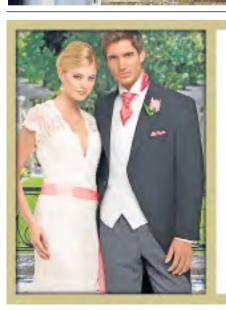
Il about Andalucia weddings

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From Page 19

ried (well, we've weathered the odd Costa storm or two like most couples!) we have plenty of weddings under our belts.
From large churches to

small chapels, country fincas to big seaside dos we have done the lot.

There have rarely been dull moments, plus some hairy times too, for example sitting outside the law courts in Malaga waiting for the right judge to appear.

Farmer

Then there were the hours spent at Estepona Register Office, circa 1999, watching the clerk laboriously type out on her ancient typewriter the paperwork for a marriage application, tippex-ing out the mistakes.
These were the days before

the term 'Wedding Planner' even hit the pages of Bride

Looking back over the last decade or so we have had some memorable moments! They include the organist who failed to arrive at the church as his wife had gone into labour and me desper-ately sending the wedding car round the block to give us time to find a replace-

Then there was Jamie chasing around farmland in an **Never a dull moment**

IDYLLIC: It is not just the weather that makes a Spanish wedding. Here, a charming hotel near Gaucin

attempt to find the farmer, who supplied the white homing doves, to be released romantically in the glorious surroundings of large for the supplied to the supplied the whole and joy that comes through on the day.

We have also recently been asked if we organise diluxury five star hotel and forced to sit up all night keeping an eye on the doves thought... we are always up

just in case one died. Those and many more little

asked if we organise di-vorces. Tough to tackle on for a good party!

details, but on a positive note, for all the responsibility, it is a wonderful and happy vocation, very rewarding spain.com

Frances Leate ponders whether Spain is a land of romance or are the Spanish dead between the sheets?

Spanish romantic?...hmm

DISHY: Bardem-types are scarce

the most stable in the world, with

nearly 90% growing up with both birth parents still together, the idea

of a multi-dating Casanova didn't re-

ally fit with the huge value Hispanic

people seem to place on family life. I sought the help of newly acquired

Spanish friend, Diego. A handsome (imagine Julio Iglesias

in his hip thrusting prime) man of

about 30. Single (or so he says) and

He explains: "I don't think Spanish

men are any different to men in Eng-

land or other parts of Europe or even

"I think Spanish men do love to flirt

and can be romantic, but only with

"Some British women are more likely

to give everything away after the first few dates and if you haven't had to

work for it I don't think you value it

"But in the end, most single men are

really looking for someone to be with

"Family is the most important thing

in Spain and I know people think us

looking for romance.

Latin America.

the right girl.

long-term.

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I HAVE always considered myself as a bit of a Bridget Jones-type, drowning in wine and experiencing endless disappointments in love all the while wearing pin-striped pyja-mas and singing love ballads on the

sofa. Well, not really, but I have had my fair share of crushes on inappropriate men and not nearly enough Mr Darcy types to sweep me off my feet. So moving to Spain presented me with a new opportunity to find Mr

I hate to generalise, but I was done with beer-swigging Brits with their eyes glued to the football every night or career-obsessed Englishmen waking at the crack of dawn just to beat their boss to work.

I wanted butterflies-in-the-stomach romance, of the distinctly Spanish-kind.

I imagined quickly finding a Javier Bardem-type, passionate and intense with a penchant for grand romantic gestures.

Outgoing, flirtatious and sexy, the Latino lover stereotype wasn't something I was entirely unfamiliar with. A few years back I found my-self knee deep in love with a Cuban. My pina colada-induced romance didn't last much longer than my two week holiday though, especially after I found out that a wife, girlfriend, lover and a bit on the side was all par for the course for a Cu-

However, with recent statistics showing that Spanish children are

Spanish men can be controlling but it's really the woman who domi-nates home life."

AVOID THE

WEDDING

Despite Diego's insistence on the value of family life in Spain and its essentially egalitarian nature, prostitution is still socially acceptable and according to a UN study, 39% of Spanish men have used prostitutes at least once.
This goes against the idea that they

pride themselves on their seductive

Spaniards lose their virginity on average at 18, a year or more later than in the USA or England and explains why teen pregnancy rates are a quarter of those in the UK.

