

# All about Alhaurín el Grande



## The Wild West comes of age

*After a decade of downmarket British occupation, now Alhaurin el Grande is slowly returning to the days when it was known as the 'Garden of Allah' by the Moors and the 'Garden of Eden' by writer Gerald Brenan*

**THROWBACK:**  
Evidence of Alhaurin's Moorish past can be clearly found at the 12th century Torre de Hurique



I was in September 2003 that Alhaurin el Grande reached something of a nadir.

Already dubbed the Wild West by outsiders, its roads were studded with potholes, there were hardly any signposts and every other bar, it seemed, was run by a Brit.

Something of a hive for time-share touts, petty criminals and ne'er-do-wells, for many it was no surprise when an English barman in the town

**By Jon Clarke**

was arrested and charged with the murder of two teenage girls.

The ramifications were far-reaching for the expatriate community and it started a vicious – and sometimes violent – backlash against anyone from the UK who lived in the town. "They thought I was a witch," says Rachel Goutorbe, from

**Turn to Page 12**

WWW.BRIT-ESSENTIALS-SPAIN.COM



# BRIT Essentials

## SUPERMARKET

Serving Alhaurin for 7 years

**The cheapest and the best in the world!**

Avenida Blas Infante, Alhaurin el Grande, 29120, Malaga  
Tel: 952 594 211 / 666 561 240 info@brit-essentials-spain.com



### ESTANCO GERALD BRENAN

- ★ English Press
- ★ Tobacconist
- ★ Spirits
- ★ Imported liquors
- ★ Cigars
- ★ Stamps

Avda Gerald Brenan, 67  
Tel: 952 491 044



### Carniceria Anas

The Traditional English Butcher & Deli

Sausage specialists - Game also supplied to order  
Selection of pies, pork pies, quiches etc  
Undyed smoked haddock, smoked mackerel

**Top quality produce at low prices**

Open Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 8.30am - 2pm

Avda Blas Infante  
Alhaurin El Grande  
Telephone 655 623 485



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



**Restaurante Carolina**  
Creative Andalusian Cooking  
Vegetarian dishes and menu del día (9€)  
Specialities include ostrich and duck breast  
Carretera de Málaga  
El Zángano, 17  
Alhaurín el Grande  
Tel: 952 490 467  
www.restaurantecarolina.com  
chef.antonio@telefonica.net

menu del día  
home cooked daily specials

**La Bodeguita**  
bar | restaurant

C/ Gerald Brenan, 87  
Alhaurín el Grande | Málaga  
625 558 189

**UK FOOD SUPPLIES**

15 large freezers full of favourite UK foods

Ready meals from only €1

PG Tips x 160 down from €6.80 now €6.25, Aunt Bessie Roast Potatoes 1kg was €3.25 now €2.95, Heinz Baked Beans 415g €0.75, Heinz Ravioli Cheese & Ham 400g €0.75, Sunblest Crumpets x 8 down from €1.95 to €1.65

Beef, pork, lamb, gammon joints, haggis and Jackson white and brown sliced bread. Full range of dry, chilled and frozen foods. All your favourites including Heinz, Weightwatchers and Quorn vegetarian meals. Electrical and household section, English books, DVDs

Stone Cross  
Mercadona  
Feña Ground  
Ctra. Cartama  
Unicaja

**UK FOOD SUPPLIES**

**OPENING HOURS**  
Monday-Friday - 9.30am to 8.00pm  
Saturday - 10.00am to 8.00pm  
Sunday - 10.00am to 2.00pm

**Telephone: 952 597 282**  
Ctra. de Cartama, 48a, Alhaurín el Grande 29120

12 **Alhaurin el Grand**

From Page 11

Posh Pets, who had only just set up her dog-grooming business in the town. "Everyone got tarred with the same brush. And because I was on my own with half a dozen dogs I think they thought I was the devil. They certainly let me know about it."

Something clearly needed to be done. And done quickly. And thankfully within weeks the town hall had launched a kind of 'zero tolerance' campaign to clamp down on the illicit unregulated bars and clubs that had sprung up around the town.

It certainly had the desired effect and now, seven years on, the place has seen a complete turnaround.

The reputation it once had for being a party town, a hive for drugs and awash with illegal activity is a thing of the past. Everything in Alhaurín el Grande is, well, grand again.

"It has come full circle since we moved here a decade ago," says Louise Walker, from Deep Blue Pools. "The town had gone downmarket very fast, and has now come right back up again."

Owner of hotel Finca la Mota Daniel de Cock agrees. "In a very short time the town had become packed with too many British bars and residents. It was not natural. Too many of them used to get pissed and stumble around looking for trouble. "Luckily that tattoo and souped-up car brigade has more or less gone and there are a lot less hooligans."

The recent downturn has also led to a further clear out of Britons, with some estimating as many as half of the expatriates have now returned to the UK.

