

More than Marmite at Morrisons



Britain in the Sun?
*You're off your Rock-er...
If your view of Gibraltar
coincides with Channel
5's TV show you should
have gone to Specsavers,
writes Belinda Beckett*

IN 1987, Agent 007 parachuted onto the Rock in the opening sequence to *The Living Daylights* and, after dispatching a would-be assassin, sailed off in his yacht for more exotic climes.

In those days, Gibraltar was not the kind of place to leave James Bond shaken or stirred.

Fast-forward a quarter of a century and it's a different story: Bond could have berthed his giga-yacht in swanky Ocean Village and strolled over to the casino for one of his trademark Martinis. After decades as 'Little Britain in the Sun', complete with old-school Tardis police boxes and Bobbies on the beat, Gibraltar has been forging a shiny new ID that is decidedly continental - no thanks to Channel 5's similarly-titled Tuesday night show, now on its second



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Photography by David Cussen



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From Page 19

series, which is doing a brilliant job resurrecting the Rule Britannia and fish 'n' chips image (ED: Thank heavens most of us cannot watch it in southern Spain thanks to the ongoing satellite signal shenanigans)

With 1.1million viewers, it's publicity; but is it good publicity? There's the Health and Safety Officer whose car rolls into the sea because he's forgotten to apply the handbrake... the 'Jolly Boy' marine maintenance engineer who is described as one half of 'a vaudeville act' by his own mother... the monkey doctor who carries his ketamine gun down the front of his trousers! With the Laurel & Hardy music and narrator Timothy Spall's dry wit, you wonder who's making a monkey out of who...or perhaps Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has shares in the programme?

The Gibraltar I've come to know is far removed from the clichéd 'land of hope and glorious sunshine' portrayed by so-called 'reality TV'.

Park yourself in the Rock's business district on a weekday morning, with its City of London vibe, and count the suits and ties.

White collar workers in Gibraltar are too formal for polo shirts and chinos. If in doubt as to how to greet one, try a handshake before a cheek kiss, or hedge your bets with both!



CLOSED DOWN:
Franco shut border

Did you know?

- The height of the Rock is approximately 426 metres or 1400 feet
- The distance between Gibraltar and the coast of Africa is 24 kilometres or 15 miles
- The Rock was formed approximately 200 million years ago and is composed of Jurassic Limestone
- The UK pound can be used freely in Gibraltar, so there is no need to convert UK notes to Gibraltar ones. However, Gibraltar banknotes are not legal tender in the UK and will not be accepted there
- In recent referendums the nearly 30,000 Gibraltarians who live on the Rock voted overwhelmingly to reject any involvement by Spain in their government
- Queen Elizabeth II last visited Gibraltar in 1954
- The border was closed by Franco in 1969 and was shut for 13 years, only reopened partially for pedestrians in 1982 before being reopened fully in 1985



ROYAL VISIT:
Queen in 1954

A cultural fusion of Europeans

Yet in a land where Cabinet Ministers are prefixed with 'the Hon', it's easier to get an interview at Number 6 (Gibraltar's equivalent of 10 Downing Street) than it is to pay your electricity bill in Spain.

Gibraltarians may be British but they're not all expats from Essex. They're a cultural fusion of European immigrants who have settled there over the past three centuries: Maltese, Por-



FORTIFICATIONS: Gib was once practically a fortress

tuguese, Genoese, Moroccans, Sephardic Jews ...a global village in more ways than one (the youthful Chief Minister most likely went to school with his doctor and everyone knows everyone's business).

Although English is the official language, most locals also speak Spanish, a lilting Spanglish patois called *Llanito* and, sometimes, their ancestral mother tongue too – a veritable Tower of Babel.

The glue that bonds them is their fierce national pride. What would Rajoy give to inspire one tenth of the patriotic flag waving Gibraltarians demonstrate on National Day, when there's more red and white running through the Rock than in the eponymous sticks of chewy stuff they sell on Brighton Pier.

For a population of 30,000 souls they punch way above their weight, coming second in Microsoft Network's Hero of 2013 awards for standing up to bully-boy Spain.

The continuing sovereignty dispute has seen *Guinness World Record* traffic queues at the border and the return of virtual siege conditions – and over the centuries the Gibraltarians have survived 14 of those. So Spain, take note.

Whatever guerrilla tactics are planned next, Madrid might do well to remember that Gibraltar's new Governor (the Queen's representative), is an ex-Royal Marine general who served in the Falklands, Iraq and Afghanistan!

If the locals were as daffy as Channel 5 suggests, would Gibraltar's economy be growing at 7.8% a year with only 3% unemployment.

The Britain that's not in the sun would like those statistics! Last summer, *El Pais* reported: 'If it had been part of the IMF ranking of nations, Gibraltar would have the fourth-highest income per capita in the world, at 47,847€ a year'.

That's double Spain's and you get the same sunshine, without the VAT!

The social security's on a pay-as-you-earn basis, attractive to impoverished freelances like me paying into Spain's crippling, anti-entrepreneurial, autónomo system.

Low corporate tax attracts big business and low fuel costs attracts big cruise liners. On the first working day of 2014, Cu-

If the locals were as daffy as Channel 5 suggests would Gibraltar's economy be growing?

nard's Queen Elizabeth docked in Gibraltar, delivering a potential 2,000 big-spending tourists to the shops in Main Street at a stroke – and 180 more liners are on the way this year.

With up to 5,000 visitors also arriving daily by land and air in high summer, it's a wonder they can all fit into an area 16 times smaller than the municipality of Marbella!

But Gibraltar lives up to its tourist board slogan, 'More than you can imagine', packing as much

into its 6.2 square kilometres than any leading Costa resort. If you want to crunch numbers, that's 52km of military tunnels, 140 natural caves, 240 Barbary Macaques and a 1-million-passenger airport terminal (although you can't yet jet to any-



Sticky business

Have a coke and a smile as Gibraltar's apes get ever cheekier and more of a menace, writes Tom Powell

Photos by Jon Clarke

MAJESTIC: An ape at the top of the Rock and (inset) inspecting a Coke can

GRABBING food out of bags, snatching someone's glasses and sneaking through a kitchen window... but this one (inset right) takes some beating.

This little monkey has a penchant for all things sweet, including a can of coke.

Now numbering around 300, the Barbary Macaques are the only wild monkeys in Europe.

A major tourist attraction, but also at times a vicious menace, and, according to folklore it has long been claimed that Gibraltar will no longer be British if the monkeys leave.

Winston Churchill certainly appeared to believe so, shipping over extra macaques from North Africa when their population fell to just seven during the Second World War.

Signs have sprung up warning people to steer clear of the monkeys and feeding them is illegal, punishable by a fine, yet

attacks continue to grow more and more frequent.

Last month, one Gibraltar family came back from work to find that their kitchen had been raided.

"It was a huge shock. They had taken a lot of food and made a hell of a mess," said a friend.

Environment minister Dr John Cortes, a biologist, warned that they have 'lost their fear of humans', at the launch of a 2012 Government campaign to increase public awareness of their dangers.

Traditionally Gibraltar's most famous residents have roamed free on the rock's upper reaches, but a cull of 25 was ordered in 2008 when they began to descend upon the tourist hot-spots of Catalan Bay and Sandy Bay.

With the monkeys now making themselves at home in the built-up areas, some tourists and residents are calling for stricter measures to avoid attacks.



