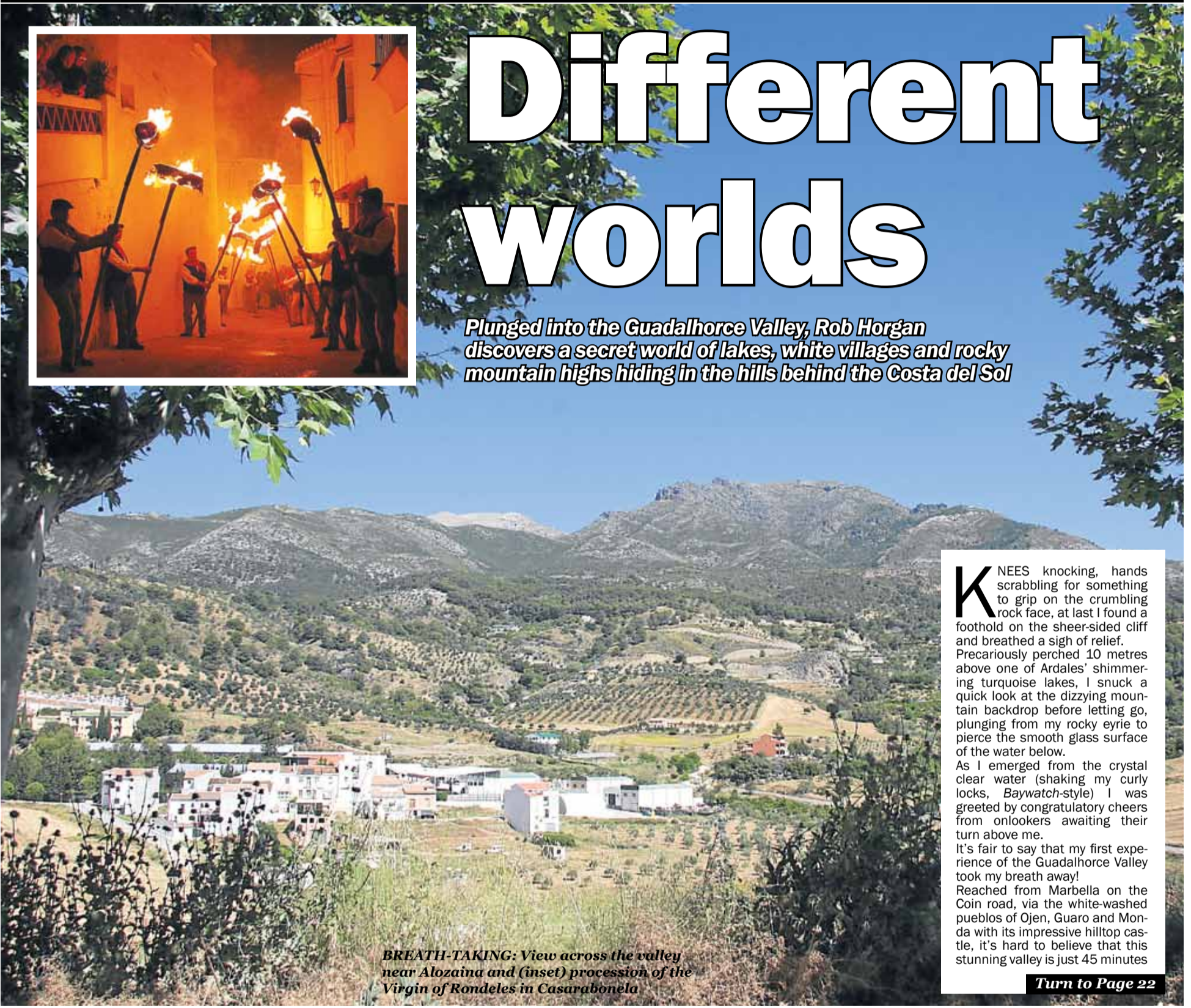




Different worlds

Plunged into the Guadalhorce Valley, Rob Horgan discovers a secret world of lakes, white villages and rocky mountain highs hiding in the hills behind the Costa del Sol

PICTURE BY ROB HORGAN



BREATH-TAKING: View across the valley near Alosaina and (inset) procession of the Virgin of Rondeles in Casarabonela

KNEES knocking, hands scrabbling for something to grip on the crumbling rock face, at last I found a foothold on the sheer-sided cliff and breathed a sigh of relief. Precariously perched 10 metres above one of Ardales' shimmering turquoise lakes, I snuck a quick look at the dizzying mountain backdrop before letting go, plunging from my rocky eyrie to pierce the smooth glass surface of the water below. As I emerged from the crystal clear water (shaking my curly locks, *Baywatch*-style) I was greeted by congratulatory cheers from onlookers awaiting their turn above me. It's fair to say that my first experience of the Guadalhorce Valley took my breath away! Reached from Marbella on the Coin road, via the white-washed pueblos of Ojen, Guaro and Monda with its impressive hilltop castle, it's hard to believe that this stunning valley is just 45 minutes

Turn to Page 22

flash oro convert
dinero rapido por sus joyas-gestion de empeños

Fast Money for Your Valuables and Pawn Management
Buy & sell second hand items and gold

Carretera de Cártama,24 (frente a Mercadona)
Alhaurín el Grande
Telf.: 952 596 472
flashconvert_02@hotmail.es

Restaurante Bohemia

C/. Mallorca, 9 - Urb. Reina Sofía
29100 COÍN (Málaga)
info@restaurante-bohemia.com
www.restaurante-bohemia.com
Tel.: 95 245 05 45
Cerrado Miércoles

Papeleria Cristina

PO Box - Cards
Internet
Newspapers
Party supplies
Balloons
Offex
Stationery
and
English sweets

Tel: 952 594 108
email: papcristina@hotmail.com
Ctra Cartama L1
Alhaurin El Grande



Andalucia's own 'bread basket'

THE Guadalhorce Valley is 804km2 in size, and home to around 150,000 permanent residents, while many more own second homes there.

It has always been known for its citrus production, with orange and lemon plantations stretching out in every direction from the valley's towns.

Of the eight municipalities, Coin is the biggest. But towns such as Alhaurin el grande, Alora and Cartama are also immensely popular with expats.

While first colonised by the Romans, it was the Moors who have had the largest influence on the area.

Everywhere there is evidence of their work, which tamed the tumbling streams into irrigation systems and brought fertility to the whole of the valley.

But while the region has been termed one of the bread-baskets of Andalucia since Roman times, the locals have long struggled with fluctuating rainfall, which can still bring devastating floods to the whole of the valley or leave the land parched for months on end.

From Page 21

from the hustle and bustle of the Costa del Sol.

Once a best-kept secret, this summer thousands of new visitors will discover this little-known natural beauty spot on a mission to take the El Chorro Challenge.

The Caminito del Rey is already a big hit with thrill seekers. Dubbed the 'world's deadliest walkway' until its re-opening this Spring after a €2.8 million restoration, this high-adrenalin hike runs above the El Chorro gorge, an immense fissure five kilometres long and 300 metres deep, running between two towering limestone cliffs.

El Chorro and Ardales, at the other end of the Caminito, are often called Andalucia's Lake District and it's easy to see why.

These two postage stamp-sized villages are linked by hairpin bend roads to three stunning, turquoise reservoirs bordered by sandy beaches and shaded by feathery conifers. The scenery is more akin to the countryside of Cumbria or the cantons of Switzerland than anything people imagine could be found on the Costa del Sol.

With lakeside camping sites, it's the quintessential active weekend break for outdoor sports types, offering rock climbing, watersports, pedalos and dining under the stars at charming pine-shaded ventas.

The polar opposite to the glitz and glamour of the nearby coast, the valley offers a more peaceful, relaxed way of life...



CRYSTAL CLEAR: Lake in Ardales, near El Chorro

A more 'typically Spanish' lifestyle perhaps, something that's also noticeable in the region's bigger town's - Coin, Alhaurin el Grande and Alhaurin de la Torre.

As English expat Ray Finch explains: "The Costa del Sol is great for people who love the beach and like to party, but up here in the hills, we get to experience the real Spain."

Ray moved from London to Coin five years ago to retire and

has never looked back.

"Why would I ever go back?" he protests. "I love it here, the scenery is incredible, the people are lovely and the way of life is so much easier-paced than it was back in London."

Coin, the region's 'capital' and largest town, is merely an up-scale version of its smaller neighbours (Tolox, Yunquera and Alozaina) with two main squares, an emblematic church at its centre and a

multitude of winding cobbled streets, stacked either side with white-washed houses.

