

All about Antequera

Mollina, Alameda and Fuente de Piedra

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The Prehistoric museum of Andalucia

2010 is the 600th anniversary since the Christians conquered Antequera... But that is almost like yesterday in the glorious history of Andalucia's oldest town, where Spain's 'first architects' were based, writes Jon Clarke

SINCE the ancient Egyptians were erecting the pyramids in Giza, there have been tribes shuffling around the fertile Antequera vega.

It is for this reason that the town – which sits at the dead centre of southern Spain – is often called the 'Prehistoric museum of Andalucia'.

Indeed, just about every time a major construction job is undertaken in the area, archaeological remains are dug up.

Only in 1998, builders found an incredible set of mosaics at an ancient Roman villa unearthed on the outskirts of the town, near the train station.

Among the remains – said to be some of the best preserved in the world – they found statues, including the priceless Venus of

Antequera and the Nero Germanica.

A few decades earlier archaeologists unearthed the exquisite first century bronze sculpture, the Efebo de Antequera, which, despite being 2000 years old, hardly had a scratch.

Then last year, the new motorway to Cordoba was held up for months while archaeologists investigated further Roman villas, plus, more crucially, a series of ancient burial sites dating back more than a thousand years before the birth of Christ. While a number of priceless statues were removed, it was decided that the motorway should take precedence. They were quickly reburied and covered in sand.

It was perhaps no surprise, given the cost

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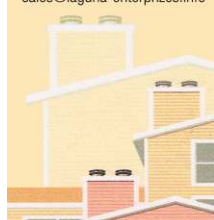
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12 Antequera special

Buried treasures

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of diverting the already expensive A45 across the complex folds of some of the world's most famous olive territory.

Then there was the issue of the number of existing burial sites around the town.

Indeed, some of Spain's oldest tombs – known as the dolmens – are found on the outskirts of the charming market town.

Now national monuments, the dolmens of Menga and Viera, both date from 2,500BC and were built during the Copper Age.

Sometimes described as Spain's "first real architecture", they have great views towards the Peña de las Enamoradas.

Menga, the largest, is 25 metres long, and four metres high and was composed out of 32 huge stone slabs hewn out of the nearby hills.

Not just a serious feat of engineering, the burial chamber was sited in such a way that as the sun rose on the solstice it shone straight through the chamber mouth.



MYSTICAL: One of the ancient dolmen tombs, and (right) church of Santa Maria

Nearby, a third dolmen, that of Romeral, is a youngster in comparison dating back to just 1800BC.

But the city has been steeped in a rich and glorious history, right through the Roman, Moorish and finally the Christian periods.

The 19th century travel-

ler Washington Irving, a former US ambassador to Spain, was particularly taken by the city, when he wrote: "Everything in this venerable city has a decidedly Spanish seal."

It is not for nothing that locals insist that 70 per cent of the 'patrimonio', or heri-

tage, of Malaga province can be found in the city.

"It is even difficult for the main city of Malaga to compete as it got so badly treated during the civil war," explains Silvia Jurado, president of the local tourism initiative CIT.

"There are so many gems here, you would be hard pressed to see them all in a weekend."

This quickly becomes obvious on wandering around the easily manageable city with its wide marble pavements and orange-tree-lined streets.

In the shape and form of grand palaces, soaring baroque churches, Moorish fountains and a delightful bull ring, there is so much to see.

With more churches per head of capita than anywhere else in Spain, it is topped with a magical jewel in the crown, its stunning Alcazaba, or ancient fortress, which is now open again after a long refurbishment.

Take a walk up the hill from



the tourist office, through the imposing Arco de los Gigantes, and you soon come across the impressively fortified fortress. Marvel at the views and the leafy gardens and then take a particular look at the 13th century Torre del Homenaje, which is a great example of Islamic architecture.

Coincidentally, Antequera, then known as *Madinet Antaqira*, was the first of the major Arabic towns to fall when the Christians made their final push south into the Kingdom of Granada in 1410, exactly 600 years ago next year.

