

# THE DREAM SCENE

## Newsletter

Issue no. 6 1st of August 2007

### Bienvenido! Welcome!



A warm welcome to the sixth issue of The Dream Scene. And warm it certainly is. Temperatures at the moment are peaking at about 32/33 in the shade. July was reported to be cooler than normal but August is expected to be much, much warmer. If you are here for a holiday, please take great care with the sun. Very often, those of us who live here full time, have a little chuckle at the lobster-skins during the Summer. There is no such thing as a fast tan unless it comes out of a bottle. Take your time, drink plenty of fluid and limit sun exposure, especially to children.

Early July saw the launch of a local artists exhibition at the Pasty Shack in Via Park V. The opening was a great success and was attended by up to fifty people. Some paintings were also sold. It was a very pleasant social occasion with tapas, wine and bacardi soaked melon laid on by Dave and Anna. The exhibition will run throughout the Summer, so do please pop in and support your local artists.

Many thanks for the contributions to this issue. Once again our cartoonist Angela is on top form. Angela now also provides a cartoon for the bi-monthly Golfer's Link magazine. Thanks also to Mags, Kath, Marjory, our advertisers and to 'She - who must be obeyed!' for ideas, editing and stapling.

The format has been slightly changed in this issue. The adverts are slightly smaller and the banner under the front page title has been removed. These changes are purely to save ink, which is the main cost element. In this issue we take a look at the Spanish Driving Points Scheme and some fiestas. There are lots and lots of fiestas this month. Every little town will be having a *bash* of some sort with fireworks and bands. Go out and enjoy them! They are free and are guaranteed to keep you happy and living longer! Ask any Spaniard! Please keep sending-in your contributions and letters. Restaurant reviews will be back next month. STOP PRESS! Both pools in Dream Hills had to be closed today (29th) due to the presence of faeces in the pools. This is the fifth time this month! Last year there was only one such outrage in the whole year. Keep your eyes open! It looks like we have a "serial-dumper" in the community.

Mick - Editor.

<p><i>Doña Anna's</i>    <b>PASTY SHACK</b></p> <p><b>DINER - BAR &amp; TAKE - AWAY</b></p> <p>Cornish Pasties &amp; Home Made Pies, Cream Teas &amp; Cakes, Full Menu, Bar &amp; Ice Cream Parlour.</p> <p>Special Paella Fiesta Nights, booking a must.</p> <p>VIA PARK V Dream Hills Tel: 649637956</p>	 <p>"No Gladys - I don't think it's a cockroach!!"</p>
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# WHAT'S UP?

The Costa is now noticeably busier with loads of smiling children, parents and others, heading for the pools or the beaches. Seeing happy people can be infectious.

Property releases on Dream Hills 2 seem to be tortuously slow, although it is good to see that there is now a pedestrian opening between both urbanisations. The Fish & Chip outlet at Via Park V has unfortunately closed down - a case of use it or lose it! A thriving, well managed and maintained Via Park V is obviously in everybody's interest. Otherwise it will look like Via Park 1V or parts of Playa Flamenca commercial centre. A new Italian restaurant has now opened up on the lower ground floor between the Pasty Shack and The Cavern.

Supermarkets continue to spring up like daisies! At the Punta Prima roundabout, both Eroski and Plus have opened new stores. The range in the new Eroski store is a bit disappointing, particularly when compared to the sister stores in Dos Mares and Orihuela. Interestingly, Carrefour have this week acquired the Plus Supermercados in Spain and intend to relaunch them as part of their own Dia discount chain, giving Dia more than 3,100 Spanish outlets. It is difficult to visualise how many of new large commercial centres under construction, such as those under construction behind Carrefour at La Mosca, Los Dolses and others, can be viable. The tourist holiday season only lasts from mid June to mid September, and the Orihuela Costa experiences a huge decrease in population outside this period. Already many bars and restaurants have been taking a hammering and are currently enjoying a brief summer respite. I think the "jam" will be spread far too thin!