"A large amount have gone back over the last year," says Dave Pollock of UK Food Supplies, which has been open in the town for

# Inside the Garden of Allah



**PRESERVED:** A pair of fountains at opposite ends of the town, while (top) Rachel Gontorbe and her daughter from Posh Pets

three years. "The older crowd have particularly suffered with the exchange rate." Steve Nelson, from funeral planning company SPN, believes it has not been a bad thing for the town.

"Mostly it was the idiots who got off the plane at Malaga claiming to be gas fitters or mechanics that have gone back," he says. "And then there are the rip off merchants and chancers. "You can finally go out again with your kids without fear of your two-year-old coming home efling and blinding." There is no doubt that Alhaurín has been through a dramatic transformation

**The streets are impeccably tidy and the buildings have been well preserved**



"Luckily the tattoo and souped-up car brigade has more or less gone and there are a lot less hooligans." Daniel, Finca la Mota

**TIMELESS:** Little has changed around the church of Encarnacion



# Alhaurin el Grande speci



**HISTORIC:** Vera Cruz chapel and town hall next door

"You can finally go out again without fear of your two-year-old coming home effing and blinding."  
Steven, SPN Funerals



why Alhaurin has always been the nerve centre for the Guadalhorce Valley. The views stretch for miles around, down towards Malaga airport and up into the Sierra de las Nieves mountains. Sitting at 240 metres above sea level the town has a commanding position between the 1,100 metre tall Sierra de Mijas and the fertile Guadalhorce valley, where everything from olives to avocados have been grown for thousands of years. Indeed it was in Phoenician times that Alhaurin first became a market town, as the already established Iberian tribes bartered their goods with the new arrivals from the Lebanon. Later the town thrived under Roman occupation when a number of wealthy

merchants from nearby Malaga made fortunes from the rich mineral deposits in the nearby hills. They built sizeable villas, such as Villa de la Mata, and labelled the town *Lauro Nova*. Evidence has been found in countless coins, statues and pillars, a trio of which stand pride of place opposite the town hall today. But it wasn't until Moorish times that the town really blossomed, as the Arabs experimented with new crops in the wide fertile valley that is dissected by two rivers, the Fahala and Blas Gonzales. They introduced *acequias* (or water courses) to irrigate the entire valley and built a



**EXPANSIVE:** The view from Vera Cruz chapel and (inset) pavement cafes in Plaza Alta

number of important mills, such as the Molino Morisco de los Corchos. Becoming an area of particular beauty, it had soon taken on an appropriate new name, that of 'Garden of Allah', or Alhaurin. Remnants of the eight centuries of Arabic rule can still be found today, particularly at the Arco del Cobertizo, which was a gateway to the medina, that had a souk, specialising, among other products, in silk.

But the best way to get a feel for the past is to take a walk out into the countryside, in particular in the area known as Hurique, on the back road to Coin. Parking your car at the recently renovated hotel Finca la Mota, where you can get a great lunch, or a refreshing cup of tea, you walk down into a lovely valley full of mixed agriculture. Alongside charming white-walled ruins, sit small farmsteads of orange and lemon groves, orchards of plums and peaches, while herds of goats and sheep roam around. In the middle distance, seen from miles around, is the imposing 12th century Arabic fortress of Hurique (see front cover of special), which is well preserved and mirrors a similar fortress, called Ortegicar, near Ronda. Keep on going and you will eventually come to the even more beautiful open space of Barranco Blanco, where the famous Timoteo advert was once filmed underneath its waterfall. It is a great place to take a walk or a picnic.

One of the last towns to be conquered by the Catholic kings in 1485, Alhaurin was eventually merged with Alora, Cartama and Coin in 1666 to form a single entity known as the Four Towns. Later, Alhaurin was occu-

But it was anything but plain sailing for the united municipality over the next few centuries and there were epidemics of plague and even an earthquake in 1680. Later, Alhaurin was occu-

piated for four years by the French during the Peninsular War in the early 19th century, leading to the inevitable destruction and the upheaval of much of

Turn to Page 14

telephone  
**Internet**  
**conecta4**  
Providing wireless connections to the Coast and Inland since 2004

Call now and experience what it really means to be connected...

**952 59 50 81**  
www.conecta4.com

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 8pm

February at  
**Santiago**  
del Calvario

**!NEW!**  
Asian Night goes global  
Sample exciting international cuisine on our  
**CULINARY JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD**

Wed 3rd Santiago de Chile  
Wed 10th Madras  
Thu 18th New Orleans  
Wed 24th Cyprus

Only **€15** for three courses

*Valentine's Night*  
**Sunday 14th February**

Treat the one you love to a romantic dinner in our intimate dining room

À la Carte menu featuring Valentine's specials

**Open 8pm**  
**Reservations essential**

(Our Traditional Sunday lunch will be served from 1pm to 3.30 pm)

For information & reservations please call **952 499 057** or visit our website at [www.santiagorestaurant.es](http://www.santiagorestaurant.es) please mention 'The Olive Press' when booking. Calvario 42, Alhaurin el Grande



"It is an incredibly healthy place to live. I feel very close to nature here. The food is much better than back in northern Europe. Everything is cooked from fresh, the air is good here, the water is good and as long as you stay active, go out for plenty of walks you can live a long time in Alhaurin."  
Ingmar Van Meer,  
General Practitioner

its populace.