Various celebrations are planned to mark the day the city fell to El Infante Don Fernando of Aragon, who seized the city after a short siege.

In the Plaza Alta square be-

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CONQUEROR: Statue of Fernando, who seized Antequera from the Moors in 1410 and (inset) Silvia Jurado, president of local tourism initiative, CIT

low, not only will you find a great terrace restaurant El Escribano to while away an hour, but the stunning church of Santa Maria is a joy to visit.

Light and airy with a superb Mudejar-style wooden ceiling, thankfully the church has been unconsecrated and now holds a series of art exhibitions and even rock concerts. This month, for example, there was a terrific exhibition of racy posters based on the revolutionary designs of French artist Toulouse Lautrec.

The sight of a few pairs of nipples raised a few titters from a group of teenage schoolchildren, who were also visiting the impressive aforementioned Efebo statue. It also raised a couple of decidedly loud tuts from two old ladies wandering around in the black of mourning dress.

I went to Antequera and thought that was the icing on the cake

But this is about as conservative a city as one can expect to find in Andalucía.

Alongside Sevilla, and Ronda, there is a distinct traditional feel to the place, both in sights and values.

This may have much to do with the amount of wealth that has been generated here for many centuries.

It is no coincidence that the rich, fertile plain (or *vega*) of Antequera is dotted with enormous estates, each with their impressive white-washed cortijos.

Many of these have been wonderfully conserved,

although few are lived in. Some have been converted into venues for weddings, while others are garden centres. The rest are simply aching for conversion from anyone wealthy enough, or optimistic enough, to take on board such a large project.

This is the gateway to Europe's finest olive groves. Stretching north from here are the famous appellations of Priego de Córdoba, Jaén, and the local olive oil producers in Fuente de Piedra, Alameda, Sierra de Yeguas, and, of course, in Antequera Hojiblanca, one of Spain's largest producers.

While a controversial – and perhaps misguided – plan currently exists to convert a large part of the *vega* into a huge international airport

and commercial centre, it is currently still relatively intact.

Take a ride out towards three key areas of natural beauty nearby, up towards the lake district, with its famous Caminito del Rey, or Fuente de Piedra with its lake filled with flamingoes for much of the year.

Then there is the formidable barrier of the Sierra de las Cabras and, more famously, El Torcal, one of Spain's finest rocky outcrops, with a new visitor centre, to boot. Not quite connected to the same chain of mountains, but just as impressive is the nearby Pena de los Enamorados, or Lovers' Rock, where local legend insists that a Christian warrior and a Muslim girl leapt to their deaths rather than be forced to live separate lives.

As one local expatriate Euan Woodward, a Training and Development Consultant, who lives in nearby Molina, described it. "My priorities were having an airport nearby so that I could return to the UK for



SPLENDOUR: One of the many old cortijos in nearby countryside, while (right) the imposing Santa Maria church



work without driving long distances, and I have two Granada and Malaga. I also wanted to be based in a traditional Spanish town.

"I saw Molina and liked it very much. Then I went just down the road to Antequera and thought that was the icing on the cake. I sat outside cafes and watched the world go by and was really taken by the feel of the place.

"Antequera has lovely

restaurants, plenty of shops; the mountain range El Torcal, which you can drive up to, is 10 minutes away as is the marvellous Lobo Park with its wolves. I really like both those places. The best thing about Antequera is that I feel at peace there. The place just feels right for me."

Could Washington Irving have summed it up so well?