In mid-July alone there were five drownings off the Costa Blanca. A six year old Spanish girl was drowned off Guardamar Del Segura and two men were drowned at the Cala Capitan beach in Orihuela Costa while trying to save a young girl. The child was carried safely back to shore by the current.

Now that the local elections are finished and things are starting to settle down, some little gems are starting to emerge. Ariel Santamaria, a former postman and currently an Elvis impersonator, has been elected as councillor in the town of Reus near Barcelona for the independent CORI party. He proposed that marihuana be planted in all green areas across the town and also that the Guardia Urbana should carry a GPS satellite system so they can find people who forgot their lighters and they can be given a light for their "spliff." He also said the Town Hall should be painted pink, and the town square be converted into a swimming pool for nudists. Ariel also believes in modern technology and has a web-page. His press secretary has been attending the press conferences dressed as a pirate with eye-patch! Senior Santamaria polled 1,800 votes.

With a general election due next year, the main parties are already jostling for votes and media coverage. The PSOE (ruling party) have announced that all new births from July 4th will attract a grant of €2,500 per baby. (Spain's birth rate is one of the lowest in Europe.) Both Spanish nationals and foreign residents who have lived legally in Spain for at least two years before the baby was born or adopted, are eligible for the grant. Working mothers are also entitled to €100 per month to pay for nursery fees. Not to be outdone, the Valencian Regional President Francisco Camps (PP - opposition party) has promised grants of 4,000 euros per child.

Brussels has fined Telefonica, the Spanish telephone company, 151.8 million euros for abusing their dominant position in ADSL services by overcharging competitors for using their infrastructure. Brussels has also warned Spain over its television advertising stating that it regularly breaches guidelines. Advertising and teleshopping should be limited to 12 minutes per hour, but some channels exceed this in just half an hour. Failure to comply will lead to proceedings at the European Court of Justice. **( Continued on Page 3)**

## Easy Money?

An archaeologist was digging in the Negev Desert in Israel and came upon a casket containing a mummy. After examining it, he called the curator of a prestigious natural-history museum. "I've just discovered a 3,000 year-old mummy of a man who died of heart failure!" the excited scientist exclaimed. To which the curator replied, "Bring him in. We'll check it out." A week later, the amazed curator called the archaeologist. "You were right about the mummy's age and cause of death. How in the world did you know?"

"Easy. There was a piece of paper in his hand that said, '10,000 Shekels on Goliath'."

IAN & JACKIE  
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What's Up? Continued from Page 2.

While staying in a hotel near Murcia, a sleeping couple were shocked to find a naked intruder inside the bed they were sharing. The intruder, who had climbed into the bedroom through an open window, had been sexually assaulting the sleeping woman who initially thought it was her husband! The intruder was "rumbled" when the husband awoke and chased him off. The assailant was later discovered to be a resident in the hotel and was arrested after he returned to his own room.

The America's Cup returns to Valencia in two years following a decision by the winning Swiss team. Valencia will also enjoy its first Formula One Racing competition on August 24th 2008.

The new race will be called the Europe Grand Prix, in addition to the Spanish Grand Prix which will be held in Catalunya in April 2008.

Both Valencia and Alicante city councils are planning new laws to combat careless rubbish disposal. Valencia will levy a fine of €150 against anyone who leaves rubbish in the streets instead of into one of the bins provided. Alicante plan a tougher response. The current fine for littering is only €30. Under the new law the police will have more power to prosecute those guilty of littering and impose an increased fine of up to €500. The new laws will demand a fine of €100 for those caught throwing cigarette ends on the ground or general littering. A €200 fine will be given to those who leave bottles in public areas, and a fine of €500 will be levied on those that are caught urinating in the street or abandoning furniture or household goods in non-designated places. Orihuela could very well adopt some of these new measures in due course as careless rubbish disposal, particularly from builders, is a constant annoyance. The land on the other side of the motorway opposite Dream Hills 2 is a particular problem area.