FINE: For feeding monkeys



THE END OF EUROPE: Europa Point and Africa beyond

where but Britain, turbo-prop flights to Morocco are due for take off in April with Your Flight).

A hangover from its former days as a military fortress, Gibraltar is big on pomp and circumstance, turning out in force for the Queen's birthday parade and Changing the Guard on a daily basis.

There's a celebration of something every week, plus a version of the *Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival* and a pop festival like Glastonbury's, without the mud and marijuana.

The next excitement (allegedly this month, but don't hold your breath), will be opening of the Sunborn, the world's first five-star floating yacht hotel.

In short, there are more compelling reasons to visit Gibraltar than monkeys and Marmite from Morrisons (the Rock is said to hold the chain's most profitable store) and you don't need to queue.

It's only €1 to park on the waste land beside the frontier (note: Make sure to get there early though) and it goes to the unemployed people of La Linea, who are stuck between a Rock and a hard place quite literally.

So take a large pinch of rock salt when you tune into Channel 5 next Tuesday and enjoy - it's the last in the series!



HABITAT: But new bat prefers dense foliage to caves

Crevice-dweller wings in

A species of bat was discovered on Gibraltar for the first time ever in December, during a netting session at the Botanical Gardens.

The Isabelline Serotine bat was spotted to the delight of a specialist team from the UK who were supporting a study by the Gibraltar Museum.

Their findings suggest the Rock is a prime site for bat migration and are confident the species list will continue to increase. The bat is found north of the Sa-



hara, from Morocco to Libya, and is believed to be a crevice-dweller, favouring habitats with dense vegetation and access to water.



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MULTI-FAITH MEETING: The different religious leaders of Gibraltar meet up

A genuine melting pot

Gibraltar can teach us all how multiculturalism should work, writes Olive Press publisher Jon Clarke

I GOT my first real sense of the fascinating mix that makes Gibraltar unique during a visit to the cinema.

It was the night of the Oscars and I was appropriately watching *The King's Speech* and in the King's Bastion leisure centre, no less. The place was rammed to the rafters with local families and groups of friends, most of

whom seemed to know each other. And there was a real frisson of excitement, the British film being rightly up for various gongs. But as I sat back to enjoy the trailers I noticed for the first time something very special about this small enclave.

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. And they all knew each other and swapped banter and pleasantries. Indeed there was a palpable sense of togetherness and pride among the rows of ordinary Gibraltarians who came from every persuasion and faith.

Proud

It was a real eye-opener, even for a Londoner, like me. For in this true melting pot of beliefs, there was one abiding trait; they were all utterly proud to be British.

It should be a lesson to us all, for while I have never been a fan of nationalism, it certainly beats racial segregation and hatred... and is sadly extremely rare these days.

It took me a while, but I have really got to like Gibraltar. There is something about the efficiency of its businesses, the ability to adapt to change and the warmth of its people, which appeals to me.

People give you the time of day and are always prepared to stop for a chat. They are interested (and interesting) and are rarely without an opinion on this or that.

Even their leader, a high-flying Oxbridge lawyer is personable and approachable... someone to share a bit of banter with, to have a chat about the footie or who's on the bill at the Benicassim festival this year.

But above all, it is the fabric of the place that I so admire. Once away from Casemates and Main Street, there are so many hidden corners, a surprisingly amount of well preserved buildings, a treasure chest of history and even some terrific nature walks.

And thank the lord; there may soon be a few more places to stay.

Raising the game

Gibraltar is a place where business is done face to face, as Giles Brown reports



GIBRALTAR has well and truly shaken off its image of being a back-water with British bobbies, red telephone boxes and its famous apes.

The Rock has carved out a new role, embracing new industries such as internet gaming and financial services, which has opened up new employment opportunities.

As well as well-known international firms establishing and in some cases expanding their operations, recent years have also seen young Gibraltarians setting up their own business. Although the British Overseas Territory may only have a population of around 30,000, there is a new found sense of identity among Gibraltarians.

Although current delays at the border have had an impact on high street businesses, tourists are still flocking to the Rock.

Cruising

Gibraltar is a hugely popular cruise destination, and in recent years the majority of its hotels have undertaken substantial renovation programmes. Currently, tourism accounts for around 25% of GDP, with more than 8.1 million visitors each year spending a combined £210 million.

The opening of the world's first 5-star floating hotel this year as well as major international hotel chains looking at potential sites in Gibraltar will also increase the accommodation options.

Gibraltar's modern new international airport as well as the introduction of regular flights to new destinations has also underlined that there is a growing confidence on the Rock.

And the recent performance of the newly recognised national football team has also added to the feel good factor! But it has been the growth in the areas of legal companies, accountancy firms and online gaming that have been so noticeable over recent years.

There are numerous big accountancy firms based on the rock, including Deloitte, Grant Thornton and Baker Tilly, while the number of employees in the gaming sector amounts to around 1,800 at present.

"Gibraltar is a great place to do business and it is getting better by the day," explains Russell Hood at First Choice Recruitment. "It's true that the Rock has changed massively over the past few years but one of the things I like about it is that it reminds me of doing business in the City of London in the 80s. Business tends to be done face to face and

that's the key. "I also love the fact that its so friendly, people are professional without being stuck up, it's informal though there is the formal side of it."

Tricky

Hood however, believes that there may well be some tricky times ahead over the next 12 months, particularly due to changes in gaming laws. It comes after the UK Treasury announced that it plans to impose a 15% tax on gambling profits based on their location, not where the gaming company is registered.

It is also visited daily by cruise ships, mooring in the cruise ship terminal whilst their passengers explore the British Overseas Territory. The financial service sector consists mainly of insurance, investment and company management services.

With corporation tax sitting at 10%, compared to 20-23% in the United Kingdom, it is easy to see why Gibraltar is popular with these businesses.

Intriguingly, if Gibraltar became a nation in its own right, its 30,000 inhabitants would enjoy the fourth highest GDP in the world (£39,132). This, however, is unlikely to happen as the Gibraltarians overwhelmingly voted to remain part of Britain in the 2002 referendum (98.48%).

Gib: A Business Briefing

What you need to know

ECONOMICALLY Gibraltar appears to be rock-steady with an economy formed largely of four main sectors; financial services, the online gaming industry, tourism and shipping.

Tourism has soared since the turn of the century and now accounts for around 25% of GDP, while Gibraltar has also become a hub for online gaming and betting, employing about 1,800 people, and around 60% of UK bets now being placed with Gibraltar-based firms.

The Rock's position at the opening of the Mediterranean was vital in its growth as an important port and it is still used by approximately 10,000 ships seeking supplies, changing crews and refuelling each year.

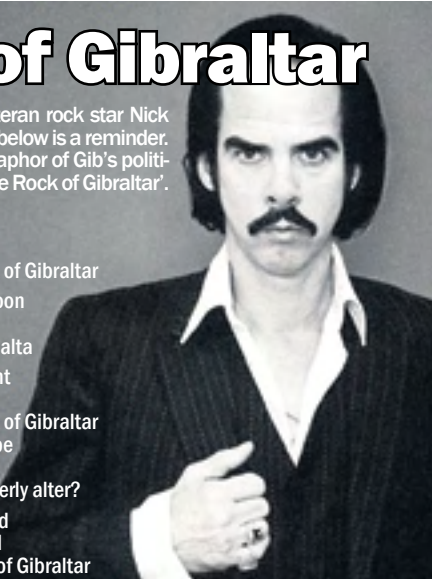
DID YOU KNOW?