GLORIOUS: The Roman Efebo statue, art exhibition inside Santa Maria, and a 16th century monk

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Antequera special

My Antequera

By Rupert Wilson

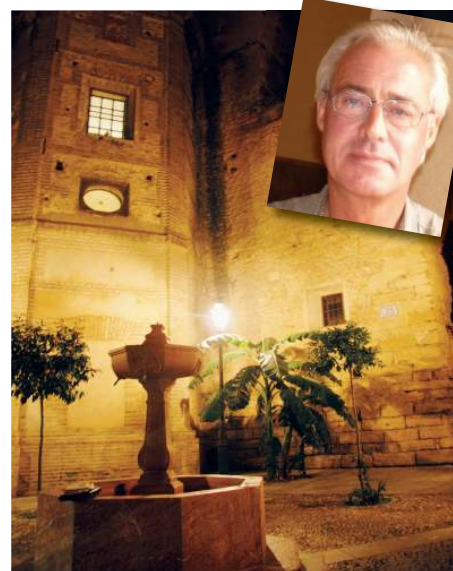
ANTEQUERA is a veritable living museum with its wealth of historic architecture: sheer volume of churches (more per head of capita than anywhere in Spain), magnificent *palacio* houses, many still family-owned, the ancient *Dólmene*s, and newly renovated Alcazaba a museum in itself.

The labyrinth of well-worn cobbled streets are a joy to meander through, although on the subject of streets many are currently being ripped up as part of President Zapatero's Plan E scheme to find employment for the jobless. The major road re-construction programme has caused chaos throughout town.

But one must have faith though in the master plan of our progressive mayor, and it is at least encouraging to see new granite cobblestones being hand laid in place of patchy tarmac. So why did I end up here? Mainly as being a dedicated foodie, the prolific range of restaurants and cafeterias alone is temptation enough to reside here.

While the exchange rate is not exactly kind, I eat out most days, albeit at the cheaper end of the gourmet yardstick.

The concept of the Menu del Dia warms the heart: a three-course meal with wine for just eight euros. There are some cracking budget-orientated restaurants in Antequera. These include bar Car-



TIMELESS: Typical square, while (inset) Wilson

rera, one of the first I visited upon moving here five years ago, and I have remained a regular ever since.

Paco and his father have run the place for decades. It is a no-nonsense, bustling affair, with great tapas, extensive raciones, and a superb cropped menú for lunch.

His knowledgeable produced wine list puts some of the Michelin star hopefuls to shame.

La Sopa, on the Plaza Castilla, is another favourite. A new owner in 2009 gave it a pleasing facelift, and upgraded the classically Andalusian fair, while a

newly-celebrated entrant to the catering scene here is El Arco.

The entrepreneurial owner, Javier, has transformed it into a successful bistro with a mid-priced menu that is innovative, enticing and refreshing to encounter.

He believes in good presentation, and crockery is modern, wine glasses large, and the wine itself served in quaint carafes with a personal ice bucket if vino blanco.

But dining aside, I still struggle to answer succinctly why I love this place. I guess the only response is 'have a taste'.



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ANTEQUERA has long been regarded as the crossroads of Andalucía due to its geographical importance and its ancient origins going back many thousands of years. Linking the coastal port of Malaga to the inland cities of Sevilla, Cordoba and Granada, Antequera has become a vital link in the journeys of many around Andalucía. Millions of euros have been invested in recent years into the new AVE high speed rail link, motorway improvements, a huge container distribution centre, known as the 'dry port'.

There is even talk of a future airport north of the city showing that the future of Antequera is likely to equal its past in terms of its communications at least. Anyone living in the area will be aware of the numerous benefits the city offers on top of the easy access to the coast.

But it is in the nearby countryside, where you will find the best places to invest. Take a ride south and you will find El Torcal Natural Park with its stunning rock formations and incredible wildlife.

Nominated by the Spanish Government for World Heritage status, this beautiful

Crossroads of Andalucía

Asha Stuttard explains why Antequera's communications and stunning nearby countryside makes it a terrific place to invest



◀ Villanueva de la Concepcion

Charming finca which has bags of character and a 2 bedroom guest cottage in the grounds. Set in 7,000M2 of land with far reaching views, this property has been lovingly restored and now offers a huge amount of flexibility. Just to the west of Villanueva de la Concepcion, this property is within walking distance of the small hamlet of La Higuera with its bar, shop and school. Visit www.torcalestates.com for more info.

natural park helps to reaffirm the area's unspoilt nature.