Named by the Romans, turned into a market town shortly after and then abandoned for almost 500 years, the Moors rebuilt most of Coin in 950 AD. Marble and iron ore quarried from its hills into the 19th century were used in the construction of the Roman town of Italica, near Sevilla, birthplace of the future Emperor, Hadrian.



ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY?

Then contact us



MARKETING IS OUR FORTE

TEL: (00 34) 952 457 761 www.grapevine-properties.com



Reconquered by the Christians after a siege in which the legendary Christopher Columbus took part, it also had a special place in the heart of another great explorer, Captain Cook. After a visit to Coin, Cartama and Alhaurin in 1829 he wrote: "These villages are on rising ground above the river and in beauty of situation and cultivation cannot be excelled. "They afford a specimen of the whole country when possessed by the Moors, being surrounded by gardens with orange, lemon and palm trees and abounding in all the fine as well as the more common fruits." Even today, the Guadalhorce is considered to be among the most fertile valleys in all Spain. Crisscrossed with streams, as well as modern and ancient acequias (man-made water channels), it is home both to wild nature and modern cultivation, while signs of its fecundity continue into the villages where you can pick oranges and lemons from 'urban orchards' of trees lining the streets!

HISTORIC: Arab tower in Alora

Alozaina is embedded like a jewel in a setting of olive groves

To the west of the valley, verdant Sierra de las Nieves Natural Park has seen even less human interference. Apart from the few towns and villages on its outskirts, the park is largely uninhabited, with a rich variety of pine, fir, ash, chestnut and oak trees, and countless streams and waterfalls. A National Hunting Reserve teeming with mountain goats and mouflon deer, rambling, horse riding and river kayaking are all great ways to explore its undiscovered beauty. The park is easily accessible from the picturesque villages of Tolox and Yunquera, which possess a charm all of their own. Tolox is a tumble of white-washed houses where the villagers have even gone so far as painting the tree trunks white, to reinforce the pueblo blanco look. Yunquera is slightly bigger, with one of the most picturesque church spires in the Guadalhorce Valley although its emblem is the ancient castle towering 500 metres above the village. One of the highest points in Mala-

ga province, El Castillo is believed to have been built by the Arabs and used as a watchtower during wars. Today this important heritage site has been refurbished to function as an information centre for the Sierra de las Nieves. "Yunquera really is beautiful," enthuses local artist Miguel Merchan.

"I often go down to the bottom of the town and look up at the white houses with the church spire sticking up in to the air. It makes me proud to be from such an inspiring place." After a lifetime dedicated to art, Merchan now runs a small museum in memory of his mentor, legendary local artist and musician Francisco Sola.

Set in Sola's home, Merchan has recreated the artist's study and turned the upper floors into a gallery showcasing some of his best works - many of them self-portraits and studies of his family. Just 15 minutes from Yunquera, Alozaina is embedded like a jewel in a setting of olive groves. The entrance to the village's charming centre is marked by stone arches while the church

- the crowning glory in most of these pueblos - can be seen against the skyline from the narrow streets below. From the striking Santa Ana church itself, there are spectacular views towards the Sierra Prieta. I saved the best gem for last on my weekend in the Guadalhorce Valley - Alora, half an hour up the road. Helping myself to the oranges and lemons dangling invitingly from the trees in the high street, I headed through bustling streets packed with Moroccan and Roman influences to the castle, which sits on a lofty pinnacle looking down on this quaint pueblo. A stop at the 17th century La Encarnacion church en route is the perfect prelude to the main event atop Cerro de las Torres hill. The castle has had a long and chequered history. Originally built by Phoenicians, before being expanded under Roman rule, it was destroyed by the Visigoths and rebuilt by the Moors. Looking down one last time on this lush green valley, as the inhabitants of all these past civilisations must have done too, I felt a pang of regret to be leaving. But then I remembered the best thing about the Guadalhorce. It's so close to the coast it's almost my back yard and I'll be back there soon!



EMBLEM: Church tower in Yunquera

FROM BOYS TO MEN



EVERY boy wants to grow up to be a soldier and in Alhaurin el Grande it is no different. Here, a group of teenagers practise moves with their rifles in the hope of one day following in the footsteps of the Foreign Legion that marches through its streets at Easter time.

T. +34 952 410 692 www.ranchodelingles.com

RANCHO
del inglés

B&B -
Weddings / Events -
Corporate Retreats -

Located in the countryside, we offer simple yet stylish accommodation. It's an oasis of calm yet only 15 minutes from Málaga airport.
10 double bedrooms with charm & character
Weddings for up to 200 people in beautiful grounds






Rancho del Inglés Alhaurín de la Torre, 29130 Málaga
M. +34 699 414 540 M. +34 699 414 544 info@ranchodelingles.com

The big brother of the Guadalhorce Valley, Coin has kept hold of the charm that sweeps through the pueblos blancos across the region

It may be the 'capital' of the Guadalhorce Valley but the town of Coin has managed to retain the charm of its smaller neighbours. Literally surrounded by citrus plantations, with a true rural community, it is no surprise to find an orange tree on the town's coat of arms.

Despite growing considerably over recent years, Coin still has a curious sense of being both bustling and rural in equal measures.

You still regularly see tractors and quad-bikes buzzing about its narrow streets and there are plenty of businesses dedicated to agricultural pursuits and farming tools.

Much of this is thanks to the Moors, whose clever use of water and love of gardens and planting, left the surrounding countryside full of profitable businesses, who sold to the coast and, indeed, further afield.

Thankfully when the Arabic invaders were ejected from the town in 1485, after a long siege, the town's Christian Crusaders from the north, who may have included Christopher Columbus, didn't alter much.

The legacy of using acequias to water the fields is still used today and the countryside is among the wealthiest in Andalucía growing citrus fruits,



avocados and pomegranates, in particular.

This agricultural legacy was clearly noted by British explorer Captain Cook when he visited the town, along with Cártama and Alhaurín in 1829. Travelling with the Royal Navy, he was mightily impressed.

"These villages are on rising ground above the river and in beauty of situation and cultivation cannot be excelled," he wrote. "They afford a specimen of the whole country when possessed by the Moors, being surrounded by gardens with orange, lemon and palm trees and abounding in all the fine as well as the more common fruits."

Over 4,000 foreigners are said to live in the mountain town of around 20,000 people. The majority British - but increasingly with a large number of Dutch and Germans - they enjoy the more relaxed country town living, while still having excellent connections for the airport and nearby Costa del Sol. A big town, it has the quality of

life of a village and a very laid back feel. Best of all, it has a lovely average annual temperature of 15 degrees.

It was the Romans who gave the town its first name 'Lacibis', it became an important market town and transition point for the minerals being quarried in the nearby Sierra Blanca.

Marble from these quarries was used in the construction of the Roman town of Italica, or Roman Seville, and the mining of iron ore and marble continued into the 19th century.

During the time of the Visigoths, like many places in Andalucía, the town lost its lustre and largely fell into ruin until the Moors conquered the region and rebuilt it around 929 AD.

The town has grown rapidly over the last two decades and even counts its own shopping centre La Trocha, with a cinema and branches of Dunnes and Corte Ingles.

It is a popular shopping trip for expats who come from all around the region, and even



BEAUTY: Captain Cook admired Coin and the surrounding plantations

the coast... and, best of all, here you will find a big Sunday market, which on its day is one of the best attended in

Andalucía, with people sometimes queueing up all night to get a stall, it being so oversubscribed.



WRITING ON THE WALL: A fruit cooperative mural

Property Overseas Group

Inland Office
sales & rentals

sales office
opposite La Trocha
in Coin

952 814 780



€450,000

REDUCED BY 100,000€

immaculate 6 bed finca in Coin with stables & 12,000m² flat plot



€620,000

ORIGINAL PRICE 1.800.000€

7 bed Cortijo in Mijas, 12 stables & manège, 15 mins to coast



2 bed finca in Monda
350€/month



2 bed prefab in Coin
390€/month



2 bed finca in Cartama
€210,000



4 bed apartment in Ojen
€245,000



4 bed vila in Alhaurín el Grande
€289,000

www.propertyoverseasgroup.com

Jon Clarke visits a brand new retreat in a hidden valley 20 minutes from the coast, where multi-talented owner Martina Willis is weaving her magic on many different levels

My recipe for Wellbeing

ECHOING to the sounds of running water, croaking frogs and nightingales, it was hard to believe that I was just 10 miles and 20 minutes from the fleshpots of Fuengirola and Marbella.