Cave's Rock of Gibraltar

HOPEFULLY a few Gibraltarians will know the words to veteran rock star Nick Cave's 2003 hit *Rock of Gibraltar* – but for those who don't, below is a reminder. The song from the artist's Nocturama album uses the metaphor of Gib's political situation to describe a love affair that is 'betrayed like the Rock of Gibraltar'.

Let me say this to you
I'll be steadfast and true
And my love will never falter
The sea would crash about us
The waves would lash about us
I'll be your Rock of Gibraltar
Sometimes it's hard
And we're both caught off guard
But there's nothing I would ever alter
The wind could howl round our ears
For the next thousand years
I'd still be your Rock of Gibraltar
The best thing I done
Was to make you the one
Who I'd walk with down to the altar

You'd stand by me
And together we'd be
That great, steady Rock of Gibraltar
Under the big yellow moon
On our honeymoon
I took you on a trip to Malta
And all through the night
You held me so tight
Your great, steady Rock of Gibraltar
Could the powers that be
Ever foresee
That things could so utterly alter?
All the plans that we laid
Could soon be betrayed
Betrayed like the Rock of Gibraltar



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Heading for the heights!

Walking journalist and respected Rambler Guy Hunter-Watts offers a fabulous alternative look around the Rock

FIRST associations of the southern European coastline are all too often of crowded beaches, busy coastal roads and blocks of holiday apartments. Few conjure up visions of the wilder beaches of the Costa de la Luz or the tail end of the Sierra Subbética, the mighty chain of mountains which rises up a few kilometres inland from the Costa del Sol, of the wilder beaches of the Costa de la Luz. One of the best though is a walk - known as the Gibraltar Circuit - which offers walkers a fabulous three to four hour trip around the enclave. I was bowled over when I discovered this mesmerising trail thanks to my friend Freddie Vasquez of local legal firm Triay & Triay. The highlight of the walk - so long as you have a head for heights - is the footpath that leads up the sheer southern face of the Rock, popularly known as Mediterranean Steps. This giddy path has recently been restored by

the Bonito Trust and you'll be marvelling at the derring-do of those who built it. There are many more treats in store. After negotiating the steps next comes Douglas' Path which cuts along Gibraltar's rugged spine with huge views both east and west. The next challenge comes in the form of Charles V's Wall which you descend via a series of steep flights of steps. And to end an already magnificent circuit up pops Ingliss Way leading back towards the start point of the walk through a thick stand of Mediterranean scrub. It beggars belief to think that the cut-and-thrust of Main Street is just a few hundred metres away. It is a wonderful stroll and well within the capabilities of anyone in good health who walks on a regular basis, provided, as I have said, that you have a good head for heights. Find this walk and 50 others in Guy's book Coastal Walks of Andalucia



STROLL TO THE TOP: The walk is not for the faint hearted

All about Gibraltar

7



VISTAS: The views from the top are amazing



INTREPID: Hunter-Watts on the walk

Gibraltar Circuit via the Mediterranean Steps & Ingliss Way

THE NITTY-GRITTY

Distance: 10 kms
Time required: 3.5/4 hrs
Rating: Medium
Total height gain: 525m
Map(s): IGN 1:50000 series Algeciras 1078
Water: No springs so take plenty

THE walk begins in front of Landport Gate just beyond the drawbridge. From here cut through two tunnels to reach Casemate Square. Head along the square's left side then continue to the far end of Main Street passing John Macintosh Square then The Convent. At the far end of the street pass beneath an arch then cut right across a pedestrian crossing. Bear left, traverse a second crossing and head on past Queen's Hotel. Angling left you reach the hotel's entrance. Here cross the road, pass right of a restaurant to the lower station of the cable car then angle left across a car park to the gateway to the Gibraltar Botanic Gardens. (20 mins)

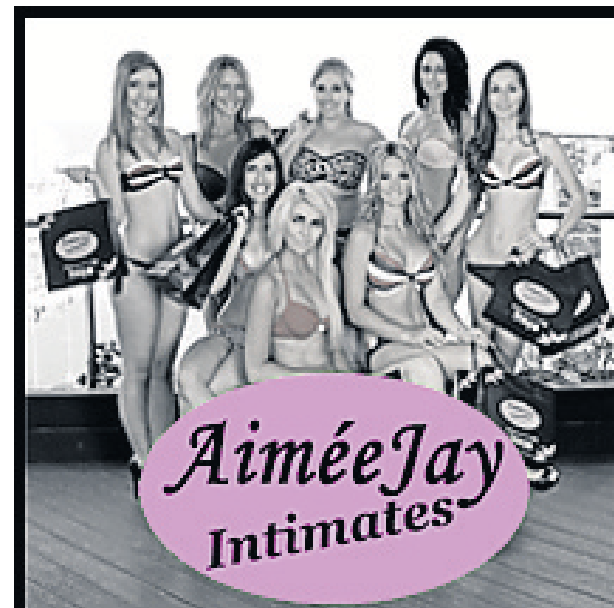
Beyond the gate climb two flights of steps, pass a statue of Elliott (commander of the Rock during the Siege of 1779-83) then after 15m bear left up a narrow path. Climb another flight of steps then continue up Olive Tree Climb which merges with a broader path which leads to a red post box. Here cut left at a sign Exit Upper Rock and climb past The Rock Hotel's swimming pool. Passing through the gate to the gardens continue parallel to Europa Road to a footbridge, cross the road then head up Engineer Road. The road climbs steeply to the gates of the Nature Reserve of The Upper Rock. Continuing to climb the road leads to another set of gates and a ticket box (40 mins) (it's worth 50 pence and a short detour to visit one of the hypothetical sites of The Pillars of Hercules, Mons Calpe).

Angling left beyond the ticket box to a barrier you reach the beginning of Mediterranean Steps. Passing a metal gate you follow the steps along the near sheer face of Gibraltar's southern flank. Passing a signboard

detailed the fauna of the Upper Rock the path cuts left and climbs steeply: ropes help your upwardly mobile course. Reaching a bricked up building (1 hr) angle right through a tunnel beyond which you pass two bunkers: the views from the platform just beyond the second one are breathtaking. Angling left the path zigzags up to a signboard describing the Rock's unique flora. Passing a group of antennae you reach the highest point of the walk as vistas open out to the west. Angling left and descending you reach the entrance gate to the World War II Tunnels. Here cut right down a narrow road for 400m to a junction and sign 1789-1897. (1 hr 25 mins) Here cut right past a barrier: you're now on Douglas' Path which angles up to the ridgetop through thick Mediterranean scrub where it reaches O'Hara's Battery.