The Marbella corruption scandal - known as the Malaya Case - continues to astound. It now transpires that dozens of judges, High Court magistrates, notaries and civil servants accepted gifts of free stays in five star hotels, health spas etc from a real estate developer. The ex-mayors girlfriend, Isabel Pantoja - a renowned Spanish singer, stated that she had no idea that 1.1 million euros was paid into her bank account between 2003 and 2007 by the ex-mayor. Bail for one of the accused in this case has been set a billion euros!

Elsewhere in La Linea, the mayors department, the local police chief and another have been charged with misuse of public funds for allegedly keeping traffic fines for themselves. Not to be outdone, the mayor of Alhaurin el Grande has allegedly charged €6,000 for every illegal plot built on and €80 per square metre built in excess of approval, and pocketed the lot! Another mayor awarded himself an annual salary in excess of one hundred thousand euros - more than the Prime Minister is paid - and was forced to resign. Capitalism, or a variation of it, is alive and well in Spain!

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### Double Take

Letter from Mags Harris of 269

#### Observations

Has the age of chivalry gone out of the window entirely? Very few men these days walk on the outside of the pavement protecting their ladies, be it young or old. And in most cases the ladies' shoulder bag is swinging on the roadside shoulder - totally vulnerable to any muggers following in cars, plus these ladies have their backs to the traffic behind them on their side of the road, so they are not even being observant. Walk on the side facing on-coming traffic, particularly when dark. Shoulder bags should be on the inside of pavement, though try not to use them at all! Don't make it easy - be aware we are all living in a tough and cruel world - be one step ahead!

A middle aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?" God answered, "No, you have another 40 years, 2 months and 8 days to live." Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a facelift, liposuction, and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour. Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was hit by a car and died immediately. Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 40 years, why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the car?"

God replied, "I didn't recognise you!"

## The New Points Driving System

A new points driving system was introduced in Spain in July 2006

The minimum driving age in Spain is 18 for cars (for Type B vehicles over 3,500 kg.) A 'B' licence also allows you to drive a moped up to 50cc, and currently, a motorbike up to 125cc – although the central traffic authority is considering annulling the latter. The minimum age for a moped licence (without a car licence) is now 16, and for above 50cc, 18. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.05 %.

The new driving points system which came into force on 1st July 2006, works in reverse, with points being taken off for infractions. Experienced drivers (who have been qualified for more than three years) start off with 12 points, and those who have less than three years experience, 8 points. Two extra points are awarded after three years with no offences, with an additional point to reach the maximum of 15 being awarded after a further three years.

The number of points removed depends on the infraction and its severity: lesser infractions will mean the loss of two points, going up to six for the more serious. The maximum number of points which can be lost in one day is eight. (\*see below for a list of infractions and the points which can be lost).

Lost points may be re-earned by following a road safety course (total duration: 12 hours), where the driver can regain up to four points. The number of points recovered can never be higher than the amount lost. Drivers may take the course once every two years. Alternatively, you will regain your initial credit if you make no further infractions in the following two years (if the original infraction was minor.) Three years are required for serious infractions.

The loss of all your points means the automatic loss of your licence, and a ban of either six or twelve months depending on whether or not it is the first occasion. A detailed re-education course in road safety must be followed in order to regain the lost licence, which includes an exam.

**\*Speeding:** between two and six points depending on how far above the speed limit you were travelling.

Using the **mobile phone** or any other apparatus considered a distraction – three points.

Not using your seat belt or helmet for bike riders – three points.

Points can also be lost in the following circumstances –

**Two points** will be taken for:

Dangerous parking

Using radar speed trap detectors

Forgetting to turn on your headlights

Taking a child under 12 as a passenger on a motorbike

**Three points** will be taken for:

Making an illegal turn

Driving too close to the vehicle in front

**Four points** will be taken for:

Driving without the correct licence

Taking a vehicle onto a motorway that is not authorised

Reversing on a motorway

Dangerous driving or overtaking

Blocking another driver from overtaking

Jumping a red light

Disobeying police instructions

Throwing any dangerous objects from the car – this includes cigarette butts

Driving with too many people in the vehicle

**Six points** will be taken:

For extreme dangerous driving, which could be, for example, taking part in racing, driving against the traffic and so on.



