



**Spanish Tourist Office
Newsletter; Summer 2010**

Spanair launches new routes to Barcelona and Madrid

Just in time for the 'A Taste of Spain' festival in Edinburgh, taking place on 24th and 25th July, Spanair has recently inaugurated a new route from Edinburgh to Barcelona, offering five weekly flights. In addition, from 2nd June 2010, three weekly connections have also been added from Edinburgh to Madrid, offering the Scots the perfect excuse for a Spanish city break. To celebrate the launch, huge sandcastles made up of emblematic buildings from both cities were constructed in Edinburgh city centre holding 100 free airline tickets for lucky passers by to try and dig out.

www.spanair.com/web/en-gb/

Edinburgh airport currently flies to thirteen Spanish destinations; Alicante, Barcelona, Girona, Gran Canaria, Ibiza, Lanzarote, Madrid, Murcia, Majorca, Málaga, Menorca, Reus and Tenerife served by Easyjet, Ryanair,

A Taste of Spain, Edinburgh (24th/25th July)

After the roaring success of the 'Regent Street A Taste of Spain' festival in London which welcomed over 500,000 visitors, Edinburgh is soon to take their turn. The free festival will take place at The Mound in the heart of Edinburgh and will be supported by the Spanish Tourist Office, Jet2.com and Jet2 Holidays. There will be various Spanish regions taking part, all illustrating the flair and diversity of Spanish culture with giant paellas, flamenco dancers and even Spanish bagpipes, with musicians bravely putting their bagpipe skills to the ultimate test before a Scottish audience.



www.ATasteOfSpain.co.uk

Picturesque new train routes open in the region of Cantabria

The Spanish RailRoad company FEVE has recently reopened its famous tourist train excursions in Cantabria with the addition of two new routes. Guests can now take a historic train journey to El Soplao or opt for the new route to the Pas and Miera valleys. Both trains are an additional service to the existing Las Marismas journey which travels from Bilbao to the Santoña wetlands. The highlight of the Transcantábrico service for 2010 is an extension of one day allowing guests the chance to visit the famous Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liebana.

<http://www.expreso.info/en>

Euros in the development of an organic wine tourism complex. The facility will include vineyards, wineries, a convention centre and hotel. The opening is scheduled for the latter part of 2010. The Convention Centre will hold up to 800 delegates, while the hotel, with an organic seal of approval, will have 25 rooms. The manager of the company, Antonio Gimeno hopes that this project, the first of its kind in Granada will help place the province on the map for national and international wine tourism. The President of Granada Tourism Board, Antonio Martínez Caler, is backing the project and commends the winery for leading the way in originality and innovation.

www.senoriodenevada.es

MTV Europe Music Awards 2010 to take place in Madrid on the 7th of November 2010

Madrid has been chosen as the host city for the prestigious MTV Europe Music Awards 2010 set to take place on 7th November.

The awards, also known as the EMA'S brings together some of the biggest names in the music industry, which in the past have included Beyoncé, Coldplay, Foo Fighters, J-Lo, Jay-Z, Justin Timberlake, Madonna, Prince, REM and U2.

This is the second time since the inception of the event in 1994 that Spain has been chosen to host the awards with Barcelona leading the way in 2002. The ceremony which will be transmitted to a live audience via MTV is one of the most high profile music award events of the year and has continued to reach out to a range of new audiences via live webchats with the artists and a dedicated WAP, downloadable to mobile internet users.

Circuito de Jerez launches exhilarating 4 x 4 courses

4 x4 enthusiasts can now take to the ditches, mud banks, rivers and ponds of the Cadiz region with the new 4 x 4 courses offered by the Circuito de Jerez. This famous track, better known for Grand Prix, Moto GP and Formula 1 has launched the course for experienced drivers to take on some of the real life challenges of off-road driving. The course teaches a range of techniques for drivers to overcome some tricky driving situations including driving in deep mud, down slopes, round lateral bends and on rocky ground. Drivers will also be taught key safety techniques, essential for situations of high risk and loss of control.