Following an intensive massage, and with a healthy chickpea tortilla salad and a bottle of gewurztraminer awaiting me on my dining terrace, things rarely get much better.

I had been invited to check out the hottest new wellbeing retreat to open on the Costa del Sol; a place where smiles are guaranteed.

Set up by a talented Austrian, whose CV would put many a CEO's to shame, The Source of Wellbeing is set to become one of the must-visit hideaways this year.

Also running as a luxury B&B, this amazing spot,



HISTORIC: The ancient retreat

based on the banks of the bubbling Alaminio stream, is a genuine oasis of near-tropical vegetation.

Well-appointed with spacious rooms, outdoor jacuzzis and hectares of grounds, it is a wonderful place to hole up for a few days, and a great base to explore the nearby Guadalhorce Valley.

Also expect to be spoilt by Martina and her team, which includes a great range of masseurs, chefs and therapists.

Based at the heart of one of the true secrets of the Costa del Sol - the Barranco Blanco - there is only one way in and one way out... a dirt track, with one very small sign.

But, once located, you drop down into a stunning valley which counts less than a dozen properties and one of the loveliest streams and waterfalls in Andalucia.

The Source of Wellbeing is the brainchild of Swiss-educated Martina Willis, a woman still in her 30s who counts working for Larry Ellison and Bill Gates on her CV.

After studying mechanical engineering and marketing, she worked for 19 years in the IT sector, in particular with Oracle in Europe and Microsoft in Seattle, where she became the youngest product manager in the company's history.

But, after the inevitable burn-out, working sometimes 120-hour weeks with her own company, based in the UK, Saudi Arabia and Sweden, she decided to look for a career change.



SERENE: One of the two stunning freshwater pools at the Source of Wellbeing and (below) boss Martina

Out went the private plane and yacht and in came a focus towards self-development and a drive for health and happiness.

She moved into life coaching, got a diploma in MindTraining and has started to help focus and train senior executives and corporate teams around Europe.

"I have now made it my life goal to equip people to become the driving force to change organisations," she explains.

"Let's face it, the economy needs to adopt a new business model, away from profit and towards customer and employee satisfaction.

"In short: a happy successful employee will generate a happy customer."

Her new Wellbeing project encourages executives and business owners to learn from her, as well as offering hard-working women, or those who have lost their identity, the chance to escape and enjoy a well-earned pampering break.

"When people look at me, they see this petite blonde who's had a lot of luck to be successful in business and seems to have it all," she says. "What they don't see is the incredible hardship I have had to overcome along the way. The

physical and emotional abuse I endured in my life from an early age and the obstacles I have had to overcome in my private and business life to be successful.

"It has been a hard drive to become happy and I have had to break through detrimental and addictive behaviour patterns to become the assertive and strong person I am today.

"Ultimately, I love to help people face the fear they have in their lives and help them achieve their goals without the need for approval of others."



Visit www.thesourceofwellbeing.com



Weddings • Beauty & Wellness
Therapies • Workshops • Fitness
Holiday Retreats • Coaching

Take advantage of our relaxing
Day Spa, Half Day Spa, Blessed Night Spa
or Mindshift Life Coaching.

We also have accommodations to just
stay in and relax.

www.thesourceofwellbeing.com

Finca La Fuente – Barranco Blanco
Coin, CP 29199, Malaga

tel: +34 951 204 306 / +34 669 514 733

info@thesourceofwellbeing.com
Facebook.com/thesourceofwellbeing



**SPECIAL
OFFER**
20% off
any treatment
on your first visit
PROMOCODE: OLIVE

*Cut off from the rest of the world, I can feel a deep connection to nature.
Time slows down and all becomes extraordinarily bright and beautiful.*



Secret valley with links to the Nazis

The beautiful, hidden valley of Barranco Blanco has a shady past, writes Tom Powell

LIKE an illustration from a fairytale, the Barranco Blanco will enchant you - once you find it. But the search is more than worth it, for this serene spot (which means White Ravine in Spanish) is set in stunning woodland teeming with wildlife - including wild boars - and its river ends in a magical waterfall. Located in the foothills of the Sierra Alpujata between Coin and Alhaurin el Grande, it cannot be seen from the surrounding roads. These days it's a photographer's paradise and a hotspot for horseriding, mountain biking, walking and river swimming. But, just like the stories by the Grimms brothers and Hans Anderson, it has a darker side, too.

This beautiful spot was allegedly used as a Nazi training camp during the Second World War, due to Hitler and Franco's friendship. *The Olive Press* previously investigated the area's Nazi history in 2010. The remnants of their occupation are not obvious at first sight, as nature has done its best to erase Hitler's impact, but they are still there. Driving in from the main road, past the water tower, the small white building on the left was originally a sentry point. Around the waterfall there are more houses, now in disrepair, which were formerly part of the Nazi military complex and home to SS soldiers. "There is certainly some truth to the links," says one Austrian resident. "It

seems to spring back to a former SS officer who bought a lot of land here and eventually fled to South America." It is difficult to picture this wonderful valley as a cradle of evil, but it seems that even the Nazis were unable to resist Barranco Blanco's enduring charm.



MYSTERY: Secret waterfall and (inset) our investigation in 2010



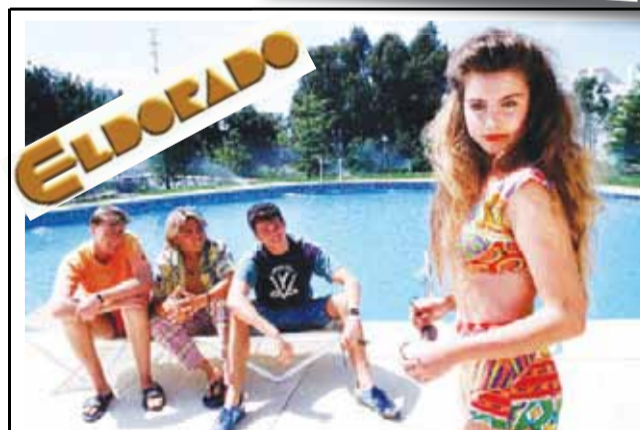
Castle of light



CARTAMA castle at night is a magical juxtaposition of ancient and modern. The crumbling hilltop remains are bathed in floodlights at night, recently installed by the Town Hall. Even in daylight, no other vantage point in the vicinity offers such far-reaching views of the Guadalhorce Valley. Cartama spreads out below, at the head of the Guadalhorce river, where a restored iron bridge connects the town

with its train station. A rocky path zig-zags up from the main square to the castle, meandering beneath shady pine trees, with benches placed at intervals for much-needed breathers. At the top stands a pretty shrine to the town's patron saint - the Ermita de Nuestra Senora de los Remedios. Built in the 17th century on top of the original 15th century building, the sanctuary was restored as recently as

2007. Inside you can still see the ornate ceiling with its crystal chandelier, the elaborate decoration contrasting with the spartan wooden benches that seat the congregation. Above the shrine are the remains of the 10th century Moorish castle. The crumbling walls are all that's left of the impenetrable fortress that originally boasted ten watchtowers, but the views are still to die for.



