

THE DREAM SCENE

Newsletter

Issue no. 12 1st of February 2008

Bienvenido!

Welcome to the 12th issue of the Dream Scene - one whole year - longer than an Elizabeth Taylor marriage! Seriously, huge thanks to Angela, Tid and all the people who have sent articles, jokes, joke-books and supporting letters and e-mails in, who are far too numerous to mention individually but are always in mind.

Every month I prepare and print on a laser printer between 180 and 250 hard copies of the newsletter, depending on the season. The bulk of these are distributed free to the advertiser outlets, who are mainly in Via Park V, on or before the first of each month. Some are also delivered to some owners' postboxes or houses, ensuring that they never miss a copy. For this service they pay €6 for a year's copies. A growing number of owners, particularly those living abroad, choose to have the Dream Scene sent to them by e-mail in PDF. For this facility owners contribute £5 for 12 issues, the years subscription beginning in March. A PayPal payment button will soon be placed on www.dreamhills.co.uk to facilitate the overseas payments.

Aside from set-up costs - hardware and software - the Dream Scene costs between €90 and €190 per month to produce. The main outlay is the laser toner cartridges which cost €89 each (when you can find them) or €42 for a refill if the cartridge is not too old (certain cartridges can only be reused a small number of times). Each print run consumes almost two cartridges and about €12/13 worth of paper. To date not one issue has covered its costs, but one issue last autumn almost broke even as I had two refill cartridges!

So, as you see, not only are the paying advertisers critical to the production of the newsletter but the owners who pay for their copy also contribute greatly towards its success, even at 50 cents an issue. I will undertake to continue producing the Dream Scene for another 12 months with your continued support.

I would like, in time, to print more photos and higher resolution graphics. However, this is not possible at the moment as these processes use too much ink/toner.

Thanks again to our kind advertisers, and to Pat Farnaby for his support.

You can have a copy of the Dream Scene delivered to your Spanish home or postbox each month for just €6 per annum - 12 issues, or have it sent to you by e-mail for just £5 for 12 issues.

Contact Mick on 966 798 847 or at mick.dreamscene@googlemail.com

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'HE GOT A VALENTINE'S CARD AND
I HADN'T SENT HIM ONE!'

WHAT'S UP?

The number of deaths on the roads in Spain last year has fallen to below 3,000 for the first time in 4 decades. There were also fewer injuries and fewer accidents. The Press believe the reason for this is due to the points driving licence, plus you could now find yourself imprisoned for dangerous or drunken driving. In early January, breathalyser controls were catching 235 drunk drivers in Spain every day. One newspaper, Público, states that the changes in the law saved 274 lives last year.

There was a small earthquake off the coast of Santa Pola last Sunday which registered 2.3 on the Richter scale. In early January there was a tremor registering 2.2 in the Murcia region. The last serious earthquake was in this region near Lorca in 2005, when a quake of 4.7, followed by several hundred aftershocks destroyed 30 houses and damaged more than 900.

The number of foreigners now living **legally** in Spain is almost four million. During 2007 a million immigrants obtained residence in Spain with most of them, 64%, heading to Cataluña, Madrid, Valencia and Andalucía. The largest nationality remains the Moroccans, up nearly 10% on the previous year, and the number of Romanians crossing the 600,000 level for the first time. Madrid and Barcelona have between them 32.4% of the immigrants, that's about a million, and most of them are from outside the European Union. The number of immigrants from elsewhere in Europe, and the 27 countries of the EU increased over the year by nearly 700,000 to reach 1.6 million. Those from outside the EU are up 265,000 at 2.3 million.

The current top five by nationality are –

1. Moroccans 648,735
2. Romanians 603,889
3. Ecuadorians 395,808
4. Colombians 254,301
5. British 198,638

1,981,106 foreigners paid into the Spanish Social Security system in 2007, some 10.3% of the total. No one has any idea as to what the numbers of illegal and non registered immigrants are.

A plumber got a big surprise while doing some work in a bathroom at the Hotel Cano in Torrevieja in mid-January. He spotted a suspicious package in the false ceiling which turned out to be a bomb. The bomb had lain there undetected for almost 17 years. The device is thought to have been planted by ETA, the Basque terrorist organisation. ETA was known to have planted a number of devices in this area in May 1991, just 48 hours before the general elections. The popularity of this area with tourists has made it a target for ETA. In 1991 a bomb caused a fire in Torrevieja; another explosive device killed a guardia civil officer in Santa Pola. In July 2001, a terrorist blew herself up while planting a bomb in Torrelamata and in August 2002, a bomb destroyed the toilets in the 'Queen Burger' in Torrevieja.

