wares on to the conveyor belt. An admiring throng of alluring females - plus a couple of strays from the 'frozen food' section - gaze adoringly at his dazzling display of manhood, as 20 kilograms of fresh vegetables rustle their way down the creaking conveyor belt.



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