Just below the park is the charming village of Villanueva de la Concepcion, where you will find estate agent Torcal Estates. David Rick, partner at Torcal Estates, who has been based here for 6 years, has a huge range of excellent village and country homes in the area.

"They cost from as little as 60,000 euros for a village home up to more than one million for the large country cortijos," explains Rick, who has an excellent reputation in

the Antequera area and hundreds of happy customers.

"One of the key strengths of the area is that it has not yet been found by the masses and retains a traditional Spanish feel.

"You get a real taste of Spain here and we have many buyers who tell us that it feels like they've travelled back in time to the UK in say the 1950s.

"Crime is virtually unheard of, traditional values are preserved and local customs and festivals remain an important feature of the area." Take a ride around the area and visit the various lit-

tle villages that include La Higuera, La Joya and Pastelero.

None have been over-developed and each retain that traditional Spanish feel and offer buyers wonderful countryside to enjoy walking, painting, photography and wildlife.

"This is such a beautiful area, but within just 20 minutes you are in one of Spain's most alluring city," concludes Rick.

"Antequera is certainly a city with a historic past, but thankfully it has a very bright future."



◀ Pastelero

A modern villa set on a rural urbanisation - this beautifully presented home has a great pool, privacy and established gardens. The kitchen has been re-fitted, the bathrooms are stylish and the décor throughout is very clean and modern. A few minutes from the hamlet of Pastelero which has two excellent "ventas" and a bakers. Visit Torcal Estates for more info.

Malaga ▶

This cortijo has been sympathetically renovated and converted from an historic olive mill. Offering a huge array of original features and character this property is deceptively close to Malaga City. Privacy, charm and plenty of land - 90 acres in total just 15 minutes from the airport and downtown Malaga! Visit Torcal Estates for more info.



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Antequera special

The real Antequera

*There is so much great scenery around
Andalucía, not to mention donkeys,
wolves and flamingoes to visit*



AT ONE WITH NATURE: Daniel howls with the wolves at Lobo Park, while (here) and main picture flamingoes add a splash of colour to the area

ANTEQUERA is surrounded by some of Andalucía's most stunning scenery. In all directions the comarca – or district – is blessed with mixed and varied countryside. From the walkers paradise in the Lake District around El Chorro to the birdwatchers heaven of Fuente de Piedra, there is so much to visit. With the current plan to restore the Caminito del Rey – the incredible Kings Path – at El Chorro, and with the pink flamingoes back in force at Fuente de Piedra, it is a good year for Antequera nature. Another great place to visit is the enchanted mountain range of El Torcal, just south of the town. El Torcal stands at 1,300 metres above sea level. Over many centuries, wind and rain penetrated the rocks and chiselled out the eye catching shapes that can be witnessed today. The finest sculptor could not have created such an impressive piece of work. Millions of years ago the sea of Tetis flooded this

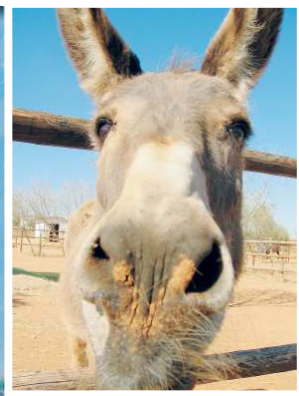
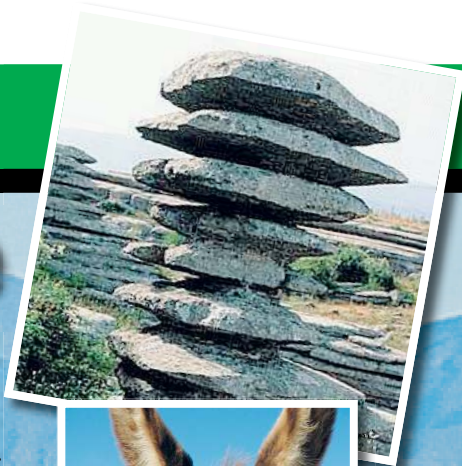
area of Andalucía. It led to the erosion that constantly created, destroyed and then created again the shape of the mountain range. For much of the year the rock is bare. Then in spring the plant life makes a colourful appearance. Red peonies, orchids and lillies sit side by side with wild rose trees. Their colour set against the starkness of the ancient rock is impressive. To reach the El Torcal natural park it is possible to drive up to 1,100 m above sea level along a good access road into the park. For walkers the place is paradise. Three clearly defined routes through the park have been marked out with different coloured arrows. The green route is the shortest and easiest, taking around half an hour. The yellow route is two and a half kilometres in length and takes you to the area known as Las Ventanillas. Here, at 1,200 metres, you have a window view on the world below. Finally, and for serious walkers only, there is the red route. Be warned this almost five-kilometre