Last rites for a wrong 'un

In a tiny Irish village, the local rogue is lying on his deathbed. The priest is preparing the last rites and asks him: "So, tell me, my son; will you now renounce the devil? Come on now, my son, do you renounce Satan and all his works?" The rogue opens one eye and says, "Father, to be honest with you, I don't think this is quite the time to be making enemies."

Kevin & Kaz Welcome you to

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What's Up continued.

There was a particularly vicious robbery in San Miguel de Salinas last week. A gang of eight armed villains, thought to be eastern Europeans, broke into the home of an estate agent, held their children hostage and forced the parents to hand over all their valuables and cash. One of the kids pleaded unsuccessfully with the robbers not to take his playstation. What was also shocking however, was that when the victims tried to telephone the local police station twice at 03.00 in the morning, the station was not manned due to shortage of staff, and there has been no local police coverage for three weeks between the hours of 22.00 to 06.00.

116-year old María Díaz Cortés, who has been living in a shanty town for the past 40 years, has refused the offer of free accommodation from the Sevilla city hall. The property offered comprised of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, is valued at €600,000 and rent free for a six month contract which could be extended. A spokesperson for the family - who are of gypsy origin - stated that 'what's the point of taking the accommodation if we are thrown out in six months,' which translated means 'why can't we have free housing as well even if granny dies.'

The UK Trading Standards are now investigating certain dealings of Atlas International following complaints. These relate to the selling of Technologia Urbanistica properties. The more I read about these particular cases, the more I am stunned by peoples gullibility. Indeed compared to the attendance at public meetings, the actual number of buyers who have reported their case to the UK watchdog is minimal.

Torrevieja F.C. are still struggling to 'hold their heads above water' after funding from Technologia ceased. Several key players have left the club, as they had not been paid. Torry town hall have provided generous temporary funding to the club and one can now become a member of the club for a one-off payment of €100. What they really need is a very generous benefactor - difficult in the current economic climate.

If you are not resident in Spain and have not visited for a few months, you will be surprised at the increase in consumer prices in just a few months. Bread, eggs, butter, meat, milk and all of the staples, have increased in price - some substantially. Wines are up slightly and *ciggies* are up by between 10 and 30 cents a packet. Fortunately, increases in the utilities such as electricity and water have all been kept within inflation. However, it will be interesting to see how the town halls on the Spanish coast cope with their expenditure, now that a large proportion of their usual income from new builds is reduced greatly. Generally the town halls are reported to be deep in debt and probably see the building of more and more new houses as the most practical method of clearing this debt. The mayor of Santa Pola said in an interview that the Spanish must keep building new houses as they brought wealth and jobs to the area. What planet is he on?

The Adventures of Beauregard & Hortense

The couple left Dream Hills last week to attend the funeral of Beau's bookie in Pilar de Horadada. Just before the ceremony was about to start in the church, Horty turned to Beau and said, 'Oh! Beau! I've just let off a long silent fart. What should I do?' Beau turned to Horty and replied, 'If I was you Horty, I would change the battery in your hearing aid!'

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Antidotes for St. Valentine's Day!

The Perfect Man!

A survey of 40,000 women from dating agencies have come up with these criteria for the perfect man:-

1. Good looking.
2. 5ft 11ins tall.
3. Weighs 12 stone 8 lbs.
4. Short brown hair.
5. Blue eyes.
6. Drives a silver mercedes.
7. Earns £60,000 a year.
8. He hates football.
9. He enjoys a night at the theatre.
10. Spends less than 3 hours a week in the pub.
11. Drinks fine wine.
12. Has slept with fewer than six women.

I can match one out of twelve.
How many can you match?

(Sent in by John Sinclair)

Small Talk

A husband and wife were having a chat in bed. The husband says, "Do you enjoy sex with me - because it doesn't sound like it?" "What do you mean?" asks his wife. "Well," the husband replies, "my mates say their wives moan and groan a bit when they are making love; you don't." "Okay," she replies, "if that's what you want, I'll do it."

So the husband gets down to business and his wife says, "Oh, you wouldn't believe the price of bread now. The cat's made a mess on the carpet again and why don't you mow the lawn? And the bin-men - don't start me!"