Retrace your footsteps to the top of Charles V's Wall (WP19) then cut right and make your way down the first section of wall. Cutting right then left, drop down its second section. Cut right at a brick building then left through a gate and continue down the third section of wall to a picnic area. Exit onto Queen's Road where, just opposite, you'll see a sign for Ingliss Way. Follow the path up past an old bunker. 15m before reaching a tarmac road the path cuts left and threads its way through thick Mediterranean scrub. Crossing a plastic pipe you reach a fence. Cutting right the path climbs then arcs left, parallel to a low wall. Angling left and descending across two metal pipes you come to a road. (2 hrs 15 mins)

Cut left for 50m then angle right along Queen's Road. Reaching a Give Way sign continue straight on towards the entrance to The Great Seige Tunnels, angle left down Willis road for 200m then loop hard right. After 150m angling once more left past The Moorish Castle you reach twin Give Way signs. Here angle right and drop down to a crenellated tower then follow the road as it angles left. Just as it arcs once more right past two huge palms cut left along a One Way street. Reaching a sign for Castle Steps turn right down a flight of steps which angle right then left to a junction. Turning right along Engineer's Lane you return to Main Street. From here retrace your steps to the start point of the walk. (2 hrs 50 mins)



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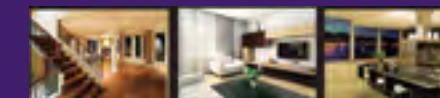
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All about Gibraltar

9



TRANSFORMATION: From a bustling local community and back, with new bollards and steps (far right)

OVER a quarter of a century ago, Gibraltar's Upper Town was a veritable social hub, brimming with kiosks, shops and cafes and children running around in the streets.

But due to a series of land reclamation and social housing schemes in the 1990s, much of the local population relocated to the west side of the Rock. The only people left behind were the elderly and the area soon became run-down and dreary with no cafes, shops or any life to speak of. The community spirit, street parties and camaraderie were all but snuffed out and days of mothers sitting on the steps of Calle Comedia to shoot the breeze as they watched over their kids, had all but gone.

Despite continual promises of 'urban renewal', nobody wanted to buy in the old town because the area was so dilapidated. There was so much housing stock inhabited by people on benefits and sit-

On the Up!

Gibraltar's Upper Town, the scene of long term dilapidation, is getting a much needed spruce up with a new boutique hotel and cobbled streets, writes Rebecca Fallor

ting tenants that landlords could only charge peppercorn rents, so in-turn they never had the necessary funds to maintain their buildings. Subsequently the facades started to crumble along with the civic pride.

Only now is the old spirit finally starting to come back thanks to a government programme to resettle its own tenants into brand new accommodation leaving whole tranches of property available. It has led to these properties slowly be-

ing put out to government tender, with the proviso that any successful bidder must prove they have the funds to purchase and refurbish the entire property to a suitable standard within a two-year time frame.

A successful street-restoration programme involving the installation of cobble-stones, wrought iron railings, ornate lampposts and hanging flower baskets is making the area attractive to a new generation of buyers.

2013 saw the completion of the beautifully integrated Engineer Lane multi-storey car park with public lift and escalator service into the upper reaches of town, another incentive to relocate, and already the area around Castle Ramp, New Passage and Ansaldo's Passage is starting to see green shoots of growth. The old St. Bernard's Hospital is being completely renovated to house a new school and community playground, and a nine-room boutique hotel complete



ACCESS: New escalator

with a cafe-bar will open to the public at the end of this year. Government has just announced more properties available for tender so by the end of the decade the Upper Town is set to witness a renaissance. One hopes that, much like Tangier and Tarifa, the arrival of the first boutique hotel will create a knock-on effect and soon the cafes and shops will come back to help return this neglected part of the city back to the vibrant core of yesteryear.

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JUMPING FOR JOY

There are three types of dolphin swimming around the Bay of Gibraltar... and the best way to see them is via the 'Jolly Boys', out of Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun

LOOKED back at the iconic Rock as we sailed away with the wind in my hair - and a little less glamorously - the spray in my face.

We were on board Dolphin Adventure's catamaran in search of dolphins in the Bay of Gibraltar.

As it turns out, the bay is the permanent home of three different species; common, striped and bottlenose, with transient dolphins visiting the bay for food, shelter and to breed in their hundreds.

They are attracted to the area by the clean water coming from the Atlantic which is rich in nutrients and brings lots of smaller fish such as sardines and mackerel that the dolphins feed off.

We had been warned as we set off from



EYES PEELED: with Dolphin Adventure

Marina Bay that you see fewer dolphins in winter and there was a chance our search would be in vain, but everyone on board remained optimistic as we scanned the waves. Sure enough minutes later we spotted a pod of around 20 striped dolphins and

our captain Angie headed straight for them.

"To be honest we almost always see dolphins and if punters are unlucky we give them a voucher so they can come back another day for free," explains our guide Tony, from Dolphin Adventure, better known as one of the 'Jolly Boys' from popular TV show, *Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun*. "In the summer they come together and you can see them in their hundreds."

"In the wild they live for 35 to 40 years whereas in captivity the common dolphins live for 15 years," adds Georgia.

It was a magical feeling to watch these creatures in their natural habitat, with the common and striped dolphins playing together. They had soon come right up to the boat, swimming at our feet and playing with us, seemingly as curious about us as we were of them.

You could even hear them breathing as they came up for air - they can hold their breath under water for up to five minutes - and swam around and under the boat.

I was completely mesmerised watching them and time stood still until they vanished just as quickly as they had arrived. It was clear from the smiles on board, that everyone had enjoyed the experience as much as I had.

"It is the best job in the world," smiled Tony. You had to agree, it couldn't be far off.

For further information please call (00350) 200 50650 or visit www.dolphin.gi



BORN FREE: Common, Bottlenose and Striped dolphins



Winging it across the Straits

GIBRALTAR 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 to 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 during mid-April to 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.



INVITING: A temporary home

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e-mail: info@dolphin.gi www.dolphin.gi
MARINA BAY - OCEAN VILLAGE, GIBRALTAR

FOCUS: THE PEOPLE OF THE ROCK

Puff Daddy

Maurice Stagnetto's family business has been the Rock's leading provider of fine Cuban cigars – and a lot more - for over a century



HISTORY: Maurice (top) and (above) his grandfather with General 'Monty'

They have certainly adapted well, opening no less than four shops on the High Street and 10 pubs and bars around the enclave.

"We started to distribute Heineken in the 1950s and are one of the oldest distributors in the world," explains Stagnetto, who is also the President of Gibraltar's Rugby federation.

But, more than anything, the company prides itself as having the best selection of fine Cuban cigars on the Rock.

It is certainly an impressive climate-controlled shop, a 'casa de la Habana' franchise, at 41, Main Street with the cigars provided by celebrated Hunters & Frankau in Chelsea.

"We get them exclusively trucked down for us," continues Stagnetto, a regular visitor to Cuba, who smokes two or three cigars a week. "I started after I gave up smoking cigarettes and they are fantastic for a bullfight."

FOCUS: THE PEOPLE OF THE ROCK

MOST people were sceptical when Tony Hernandez and his business partner Glen Sanders decided to organize a Gibraltar wine festival last summer. "We tried to get all the main wine distributors on the Rock interested," explains Hernandez, 42. "We told them we hoped to get 500 people to turn up and they said: 'Never – you'll never get that many!' and left us to our own devices."

It says a lot about the pair behind My Wine that come the weekend in September, no less than 3000 people rocked up for the event.

"It was fantastic and so we are already planning something similar for later this year," continues Hernandez, who has



BUBBLING UP!

worked in wine for 14 years and has numerous qualifications under his belt.

With a fantastic nose (certainly helped by an earlier career in the perfume business), he has managed to gather a wonderful selection of international wines

in his shop, near Casemates Square.