In addition to the 4 x 4 courses, the Circuito de Jerez boasts 100 square metres of track and also offers karting courses, ideal for incentive and group travel.

www.circuitodejerez.com

The Ruta del Cister celebrates 20 years as a tourism brand

The Ruta del Cister consists of 65 municipalities in the counties of Urgell, the Concade Barbera and the Alt Camp, all of which share easy access to the prestigious Cistercian monastery as well as

religious monuments Vallbona de les Monges, Poblet and Santes Creus. As well as religious tourism, the area offers exceptional regional cuisine, festivals, charming villages and ample opportunities for hiking in a perfectly rural setting.

To celebrate 20 years as a recognised tourism brand, for summer 2010, the Ruta del Cister will offer a range of summer concerts at the Monastery of Vallbona de les Monges and in the convent Saint Bartholomew of Bellpuig throughout July and August. In addition, walkers and mountain bikers can gain recognition for their efforts with the launch of the 6T card. Walkers and bikers can negotiate the challenging route GR-175, which links the monasteries of Vallbona de les Monges Poblet and Santes Creus. Hikers and bikers will receive a stamp each time they pass through one of the six 'control' areas which links 26 establishments, five tourist offices and five monasteries. For those that reach the 105km point, they will gain a certificate for their efforts.



Hotel News

The 5-star Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real, wins "Award of Excellence" 2009" by Thomas Cook

The 5-star deluxe Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real, located on the island of Fuerteventura has won the prestigious "Award of Excellence" 2009 voted by Thomas Cook customers. The hotel which is nestled in a true natural paradise alongside the spectacular sand dunes of Corralejo, received the award for its service, quality of accommodation and its restaurant offering, including The Dome, owned and managed by Carles Gaig, a prestigious Catalan chef and owner of the prestigious Michelin Star "Gaig Restaurant" in Barcelona.

www.atlantishotels.com

Holiday World opens it forth hotel in Malaga

All inclusive hotel group Holiday World, located in the town of Benalmadena in Málaga, has recently opened their fourth property, the Hydros Boutique Spa & Wellness. The hotel offers 28 rooms including 24 suites and 4 deluxe suites which come complete with private access and terrace Jacuzzis. The hotel decor and furnishings are focused on the senses with each of the four floors integrating the natural elements: water, earth, fire and air. For a little more luxury, the top floor offers a more exclusive area, aptly called "Heaven's Hydros'. As the name suggests, the Hydros Boutique

Spa & Wellness Hotel is focused on wellbeing and offers and ample 500 square metres of Spa facilities.

<http://www.holidayworld.es>



New 5 star hotel Cap Rocat opens in Mallorca

A new five star hotel Cap Rocat, has recently opened its doors on 18th June in the south of the Bay of Palma, Mallorca. The former military fortress has been carefully and respectfully restored to offer a unique high class hotel comprising 24 rooms.

Created by Antonio Obrador and managed by MHM, Cap Rocat hopes to set a benchmark in eco-tourism.

<http://caprocat.com/new/>

Getting There....

For those left inspired to visit Spain this summer, The Spanish Tourist Office together with the UK flight operators continue to upgrade their tourism services for UK visitors with three additional flights departing from Belfast to Alicante (Aer Lingus), Edinburgh to Barcelona and Madrid (Spanair) and Stansted Airport to Ciudad Real (Ryanair).

Belfast to Alicante

This spring saw Aer Lingus open a new route between Belfast and Alicante offering a new alternative for the 3,500 Irish visitors who visit Spain every month. The Irish airline will connect with a frequency of three flights per week with prices starting from €69.99 return including taxes.

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For more information or for high images please visit www.spain.info or contact Kate McWilliams or Jules Ugo on 0207 953 7470 (kate@lotus-uk.co.uk/ jules@lotus-uk.co.uk)