By Vernon Grant

trek is hard going and will take a while to complete. From the top of the mountain, on a clear day, the view is spectacular. It is close by where you will find the unique wildlife parks in the area. Lobo Park, set up by George and Alexandra Stirling, is a family-owned and operated. Charismatic Daniel is a Crocodile Dundee. In a way, Daniel was a success story whose passion for training hundreds of dogs has made him famous. But this was not intensive training. He wanted to work with the dogs in their surroundings.

ra wildlife

SHAPELY: From the incredible rock formations at Torcal to the nose of this charming fellow at the donkey sanctuary



nt and Jon Clarke

will take around three hours
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coastline of Africa.
will find one of the most
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ve enough for Daniel, who
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With his partner he moved to Andalucía and in 2004 created Lobo Park in 40 hectares of unspoilt Antequeran wilderness. Since then, he has developed the wolf packs at Lobo Park with steady dedication. Today, Canadian Timber wolves, European wolves and their smaller Iberian cousins, plus four rare Alaskan Tundra wolves (there are only 20 in captivity and 250 left in the wild unlike their more prolific Arctic cousins) roam in four large enclosures, which Daniel describes as 'wolf heaven'. "The rugged terrain is perfect for them and they have plenty of room and privacy to roam, hunt and relax," he points out. They even have rock pools with fresh water to bathe in, and while they hunt rabbits and other small animals within their territory, they are also fed twice a week. Their meaty diet includes plenty of fibrous goodies such as rabbit ears, to keep their digestion healthy and those famous teeth gleaming white and strong. On the other side of Antequera is another fabu-

lous visitor centre for animal lovers. The Donkey Sanctuary on the outskirts of Fuente de Piedra, is one of those animal charities that really works. Set up by a group of caring donkey lovers, every year they rescue and rehouse dozens of donkeys from around the region. Some have even been brought from as far as Italy. The charity is consistently campaigning for improved legislation for donkeys and mules in Spain and the rest of Europe. It is a great day out for the family and everything is well explained with easy to read boards. After visiting the sanctuary make sure to head to the fabulous lake nearby to see the flamingoes if in season. Finally, if looking for something a little bit different, there is plenty of fun to be had at Las Navillas, an adventure centre and guest house en route to Malaga. A superb place to take the kids, there are horses and ponies to ride, quad bikes and 4x4 jeeps to ride, not to mention paintball and a giant zip line to whizz down till your heart's content.

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Set across 3 floors, the property has some of the best possible views across the rooftops of Antequera and all that the city offers is within walking distance.

Accommodation includes: 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, office, fully fitted kitchen and large living space, garage, sun deck and ground floor patio area, entrance hall and vaulted ceilings.

The property has under-floor heating, Air Conditioning units (with heat also), double glazed windows throughout, Satellite TV, landline phone (with Broadband Internet), remote control lighting and a stunning real wood fire in the living space.

This is a truly beautiful home that shouts modernity and is within walking distance of the historic centre of Antequera - surely, that's the best of both worlds!