RETRO: TV flop Eldorado

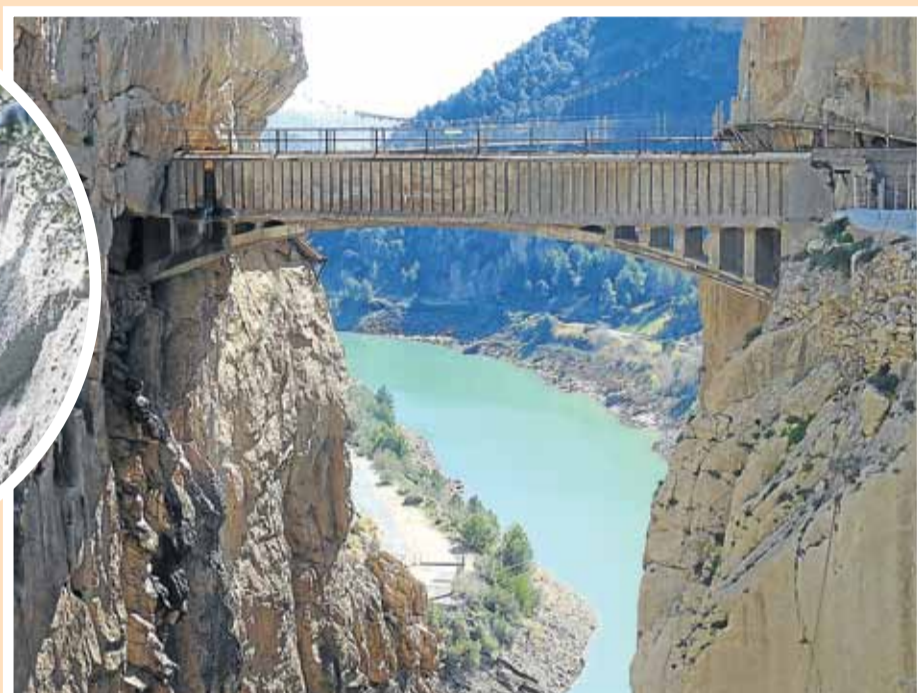
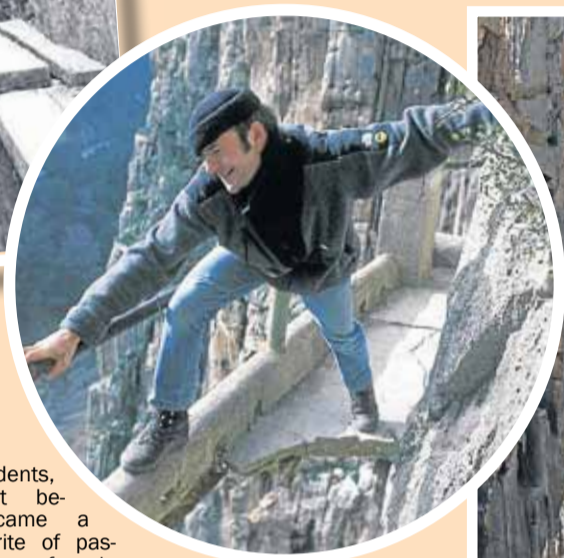
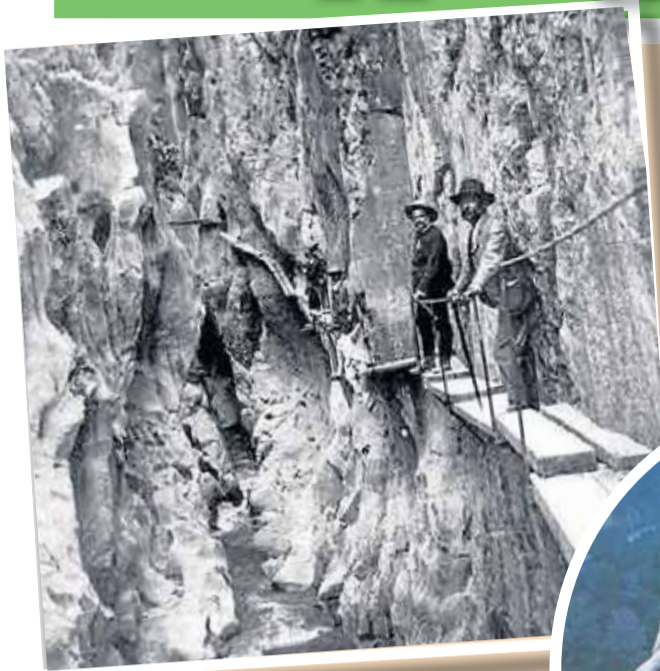
Monumental failure

IT has been well over a decade since *Eldorado* vanished from TV screens and bid viewers "adios" for good. Dubbed the 'biggest flop in BBC's history', *Eldorado* was filmed at a prefab village set in the hills above Coin and on location around the Alhaurin area. While there remain various rumours of its return, it still remains one of the costliest failures in the BBC's annals, costing £87,000 per episode to shoot. Ham-strung with problems from the start, the show suffered from poor casting, bad storylines and cringe-worthy performances by amateurs, many of whom didn't even know what a read-through was. Indeed, the only thing producers had no shortage of was endless sunshine for filming. The set still stands today, a sad and somewhat tacky monument to the BBC's failure to bring the expat lifestyle in Spain to life on the small screen.



Cliff hanger

Thousands of visitors are flocking to take the El Chorro Challenge along the 'world's most dangerous walkway'



PICTURES (RECENT) BY TOM POWELL

THE 'world's most dangerous walkway' is a sell-out success and on track to become one of Andalucia's top tourist attractions.

Not one for the faint-hearted, the jaw-dropping Caminito del Rey (King's Pathway) winding above El Chorro's 200-metre-deep gorge, grabbed world media attention when it reopened on March 28, after a €2.8 million renovation.

Free tickets for the first six months sold out in a matter of minutes, with tourists keen to 'walk the planks' this summer, while King Felipe is due to pay a royal visit later this year.

Restored from a crumbling ruin which saw thrill-seekers taking their lives into their hands to tick it off their bucket list, the cliff-hugging 1.2km walkway runs from El Chorro to Ardales above the Guadalhorce reservoirs. Closed in 2001 after a series of fatal acci-

dents, it became a rite of passage for adrenaline junkies, and companies began offering unofficial tours of the dilapidated walkway after a video of it went viral on YouTube.

Today punters will only have to part with €3 for a much safer experience - a price worth paying for the spectacular views alone. The Junta and Malaga city council split the restoration cost and commissioned the works in 2011.

DON'T LOOK DOWN: The restored bridge spans the gorge while previously daredevils had to navigate a broken path with many unstable gaps



AGE-OLD ATTRACTION: A group poses on the old Caminito



OLD AND NEW: The old path looks daunting beneath the new



Welcome to Aris Real Estate for your place in the Sun! We have been in business for more than 25 years in Alhaurin de la Torre specialising in properties inland and on the coast.

You know the type of property you want but perhaps not how to find it. Use our vast experience and resources to locate your property and save valuable time.

Esme and Julia, familiar names in the area, will listen carefully to your requirements and select only those properties which will be of interest to you. All documentation pertaining to the properties are thoroughly checked to ensure a smooth sale when a decision is made.

We speak English, Spanish, French, German and Afrikaans.

ARIS INMOBILIARIA

Calle Nogal, 13. Alhaurín de la Torre 29130 (Málaga)

Tlf: +34 952 415 358 / +34 629 487 762

f.aguilar@arisinmobiliaria.com

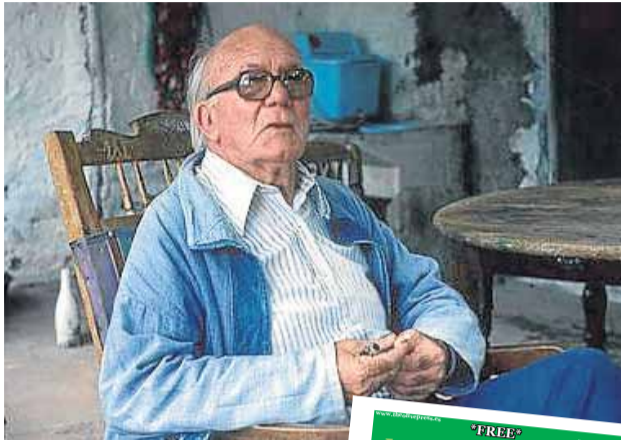
www.arisinmobiliaria.com

Homecoming queen

Spain's greatest expat writer Gerald Brenan made the Guadalhorce Valley his home and now, thanks to an Olive Press campaign, his house the Queen of Los Angeles has been restored to its former glory

A NEW chapter in the life story of the late British author Gerald Brenan is currently being penned. It also marks a victorious new reign for the Queen of Los Angeles, Brenan's beloved Churriana villa where the world-famous Hispanist wrote many of his books. Eight years ago, the property at the bottom of the Guadalhorce Valley was in ruins, having been abandoned, looted, covered with graffiti and left to rot. It looked like the writing was on the wall for Brenan's memory, too, until *the Olive Press* stepped in and started a campaign to save the historic site with an 11th-hour restoration that was completed last October. When 'Don Geraldo' first set up his typewriter here, little was

known about Andalucia, a region of backwater villages and mule tracks. Brenan, widely hailed as the greatest expat writer to have lived in Spain, was drawn by the quiet charisma of Churriana when he made his home at Number 56, Calle Torremolinos. Although run-down, Brenan was captivated by the villa's neo-classical style, with its soaring tower, romantic cobbled courtyard and fountain where pigeons splashed and cooed. Bought for a mere £1,200 from a member of Malaga's wealthy merchant class, Don Carlos Crooke Larios, it was the ideal love nest for Brenan and his new wife, American poet Gamel Woolsey, to begin their lives together.



NEVER FORGOTTEN: Brenan at Alhaurin home and (inset) our front page campaign

But two years later, as the couple were finishing its transformation into a comfortable home, Civil War broke out. Desperate for a safe place to lie low, the compassionate Brenan took in previous owner Don Carlos, formerly a Franco supporter, although it put the lives of his household in jeopardy.