Since then, apart from the turbulent period during the civil war, the biggest threat to civil peace has probably been the influx (and fortunate departure!) of English hooligans over the last decade. And then there was Scott Harrison, the former world champion boxer, from Glasgow, who made his home in the area a few years ago, but proceeded to live up to his hell-raiser reputation during a series of drunken nights out in the town. After one particularly messy night out he ended up unwisely punching a

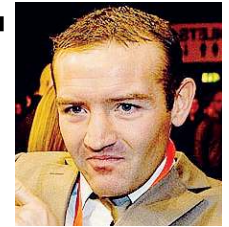


policeman, after getting arrested for stealing a car in the early hours of the morning. He is now languishing at his majesty's pleasure, fittingly in nearby Alhaurin

de la Torre prison, where he is expected to stay for at least two more years. The town however, should perhaps best be remembered for its connections to Gerald Brenan, the cel-

ebrated writer of numerous books in southern Spain, such as *South from Granada* and *The Spanish Labyrinth*. The writer lived in the town for two decades and

described it as his "garden of Eden" (see story on page 17). Finally, these days – and you read it here first – the town has a new celebrity living on its doorstep: with



**HITS AND MISSES:** Status Quo's Rich Parfitt, boxer Scott Harrison and Gerald Brenan

one Rick Parfitt, from Status Quo having recently bought a lovely country property near the town. As he might say: *Whatever you Want*, Alhaurin has it all!



**Dr. I. Ch.M. van Meer**  
GMC: MD, TGP



## GENERAL PRACTITIONER

- All aspects of medicine including gynaecology
  - Minor surgical interventions
  - All kinds of analysis available
  - Translation of medical reports
    - Home visits
- Appointments with English speaking consultants in the regionle
- 24 Hour Emergency Service Available

Pay one **annual fee** and your medical services **within the surgery** during the whole year will be **FREE OF CHARGE**

**ANNUAL FEE:**

Approx 150€ per person

**SPECIAL FAMILY PACKAGE:**

350€ per year

Please visit our website: [www.medicalcentrealhaurin.com](http://www.medicalcentrealhaurin.com)

Telephone/Fax: 952 597 230 Mobile: 618 932 554

 Español  English  Nederlands  Français  Deutsch

Open Monday - Friday: 10.00 - 13.00 and 17.00 - 19.00 Except Wednesday afternoons

Please call for an appointment. Cruz de la Mision 37-3B, Alhaurin el Grande (above Solbank)rlands

## Awash with memories



**WASHTIME BLUES:** Local women go about their chores in the 1960s, while (right) a rather sad spot

**H**OW times have changed in just five decades. Here, a scene from the 1960s when the local women used to wash their clothes at the charming Fuente Lucena on the road out of the town towards Coin. Today, while the fountain still remains, sadly the old washing area is a concrete corner, with a rather sad, raised flower bed. Oh for the old days again!



**LITTLE CHANGE:** Church of Encarnacion



**TIMELESS VIEW:** Up to Vera Cruz chapel



**WHITEWASHED:** Looking up Calle Real today and 60 years ago

**mp**

**arquitectura y urbanismo**

Carretera Cártama, Edif. Mercado, Oficina 11  
29120, Alhaurin el Grande  
Tel.: 952 59 73 72

- Surveying
- Technical assistance
- Project Management
- Topographical surveys
- Official certificates and reports
- Planning and urbanization documentation
- Renovation, reformation and innovative work projects



## Alhaurín Golf

Ctra A-387 Km 3.4 (Fuengirola-Coín, passing by Mijas Village)



**February 2010**

**Green fee - €38**

**2 Green fees + Buggy - €92**

*The best value for money membership opportunities on the Costa del Sol*

Club House

Restaurant overlooking golf course

Seve Ballesteros designed par 72 course

Par 3 course (9 holes)

Excellent teaching and practising facilities

Golf lessons available

For more information call: 952 59 58 00

reservasgolf@alhauringolf.com

**BOOK ON-LINE, SAVE MONEY AND TIME!**  
[www.alhauringolf.com](http://www.alhauringolf.com)

Designed by  
Seve Ballesteros

**10% DISCOUNT**  
on green fees and  
pro shop clothes  
for each person  
bringing an  
original copy of  
this advert

**aymerich**  
GOLF MANAGEMENT

# Alhaurin el Grande sp

## Get carried away with Alhaurin



**A**  
t  
s  
(top left  
the tow  
Alhauri  
of histo  
sits in  
the tow  
golf up  
(left), v  
Februar  
streets  
Bar Cos  
such as  
once go  
present  
Cruz ch  
nacion.  
Fuengi