Appropriately a vault, which maintains a cool temperature in summer, the pair have selected a superb range of wines from no less than 18 countries around the world.

There are some impressive Burgundies, Champagnes and Bordeaux's from France and the shop can order any First Growths its customers might want from a contact in Catalonia.

But, perhaps more excitingly, there are some fascinating New World chestnuts, including every single one of Francis Ford Coppola's wines from California. The one thing the pair don't push is Spanish wine. "All my rivals sell Spanish wine; we are more interested in international wines and in particular, smaller, less commercial ones."

This is immediately obvious, although they do have some great Sherries, and they have recently also introduced a new 'gourmet' section. And most days they also organize wine tastings and corporate events next door in their wine bar with tapas.

Visit www.mywinesgibraltar.com



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For more information Capurro Insurance & Investments Ltd, at 20 Line Wall Road, or call 00350 2004 0850 or visit www.capurroinsurance.com



ANIMAL KINGDOM: For centuries the Rock has been a haven for apes, while (left) a trio of dogs used for smuggling, (bottom) troops survey the bay and (right) a flood on Main Street. Meanwhile (top right) taking off from the old runway



Orwell: 'Gibraltar Chronicle was more or less pro-Fascist'

MOST famous for his novels 1984 and Animal Farm, not many know that British writer George Orwell spent two days on Gibraltar in 1938, noting down his thoughts on the Rock.

He had stopped off there, en route to Morocco with his wife, after suffering a serious injury from fighting for the Republican Government during the Spanish Civil War.

His notes include musings on various local newspapers, including their adverts and political standpoints. He said of the *Gibraltar Chronicle*, now the longest-running newspaper in the world, that it was 'more or less pro-Fascist'.

He also mentioned a destroyer, the Jose Luis Diez, that lay in the harbour, as well as the Rock's wildlife.

"Population of the town is about 20,000," he noted. "Largely Italian origin but nearly all bilingual English-Spanish."

"Many Spaniards work here and return to Spain every night. At least 3,000 (of them) refugees from Franco territory. Authorities now trying to get rid of these on pretext of overcrowding."

He continued: "Standard of living not very low, no barefoot adults. Fruit and vegetables cheap, wine and tobacco evidently untaxed or taxed very



VISIT: Orwell visited in 1938

little."

"No English sugar or matches, all Belgian... Some of the shopkeepers are Indians and Parsees. "The Barbary Ape is said to be now very rare at Gibraltar and the authorities are trying to exterminate them as they are a nuisance. "At a certain season they come down from the rock and invade people's houses and gardens."

The boat's come in

Ocean Village is in safe hands with the arrival of a fantastic new 5-star floating hotel this month, writes Sarah Drane



AS Spain's Economy Minister spreads the good news that GDP could grow by almost 1% in 2014, a completely different story lies across the border in Gibraltar.

Less than an hour's drive from Marbella, facing the African continent a mere 14 miles across the Strait, Gibraltar has an economy for the world to envy.

Over the last five years, throughout the global economic turmoil, Gibraltar's GDP is estimated to have grown by 7.8% in 2012/2013 alone – and is ranked in a global top 20 for growth globally.

Its staunchly British community of 30,000 enjoys a GDP per capita of £41,138 and unemployment is less than 3%. How does it do it?

The answer is that the 6.8km² territory attracts a remarkable amount of new investment. A legal system based on UK common law, low business-friendly taxation, no CGT or VAT, little red tape, EU membership and regulation, OECD White List status, a strategic geographic position, English language, Latin flavour and year-round sunshine, have all helped the economy to flourish with shipping, financial services, tourism, and more recently, online gaming (28 e-gaming firms now account for 20% of Gibraltar's GDP), forming the keystones.

Competitive

Arguably Gibraltar's finest modern day success story is the mixed use resort of Ocean Village.

Comprising striking blue glass-clad residential towers, an array of retail units, 4,500m² of office space, and leisure facilities from a Health Club to dolphin tours, sailing to diving schools, this is Gibraltar's 'stay play dine' epicentre. And, what's more, very exciting plans are afoot for the location in 2014.

Starting with marinas, positioned on the coveted sheltered western side of the Rock, Ocean Village and neighbouring Marina Bay cater for even the largest of superyachts.

Not only are berth costs highly competitive, but fuel is the cheapest you'll find in the EU – around 40% lower than Spain.

A new floating glass-domed office has arrived from Amsterdam and is currently being refitted for marina use and, from February 2014, a very special superyacht will be in town – Sunborn Gibraltar.

The 144 metre 189 guest room 5-star yacht hotel with swimming pool, sun decks, spa and fitness centre, VIP casino, cocktail bar, fine dining and top floor restaurants, a grand ballroom and conference area for up to 500 people, brings a new level of deluxe hospitality to Gibraltar – and indeed Europe.

Sunborn Gibraltar will, for some time, be the only 5-star yacht hotel in existence in the world and fill a genuine gap in Gibraltar's hotel offering for premium service and quality facilities.

Sunborn Gibraltar will slot into the high-end marina resort perfectly.

Moving onto office space, World Trade Center Gibraltar (WTCG) is back on track. With its application approved by the World Trade Centers Association back in October 2010,



COMFORT: The rooms on the new Sunborn floating Hotel (top left) are classic 5-star luxury

the £45m project is now expected to break ground in the first half of 2014.

From the same developer as Ocean Village, and within walking distance of Gibraltar's new £65m international airport terminal, WTCG offers 16,260m² of flexible five star office space across seven storeys. Contracts have already been issued to

an anchor tenant and negotiations are ongoing for a 'big five' accountancy firm and a New York securities trader. Elsewhere in the resort a further 900m² of eco-friendly healthy-working offices are under construction with completion scheduled for spring. These will host a private bank and European lottery company, bringing a further 100 desk-based jobs to the Rock.

Cuisine

Finishing with leisure, soon to join the established Irish and British pubs, champagne bar, cafés, and all kinds of cuisine from pizza to tapas, Cuban to Indian, is Chinese restaurant Shanghai Gardens.

Furthermore, Ocean Village's hugely popular casino, the only one in Gibraltar, has undergone an exciting change of hands. Gryphon, a Swiss subsidiary of Austria's Novomatic Group, has bought the busy venue from Gala Coral Group – thus wrapping up the British betting group's exit from the casino sector.

It is in very safe hands with Novomatic Group, a recognised provider of high-tech gaming equipment in 80 countries, as well as a world class operator of casinos in Switzerland, Slovenia, Germany, the Czech Republic and Chile.

