

Southern Splendour

The finest villas and estates on the Costa del Sol

When it comes to offering the very best in Spanish property, the Costa del Sol has little serious competition. Home to Europe's largest sports

resort, many of her finest golf courses and Spain's most desirable stretch of waterfront in Puerto Banus, the Sunshine Coast has truly cornered the market for up-market leisure. Estate property in

the Malaga countryside is consequently both extremely expensive and often astonishingly luxurious (we use the word advisedly) - here's some of the finest examples.



LA ZAGAleta

A 900-hectare estate with private 18-hole golf course and helicopter pad, La Zagaleta is a true golfer's dream. This is one of its finest residences and combines splendid architecture with the highest quality materials and finishes - apparent from the moment one steps into the grand entrance hall with its four marble columns and octagonal mosaic floor. A master bedroom suite occupies the entire upstairs east wing and comes with huge dressing room and en suite bathroom. Downstairs there are three further bedrooms, study, two lounges and an American-style kitchen with dining area. The lowest level features a gym, sauna, home cinema, games rooms plus self-contained guest quarters. Parquet and aged marble floors are used throughout, there's underfloor heating and air-conditioning plus, in the grounds, a large heated swimming pool.

PRICE: £5,200,000 (€7,607,485)
CONTACT: DIANA MORALES PROPERTIES: +34 952 765 138

AVENIDA ALMENARA

This exquisite frontline residence sits in an elevated south-facing position with views of Almenara golf course, the coast and surrounding countryside. Beautifully designed in an Andalusian Cortijo style, this commanding six bedroom home incorporates a traditional entrance courtyard, extensive covered terraces and cavernous living areas with vaulted beamed ceilings. The extensive gardens include a Balinese guest house - with its own lounge, bedroom with en suite bathroom and kitchenette - plus a large heated infinity pool with underwater lighting.

PRICE: £4,780,900 (€7,000,000)
CONTACT: AMIRI SOTOGRANDE: +34 956 795 674



MONTE MAYOR

Spread over two valleys in the foothills of the Sierra Bermeja, the 900-acre Monte Mayor Golf and Country Club is the flagship resort development from La Perla Living. The golf course is the estate's centrepiece - but while many are drawn to playing on this challenging course it's only a fortunate few who can purchase a home here. There's a range of traditional villas and fincas available with sea, golf or nature views and plot sizes from a half to two acres. Buyers can choose between a custom built home or an already existing one, the best option for the latter is at La Heredia de Monte Mayor, a traditional village of 135 houses, crafted in the Andalusian style with antique features, balconies and swimming pools.

PRICE: Villas approx. £835,000 (€1,200,000)
CONTACT: NEWFOUND PROPERTY: +44 (0)20 8605 9524



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Carmona 10 - Magnificent, elevated property. 6 beds. 7 baths. Close to Valderrama golf course.

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RAMIRO EL MONJE

This south facing home is situated in a nearly unparalleled location adjoining Sotogrande golf course with sweeping views across lakes, greens and fairways. In fact, it's one of only two properties that are less than five minutes' drive from the beach and polo grounds and just 10 minutes from Sotogrande International School. The single-storey villa has been completely redesigned and rebuilt to the highest specifications – there's a huge central reception with cathedral-arched ceiling, a total of five bedrooms and six bathrooms and a unique internal garden with water feature. The spacious grounds also feature a heated pool, multiple terraces and patios.

PRICE: £4,440,450 (€6,500,000)
CONTACT: AMIRI SOTOGRANDE: +34 956 795 674



PUERTO BANÚS

With the kind of features one expects from an exclusive hotel rather than a residence, this Andalusian estate is in one of Marbella's top locations, just moments from Puerto Banus and first-class golfing. The 1,700 square metres that make up the main residence have some antique original features and include multiple reception salons, two dining rooms, billiard room and library. There's also a total of nine bedrooms, each with en suite bathroom and an apartment for staff. The estate also has tropical gardens with an overflow pool and views over private parkland, the coast and sea.