**RENTACAR3000**  
QUALITY CARS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

- AIRPORT DELIVERY AND COLLECTION
- DELIVERY TO ACCOMMODATION (INCLUDING INLAND AREAS)
- SHORT OR LONG TERM HIRE
- COMPETITIVE RATES

ALL OUR CARS ARE 5 DOOR WITH AIR CON

TEL 952 490 692 / 639 682 081  
rentacar3000@hotmail.com  
www.rentacar3000.com



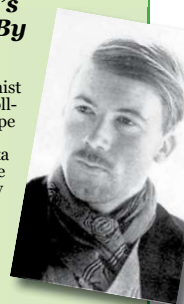


At the heart of the Guadalorce Valley, Alhaurin is the key town in the region. There is a lot to do and see in the town, particularly at Easter, when the streets come alive with the numerous processions carrying either Jesus, Mary or Joseph around town. It is a wonderful time to spend a few days in town and the atmosphere is electric. Looking for a bit of history, why not visit the Torre Hurique (right), which stands in the stunning rolling countryside, five minutes from town. Alternatively you might head up for a game of golf at the excellent 18 hole golf course Alhaurin Golf which has some fantastic deals for January and February. Alternatively take a stroll around the historic streets of the old town, where you might stumble across a bullfighting stall (above), which is full of interesting curios, including the identity card of bullfighter El Cordobes, who was killed drunk in the bar and gave it to the owner as a memento (above inset). Other spots worth visiting are Vera Chapel (left) and (far left) the Church of la Encarnación. (Below) the eccentric water tower on the road to Vera, and an old feature at Hotel Finca la Mota.



## 'The Garden of Eden' was famous writer's home sweet home

**Much-loved British author Gerald Brennan is annually honoured in Alhaurin's writing competition. By Andrew Pearce**



THE great British writer and Hispanist Gerald Brennan found solace in the rolling hills and inspirational landscape surrounding Alhaurin El Grande. After a roving life that began in Malta and spread to France, Germany and the Alpujarras, in Granada, Brennan finally settled in the Malaga town in 1970. Best known for his Spanish Civil War novel *The Spanish Labyrinth*, Brennan wrote five novels during his 17 years in the town – including *La Cópia Popular Espanola* – which was published after his death.

Calling it his own "Garden of Eden" Brennan – who was awarded a CBE in 1982 – was certainly not short of literary inspiration.

And in recognition of this, Brennan donated his whole writing archive and book collection to the town, just three years before he died in 1984.

Thus, the Gerald Brennan Foundation was created which now organises an annual short-story competition as a tribute to the man.

Known as the 'Certamen de Relato Breve Gerald Brennan' the contest regularly receives stories from over 30 countries.

Currently the Centro de Estudios Hispanistas is under construction which will become the new home to the foundation.

Born in Malta in 1894, to an Anglo-Irish family, Brennan first came to Spain in 1919.

He settled in the small village of Yegen in the Alpujarras district but moved to Wiltshire because of the Spanish Civil War.

After having travelled in the United States and Italy and, despite opposing Franco and his dictatorship, Brennan settled in Spain once again in 1953.

He set up shop in Churriana, near Malaga, but the explorer's bug got hold of Brennan once again and he took off for Italy, Tunisia and Algeria.

However, in 1970, Brennan returned to his surrogate home once again, and this time he settled in the then little-known Alhaurin for good.

It is the biggest of compliments that such a life-learned and much-cherished gentleman should have chosen Alhaurin El Grande as the spot to live out his twilight years.



**Bar Costales**  
UNIQUE BAR & MUSEUM

Visited by Beckham, writers and winners

Under new management  
Telephone David Rodriguez on 629 562 369

C/Cruz, 36  
Alhaurin el Grande

**COSTURERAS SEAMSTRESS**

- All types of clothing repairs and alterations
- Replacement zips
- Leatherwork
- Curtains
- Table linen

C/ Gerald Brennan, 3  
Alhaurin el Grande  
Tel: 636 329 405  
<http://costureras.iespana.es>

**mesón LAS BÓVEDAS**

Specializing in barbecue meats, oxtail and octopus plus roasted lamb in boney sauce

Menu of the day just 8€

Closed on Tuesdays

C/ Cristo de la Agonía  
Alhaurin el Grande  
Tel: 952 596 110

**Centro Dental Alhaurin**

EDIFICIO ROSA DE LOS VIENTOS Nº 37

C/ Gerald Brennan 37, 1º, 29120 Alhaurin El Grande  
Teléfono : 952491131

**VIDASANA**

HERBALIST AND  
NATURAL  
ECOLOGICAL  
FOODS

c/ Gerald Brenan, 47  
Alhaurin el Grande  
Tel: 952 594 473

Natural and organic  
products  
Natural hair products

Bill and Denise Whitehair welcome  
your pets to

**Cat and Dog World**

KENNELS AND CATTERY  
ALHAURIN EL GRANDE



Spacious comfortable  
accommodation set in  
tropical gardens

Tel: 952 112 978 or 630 197 435  
www.cat-and-dog-world.com  
www.russianbluecats.net

18

## Alhaurin el Grande special



**CLUED UP: David Laver is in the know**

**A**LHAURIN el Grande is surrounded by charming countryside, yet it is only a half hour drive to Malaga or the coast.

This enviable location is making the town more and more popular with clients from northern Europe, alongside a growing Spanish market.