Eventually, Brenan organised a pass for him on a British destroyer to get him out of the country. But the damage to the Brenans' reputation was already done. Hounded out of the village for suspected right-wing sympathies, the author and his wife had no choice but to return to England.

It was here in 1943 that Brenan wrote his first Spanish masterpiece, *The Spanish Labyrinth*, a socio-political account of the run-up to the Civil War. External forces kept the couple away from Spain for more than a decade but in 1949 they were



returned to the dream home. Ernest Hemingway and Bertrand Russell spent holidays there, drawn by the glamorous dinner parties, endless drinks and late nights spent setting the world to rights. It makes it even more astonishing that this vital link to Andalucia's literary past was so casually cast

People will come here to see this centre and bring the life back to the town

aside. At the packed inauguration, in October 2014, Silvia Grijalba, coordinator for Casa Gerald Brenan and journalist for *El Mundo*, said: "The restoration of this house owes *the Olive Press* so much. I am very grateful. People from Malaga will come here to see this centre and bring the life back to the town."

Passing from owner to owner after Brenan left Churriana for nearby Alhaurin el Grande at the beginning of the 1970s, vandalism and neglect took their toll on its noble facade. It was at this point, in September 2007, that *the Olive Press* first saw the sad ruin that the 200-year-old villa had become. Shocked by the extent of the damage - including the theft of a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary from the side gate - this newspaper launched a campaign to save the house from its sorry fate.

National newspapers took up the call and, finally, the town hall realised that this historic national treasure was at risk of being lost forever.

Driven by the energetic force of Brenan's stepson, Carlos, the restoration began. "This house is a piece of history, and it is a real shame it was left in that state for so long," he said at last October's triumphant reopening ceremony. "But now we can rebuild that spirit and work on returning it to its place at the centre of the community."

MEMORIES: At Casa Brenan



Alhaurin has really blossomed

**The
Ga
of**

K&S SERVICES



Are you looking for a property maintenance expert in the Costa del Sol region?

K&S Services have more than 15 years experience in the industry.

This time of the year we can offer complete damp proofing solutions including:

- Injection of membrane (dpc)
- Dry zone paste for dry patches
- Tanking for walls below ground level
- We also have solutions for mould and condensation

For a free survey give us a call on **625 702 772** or email: **sbumay@yahoo.com**



...s been a market town for centuries but ...med under Moorish rule

...e ...arden ... Allah



LUSH: Alhaurin has been a key market town for centuries

It was in Phoenician times that Alhaurin el Grande first developed its role as an important market town, as the already established Iberian tribes bartered their goods with new arrivals from Lebanon.

Later the town thrived under Roman occupation when a number of wealthy merchants from nearby Malaga made money from the rich mineral deposits in the nearby hills.

They built sizeable villas, such as Villa de la Mata, and labelled the town *Lauro Nova*. Evidence has been found in the numbers of coins, statues and pillars, a trio of which stand pride of place opposite the town hall today.

But it wasn't until Moorish rule that the town really blossomed, as the Arabs planted new crops in the wide fertile valley that is crossed by two rivers, the Fahala and Blas Gonzales.

They introduced acequias (or water courses) to irrigate the entire valley and built a number of important mills, such as the Molino Morisco de los Corchos.

An area of particular beauty - not to mention an extremely clement climate - it had soon taken on an appropriate new name, that of 'Garden of Allah', or Alhaurin.

Remnants of the eight centuries of Arabic rule can still be found, particularly at the Arco del Cobertizo, which was a gateway to the medina, that had a souk specialising in silk.

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

Though it was anything but plain sailing for the united municipality and there were epidemics of plague and even an earthquake in 1680.

Later, Alhaurin was occupied for four years by the French during the Peninsular War in the early 19th century, which led to the inevitable destruction and upheaval.

Since then, apart from the turbulent period during the civil war, the biggest threat to civil peace was an influx of English hooligans in the 1990s and early 2000s, who thankfully have now all but gone.

There is no doubt that Alhaurin el Grande has been through a dramatic transformation over recent years but there is a now a real swagger about the place.

Businesses are opening and the type of expat now coming to live here is more interested in integration, learning the language and enjoying the town's varied culture.

Famous for decades



ALHAURIN has been a popular hideout for celebrities and writers for a century.

It was celebrated hispanist Gerald Brenan, who first settled in the town in the 1960s, living there for two decades. Brenan, famous for his evocative *South from Granada* and benchmark civil war tome *The Spanish Labyrinth*, described the town as his 'Garden of Eden', before moving just down the road a little to Churriana, nearer Malaga.

Other more recent celebrities to enjoy the area include Status Quo's Rick Parfitt (above), who lives with his wife and kids near the town, while Claire King from *Emmerdale* is a regular visitor, as is singer Neneh Cherry, who has been a few times on holiday.

It has even been said that *Coronation Street's* Bet Lynch has a place in the area, having been spotted shopping in Mercadona a couple of times.

And let's not forget controversial boxer Scott Harrison who has a house here.

Tall story

IS it a castle? Is it a folly? Or a piece of redundant scenery from a movie set?

The origin of the brick tower standing tall on the hillside above Alhaurin el Grande, has been the subject of heated debate, splitting opinion across the Guadalhorce Valley and beyond.

Many thought it was a Medieval castle, rumours did the rounds that the Moors built it and there were even whispers that it was a glorified tourist information centre.

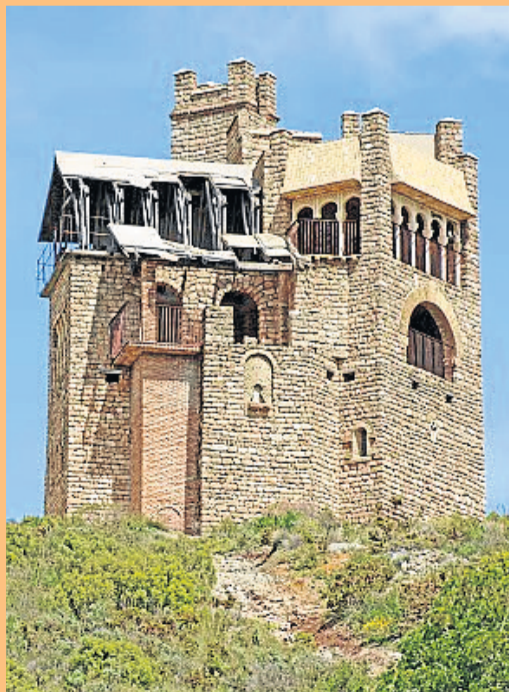
Some people even remember it from the opening credits to the ill-fated BBC soap opera, *Eldorado*.

Now *the Olive Press* can settle the score once and for all by definitively revealing the true identity of the castle in the sky overlooking Alhaurin.

It was built as a water tower, cunningly disguised as an ancient castle to fit in with the region's surroundings.

Although it turns out it was a bit of a folly after all - constructed to provide irrigation water for a golf course that never happened.

However, it is still something of an icon in these parts, visited by those who recall it from *Eldorado* and others who are hoodwinked into thinking they are visiting a historic monument.



CASTLE IN THE SKY: In Alhaurin

Joanne Marie's
SECONDHAND FURNITURE SHOP

Joanne Marie's

Quality furniture sold and bought

House clearance specialists
Open 10/3 tue to sat .
No 19 calle Maria Zambrano, Coin, Next to the olive tree cafe
Tel: 649977723 - 639229607
Recyclejo@hotmail.com

IP TV WORLDWIDE

ALL YOUR TV NEEDS

- All Sky channels, movies, sports, entertainment & more
- No contract needed
- Over 600 channels
- 2900 movies on demand
- All your favourite boxsets
- System 1 Anroid, System 2 free to view UK, system 3 international box with over 22 languages, system 4 best selling full package UK

Already have a MAGBOX? We can switch you over for a 1 week trial

IPTV: €180 / €29.95pm

HERE IS A SMALL SELCECTION OF YOUR FAVOURITE TV CHANNELS AVAILABLE WITH IPTV

4G ROUTERS AVAILABLE UP TO 80Mbps

+34 671 860 357
IPTVWW@GMAIL.COM

Valley in demand

With Brits flocking to Andalucia in their droves, estate agents are running out of properties to sell as townhouses and dream fincas are snapped up in the Guadalhorce Valley, writes Rob Horgan



FROM dream fincas in the hills to town houses in quaint *pueblos blancos*, property has got hot, hot, in the Guadalhorce Valley. It would appear that the Andalucian property boom started in Marbella is not restricted to the Costa del Sol and has moved its way inland.