Why dogs are better than women

1. The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.
 2. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.
 3. Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.
 4. A dog's parents never visit.
 5. Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
 6. You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24 hours a day.
 7. Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk.
 8. Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.
 9. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, 'If I died, would you get another dog?'
 10. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.
 11. A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.
 12. If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.
 13. Dogs like to ride in the back of a pickup truck.
- And last, but not least:
14. If a dog leaves, it won't take your stuff. (anon)

Honest?

A woman stands in front of the bedroom mirror and as her husband walks in she says, "You know, my face now is so baggy I need a face lift. My tummy hangs so much I need a tummy tuck as well. And look at my hair, it is now so gray I will need a colour rinse twice a month! On top of all that I also need to loose at least five stone! I am so depressed! Darling, please say something to cheer me up!" Her husband ponders for a while and says, "Well Darling, at least your eye-sight is perfect!"
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Dave & Sue P.

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Rita Rudner Quotes

Some people think having large breasts makes a woman stupid. Actually, it's quite the opposite: a woman having large breasts makes men stupid. Men reach their sexual peak at eighteen. Women reach theirs at thirty-five. Do you get the feeling that God is playing a practical joke?

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Spanish Election Promises

The Spanish parliament has now been suspended and the general election will take place on March 9th. The two main political parties the PSOE (socialist) and the PP (conservative) have taken to the 'campaign trail' promising us all their own version of 'utopia'. If you thought that promises from politicians in your own countries were usually generalised weak utterances, which promised with one hand and took away with the other, then exposure to the Spanish process shows that these guys are the 'kings' at this business.

Zapatero, leader of the outgoing PSOE has promised more than Moses ever did. If re-elected this year he has promised to pay, in June, 400 € to every worker and pensioner who pay tax, as a *regalito* - a little present. However self employed workers - *autonomos* - are not included in this largess. One newspaper, El País, states that the Socialist party has made it clear that its 400 € tax rebate is intended for every year, and not just this year. The PSOE have also promised to eliminate the *patrimonio* tax, to increase the minimum wage to 800 € per month, the retirement pension to 850 € p.m. and the widow's pension to 700 € per month. A 'morning-after pill (no Beauregard, not for hangovers) will be free to all and they have also promised a period of reflection in relation to abortion law changes.

In a response to the increasing incidence of domestic violence incidents involving foreigners living in Spain, the Socialists say that any foreigners found guilty would now be expelled from Spain for a ten year period. The PSOE President of Andalucía has promised free one meg broadband to all in the region if re-elected.

Not to be outdone, Rajoy, the leader of the opposition PP, has come up with his own list. He promises average cuts in income tax of 16% and has said that anyone earning less than 16,000 euros will not have to pay any tax. He also promises full employment by 2011, creating 2.2 million jobs and increasing female employment to 68%. Women will be taxed less than men and there will be 400,000 new nursery places. Company tax will also be cut by 5%. Rajoy has also promised that all Spanish schools will be bilingual in English in ten years time.

With growth being revised downwards almost weekly, unemployment rising, the building and property market in 'the doldrums' and an economy which is about to enter its most difficult period in decades, one has to ask - how are they going to pay for all this?

More Politics - US Style

During her campaign Hillary Clinton visits an Indian reservation and delivers a rousing speech. First she promises less taxes and the audience reply by shouting 'Hoya! Hoya!' Encouraged by the response she then promises the Indians better public facilities. 'Hoya! Hoya!' shouts the audience. Hillary is delighted and then promises to increase the reservation lands by fifty per cent and to build a new casino. Again 'Hoya! Hoya!' yell the crowd with even greater gusto. Walking back to her limo and feeling very pleased with herself, she tells the chief 'I guess they were eating out of my hand.' 'You think so?' answers the chief. 'Hey, watch your shoes,' he says, 'you almost stepped in a big pile of hoyas.'

Special Forces

The SAS, the Parachute Regiment and the Metropolitan Police decide to go on a survival weekend together to see who comes out on top. After some basic exercises the trainer tells them that their next objective is to go down into the woods and catch a rabbit, returning with it ready to skin and cook. Night falls.

First up - the SAS. They put down their word-processors, don infrared goggles, drop to the ground and crawl into the woods in formation. Absolute silence for 5 minutes, followed by the unmistakable muffled "phut-phut" of their trademark silenced "double-tap". They emerge with a large rabbit shot twice cleanly between the eyes.

"Excellent!" remarks the trainer.

Next up - the Para 's. They finish their cans of lager, smear themselves with camouflage cream, fix bayonets and charge down into the woods, screaming at the top of their lungs. For the next hour the woods ring with the sound of rifle and machine-gun fire, hand grenades, mortar bombs and blood curdling war cries. Eventually they emerge, laughing, carrying the charred remains of a rabbit.