And the best news is that over the last year the property prices have dropped significantly bringing some exceptional bargains.

In particular, with the weakness of the pound to the euro we have seen many UK owners who are returning home able to reduce the price of their property without actually affecting their sterling bottom line.

The majority of our clients looking

to buy want the rural dream of a peaceful location with a plot of land populated with olive, orange, fig and avocado trees.

They want the pretty home with terraces from which they can enjoy the stunning views of

# Our house is in order

**David Laver of Ideal Country Properties runs a rule over Alhaurin property and explains how complying with complicated new regulations has seen his company bounce back stronger than ever**

the surrounding mountains after taking a refreshing dip in the swimming pool.

And because it is now impossible to build a house or a swimming pool in the countryside these country homes are short on supply and high on demand. But, that said, we have a few we can offer you.

Ideal Country Property has been based in Alhaurin

since the company formed in January 2007.

With the property market slowing down considerably since then the number of agencies in the town has reduced from over 30 to just five, leaving Ideal Country Properties as the predominant inland specialist.

Part of the reason for many agencies closing down was the Junta inspecting real estate agents for compliance to the Decree 218, which regulates the information given to customers purchasing or renting homes in Andalucia.

Many agents did not comply, failing to supply all the information required on each property, and ended up with large fines.

We have been inspected twice in that time and have passed with flying colours, getting commended both times on how much information we actually gave to our clients.

In this day and age it is essential to be able to assure clients of the legality of their new property and we are pleased to be able to do that.

Buying in Spain has become

more complicated and it seems like every week a new property related law is passed or changed affecting what can and can't be done in the Andalucian countryside.

To keep abreast of these changes we have regular meetings with local solicitors and architects so that the information we pass to our clients is relevant, correct and up to date.

Coupled with years of local real estate experience this equates to being able to offer in-depth local knowledge and advice to our clients looking to buy or rent and owners hoping to sell.

We are expecting this to help us have a busy and successful 2010.

You can find us at our new address on the main street (C/Gerald Brenan 83)

# DEEP BLUE POOLS

Avenida Blas Infante, 36  
(Next to Brit Essentials)  
952594393/952499059  
www.deep-blue-pools.com  
email - info@deep-blue-pools.com

**Est. 10 years in Alhaurin el Grande**

**Everything** for your pool and Spa, +  
**PoolSchool**® Pool Maintenance Tuition @ your own pool

Repairs and service to all pool equipment

Automation, pH, dosing, etc

Installation of all pool equipment

New Pools - design and/or build

Pool Tools and Chemicals

Heating, Lighting - low energy solutions

Pool Covers - 8 year warranty

## We're here to help!

Subscribe to our Free Email Newsletter

Should death occur in Spain - would you know what to do?

"There are two certainties in life...

### Death and Taxes"

Death cannot be avoided and in Spain the issues and legalities surrounding death are completely different from your home country.

**SPN FUNERAL PLANS SL CAN HELP YOU ALLEVIATE THESE ISSUES**

Look at these benefits:

- No health or age restrictions
- Funeral costs frozen at today's prices, No hidden extras
- Dual Certification plan is operative wherever you reside
- 24 hour English speaking bereavement line.
- English speaking Funeral Directors
- Extra day's mortuary available
- Fully operational/registered Spanish SL Company
- Regulated by Ministry of Economics in Spain
- Local offices and representatives
- Guaranteed provision of plan benefits

The above benefits provide you the customer with peace of mind and a pre-paid funeral plan from SPN is a solid investment -

**Makes you think, doesn't it?**

Pricing starts at €2350

For further information on our plans contact  
SPN Funeral Plans SL (Head Office)  
on 952 595 691 or 952 491 788

Contact David Knight 625410735  
Or go to [www.spnfuneralplans.com](http://www.spnfuneralplans.com)

Reg no 06162147 - CIF no B92791664

Funeral Plans SL





## At times it's like a well-choreographed ballet

*At fiesta time, Alhaurin comes alive, says Louise Walker, who has lived in the town with her husband Ken for a decade*