PRICE: £10,938,730 (€16,000,000)
CONTACT: MARBELLA EXCLUSIVE: +44 (0)207 730 7096

ESTEPONA

The Mediterranean almost seems like the natural extension to this residence's impressive grounds. Resembling a private park, these vast gardens span more than seven square kilometres and include pool, sauna, tennis court and private entrance to the beach. The Andalusian-styled main residence is equally as special with formal drawing and dining rooms, interior garden and professional-standard kitchen all perfect for the grandest entertaining. There's a lavish master suite with private bathroom, dressing room and terrace plus three self-contained apartments (each comprising bedroom, bathroom, living room and terrace) and a further two guest bedrooms.

PRICE: £5,448,000 (€7,971,040)
CONTACT: VIVA ESTATES +34 952 836 200



MARBELLA

There are clear views all around this exquisite property, from the coastlines of Africa and Gibraltar, right round to the snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada, giving the appearance of a completely isolated estate. A modern villa with lots of natural light and high ceilings, it has two living rooms, six bedrooms and seven bathrooms plus staff apartment. Extra features include underfloor heating, a spectacular infinity pool, barbecue area and garaging for six cars.

PRICE: £3,961,840 (€5,800,000)
CONTACT: MARBELLA EXCLUSIVE: +44 (0)207 730 7096



ISTAN, MARBELLA

Facing southwest on a gentle hillside, this 2003-built home blends modern and Andalusian styles, managing to feel chic and spacious yet comfortable. The main residence is custom-built for entertaining with its expansive terraces, formal dining room, elegant drawing room and 'movie room' equipped with state-of-the-art systems. There's plenty of room for these guests to stay too, with six bedrooms (including a lavishly-appointed master suite) in the main building and a self-contained guesthouse by the swimming pool. High specification features include Tunisian limestone, parquet flooring and underfloor heating throughout.

PRICE: £5,900,000 (€8,628,435)
CONTACT: DIANA MORALES PROPERTIES: +34 952 765 138



WHERE TO STAY

For those paying a visit to the Costa del Sol, the Hotel Torrequebrada is the ideal resting place. Situated between Marbella and Malaga and only 12 km from Pablo Ruiz Picasso Airport, it sits frontline on Benalmadena Costa and offers a full range of entertaining and sporting facilities.



Accommodation varies from standard and superior rooms to three styles of lavish executive suites – all of them have private terraces with sea views, interactive TV and all the high-end services you'd expect from a top-end hotel.

There's plenty to keep visitors entertained day and night. Onsite sporting facilities include three swimming pools, sauna and fitness centre while there's fine dining and dining to be had in the Saphir cocktail bar and the hotel's four unique restaurants. More grandiose entertainment comes courtesy of the casino - one of the biggest in Spain - and the Fortuna Theatre, nightly venue for cabaret and concerts.



The central location means major cities like Mijas, Cordoba and Grenada make easy daytrip destination and there are more than 30 golf courses in the surrounding area. A range of seasonal package deals for both couples and families make it the ideal base for a short break on the Costa del Sol.

PRICE: FROM £95 (€138) PER NIGHT
CONTACT: +34 962 44 60 00 / www.torrequebrada.com

EL MADRONAL, BENAHAIVIS

This magnificent estate is perched on a hilltop and offers ultimate privacy. The plot of land has enough room for a further five villas - at the moment it contains mature tropical gardens, tennis courts, swimming pool, the stunning main residence and three self-contained guest apartments. The interiors are most impressive too – there are two bedroom suites, formal reception and a dining room with adjoining conservatory while additional quarters provide five more bedrooms for guests. More special features include an integrated home cinema, a range of patios and terraces both indoors and out plus a home office and even a private well.

PRICE: £10,600,000 (€15,500,000)
CONTACT: DIANA MORALES PROPERTIES: +34 952 765 138



SOTOGRANDE ALTO

This splendid villa is in a peaceful location with spectacular southerly views towards San Roque golf course and the Mediterranean. Both floors abound with stylish living space – the entrance level has three double-bedroom suites, kitchen with dining area, service quarters and a main reception with direct access to the huge covered terrace. Upstairs provides the master suite, an opulent den with lovely high ceilings, fireplace and its very own dressing room, bathroom and private terrace. The outdoors features include spacious irrigated grounds, a heated pool and central patio with fountain.

PRICE: £1,502,839 (€2,200,000)
CONTACT: HOLME SOTOGRANDE: +34 956 795 340