Professional drivers risk losing six points if they do not respect official rest periods.

One can appeal against any points adjudication and continue driving until the appeal is heard. A driver in Galicia has lost 113 points in eight months and is continuing to drive pending appeals!

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### The Adventures of Beaugard & Hortense.

While eating breakfast one morning, Hortense noticed something peculiar about one of Beaugard's ear.

"Beau," she said, "Why on earth have you got a suppository in your left ear?"

Beau took it out and looked at it quizzically for a moment, then smiles and says "Ah! Thanks, Horty! Now I know where to find my missing hearing aid!"

## Fiestas! Fiestas!

The months of July and August herald many wonderful fiestas in Spain. In this issue we will report on just three - The Moors & Christians, The Pamplona Bull Run and La Tomatina. Thanks to Marjory for the first report.

### Fiesta de Moros y Christianos

“On Friday and Saturday, a little over a week ago, coach loads of people taking advantage of the free bus travel to Orihuela, and enjoyed the spectacle of the parades. Although this is a week long fiesta I went on the Saturday only. Over 200 of us met at the Playa Flamenca town hall and were quickly seated on the four coaches. The free transport was organised by Stefan through the town hall and many who tried to book late had to be turned away. We were told that the coaches would drop us at the bus station and pick us up there at 1 a.m. - so we knew we were in for a long night!

On arrival at Orihuela, it was only a few minutes walk to the main streets where the parade was to take place. The pavements were lined with chairs and we quickly found ourselves a good place to sit. While waiting for the 9 p.m. start, we were given a pre-view of some of the bands as they marched and played their way to the starting point. Then the parades began. The “overture” was a spectacle of music and ballet, as groups of dancers padded by. Then the Armengola (a lady who sacrificed herself to the moors) was presented. Already we were marvelling at the beautiful costumes. We were quite hot sitting watching - so how they felt under their heavy outfits and headgear I would not like to guess. Each contingent of Caballeros was led and presented by their abanderas - flag-carriers. Each group was accompanied by their own band - drawn from Orihuela and many other towns around the area. I saw banners from Jacarilla, Bigastro, Crevillente, Alicante, Rojales and Daya Nueva. In between the files of soldiers came riders on horseback, showing their skills in horsemanship. Other horses pulled covered carts packed with flowers which girls were distributing to the spectators. Rank after rank they came. Literally hundreds of participants in their splendid embroidered costumes passed through the streets until the 12.30 a.m. finish. We made our way back to the bus station for the return journey, tired but happy to have been there to see the wonderful Fiesta.” (MarjoryN)

### Pamplona Bull Runs

The nine-day Festival of San Fermin takes place in the northern city of Pamplona every July. The festival dates back to the late 16th century. Although there are many attractions at the festival, it is the brief spectacle of the daily bull runs that gets the media coverage and the attention of the testosterone-full males who want to run with the bulls. The daily event, called an *encierro* takes place early each morning when six bulls, accompanied by six to eight steers (to encourage them to herd), run through a half mile course from the town to a bullring. These bulls are not hand-picked softies but aggressive, belligerent ones with razor-sharp pointed horns and a chip on their shoulders. The runners, dressed in traditional white shirts and trousers with a red waistband and neckerchief, endeavour to run beside or in front of the bulls.

Prior to the run the police try to weed out the drunkest of the participants as there is much partaking of *Dutch courage* prior to the early morning start - about 7 or 8 a.m. Although the runs only last a mere three minutes, many are injured each year, some seriously. Since record keeping began in 1924, 13 people have been killed during the runs, the most recent in 1995. Several people were gored again this year, the most notable being two brothers from Philadelphia who were both gored by the same bull at the same time - one impaled on each horn! They did the bull-run to celebrate the younger brother overcoming cancer. (Maybe they should stick to basketball!)