Gibraltar's Vibrant Waterfront



Gibraltar's Vibrant Waterfront

super yacht marina • bars • restaurants • shops • casino • hotel • sailing schools • dive trips • dolphin tours

MARINA BAY

- 1 Charlie's Tavern
- 2 Charlie's Restaurant
- 3 Dive Charters
- 4 Waves - Corner Shop
- 5 Biancas - Restaurant & Bar
- 6 The Ship
- 7 Champions - Bar & Grill
- 8 Restaurante El Faro
- 9 Allabroad Maritime Academy
- 10 Get Fresh Laundry
- 11 Dolphin Safari
- 12 "Get Stuffed" - Deli & Takeaway
- 13 Dolphin Adventure

LEISURE ISLAND

- 14 The Gibraltar Casino
- 15 O'Reillys Irish Bar
- 16 The Island - Restaurant & Lounge
- 17 Dusk - Champagne & Cocktail Bar
- 18 Sunborn Yacht Hotel

THE PIERS

- 19 Opening soon
- 20 The Cuban
- 21 Bridge Bar & Grill
- 22 Pizza Express
- 23 Laziz - Asian Cuisine
- 24 The Ivy - Sports Bar
- 25 Shanghai Gardens - Opening March 2014
- 26 Zest - Wine & Gastro Bar



- 27 Taps Bar & Restaurant
- 28 Petit Café

PROMENADE

- 30 Café Fresco
- 31 KS Sotheby's Estate Agents
- 32 Janice Hair & Beauty
- 33 All Things Nice
- 34 Aphrodite Beauty
- 35 Porcelanosa
- 36 Chesterton Estate Agents
- 37 Ocean Village Express
- 38 Patricia Darch Interiors
- 39 Hercules Office Solutions
- 40 Chique Boutique
- 41 Sovereign Insurance Services

ROYAL OCEAN PLAZA

- 42 Ocean Village Health Club & Gym
- 43 Quad Consultancy
- 44 RMD Heating & Cooling
- 45 Lloyds

GRAND OCEAN PLAZA

- 46 Saint Cafe
- 47 Liwi Drinks

MAJESTIC OCEAN PLAZA

- 48 Ocean Pharmacy
- 49 VIP Beautiful
- 50 Sheppard's Chandlery

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World Trade Center Gibraltar will be the prestigious, state-of-the-art office building in Gibraltar with the needs of the user at the heart of its development.

Your choice of office and its location is a physical expression of your company's brand and its aspirations for future growth and development. By choosing World Trade Center Gibraltar you will be making a powerful statement of intent both in Gibraltar and across the World Trade Center network.



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How to get well!

Gibraltar businesswoman Anna Moffatt has set up a new wellness centre, after consolidating her property business Find a Property. Here she explains why...

THE age of stress is definitely upon us, and by stress I don't mean feeling tired, getting headaches, being irritable, etc, I mean the dangerous stress we cannot see, but feel through other symptoms and generally ignore. This is the state of mind and body I am interested in and the state I am trying to highlight to people who are living in a constantly exhausted state. Symptoms I often come across are total fatigue or manic behaviour, the feeling of heightened excitement and desperation and of total depression. Then there is hair loss, rapid weight loss, weight gain, rapid heart rate, especially at night, feelings of anxiety, night sweats, nightmares, many of which can be put down to classic symptoms of flu or normal everyday feelings resulting from late nights and too much partying. However, BE AWARE, these symptoms can be a result of your body being completely over stressed by many things including high toxicity, bad diet, excess alcohol, heavy metal poisoning, over-work and an inability to process packaged foods. The great thing is you do not have to live like this and can achieve an enormous change in the quality of your life, while ensuring that serious disease and illness in the future is significantly reduced. To help in that quest I have recently set up the wellness centre on Main Street. It has become apparent that more and more people are seeking help from alternative remedies. They know that prescribed drugs can sometimes make the situation worse and cause more toxic overload on an already exhausted body.



ENTREPRENEUR: Anna can help you with your health at her new centre

Although, of course, prescribed drugs are sometimes necessary, rest, vitamins and mineral supplements and a good diet consisting of lots of vegetables and protein can change your body and the way it behaves. I guarantee it can have a positive effect on your emotional and mental state. A simple consultation at my centre will show you how to do it and which are the key areas for concern. A good start is to cut down on sugar, wheat, fruit juice, alcohol, caffeine and fizzy drinks. Drink plenty of water, eat plenty of green vegetables and eat a fair portion of protein every day, including eggs, lamb and chicken. Fish is ok but as little as possible as it cuts down the risk of mercury poisoning from our heavily polluted seas. Try to chill at night at least two hours before bed, put down the iPad and switch the TV off to rest your brain, you will sleep better. The main aim of the centre is not to make you beautiful from the outside by using harmful chemicals but to work on inner beauty and heal you from within. For more info visit Wellness Centre Gibraltar at 113 Main St, or contact us at 00350 20076604 or reception@wellnesscentregib.com

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Before and after



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- **Sports Massage Therapy**
- **Cranial Sacral Therapy**
- **Meditation**

We are also commencing our weight loss program for 2014 two meetings per week, get fit and healthy for summer.

For information on any of the above programmes please call us on 200 76604 or pop in for an informal chat and advice.

The Wellness Centre
113 Main Street, Gibraltar. Tel: 00350 20076604

FOCUS:
THE
PEOPLE
OF THE
ROCK

Built from scratch



AMIALE: Eddie Lucas

AFTER a couple of years working in the Gibraltar civil service Eddie Lucas figured there had to be something more exciting to do. It was the heart of the 1980s property boom and he saw a gap in the market... to open a builders merchants.

Now 27 years on and things are still going strong for Interbuild, one of Gibraltar's key suppliers of materials for the construction business.

"I saw an opportunity for materials," explains the friendly

Builders Merchants Interbuild has been going for nearly three decades thanks to the drive of boss Eddie Lucas

Gibraltarian, who had previously earned himself an MOD apprenticeship.

"I think we developed fast due to our strong belief in putting the customer first – without exception."

The merchants' supplies a range of products, from range ovens to paint and

from fireplaces to kitchens. "We try to supply only the finest products around, tried and tested products we would only be too happy to have in our own homes," adds Lucas, who has a keen interest in local politics.

Around 90% of the products are imported from the UK including Dulux paints, British Gypsum, Hammerite, and Black & Decker.

The business also works with Rangemaster ovens, Bosch appliances and Tempur mattresses and pillows. "Interbuild can boast of having supplied materials to virtually all new developments on the Rock, from basic brick and blocks to roofing tiles, luxury kitchens and appliances to paints and street furniture," adds Lucas.

"Our motto 'Working Hard for Your Business' remains to this day and it is our code of practice. I am confident you will find our competitive service and customer support hard to match," he adds.

Visit Interbuild at Unit 12 The New Harbours, Gibraltar. Tel (350) 200 74567 or email sales@interbuild.gi



LISTENING IN: Daryl hears out a customer

No normal corner shop

IT'S anything but your normal corner shop... and it's been around for a while.

Well, since the second world war to be exact.

And another thing about Corner Shop Ltd (above), it is not actually a corner shop, it is really a chain of two shops selling perhaps the best quality paints and home decorating equipment on the south coast.

Run by an amiable Gibraltarian Daryl, it stocks all the leading UK brands including Dulux, Cuprinol and Hammerite.

DID YOU KNOW?

IT has become a hit film starring Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara (above) and has even been nominated for five Academy Awards.

So it bodes well 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 Millennium trilogy by Stieg Larsson.

In the final part of the trilogy Lisbeth Salander jumps on an early morning flight to Malaga before taking a taxi straight to the enclave,

Dragon Tattoo girl chose Gib

'a place that is not like anywhere else'.

While there she meets a *Financial Times*-reading German businessman at the Rock hotel and 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.

She even manages to feed the Barbary apes and go on an all-day bender starting at Harry's Bar.



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

And, as there are already plans to turn the remaining two books into films then the Rock can be expecting some high profile visitors at some point soon.

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It's simple to get a yacht registered in Gib, writes Jonathan Stagnetto

Plain Sailing

GIBRALTAR'S situation at the gateway to the Mediterranean, its British Flag Registry and the facilities provided by its local marinas means that it is ideally placed to service all registration, mooring, repair and maintenance needs associated with the yachting world.