Villanueva de la Concepción - €495,000

This attractive reformed finca sits on the southern slopes of the El Torcal Natural Park and offers a huge amount of privacy and seclusion but is just 10 minutes from the centre of Villanueva de la Concepción.

Having been completely re-built in 2003, the property has a wealth of traditional charm and character features throughout - 4 bedrooms (each with an en-suite bath or shower room), two living rooms, a large dining room, kitchen, separate utility room (with WC) and plenty of outside space to enjoy the views!

The pool terrace is very large and compliments the 10m x 4m pool.

The grounds are extensive and include a variety of trees, native plants, fruits and flowering plants. The finca gets its name from the many alcornocal trees which are in this area (the land borders a preserved area where these trees are protected).

This home would make an ideal retreat, small guest house or a large family home for people who want to experience a truly peaceful and idyllic existence.



Pastelero - Price €180,000

This property is situated in a small hamlet of Spanish properties and will immediately ensure integration into local life. From the property it is possible to walk into the nearest village which benefits from two very good bar/restaurants, a bakery and school.

The property is spacious, with a hallway that leads onto 3 large double bedrooms (largest has an en-suite), a generous kitchen/living/dining room, utility room and large family bathroom.

The pool is great and it takes in the beautiful surrounding views and all day sunshine. There is a cozy, covered corner for lazy summer days out of the sun or enjoy a G&T on warm, barmy evenings!



Villanueva de la Concepción - €220,000

This traditional finca is set in the middle of its own grounds and is quite honestly, one of the most authentic of its kind to come onto the market for years.

A detached garage, workshop and utility room also make extending the living accommodation very possible (subject to normal planning permission).

The location, slightly to the west of Villanueva de la Concepción, is excellent - quiet, Spanish environs but easy access to a wonderful bar/ restaurant nearby or to the main village of Concepción which has every facility needed for modern living.

Set within an olive grove the property also has many fruit trees, an attractive tree line driveway and enough land to create some income from the harvested fruit.



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WHERE TO EAT

Sleeping giant wakes up

ONCE a sleeping giant in the culinary stakes, Antequera is finally starting to stir.

While the town is best known for its traditional cuisine – such as *porra* (a thick, bread-laden gazpacho) – a number of restaurants are starting to enter the modern era.

The most obvious of these is El Escribano, which has an enviable position just below the Alcazaba fortress.

Recently taken over by entrepreneur Silvia Jurado, she has given the restaurant a spruce up and revolutionised the menus.

You will now find some interesting modern dishes, such as the green pepper from the nearby vega, stuffed with partridge. The mixed croquetas, of mushrooms, cheese and cuttlefish, were interesting and the lentils with black pudding, while hardly modern, were delicious.

Down the hill, but certainly not downhill in quality was Hospedería Coso San Francisco, where inventive Charo Carmona is experimenting with a range of recipes going back to the 11th century.



CHARM: Escribano, while (top) Jameria Fuentes and Charo Carmona with chef at her award-winning Hospedería Coso San Francisco

One of Malaga's most charming restaurants, you sit in a lovely central courtyard, well heated with a roaring fire and even *braseros* under each table, to warm your feet.

If atmospheric charm is what you are after then taking a ride up the A45 towards Alameda to Caserio de San Benito is well worth the trip.

This incredible place feels like it is straight out of the 18th century, yet was built just a

decade ago by Antonio, a passionate collectionista of all things old.

Up the road for something completely different, but no less in quality, is Candida, where businessmen and politicians, rub shoulders with farmers and builders.

It is hardly surprising with a nine euro menu del día including courgette soup, a fabulous goat stew and one of the finest almond puddings, I have ever tried.

Head further west to Campillos and you will find one of Malaga province's best restaurants, the adventurous and stylish Yerbagüena.

In the other direction in the charming village of Villanueva de la Concepción, why not try the fabulous Xebar, which has amazing views and sits just below the Torcal natural park.

Back in Antequera there are two other places worthy of note.