"A bit messy, but you achieved the aim; well done", says the trainer.

Lastly, in go the Coppers, walking slowly, hands behind backs whistling Dixon of Dock Green. For the next few hours, the silence is only broken by the occasional crackle of a walkie-talkie "Sierra Lima Whisky Tango Fanta One, suspect headed straight for you..." etc. After what seems an eternity, they emerge escorting a squirrel in handcuffs.

"What the hell do you think you are doing?" asks the incredulous trainer, "Take this squirrel back and get me a rabbit like I asked you five hours ago!".

So back they go. Minutes pass. Minutes turn to hours, night drags on and turns to day. The next morning, the trainer and the other teams are awakened by the police, holding the handcuffed squirrel, now covered in bruises with one eye nearly shut.

"Are you taking the p*ss!?!?" asks the now seriously irate trainer.

The police team leader nudges the squirrel, who squeaks:

"Alright, alright, I'm a blinking rabbit!"

‘Illegal Builds’, Demolitions & Coastal Properties.

In mid-January this year a retired British couple, sixty-three year old Len Prior and his wife Helen, 64, were horrified when their 490,000 euro home was demolished on the instructions of the socialist-run Junta de Andalucía. The demolition was carried out despite the Priors having obtained a building licence in 2002 and a full set of deeds from the local Vera town hall. Ironically, their garage was not demolished as it was the subject of a separate licence.

The application for the licence was made before the introduction of the LOUA (the Andalucian planning law), which came into force on January 20, 2003. Prior to 2003 it was possible to build on non-urban land - also termed ‘rustic land’ - as long as certain requirements were met, one of which was that there should be no risk of an urban nucleus arising. Also since the introduction of the LOUA more regional restrictions were imposed on rustic land including the proviso that any buildings on this type of land only be allowed, provided they are set aside for agricultural use.

The speed with which the demolition followed the licence annulment surprised everybody. The lawyer for the Priors has accused the Junta of playing politics with the Priors’ lives. “This is an open war between the Junta and all the councils which do not belong to the socialist party (PSOE)”, he said. The mayor of Vera, a member of the staunchly regionalist Partido Andalucista party, has claimed repeatedly that he is a victim of political persecution from the socialist-run Junta and that it is the citizens who suffer. One neighbour commented “If the Junta is determined to pull down illegal buildings then the whole of Andalucía is going to end up as flat as a pancake!”

The mayor has promised the couple that the town hall will reimburse the Priors with ‘every cent’ in damages, but stopped short of discussing an out-of-court settlement. Of course, after taking advice, they may also wish not to set a precedent in this matter which could leave the Priors without any compensation. In another case a house belonging to Antonio Banderas in Marbella which had a building licence granted in 1995, was overturned by the Junta. Although the demolition order in this instance relates to a wing of the house, it will be interesting to see if the ‘great and the good’ are subject to the same laws as the rest of us poor mortals.

Central government in Madrid also seems to be playing ‘hard-ball’ on the illegal build issue. Last November, they pledged to flatten all illegally built properties, around 30,000, along 480 miles of Mediterranean coastline. At least 4,500 of these are awaiting court decisions on demolition. A total of 14 Mediterranean countries have signed a protocol in Madrid this month to stop all building less than 100 metres from the coast.

The 1988 Ley de Costas (Coast Law) was brought in to guarantee public use of the sea shore and to save it from property speculators. Generally there is supposed to be a protected zone which varies from 20 to 100 metres from the high-tide mark. Around 120 coastal properties are scheduled for bulldozing in Guardamar del Segura. The inconsistencies in local interpretation of coastal zoning laws has caught both Spanish and foreign residents into a crossfire of political differences between the local, regional and central governments. However, central government’s stance is toughening with the public prosecutor for planning and the environment, Antonio Vercher, renewing calls last week for the demolition orders to be carried out without delay. “But,” as Richard Torné the editor of the Costa Almería News points out, “critics say the government’s plans are unworkable simply because the authorities have been turning a blind eye to planning irregularities for years. This has led to the construction of hundreds of thousands of properties in every province - the demolition of which could prove disastrous for a property market already on the brink of recession.”

On Hols.

A little boy goes up to his grandad and says, ‘Grandad, can you make a sound like a frog?’ ‘Well I suppose I could if I tried,’ replies Grandad. ‘Great!’ Replies the boy, ‘because Grandma said that we can all go to DisneyWorld when you croak.’