**AT HOME:** Louise now feels part of the Alhaurin fabric

**W**HEN we arrived in Spain ten years ago, like most people we headed for the Costa del Sol. But within a week we had headed inland and discovered Alhaurin and within days we had rented our first finca. Quite simply, we fell in love with this bustling country town, which sits right in the heart of the Guadalhorce valley. Unlike many inland towns with ageing populations, Alhaurin was vibrant and full of life. It seemed to be bursting at the seams with young people. We soon started to discover the local beauty spots. One of the most remarkable being Barranco Blanco, which is well hidden but well worth the hike to find it, particularly for its spectacular waterfall. We soon started a swimming pool business Deep Blue Pools, which has continued to be a satisfying and huge part of our lives. It was anything but easy to

start with though and after about six months of not having a landline, nor internet, we made the move into the heart of the old town, where we have lived ever since. It is the best place to live - right in the heart of things and surrounded by great places to eat and drink. Among our favourites is Bar Sardina, which must be one of the finest tapas bars in inland Malaga. When there is a local holiday or feria it is packed to the gills, and watching the staff prepare tasty morsels for locals and visitors alike, is like watching a well choreographed ballet. For something a little different visit Santiago del Calvario. With its truly international cuisine and beautiful setting it's definitely one of Alhaurin's best kept secrets. (booking is essential). The five-day feria during May is the highlight of the year, and we particularly enjoy the weekend where for two whole days, they close the main streets to traffic and the Town Hall

declares that 'the streets are yours'. In virtually every doorway a bar appears, traditional dress is proudly worn and the horses are beautifully turned out for the occasion. There are some faces that we only ever see during this week-end and it is a well worn ritual, with them sending over a bottle of sherry to our table, us sending one back to them... them sending another... I only discovered how much we were part of the community though, when a couple of years ago I was taken seriously ill and it was touch and go whether I would survive. While I was in hospital in Malaga, the bar owners, neighbours and familiar faces in the street approached my husband, hugging him and telling him I was in their prayers. This touched us deeply and made us realise that we have become part of the community here. We had always loved Alhaurin but now we truly call it home.

### ALHAURIN GARAGE

www.alhauringarage.com alhauringarage@yahoo.co.uk R.S. Cars S.L.

#### I.T.V.

It is now necessary to make an appointment to I.T.V. your vehicle

**100€** Including pre I.T.C. check and re-test if necessary

LET US TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU

#### WINTER CHECKS

Come and see us to make sure your car is reliable

Poligono Industrial La Rosa, Alhaurin el Grande, on the road towards Villafranco

OPEN 8.30am-5.30pm

Workshop Tel: 952 499 430 - Mobile: 664 265 855



At Cohesa Consulting Asesores we offer an integrated consultancy service for **companies** and **private individuals**:

- Tax • Accounting • Payroll Advice

Our qualified professionals take care of all your transactions with the **Inland Revenue** and the **Social Security** and can also advise you on the different grants available for your business. We also cover:

- Legal • Financial • Insurance
- Real Estate Services

**Our objective is to be an Advisor on all fronts, and to be the 'first port of call' for any issues you may have.**

For more information please visit our website:

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

Or call us on: **952 451 318 - 952 453 699**

Or visit our offices on Calle Vicario 17D in Coin



- Luxury Pet Transportation by land throughout Europe
- Boutique Dog Hotel
- Beautiful Secluded Cattery
- Dog & Cat Grooming Salon
- Pet Beauticians Training Centre
- Pet Accessories shop & Pet ID Tags (engraved onsite)
- Mobile British Vet Clinic every Tues evening 5pm - 7pm



For more info please visit

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

Sat nav co-ordinates **Sat Nav Lat - N36.65110/ Long- W4 701.85**  
We are situated on the A404 between Coin & Alhaurin el Grande, only 20 mins inland from La Cañada, Marbella

The small company with the **BIG** heart



**AUTHENTIC:** La Boma has classic South African fare

# Alhaurin el Grande special

## WHERE TO EAT

### Beckhams, upmarket dining... and even a Braai!

ALHAURIN has an excellent mix of places to eat. From fine dining to good value tapas, there is so much on offer.

Any tapas crawl should begin in one of the oldest establishments in town, Bar Costales, which sits in the historic quarter near Plaza Alta.

Describing itself as a museum, it is easy to see why. The place is literally chock-a-block with collectibles from all around the world, and in particular Spain from the 1960s and 1970s.

A mixture of smutty pictures, bullfighting posters and photos of celebrities who have visited the bar over the years, you will even spot two photos of the Beckhams, who have dropped in on two occasions.

Down from here on the bottom end of Calle Real is another great institution, Bar Las Sardinias, which has been run by the same family for the last century.

A charming place with a series of fabulous old photos around its walls, the food is fresh, varied and interesting and among the best in the Guadalhorce valley.

Another spot nearby is Meson las Bovedas, which is an atmospheric watering hole.

On the main drag (calle Gerald Brenan), is La Bodeguita, which has a great mix of tapas, a good value menu del dia and a friendly owner Francisco.