And as the buyers flock in - predominantly British - the estate agents have been left chasing their tails to keep up with demand.

"We have seen the best start to a year that I can remember," explains estate agent Jo Wood of Grapevine properties. "It is ridiculously busy at the moment."



RELAXED: Locals in Coin mix with expats, enjoying the relaxed laid-back lifestyle in the Guadalhorce Valley

We have sold so many properties already this year that we have been left scrambling around to find sellers. "Don't get me wrong, it is a nice problem to have." Jo came to the Guadalhorce Valley in 2003 where she set up her business with her husband Graham. And after a few quiet years during the recession, she explains how things have been moving in the right direction.

"Last year was a much better year for us, and that has rolled on to the start of this year," she says. "We are even seeing townhouses being snapped up, which was previously unheard of." Jo explains that the property

market has been boosted by an influx in British buyers piling in their pounds across the Guadalhorce Valley. This is a trend fellow estate agent Margaret Mitchell from Alora Properties has also seen. "During the crisis years from 2008 to 2013 it was mainly

Dutch and Belgian buyers looking to buy into the life on offer in the Valley," explains Margaret who has been based in Alora since 1998. "But since then the British have been coming back and I expect that to continue as long as the pound stays strong. "All sorts of properties are selling now, be it in small villages, larger towns or a lone finca in the countryside." Fellow agent Julia Pronegg, who has run Aris Inmobiliaria in Alhaurin de la Torre for 25 years, is equally optimistic about the market.

It is a great place to integrate yourself with the Spanish way of life



AGENTS: The Woods at Grapevine (above) and the team at Aris Inmobiliaria

Man of property

BUILDING a rural retreat to escape to at weekends opened up a new business opportunity for property professional Richard Woodland.

After moving to Spain almost 15 years ago, he initially worked for H2O Countrywide as an IT manager before setting up the Property Overseas Group, which concentrated on property sales along the coast.

"Having spent several years living in Marbella I was then attracted to the inland lifestyle and energy so I bought some land and constructed my own finca in Coin," explains Richard.

"Initially this was intended as a weekend retreat, but it wasn't long before I'd moved in permanently and then started my next building project in Monda".

He soon gained experience of the country property market and, alongside his coastal operation, he now has a thriving inland office in Coin.

Richard works closely with local architects, lawyers,



IN THE KNOW: Richard

gardeners and builders, such as Coin Gardens, to provide a complete property service in the area. Situated opposite La Trocha commercial centre in Coin, Property Overseas Group deals with sales and rentals in the town & its neighbouring villages of Monda, Guaro, Tolox & Alhaurin el Grande.

Contact Richard on 952 814 780 or visit www.propertyoverseasgroup.com



DREAM PAD: For sale in Alozaina for €2,995,000 with Grapevine

Obsession

She believes the recent 'obsession' with Malaga in the world's press is driving the property market in the valley. "The market is definitely picking up," she says. "The attraction of Alhaurin and the Guadalhorce Valley as a whole is the feeling of being in a typically Spanish place."

She adds: "It is a great place to integrate yourself with the Spanish way of life, and being so close to Malaga and the Costa del Sol, home comforts are not too far away for Brits looking to move here."

"The fact that Malaga is being dubbed the new Barcelona also helps a great deal."



STYLISH: For sale in Alhaurin de la Torre with for €349,000 with Aris Inmobiliaria



STUNNING: For sale in Alora for €630,000 with Alora properties



WHITEWASHED: Alora is a beautiful set atop a hill with panoramic views while (inset) its Moorish castle

Alluring Alora

The key market town at the heart of the Guadalhorce Valley is beginning to unveil its fascinating historical importance, writes Tom Powell

ALORA is much more than another white-washed, sleepy Andalusian pueblo. Despite keeping its fascinating history to itself with unwarranted modesty, this town has blossomed into a hive of cultural activity. Marked out by its stunning Arabic castle atop Cerro de las Torres hill, the sprawling streets are brought to life through Moroccan and Roman influences before them. However, the castle is even older and was originally built by Phoenicians, before being expanded under Roman rule. And later destroyed by Visigoths in the fifth century before the Moors finally came and rebuilt it. The Muslim minaret is still clearly visible today, protruding defiantly from the elegant and

immaculately preserved castle. I was lucky enough to receive a tour of the castle, built in 1462, from local history expert and museum worker, Maria Jose. "You can see evidence of all the different ages of the castle, it is so interesting and such a shame that so few people come and see it," she said. It is a wonderful place to visit, but unfortunately the castle is not often open to the public. A short walk down narrow traditional streets leads to the town's lowest-lying square. Here stands the impressive 17th century Catholic church of La Encarnacion, which somehow appears to be even larger on the inside.

The castle, lit up like a halo, is utterly alluring at night

Adjoining the church is the municipal museum, complete with ancient pottery, historical displays and intense mustiness. It is a Mudejar construction dating from the 16th century and supported by stone pillars and columns. "Alora is such a wonderful town, there is so much culture to see in the artists, history and of course, the best food in the region is here," explains local tour operator Kora Buggel, who is hoping to organise tours of the castle and village. Hidden right in the heart of the town is an old molino, where

olive oil was traditionally produced but it is now used for the occasional concert. Various small museums and bars have sprung up in the centre since the turn of the century, as this town continues its legacy as one of the most important settlements in the Guadalhorce Valley. It is certainly a fairly bustling place, much busier than I had imagined. One of the highlights was the small bodega belonging to José Miguel Pérez Hidalgo, which produces a range of wines from the Guadalhorce Valley's vineyards, and offers tasting sessions to organised groups. At the foot of the hill on which Alora rests is railway station, and it was here, just three

years ago, where the houses were struck by a terrible flood, killing livestock and destroying homes. From the castle it is easy to see where the river ripped apart a bridge, separating Barriada Estacion from neighbouring Barriada del Puente. David McGovern, owner of Manhattan bar opposite Alora train station, recalls the water flooding all of the surrounding buildings, reaching metres high. "It was awful,

people lost all of their possessions and were left homeless for 18 months," he said. "I gave my Nike trainers to a man who lives just across the river from us, and he's still wearing them now!" But the area has recovered and risen again, with hourly trains bringing visitors up to the town from Malaga. And those who travel when the sun goes down continue to be treated to one of Alora's most stunning sites. The castle, lit up like a halo, is utterly alluring at night... A sight not to be missed.



Offering a diverse range of properties: - Fincas, townhouses, cortijos, villas and country homes. Established in Álora since 1998 we pride ourselves in providing a friendly but professional service.

TOWNHOUSES RANGING IN PRICE FROM 27.500 €



AP638 - Traditional village house located in the historic centre of Álora pueblo. Accommodation over two levels consists of 2/3 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and bathroom. This property has two entrances as it extends between two parallel streets and has the rare commodity of a garage.

BARGAIN PRICE - 50.000 €

GOOD SELECTION OF COUNTRY VILLAS



AP769 - Attractive well maintained country villa enjoying a rural but not remote location between the pueblos of Pizarra and Cártama. Accommodation all on one level offers a large sun lounge, living room with fireplace, 3 double bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. Small easily maintained garden with pool and a garage/store room.

DRASTIC REDUCTION TO - 99.000 €

CHARACTER PROPERTIES COTTAGES TO CORTIJOS



AP838 - A characterful 200 year old townhouse located in the historic centre of Álora pueblo which has been professionally and sympathetically restored to a very high standard whilst retaining many of its original features. Accommodation comprises entrance vestibule, hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 storage rooms. 270m2 built with 50m2 of terraces. There is a magnificent covered patio and 2 open terraces hosting stunning views. Although the property has lots of character it also enjoys the comfort of high quality modern amenities.

ATTRACTIVELY PRICED - 179.000 €

Making perfect sense!

Andalucia's poshest pet hotel has installed an incredible sensory garden, discovers Jon Clarke

WITH a herb garden, crazy daisies and a sandpit with treats hidden in it... could there be a pet hotel in Spain quite as posh? The latest installation at Posh Pets 'boutique dog hotel and cattery' in Alhaurin is enough to make most owners smile and relax, let alone their pets. Just opened, the Pet Sensory Garden/Playground sits in a half acre grove of mature orange, lemon and grapefruit trees and is a riot of smells and colours. The perfect place for your beloved pet to play, interact with other dogs and unwind, it is the invention of award-winning groomer Rachel Goutorbe and her husband Les. "They absolutely love it in there, running around playing together, their tails wagging," explains Rachel, who has been running her upmarket kennels since 2004. "A lot of the dogs are rescue dogs and you can see how they unwind and relax there. "It helps to build up their confidence as well as to tantalise all their senses, plus it helps them to interact with their surroundings and provide physical and mental challenges to help enrich their lives." Cleverly thought out, there is a big range of self-medicating plants such as valerian, often selected by anxious dogs for its calming effect, and marigolds, often selected by animals that are experiencing grief or emotional stress.