And according to a 2003 national statistics institute (NSI) survey, a quarter of all Spanish men and 55% of women have had only one sexual partner in their lives.

espite this, the idea of Spaniards as mighty Latin lovers has stuck.
And as long as hordes of female tourists flock here to have their week of fun in the sun with their Spanish waiter, tour guide or bar man, the stereotype is not going away anytime soon.

But if you are living in Spain and looking for romance, remember you are here for the long-term so the universal three date rule still applies. In fact, if you are looking for something serious, the longer you wait the better.

The truth is, women are the best players the world over... so girls go th and trust your judgement!



To avoid some of the heartbreaking

so-called 'wedding planners', Laura

themselves in after being swindled by

Charles, of Reviva Weddings, has a few

tips to ensure your wedding day comes

IS your wedding planner raphers or cake makers,

etc, into building in com-

missions into their prices in

order to pay wedding plan-

So despite paying your planner a rock bottom bar-

gain fee of €800 chances

are he may well be taking €800 again by the venue,

plus another €400 or so in

commissions from the sup-

This means the client has

paid nearly €2.000 to this

ing it, while suppliers may

If the suppliers are being

paid what they are worth

then they are happy and

ding without having to worry

about cutting corners and

scraping back that 10 or

feel underpaid.

scenarios some couples find

off without a hitch

nsisting you put all your

budget into his or her ac-count to book the suppli-

ers on your behalf or is he organising your payments to the suppliers directly?

Beware, if you are paying

money for the suppliers to

the planner, the planner could well be covering up

the true supplier costs and

It is a huge risk to hand

over your entire wedding

budget to one person, re-

gardless of how much you

If you are paying the sup-

pliers directly, overseen by your planner, then you

know the actual costs in-

volved and vour planner

will obtain individual re-

ceipts and confirmation of

booking from every sup- 20%.

There are stories about planners bullying suppliers, whether it is photog-

trust them.

plier involved.

marking up the prices.

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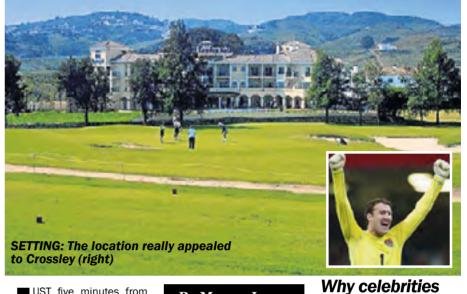
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weddings special

The best of both worlds



UST five minutes from the beach and 15 from the white-washed village of Mijas Pueblo sits the perfect Andalucian wedding venue.

Hotel Tamisa Golf, located in the hills above Fuengirola, offers the best of both worlds when it comes to tying the knot in Spain.

With easy access to both the tourism hotspots and the more traditional Spain, Tamisa provides a perfect middle ground overlooking the Costa del Sol.

Surrounded by picturesque gardens, the luxury four-star hotel has been the choice of hundreds of couples looking to wed in Spain.

Priding itself on peace and quiet, it is easy to see why famous faces flock to the relaxing hide-away.

Vinnie

Vinnie Jones, Rolf Harris and Spice Girl Melanie C are just some of Tamisa's previous clients.

From footballers to film-stars, the hotel has seen its fair share of celebrity guests both on the nearby golf course and at wedding ceremonies.

at wedding ceremines.

"Discretion is paramount, and all our guests are assured of the utmost courtesy and privacy to enjoy the hotel's facilities in complete anonymity without any hassle," explains hotel manager John Peach.

Ex-Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Mark Crossley, who recently got married at Tamisa, has nothing but praise for the hotel

"The setting, the garden, the food, the staff, the atmosphere were all perfect and we couldn't have asked for more," he tells the Olive Press.

"All our family and friends commented on how beautiful

By Mason Jones

the hotel is and how fantastic the whole day was.

"We will definitely be returning for our first anniversary next year," he added. Visit www.hoteltamisagolf.com

such as footballer Mark Crossley choose Tamisa hotel to get married



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