All vessels registered in Gibraltar are registered as Brit-

ish flag vessels with documentation being identical to the UK requirements and are required to fly the Red Ensign.

Gibraltar's status within the EU exempts it from levying VAT on goods and services as it does not form part of the EU's Common Customs Tariff area. For this reason, if you register your yacht in Gibraltar you pay:

- No VAT in Gibraltar
- No Import Duty (if your vessel is not based in Gibraltar)
- No tax on the sale of your vessel

Under the laws applicable to yachts registered in Gibraltar in the name of limited companies it is:

- Not necessary for shareholders or company directors to be nationals or residents of Gibraltar



- Not necessary for the vessel to be surveyed annually
- Not necessary for the skipper to hold any form of mariner's certificate in the case of pleasure yachts under 80 GRT.



ADVICE: Jonathan Stagnetto

Entitlement

The persons entitled to be owners of British Flag vessels registered in Gibraltar are:

- British nationals
- Citizens of the European Union resident anywhere in the EU.
- Companies incorporated in British territories and having principal places of business in these jurisdictions.

Non-EU nationals can therefore make use of Gibraltar Companies as approved vehicles for the ownership of their yachts under the British Flag.

All vessels registered in Gibraltar, be they in the name of Gibraltar companies or EU citizens, are required to

appoint Registered Agents in Gibraltar to attend to all Registry and Radio Licensing requirements for the vessels in Gibraltar.

For more information contact Jonathan at FORM-A-CO (Gibraltar) Ltd at formaco@gibraltar.gi or call (350) 200 79959

Cancer boost from STM Nummos

STM Nummos Life SL have boosted cancer awareness and raised funds for the Gibraltar Society for Cancer Relief with their last coffee morning.

Organised by Sonia and Vicky Fendley, they raised over €1300 thanks to generous donors such as RAD ONE Sotogrande, which gave a full body scan worth €1000, and Humanline, which donated a full health check among other prizes.

The company is an official intermediary for health insurers Bupa, InterGlobal and ALC Health and is committed to finding individuals and businesses the most suitable insurance.

"With STM Nummos, the service doesn't end once a client has bought their health insurance; we continue to provide advice and assistance on all aspects of the policy," said a spokesman.

"We are committed to treating clients as names, not policy numbers and they are dealt with on an individual basis, not through a call centre."

Up for the cup

AiméeJay Intimates is the best place to find the right swimsuit size

FINDING the perfect swimwear wardrobe to take you through the long summer on the coast can take some planning. The secret to feeling more confident in swimwear is to find a style that fits well and flatters your shape.

This is achieved by wearing cup-sized swimwear instead of dress sized triangles held up by an ever tightening knot on your neck. Once you have been bra fitted by a professional, try swim styles with built in bra support that work with your proportions, regardless of your dress size.

Aimée of AiméeJay Intimates, in Gibraltar, explains: "We have over 400 bra sizes in swimwear, and offer different size tops to bottoms to allow top or bottom heavy ladies to find a perfect fit whether they are a 26B or 38K."

"Placing a bra inside a suit, tankini or bikini changes a ladies shape and offers her confidence down the beach with no more gaping or squashing involved!"

Give it a try and see why cup-sized swimwear is set to lead the market in 2014.



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STATE OF PLAY: It's the afternoon of Friday January 24 and the Olive Press is still going strong at the ICC shopping centre by Casemates Square, in central Gibraltar

THE OLIVE PRESS IS NOW DISTRIBUTING 4,500 COPIES ON THE ROCK

Here are the main places stocking the Olive Press in Gibraltar:

- Café Fresco
- O'Reilley's
- Ibex Insurance
- Morrisons
- Elliot Hotel
- Sacarello's
- ICC Shopping Centre
- Café Solo
- Café Rojo
- Colourworks
- Rolex
- Caleta Hotel
- Interbuild
- Ibex Insurance
- Eroski city (Waitrose)
- Gala Casion
- King's Bastion

Just can't get enough!

TWICE as many clients and half as much stock," is how Mike Nicholls, chartered accountant and man aging director of Chesterton's international estate agent, Chesterton, defines his current dilemma. Ever since Spain introduced its new 720 form - which requires Spanish residents to declare their overseas assets - and then subsequently imposed the stringent border controls, his agency has been inundated with requests for residential apartments both for rent and for sale. "Yet there has been no new property being built on any scale in Gibraltar for some time," he adds. "Ten years ago, there were 14,000 jobs in Gibraltar. Today there are 22,000. In that time just 3,000 properties have been built. That's far too few to accommodate the many relocating employees and high net worth individuals who wish to live here," adds the agent,

Demand is outstripping supply as local agencies, like Chesterton, are currently inundated with requests to buy or rent property on the Rock

who works out of an office in Ocean Village. As a result of this demand, property prices are rising at a healthy rate (said to be around 8% last year) which makes estate agents happy. But can the prices continue to go up in 2014 and what will happen to the market this year? "Well we are happy as we are selling three times as many properties as this time last year which is great. "However, we are depleting the pool of



HAPPY: Chesterton's Mike Nicholls

available property stock and without a significant building programme; Gibraltar is going to price itself out of the market." He continues: "Luckily the Government is embarking upon a construction programme of apartments for local residents and we expect that to free up properties for the open market, but it will take a while, two to three years. "Meanwhile, this forthcoming year is all about keeping our ears to the ground and allocating apartments to waiting clients just as soon as they become available. We just can't get enough properties!"

International estate agent Chesterton was established in London in 1805, and opened its doors in Gibraltar in March 2008. It claims to be the largest agency in Gibraltar and its client base is individuals and companies relocating from abroad predominantly for tax and lifestyle reasons.

IN RUDE HEALTH

charge and prescription costs have been kept at a low rate of £2.50 per item or a maximum of £7.50 no matter how many items you need. As with the UK, residents who fit into categories such as low income are exempt from these charges.

Unlike the UK, elderly Gibraltarians benefit the most in the system, with pensioners being able to receive care in the UK due to an agreement which mirrors EU regulations. And because the territory has a more limited range of specialties, they also pay for patients, together with an escort, to receive treatment in UK hospitals such as The Royal Marsden Hospital, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital.

THERE has never been a better time to be a landlord in Gibraltar.

A combination of new arrivals, border problems and a tighter tax regime in Spain, have created a major scarcity in places to rent.

According to Anna Moffatt of Find-a-Property it is now 'extremely difficult' to find a home to lease on the Rock.

She currently only has two properties on her books and when one three-bedroom house came up in January, she had five potential clients fighting over it, literally on the doorstep.

"It was madness. All five cli-

Landlords make a killing

And sales market healthy too with growth of around 8% last year

ents turned up around the same time, each with the 1,800 pounds deposit. It was so hard to decide who should get it and we had to be fair to give it to the

first to have called," she explains from her office, near the Elliot Hotel. She estimates that the average landlord is making an

eight to nine per cent return per year, at present.

"Property prices have gone up around 8% too, so it really is a healthy market," she adds.

Savills: Into our third year!

SAVILLS Gibraltar is now entering its third year. Located in Irish Town, the office is part of an international network

of more than 500 offices and associates around the world.

"We have offices throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, offering a broad range of specialist advisory, management and transactional services to clients all over the world," explains a spokesman.