Then there is lavender to encourage scar tissue regeneration, wheat grass for animals that are nervous, as well as peppermint which is good for its cooling properties and often selected by animals with skin irritations. It can also be used as an aid for training. The garden also boasts a water feature, wind chimes, an illusion mirror (see right), sun catchers and crazy daisies, which spray the dogs with water, keeping them cool in summer. The garden is also split level with climbing areas and a sun deck allowing dogs to reach different vantage points. The fantastic adjacent dog hotel has its kennels named after Coronation Street characters and each comes with its own pink sun bed. Aside to this there is a spacious boutique cattery a way from

the boasting large individual rooms complete with climbing frames, cat trees, toys and music. Each cat has a 360 degree view. "Our grounds are fully secure with CCTV and we live on site so there is peace of mind," continues Rachel, who has won grooming competitions around the world, and now trains up students, who come from as far as Greece and Holland. "We understand owners concerns for the care of their pets and they receive the same love and attention as you would bestow upon them whilst they are in our care," she says. Regularly photos of the pets on their holiday are posted on the Facebook page POSH PETS SPAIN. And clients that live some distance from



Alhaurin can be picked up by a licensed Pet Pick-up service too. On top of this the company runs a fully licensed pet transportation service to and from the UK and Europe. "This is a door to door bespoke travel service for pets in vehicles that are totally customised for all your essential pets' needs. Finally, the Grooming Salon & Groomers training centre is fully equipped and caters for all breeds & crossbreeds as well as cats. **Visit www.poshpetsspain.com for more info or call 952 597 035**



Posh Pets Spain

Dog & Cat Grooming Salon
 Boutique Dog Hotel & Cattery
 Pet Grooming Courses
 Pet Transportation
 Shop

www.poshpetsspain.com

0034 952 597 035



Follow us on Facebook 'Posh Pets Spain'

British-owned Iberian Funeral Plans now has 13 offices in three countries...

From humble beginnings

It all began in a poky, shared office in Alhaurin el Grande nearly a decade ago.

While Spain was on the brink of recession, British expat Stephen Nelson was launching his own funeral planning service with just one other person.

Now, as his company celebrates its ninth anniversary, Iberian Funeral Plans boasts offices in Mallorca, Huelva, Portugal, Tenerife and on the Costa Blanca.

The independent firm - originally called SPN - has 13 offices in total, with its four main Spanish offices being in Manilva, Benijofar, Ayamonte and, of course, Alhaurin el Grande.

"Alhaurin was low cost and geographically perfect," explains Nelson, 55, the firm's Director. "We shared an office with an estate agent and it all grew from there."

Nelson's next step was to incorporate a company up in Valencia into his own, hence the opening of a second office in Benijofar and a third satellite office in Castilla.

The company continued to defy the economic



crisis and grow, due to its 'fair, honest and sound service'.

But the moment the firm really began to soar was when it changed the name to Iberian Funeral Plans three years ago.

"Since then it has just taken off," says Nelson, a family man who has lived in Spain for 13 years.

"We have just opened an office in Lagoa, on the Algarve, and this year is all about pushing forward with sales before we take the next step and expand further into Spain."

The Spanish offices are all no more than an hour apart, meaning customers are always close enough to receive the best personal service.

There is even an office in Macclesfield, Eng-

land, for clients who return to Britain.

"It is not easy to run a business in a foreign country but the rewards are there if you do the job properly," says Nelson.

"We have grown thanks to our reputation among clients, it's as simple as that."

That reputation has been built up over the years thanks to the solid set-up with fully registered and legally-constituted companies in each country.

The experienced staff do not employ high pressure sales techniques, they are upfront and clear with customers from the start.

Nelson puts his success down to clear and precise pricing, terms and conditions, with genuine fixed-price funeral plans.

But more than anything, it is the care and peace of mind for customers that they value highest.

"We don't hide anything, we are completely honest in offering customers a fair service," he adds.



Telephone: (+34) 952 490 690 - 952 595 691

Web: www.iberianfuneralplans.com
Email: info@iberianfuneralplans.com

WHERE TO EAT

Creative cuisine

There's a fantastic mix of restaurants in the Guadalhorce Valley, writes Jon Clarke

WITH an incredible range of local produce it is no surprise you can eat well in the Guadalhorce Valley. Casa Paco attracts diners from far and wide and understandably so, with not just an amazing range of fresh fish and seafood, but for its stylish interior.

It has also been running since 1985 with current owner Juan starting to work there at the ripe old age of 16. A charming livewire with a young family, he works extremely hard to make sure the offering is continually fresh and of the season and it is not for nothing this is one of the genuine 'dining secrets' of An-

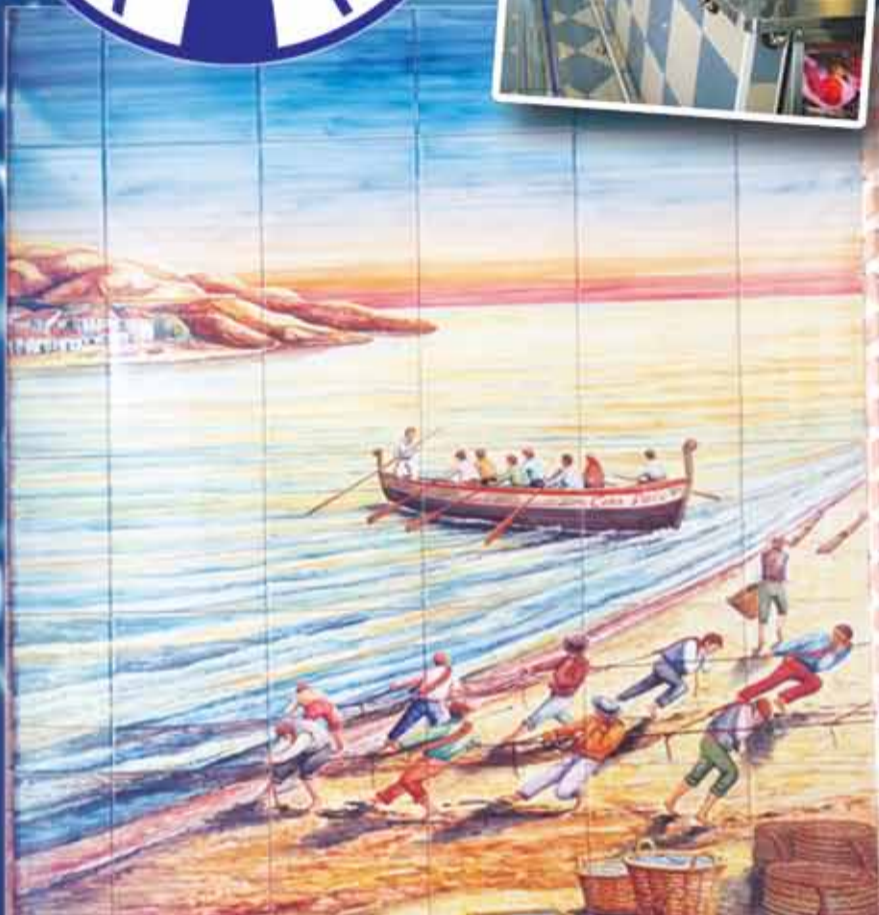
dalucia. The hot *conchas finas* are incredible, while the razor shells are as fresh as could be and the grilled langoustines unforgettable. A stuffed tomato with tuna, egg mayonnaise and prawns was superb.

La Mota on the outskirts of Alhaurin, in its own secret valley, is another extremely popular rural option. Run by a Dutch family, you dine on a candle-lit terrace at night surrounded by mature pine, orange and avocado trees. A classic rural idyll, the diners are spoiled with a great mix of in-

ternational dishes, with a slant on the oriental, Moroccan and Thai.

Its latest offering is an amazing starter or main course of red king crab, which is as succulent as lobster and comes care of owner Kees' new company Norcrab (see side bar far right). Meanwhile you must try herring on brown bread, the chicken satay and a splendid 'zarzuela', which has a top mix of shellfish, rosada and langoustines.