A father who took his ten year old son on the run this year has lost his visiting rights and now faces a criminal investigation. A local women’s group want more equality in the event. Their argument is that if men can run with bulls, then women should be able to run with cows, claiming it is pure logic! (Careful! One of those udders could take your eye out !)

Continued on Page 6.

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## Fiestas continued      La Tomatina

Every August the 9,000 strong population of Bunyol, which is located about 30 miles inland from Valencia, quadruples for the largest "food-fight" on the planet - La Tomatina! This is a week-long fiesta with fireworks, side-shows and one enormous tomato fight.

The tradition reportedly began in 1945 when an argument got out of hand. For the first few years the authorities tried to ban the event, but they eventually gave up and *La Tomatina* was added to the fiesta calendar. The battle - *batalla* - takes place on the last Wednesday of August, this year it is on the 29th between 11 a.m. and 1p.m.

The rules for *La Tomatina* are few but are strictly observed.

Bottles are prohibited.

Throw only tomatoes.

Squash tomatoes before throwing and

Stop when you hear the loud bang.

Have fun!

The event takes place on a street which is about a quarter of a mile long. Many houses and buildings have plastic sheeting stretched over them to protect the stonework and doors, as tomato juice can be very corrosive.

Water hoses are turned on and everyone gets a welcome soaking - it is very, very hot in August. Then the crowd start to chant "Tomate, tomate, queremos tomate!" ( We want tomatoes!) The crowd also chant "Camiseta,

Camesita" (shirt/blouse) at which point a victim/willing participant is chosen and made/encouraged to remove their shirt - ladies included!

A loud bang announces the arrival of the tomatoes in six huge trucks, then several thousand kilos of tomatoes are tipped onto the street and drive away. The *batalla* begins in earnest with no quarter given or expected, the experienced wearing swimming-goggles. By now, most people are shirtless and the air is just a mass of flying toms. Combined with the water from the hoses, the street is now several inches deep in *Spaghetti sauce* and resembles a red sea. Many combatants just rest in the ooze while others fight on!

At approx. 1 p.m. another loud bang is heard and the battle is ended immediately. Tens of thousands of tomato covered warriors then wend their way to the nearby showers or the local river to wash-off. The locals then start to hose-down the streets as well as the participants bringing an end to a wonderfully good humoured, enjoyable and unique battle!

### **Is Spain still cheap?**

A recent EU report looked at food and non-alcoholic beverages prices in Europe for 2006. Prices in Spain were slightly cheaper than the European average, with prices being the highest in Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Denmark. Ireland was the next most expensive country. Spain ranked about 16th out of 37, with the UK about 10th. Food and drink prices in the UK have risen six per cent in the year up to April, more than double the rate of inflation.

Tobacco in Spain is 36% cheaper than the EU average and alcohol is 19% less expensive. Bran and cereal is 12% more expensive here while meat is 19% cheaper than the EU average.

Certain expenses associated with accommodation and housing in Spain, such as water, electricity and local council rates remain fairly cheap.

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### **The Magician and the Parrot**

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again.

There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows every week and began to understand what the magician did in every trick. Once he understood that, he started shouting in the middle of the show.

"Look, it's not the same hat!" "Look, he's hiding the flowers under the table!" "Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything, it was the captain's parrot after all.

One day the ship had an accident and sank. The magician found himself on a piece of wood, in the middle of the ocean, and of course the parrot was by his side.

They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word. This went on for several days.

After a week the parrot finally said, "Okay, I give up. What'd you do with the ship?"

## Notes from La Casita - August

Unlike many other social groups in the area, all events in La Casita are running through August as usual. The ceiling fans help to keep us cool and it is good to have continuity - especially with our "lessons."

The children's crafts sessions are also taking place weekly and after the school holidays, Janet is hoping to continue running the sessions on Saturday afternoons.(MN)

### Chairs For Sale

Green Stacking chairs, now surplus to our needs. Do you need extra chairs for your garden? Different qualities - by selling them at €35, €25 or €15 for a set of four, we hope to offset some of the cost of new chairs.