The first, el Arco in the heart of the town has been recently rejuvenated with the addition of English couple Mel and Rupert, who have taken its menus onto new ground. As well as a tapas bar, it is serving a good mix of northern European and Mediterranean food.

Last, but definitely not least, Ristorante Italia, on the main street Calle Alameda, is run by the former chef from Posada del Torcal.

With some of the best fresh pasta around, it has a great range of wines from Italy, including a terrific Barolo. It also serves up dozens of salads, an essential ingredient for its regular expatriate clients.

Finally, if you are looking for great ham and wines by the glass, then make sure to head for Jameria Fuentes, a recently opened deli and wine bar close to the town hall. It not only has some of the best cold meats and cheeses from around Andalucía, but the best news, is you will find more than 50 wines to enjoy, many by the glass.

WHERE TO STAY

King of the castle



I FELT like a king surveying his kingdom as I took breakfast at Hotel Fuente del Sol. Perched just on the edge of the Torcal natural park, this stunning hotel is one of the most breathtaking escapes in Andalucía.

Set against a teetering backdrop of the park, the Fuente del Sol is actually the spring that waters the grounds and burgeoning gardens. The epitome of rustic-de-luxe, there is a great restaurant, as well as huge gym and spa, not to mention a swimming pool that is perfect for lengths when the weather allows.

As one would expect for one of Andalucía's most important tourist towns there are also some great hotels in the centre of Antequera.

Pick of the bunch must be Hospedería Coso San Francisco, which, while simple, with no frills, has been beautifully conserved and renovated and counts one of



WOW: The view from Fuente del Sol and its indoor spa

the best restaurants in the town.

Its owner Charo has wonderful taste and has managed to keep the place feeling like it might have done as a boarding house in the 18th century, albeit with more comfort.

Nearby is the simple Hotel Castillo, which at just 25 euros for a single is a steal, while on the outskirts of town, but still an easy walk to the centre, is Las Villas de Antikaria, which has a terrific "weekend romance deal" of just 150 euros per couple for two nights... and including a meal at the lovely Escribano restaurant, also owned by the same family.

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HOLY SHANKS: Gillian with her donated dunny

THEY say you can find everything, including the kitchen sink at Mollina market. Now you can get the toilet seat too!

It certainly came as something of a surprise when the loo seat was plopped down on Gillian Griffith's stall in aid of Pepi's Refuge animal sanctuary.

Donated by one of her regulars, the Lancashire lady was too busy to take a sniff at the plastic offering at the time.

"But I think they genuinely thought someone would want to buy it," she explained. "It has all the parts, including, it has to be said, a rather nasty brown stain."

"But people are donating anything they can for us to make money to help look after the animals we care for. We are always in need of items to sell, not to mention volunteers to help out at the centre."

Her stall, which sells books, videos and all sorts of other odds and ends, is typical of the sort of things one can find at the market.

By far the longest running expatriate market in inland Andalucia, the busy event which takes place at Saydo Park Hotel, every Wednesday, is a microcosm of expatriate life.

You can find almost anything at the market, which takes place from 10am to 2pm.

There are numerous stalls selling delicious foods, including cakes, spices, falafel and just about any British delicacy you might care to want.

Greengrocer Chris Cook even ensures that his clients are supplied with fresh Bramley and Braeburn

apples imported from the UK, not to mention, new English potatoes. "And the swedes and parsnips are obviously popular in the run up to Christmas," he explains.

There are various book and electrical item stalls and plenty of places to buy clothes.

At Jackie Chilvers' stall you can not only buy some fabulous baby knitwear, but you can also get yourself a manicure and pedicure, as well as get your daughter a Barbie doll dressed up in a leather skirt and a winter warming wool jumper.

On top of that there are stalls, such as El Relojero, where Graham Forster not only supplies a huge range of jewellery, but can even repair your Rolex watch.

But it is Charlie Roberts, perhaps more than anyone else, who sums up the sort of people you meet at the market.