The Thai prawn and chicken



Wonderful selection of fresh fish served everyday, such as pescado a la sal, shell fish, and rodaballo



RestauranteCasaPaco

952 490 626

Ctra. de Malaga 79, Local 1
Alhaurin el Grande

WHERE TO STAY

A rustic dream

Guadalhorce Valley has some of Andalucia's best rural retreats to luxuriate in, writes Jon



GRAND: Entrance at Rancho Ingles

THE track narrows and drops down into the most amazing hidden valley.

Just five minutes from Coin, Barranco Blanco is one of those places that has to be seen to be believed.

Best of all, the stunning valley now has a charming place to stay, the **Source of Well-being**, which is bordered by rivers and surrounded by trees.

The perfect base for exploring the nearby Guadalhorce Valley, expect to be pampered, with masseurs on-hand, not to mention a team of chefs able to drum up a great range of healthy meals.

At the other end of the valley near to Malaga city and just 15 minutes to the airport, you will find the enigmatic **Rancho Ingles**.

You arrive to a metal sliding gate, which slides open to what can only be described as paradise.

A charming B&B that has been running for well over a decade, it sits on a leafy hillside just outside Alhaurin de la Torre.

The creation of David and Miyuki, the historic cortijo has been lovingly restored and has grown organically into one of Andalucia's most charming places to stay.

Now also a wedding venue, it is the attention to detail that best catches the eye.

Whether it be the eclectic mix of antique

doors, beds and columns, or the collection of tables and beams, it is one for a visit.

A former advertising man, David ended up getting into reclamation in the UK before moving to Spain and the fruits of his labour include parts of the London Foreign Office, St Pancras Station and a Wandsworth church are in situ.

Now run by son Cameron, with occasional help from their daughter Milli, a chef in London, you will most certainly not want to leave. Another amazing rural spot to luxuriate in is **Finca la Mota**, in Alhaurin el Grande, that was once one of the biggest estates in the entire valley.

The 350-year-old farmhouse sits in its own secret valley, surrounded by stunning countryside and with views to match.

Run by Dutchman Kees and his two sons Reuben and Danny, you enter into a classic patio Andaluz with a huge pool and its own terrace restaurant.

Inside it is charming with comfortable rooms and a separate dining area. A lovely shady pool and views to match make up the scene. Best of all, it has a highly rated restaurant, perfect for shady dining by day and charming atmospheric dinners at night.

All about

Guadalhorce Valley



GALLIC FLAIR: Postillon

curry came in red, green or yellow depending on your preference for spice and was delicious. The apple strudel was a sure fire winner to end the meal.

If you are looking for Gallic flair (and let's face it which foodies aren't?), then look out for stalwart **El Postillon**, where you eat on a fantastic terrace overlooking a leafy garden and with views into the nearby Sierra de Mijas.

You will be spoilt by the cooking from Xavier Sierra, who after working in his parents' restaurant in France and study-



STYLISH: Casa Paco and (below) Bohemia

ing at the best cooking school in Bordeaux, Ecole Hoteliere de Talence, packed up his kitchen utensils and headed to Spain 20 years ago.

"I am passionate about cooking and I want to share that passion," he says.

"Cooking is my life. My parents owned a restaurant and I was all but born in a kitchen."

After running a restaurant in Fuengirola for the best part of a decade, Xavier made the move inland to spend more time with his family.

As one would expect his foie gras is excellent, as is his lovely seafood 'gratin' with prawns and scallops, not to mention a fresh sea bream.

Finally over in Coin, you must look out for the adventurous and highly romantic, **Bohemia** restaurant.

The owner Pedro Trillo has incred-

ible talent both for his interior design, food and original tapestries which line the walls.

His food is classic soul food with a heavy emphasis on vegetables and, in particular, I loved the aubergines layered with salmon, parmesan, chives, caviar and cherry tomatoes. The courgettes stuffed with goat's cheese were amazing too and the portions are of an excellent size.



My pincer movement

ALWAYS looking for a new way to keep his regulars happy, Kees de Cock jumped at the opportunity to serve up red king crabs from the north of Norway.

And so impressed were his clients at Finca la Mota, in Alhaurin, he decided to set up a company to import the huge crustaceans, via a client, a fisherman, who has a holiday home nearby.

"This chap has been fishing them deep from the ocean for years," explains Kees, a former tour guide. "They are better than lobster and they went down so well we set up a company to import them." Served up as a starter with rose island sauce (see picture above), they arrived from Norway having been cooked and then frozen.

For more information visit norcrab.es



FONDA EL POSTILLON IS A FINE DINNING RESTAURANT WITH A RELAXED AND INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE SERVING FRENCH CUISINE - FIXED MENUS €17 - A LA CARTE €20



OPEN EVENINGS FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY 19:00 TILL 22:30 AND LUNCH ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

RESTAURANT EL POSTILLON



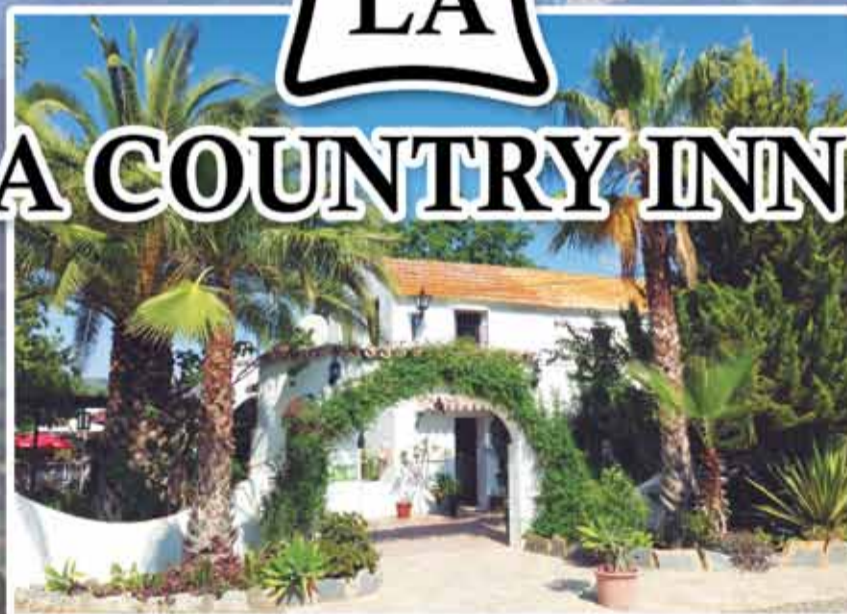
Carretera de Mijas - A 387 Km 1, 29120 Alhaurin el Grande
TEL RESERVA 951 25 45 20 www.elpostillon.es

FINCA

MOTA

LA

A COUNTRY INN



Finca La Mota was originally a farmhouse built over 350 years ago.

It is now a rustic Andalusian Inn full of charm and character both of which has been carefully maintained during its recent renovation. We are open for lunch, dinner or to stay in one of our 12 comfortable rustic rooms. The restaurant and bar are situated in the beautiful and picturesque garden by the private swimming pool offering a place to relax and dine in the Andalusian countryside. We also have an inside bar and restaurant.

The restaurant serves international cuisine using flavours from around the world. Kitchen open from 12 till 22 hours. 7 days a week.

Tel: + 34 952 490 901 www.fincalamota.com info@fincalamota.com
Partido de Ubrique s/n, Alhaurin El Grande





THE INSURANCE CENTRE

Specialist expat insurance providers in Spain



FUNERAL INSURANCE INCLUDING A FREE SPANISH WILL

Have in place a policy to cover all the expenses of a Funeral and which also takes care of all the paperwork involved.
Repatriation can be included or you can have a policy which only covers repatriation as long as you are under 70 years of age for as little as 25 €.



SPEEDING FINES

Put a policy in place that will advise you if you get a speeding fine.
Cheaper than paying the fines!



MEDICAL INSURANCE

Over 15.000 Professionals and 350 Centres at your disposal
All types of Specialists available
No contributory payments
Multi person discounts
Health club discounts



LIFE INSURANCE

One of the few providers offering cover to 80 years of age
Policy available to cover Inheritance Tax expenses
Medical checkups not required
Offering some of the most competitive rates on the market



HOME INSURANCE

Fully comprehensive buildings and contents cover available
Goods insured on a New for Old basis
Additional covers now included - more comprehensive than ever before
Options of paying by instalments
Home Assistance 24 hours a day 365 days a year

CONTACT US

info@theinsurancecentre.net

+34 952451024 +34 952451033



WITH ANY NEW POLICY TAKEN OUT AND YOU MENTION
THE OLIVE PRESS A FREE GIFT WILL BE SENT TO YOU

www.theinsurancecentre.net