Come to La Casita on Saturday 4th August @ 10am.

Cash and carry! (MN)

### Worth checking out.

The Casino Mediterráneo is located in-between the entrance to the Habeneras, the KFC and the Wok in Torrevieja. This is a small casino with the slot-machines on the ground floor and the gaming tables up a few steps on the first floor. There is no waiting period for registration. Just bring your passport for ID, pay 3 euros for entrance to the gaming tables and you can then lose money like the rest of them.

There are some roulette, blackjack, poker and other tables.

There is also a bar and restaurant on the first floor where the floor activities can be viewed at ones leisure - much more entertaining for those not into gambling.

We went by mini-bus in a group organised by The Paddocks and had a great time. The dress code is smart casual and of course no children or minors are allowed. The Casino closes from January to March each year.

## **The Amazing Goldstein**

A travelling salesman visits a small town in the country and sees a circus banner reading, "Don't Miss the Amazing Goldstein!"

Curious, he buys a ticket and sits through the usual circus acts: animals, clowns, contortionists, etc. Suddenly, trumpets blare and all eyes turn to the centre ring.

There, in the middle of the ring, is a table with three walnuts on it.

In comes a little old Jewish man, five feet two inches tall, and barely able to walk to the table. He unzips his pants, whips out an impressive prodigious member, grabs it in his hand, and proceeds to smash all three walnuts with three mighty swings!

The crowd erupts in thunderous applause and the elderly Goldstein is carried off on the shoulders of the clowns.

Ten years later, the same salesman visits the same little town and sees the same circus being advertised with the same (now faded) banner reading, "Don't Miss the Amazing Goldstein!"

Our friend the salesman can't believe this chap is still alive, much less doing the same act!

So, he buys a ticket and sits through the various acts, waiting for the big finale.

Finally, the centre ring is illuminated.

This time, instead of walnuts, three coconuts are on the table.

As before, old Goldstein takes forever to make it to the table. He unzips his fly and proceeds to smash the coconuts with three mighty swings of his amazing appendage.

The crowd goes wild!

The salesman requests a meeting with him after the show.

In Goldstein's dressing room, the salesman tells him he's never seen anything like Goldstein's act.

But, he wants to know why Goldstein, at his age, is now smashing coconuts instead of the much smaller walnuts.

"Vell, I'll tell you," says Goldstein, wearily, "My eyes aren't vat dey used to be."

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**Dream Hills Committee**

The Vice-Presidents who form the new Committee for the following year of duty will be responsible for the following houses:

No.6 Mrs. SILVIA Mc. LEAVY is responsible for 6 to 75.

No.229 Mr. JOHN HALTON is responsible for 110 to 229.

No.93 Mr. MAHMOUD AL-KADI is responsible for 76 al 109 and for 230 to 320.

No.477 Mrs. HELENE ROBERTS AND No.479 Mrs. IRENE KOWALSKI are responsible for 321 to 518.

No.65 Mrs. DIANE CLAY is responsible for the owners 519 to 588.

No.615 Mrs. TONI O'REILLY is responsible for the new phase.

No.833 Mr. PETER HEMMING AND No.859 Mr. CHRIS Mc. NARY are responsible for 813 to 886 and the houses 1,2,3,4,5.

The President of Dream Hills, Stefan Pokroppa, is holding surgeries every Saturday at 11 a.m. at La Casita, during the months of July and August.

Ouch!

1st Snake..”What sort of snakes are we?”

2nd Snake..”How do you mean?”

1st Snake..”Well, how do we kill our prey? Do we wrap our long torsos around our prey and squeeze the life out of them .. or do we just kill them with one bite of our deadly venomous poison?”

2nd Snake.. “We’re the deadly poisonous type. Why do you ask?”

1st Snake.. “I’ve just bit my lip!!”

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