Even better, try the true dining secret of the area, the lovely Santiago del Calvario, a classy place owned by English partners Tim and Tony, who are planning to open a much-needed boutique hotel upstairs.

The pair took over the restaurant from friends three months ago and are serving up contemporary international cuisine, six nights a week.

Both have experience of running restaurants and the décor is stylish and intimate.

Other places worth considering are Restaurante Carolina, which sits in a charming position with great views on the road to Alhaurin de la Torre.

A family affair, its chef Antonio Gonzales has conjured up a surprisingly mixed menu with interesting dishes such as ostrich and *magret de pato*. There is also a menu del dia for just nine euros and a mixed wine list.

And for something completely different, why not head up the Fuengirola road to-

wards Alhaurin Golf till you reach the fabulous La Boma.

Now an institution for the South African community in Andalucia, this excellent country hideout serves up some of the best steaks in Malaga.

Known as a *Braai* (or bbq), they also serve a great potjie stew, with either lamb or beef and pick of the bunch a Cape Malay chicken curry.



**STYLISH AND INTIMATE:** Santiago restaurant

## WHERE TO STAY

### Serving travellers for centuries

FOR a charming inland town it is surprising that there are so few good places to stay in the town.

You need to look outside in the nearby countryside to find the best options, up towards Alhaurin Golf, which has a good, modern hotel attached, or even better, the stunning Finca de la Mota, which sits in a delightful position in a secluded valley five minutes from the town.

An age old institution, dating back to the 16th century, it is now under new management and has had a recent facelift.

With lovely shady grounds, an inviting pool and wonderful views, it is a great place to relax before heading in for a bit of sightseeing in nearby Alhaurin.

Now run by the de Cock family from Holland, it has comfortable rooms and a good restaurant that is getting better known by the day.



**HISTORIC:** Finca la Mota

**bambootelecom.com**  
wireless telecommunications operator

# INTERNET

2Mb/s = **29.99** €

Mes / Month

Hablamos We Speak

# 952 563 021

"the heart and soul of the Campo"