Mighty M....

Man walks into a bar, has a seat and asks for two double shots. He knocks one back and tosses the second into his shirt pocket. This goes on for about a dozen rounds before the bartender says, "Excuse me, but I'm curious as to why you knock back one drink and toss the other into your shirt pocket?" The man says, "That's none of your damn business." A mouse then pops out of the shirt pocket and yells. "Yeah, and that goes for your damn cat too!"

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NOTES FROM LA CASITA

After a short break from our regular activities over the Christmas and New Year period, it is 'business as usual' in La Casita. All social activities and the Spanish lessons continue on their regular days and times. Please check the notice boards for full details and contact numbers.

The Petanca Club continues to meet on Monday afternoons. Our winter playing time is from 3.00 to 5.00p.m. To join in, please arrive about ten to three to draw for teams.

For any of you who have a craft or hobby that you would like and think that it could make a pleasant social evening, why not use La Casita to meet and create a club?

Phone Richard on 966798849 or Peter on 966798282 M.N.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jan would like the street-reps to respond to her letter a.s.a.p. please. January was not a good month for security in DH. There were three burglaries, three attempted burglaries, a mugging and a car stolen. If you would like to be a street rep please contact Jan on 966 798 891

That 'Darn Genie' is back again

A man walks into a bar with a paper bag. He sits down and places the bag on the counter.

The bartender asks what's in the bag. The man reaches into it and pulls out a little man, about one foot high, and sets him on the counter. He reaches back into the bag and pulls out a small piano, setting it on the counter as well. Then he pulls from the bag a tiny piano seat, which he places in front of the piano. The little man sits down at the piano and starts playing a beautiful piece by Mozart, Piano Concerto No.5.

"Where on earth did you get that?" says the bartender.

The man responds by reaching into the paper bag. This time he pulls out a lamp. He hands it to the bartender and says..."Here. Rub it." So the bartender rubs the lamp, and suddenly there's a gust of smoke and a beautiful genie is standing before him.

"I will grant you one wish. Just one wish - each person is allowed only one!"

The bartender gets really excited. Without hesitating he says, "I want a million bucks!"

A few moments later, a duck walks into the bar. It is soon followed by another duck, then another. Pretty soon, the entire bar is filled with ducks and they keep coming!

The bartender turns to the man and says, "Y'know, I think your genie's a little deaf, I asked for a million bucks, not a million ducks."

"Tell me about it!!" says the man... "Do you really think I asked for a 12 inch pianist?"



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Ayuntamiento	966761250
Guardia Civil	965710113
Health Clinic – Cabo Roig	965322966
Help Association - emergency	965704282
Help Association - enquiries	965704282
Hospital – San Jaime (Private)	966921313
Hospital – Torrevieja	965721200
Hospital – Veja Baja	966776166
Iberdrola (Electricity)	965710248
Policia Local	966760000
President DH 1 - Stefan	966798482
RENFE Railways Alicante	965262731
SUMA – Tax Office	966761169
Tanatorio	966762249
Taxi	966761088
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‘Groan’ Puns

Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot everywhere and developed calluses over his feet. He also ate very little which made him rather frail, while his odd diet gave him bad breath - he was indeed a super-calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis.

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocaine during his root canal treatment? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified Adverts are free to all Dream Hills residents for normal buying and selling transactions. Contact Mick by phone or e-mail.

For Sale

Boeing 777, one careful owner, slightly modified suspension and bodywork. All reasonable offers considered. Buyer must collect.
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Bridge

On Tuesday afternoons, between 3 and 5 pm, there is Bridge for Beginners at La Casita. For more information please contact Lawrence on 966 722 552

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The procedure for applying for the *padron* has now changed significantly. Applicants must now hold a valid *residencia* certificate before applying for the *padron*.

So far this new procedure is only applicable to the Orihuela Costa and Torrevieja areas.

This is not a new rule apparently but the correct implementation of the old one! Consequently, when applying for *residencia* now, the *padron* is not a requirement.

This change in procedure has been brought about by the discovery that there was a substantial discrepancy between the numbers of non-Spanish nationals registered on municipal *padrons* and the number of residents' certificates issued.

Being a sceptic, I doubt that this is the only reason. Any ideas?

Of particular concern was the statement from the town hall in Orihuela that the *residencia* card, even if in date, has to be changed to the certificate type when applying for an updated *padron*.

This, I will check out.

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