Roberts, who sells a great range of hand-carved wooden jewellery, trinkets and pots, is a former engineer and architect.

"I was once on the cover of the *Wall Street Herald*," he told me. "But I really don't want to say too much about that."

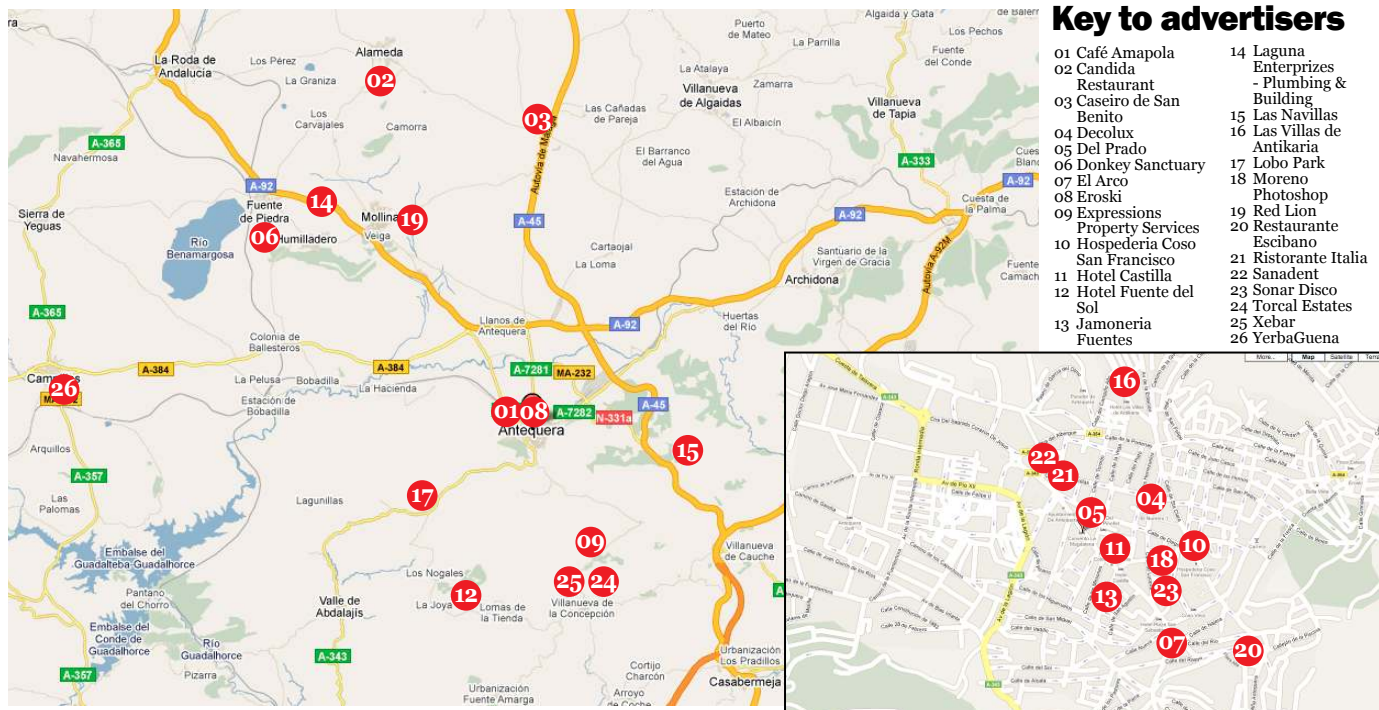
Mollina market takes place from 10.00 to 14.00 every Wednesday, apart from the special Christmas Market, which takes place this Saturday (Dec 12) at the same place. Please be careful not to park on the road opposite the market, as this is a hard shoulder and police have issued fines in recent months. There's ample parking on the industrial estate next to the hotel.

MIX: From top to bottom: Bespoke Barbies, Charlie Roberts, greengrocer Chris Cook and family, the Pepe's Refuge team and El Relojero jewellery



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