The Savills brand, with its distinctive logo, is a major presence in the industry and with Gibraltar's international

presence growing, a distinctive brand like Savills is good for the enclave.

Savills has a multi-disciplinary office, which opened in February 2012, offering residential sales, commercial sales and lettings, development and planning services.

"We have a unique combination of sector knowledge and entrepreneurial flair, but our main focus is to deliver an outstanding service for our clients," added the spokesman. "In the market that is challenging like never before, we candidly believe that old fashioned team values are more important than ever. Clients of Savills will find that our drive and dynamism are a real part of the way our team does business. Our team provides a comprehensive range of services to landlords, tenants, developers and investors alike. Perhaps our strongest suit is the art of negotiation, not least because we strive to hire the best people in the industry." Find us at www.savills.gi



DYNAMIC: Savills boss Sammy with Fabian Picardo



HEALTHY: Buena Vista is a great place to invest

Paul Gibson, chartered surveyor, at NP Estates agrees that things are looking healthy for the market.

He believes that over the last year there has been a big increase in people locating to Gibraltar from Spain due to the tightening of tax rules.

"And there has been further pressure on the limited housing stock from companies continuing to expand or relocate here," he explains. "The unreasonable border controls imposed by the Spanish Government have also added to the issue."

The shortage of rental property

has led to people actually buying properties in order to have somewhere to live.

"Investors also continue to be active in the market and we are often able to pre-let prior to completion."

He believes that at the top end of the market demand has also improved with a substantial number of sales completing in 2013; property development also continues at the 'Buena Vista Mews' development and at the 'Sanctuary'.

"I expect demand to continue in 2014 in all sectors with January having been a busy month," he adds.



COOL BY THE POOL: At the Sanctuary



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All about Gibraltar

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WHERE TO EAT



DYNASTY: The first Sacarello clan to arrive in 1817 and (right) the bustling restaurant today

A family affair

Jon Clarke picks out a selection of interesting spots to eat on the Rock

IT'S been going for nearly two centuries, and Sacarello's is never anything but rammed. A true Gibraltar haunt for morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea or supper, this charming old café is one spot that doesn't seem to be able to do anything wrong.

Whatever you fancy, you will be looked after, but when it comes to coffee it cannot be beaten. "I grew into the business," says current manager Patrick Sacarello, 61, whose great-grandfather Bartholomew founded the existing business in 1888, following in the footsteps of his Italian grandfather, a trader, who had arrived on the Rock in 1817.

"Although I studied at a London university, I ended up back coming back to coffee because it's such a beautiful business." With nine nieces and nephews, Patrick is hopeful the Sacarello dynasty will continue going strong after him.

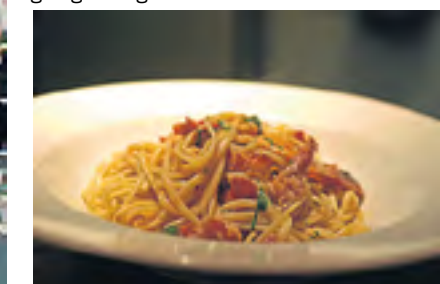
Another café that is extremely popular with the locals is the centrally-located Café Solo on Casemates Square, which has a terrace, almost always full at lunchtimes. You sit with wonderful views of the Rock and watch the world go by as you eat a great range of dishes and specials of the day.

A mixture of Italian and Mediterranean food, it is popular on Trip Advisor and the owners are a friendly pair. For a more formal fine dining experience you should head to charming Queensway Quay, a millionaires' playground, where houses start at £4.2 million mark.

Here, you will find the long-established Waterfront restaurant, as well as the excellent Landings, which has counted John Prescott, First Minister Fabian Picard and a variety of Coronation Street stars as guests.

"We get a lot of wealthy yachtie types too," explains owner Ann Hudson, who heralds from the south coast of England. The menu is also appropriately grand, with a superb mix of exciting dishes and plenty of adventurous cuisine.

This season's highlights include a delicious duck leg and a seafood salad of lobster and prawn, beautifully presented with a slice of goats cheese, baby grapefruit slices and a free range egg.



AL FRESCO: Diners at Café Solo and one of its celebrated pasta dishes

WHERE TO STAY

Exciting year ahead



SCENIC: Caleta Hotel

IT is an exciting year ahead for the Gibraltar hotel scene. Apart from a floating five-star hotel – the Sunborn – which is scheduled to arrive in Ocean Village this month, there is a new Marriott and even a boutique hotel on the drawing board. But, perhaps one of the most exciting changes will be the complete redevelopment of the Caleta Hotel, long the enclave's best-sited hotel, on a headland with fantastic views along the Costa del Sol and off to Africa. Consistently winning the award for Gibraltar's Best Hotel at the

World Travel Awards, its manager Franco Ostuni, is now set to oversee a renovation of the hotel, as well as the construction of a completely new five-star hotel next door. "It is certainly an exciting year ahead," he explained. Other hotels worth considering if you fancy a proper break in Gibraltar are the Rock Hotel and the excellently sited O'Callaghan Elliot, right in the heart of town. Sitting just off Main Street, it sits off perhaps the enclave's prettiest square and has a good range of facilities.

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The Full Momy

WHEN he started out in the property business there were four estate agents on the Rock.

"Now there are around 30," he explains from his office, right next to the seat of government in Gibraltar. "And I have certainly seen rather more than one change in my time." That amounts to 53 years in business... and right now things are looking fairly rosy for Gibraltar's property market. "It's certainly first class from a letting point of view," says the sprightly 77-year-old, who is - as ever - impeccably dressed with one of his trademark bow ties.

"As far as sales are concerned, people come here for tax reasons. They come with two million pounds, buy a flat, and have residency. That's good news."

"For everyone else, especially people coming from the UK, the banks and the building societ-

Property market is healthy on the Rock, reckons Solomon Levy MBE

ies are not being as cooperative as they used to be and they should be.

"The market has been affected and although Gibraltar only has 30,000 people we are part of the world and the financial crisis has affected us."

Affectionately known as 'Momy', the former mayor of Gibraltar has one small confession to make to the Olive Press about modern technology. "I've been working for 53 years but don't know how to turn on a computer," the life-long Arsenal fan admits. "The only thing that I really use a computer for is to order my bow ties!"

Soap shop cleaning up!



THE Gibraltar Soap Shop is one of Gibraltar's sweetest smelling success stories. The store, located in Cornwall's Centre, is the brainchild of Charlene Lugnani-Locke, who first began making soaps with her mum at home.

The shop offers a huge range of soaps in every conceivable shape and size, as well as body scrubs, derma rollers, face care products, candles and even snake venom (more natural and better for you than Botox) and bee venom (Kate Middleton is a big fan).

All of the products are made from carefully selected premium natural ingredients, and the Gibraltar Soap Shop prides itself on its environmental credentials.

"It's been an ambition for years," says Charlene. "My mum started making soaps at home so I've been doing this since I was little and I just carried on."

"We make the majority of the products that we sell here" she continues. "People don't realise that many products that claim to be natural actually have chemicals and additives that are bad for you." Everything there smells delicious and looks good enough to eat, quite literally in the case of the soap lollipops. "When we first opened people thought that we were a cake shop and were asking if we sold bread!" laughs Charlene.



CHEMICAL FREE: The products of the new soap shop

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