The heart and soul of the Campo

Uniquely

95.7

# Heart fm

studio@heartfmpain.com

www.heartfmpain.com

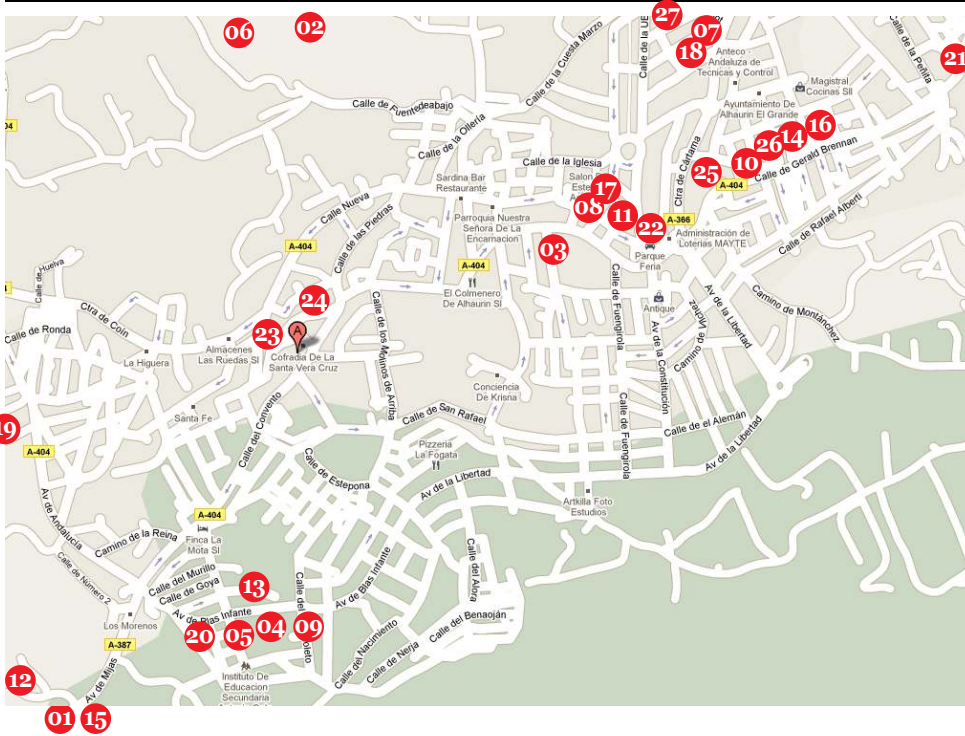
Text: 637 89 86 89

presenters@heartfmpain.com

www.heartfmpain.com

Phone: 951 164 500

# Alhaurin el Grande special



### Key to Advertisers

- 01 Alhaurin Golf
- 02 Bamboo Telecom
- 03 Bar Costales
- 04 Brit Essentials SA
- 05 Carniceria Ana
- 06 Cat & Dog World
- 07 Connecta 4
- 08 Costureras
- 09 Deep Blue Pools
- 10 Estanco Gerald Brenan
- 11 Centro Dental Clinic
- 12 Finca La Mota
- 13 Heart FM
- 14 Ideal Property
- 15 La Boma
- 16 La Bodeguita
- 17 Meson las Bovedas
- 18 MP Architects
- 19 Posh Pets
- 20 Rentacar 3000
- 21 Restaurante Carolina
- 22 Dr Van Meer
- 23 Santiago Restaurante
- 24 SPN Funerals
- 25 UK Food Supplies
- 26 Vida Sana
- 27 Alhaurin Garage

## finca la mota

A 350 year old farmhouse  
now used as a hotel,  
bar and restaurant

*Come and enjoy  
the unspoilt  
Alhaurin*

Just 5 minutes from  
Alhaurin centre  
Open all year  
Kitchen open from 10:00 to midnight

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

Partido de Ubrique 50, Alhaurin El Grande 29120, Malaga, Spain  
T 952 490 901 info@fincalamota.com

## THE BOMA

## BBQ & BAR

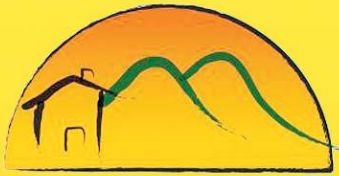
**Braai every day - Great music**  
**Awesome views**  
**Spit Braai every Sunday**  
**Live Sky Sports and ESP**

Unwind at The Boma with an ice cold beer and enjoy a few traditional South African dishes. Live entertainment first Saturday of every month

Open Tuesday to Sunday - 1pm 'til late

On the main Alhaurin el Grande - Mijas - Fuengirola road by the Cruce

**Tel: 952 491 194**



Ideal Country  
Property

C/ Gerald Brennan, 83, Alhaurín el Grande, 29120 (Málaga)  
Tel: (+34) 952 491 728 UK Local Rate Number: 08432 071 852  
Fax: (+34) 952 490 607 Skype ID: ideal-country-property

## Real Estate services in Spain

[info@ideal-country-property.com](mailto:info@ideal-country-property.com)



Sold - TH507021 - **€185,000**  
Built 119m<sup>2</sup>. We sold this property in 2010. Do you have a property like this to sell? Contact us.



TH120556- Alhaurín el Grande **€120,000**. Fabulous townhouse, close to all amenities, quiet street, 2 beds, 1 bath, store rooms, patio and 2 roof terraces. Built 123m<sup>2</sup>



F509204 - Alhaurín el Grande - **€185,000**  
Pretty finca close to town. 2 beds, 1 bath, lounge, kitchen, roof terrace, storeroom, pool. Plot 1,500m<sup>2</sup> Built 69m<sup>2</sup>



AG006 - Alhaurín el Grande **€325,000**. Completely reformed country house, stunning views. 3 beds, 2 baths lounge, kitchen, covered terrace, pool. Plot 3,500m<sup>2</sup>. Built 114m<sup>2</sup>



Sold - F508678 - **€289,000**  
Plot 3213m<sup>2</sup> Built 103m<sup>2</sup>  
We sold this property in 2010. Do you have a property like this to sell? Contact us.



A0048 - Alhaurín Golf - **€137,000**. Top floor front line golf apartment, 2 beds, 2 baths, fully fitted kitchen, A/C. Communal pools



F509227- Alhaurín el Grande **€350,000**. Stunning country house, 3 beds, 2 baths, huge lounge, fabulous kitchen, covered terrace, pool, stunning views. Plot 6,037m<sup>2</sup> Built 144m<sup>2</sup>.



F125781 - Coín - **€275,000**  
Country cottage, close to town. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen, lounge, pool. Plot 1373m<sup>2</sup>. Built 99m<sup>2</sup>.



Sold - F508660 - **€498,000**  
Plot 9214 Built 329m<sup>2</sup>. We sold this property in 2010. Do you have a property like this to sell? Contact us.



F509254- Alhaurín el Grande **€185,000**. Charming finca 2beds 1 bath, lounge with chimney, fitted kitchen, pool, Stunning views. Plot 630m<sup>2</sup> Built 64m<sup>2</sup>



F123141- Alhaurín el Grande **€595,000**. Fabulous country house walking distance to town, 4 beds, 2 baths, WC, covered terrace, pool, tennis court, views. Plot 6,037m<sup>2</sup> Built 220m<sup>2</sup>



F509248 - Alhaurín el Grande **€290,000**. Two houses on one plot. Fantastic value 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 kitchens 2 Lounges. Pool. Plot 12,744m<sup>2</sup> Built 194m<sup>2</sup>

Tel: 952 491 728

[www.ideal-country-property.com](http://www.ideal-country-property.com)