



# Finca Johanna

I've keenly been watching the news on the UK's lockdown, as I'm desperate to head to my favourite sunny climate to shed those winter clothes and stay in what I consider to be the most wonderful and friendly Nudist guest house in that easy to reach destination, Malaga. Served by numerous budget airlines from all over the UK, Malaga has one of the most consistent micro climates with more or less guaranteed sun for most of the year and yes I have been on the naked beaches there in December, January and February when temperatures can be 18-22c (during the day!!). At that time of the year it's mainly locals and expats on the nudie beach. In the Summer, the great thing about Malaga is that the heat is dry, not at all humid, unlike Barcelona, Ibiza and the east coast.

Late April/early May is when Finca Johanna's doors are first opened to guests. Perched on it's own eagle nest above one of Andalucia's typical mountain villages, Iznate, the ivy clad Finca Johanna is about 15 minutes drive from the nearest beach and about 30-40 minutes from Malaga international airport. I have stayed there many times over the last couple of years, drawn back by the sun, naked days, a lovely panoramic position (views to the sea one side and Iznate village the other), an interesting quirky moorish style house, lovely large

swimming pool with a view, pool-side honesty bar, friendly relaxed sociable guests, great tasty organic food, interesting themed en-suite bedrooms and not forgetting the undivided attention from the hosts, Laurent and Johanna, a French couple who have lived around Malaga for the last 6 to 8 years. They speak fluent Spanish, English and of course French. They know the area very well and can advise some good not-too-touristy days out.

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Now to try and give you a flavour for the rooms I have stayed in. Rooms are accessed on the first floor and are set around a riad-style courtyard. The tropical room is the largest, at the sea side of the house with its own hammock.

Overlooking the entrance to the house and pool is the Arabian nights room, cosy with a nice terrace from where you can watch the sun set with your aperitif. At the village side is the Andalusian room, again a decent size and next to it is the Room of Wonders. There is one further 'suite' plus two 'apartments/cottages' as they are described which are self contained, so if you want to do your own cooking then that is possible. One of these is next to the pool and the other is attached as an annex to the house.

Laurent and Johanna take great pride in their cooking

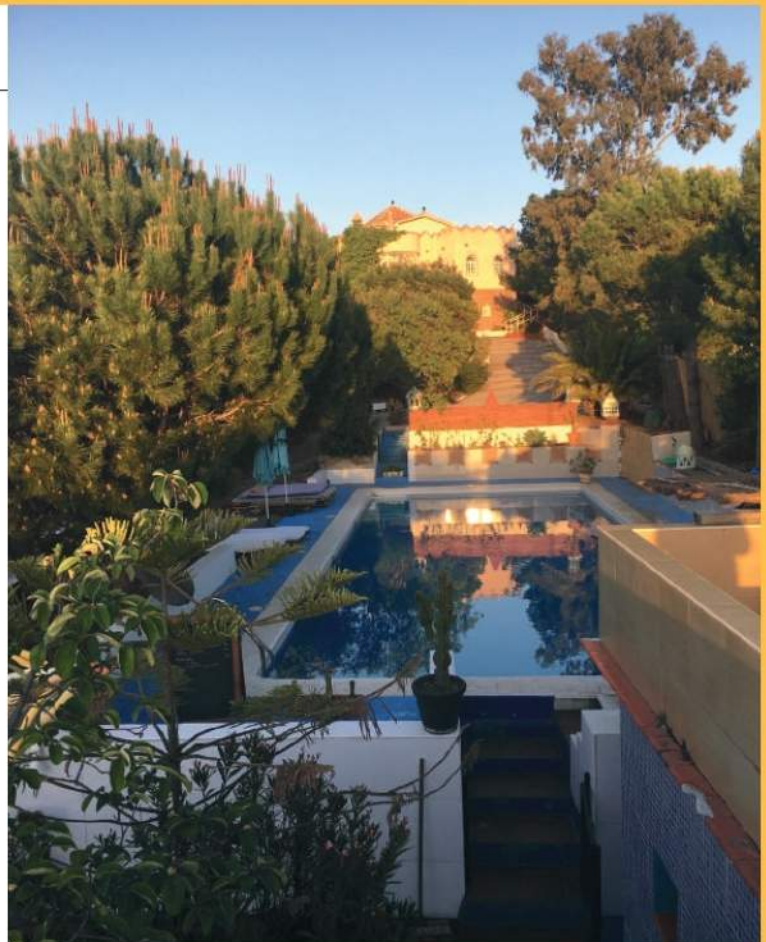
and menu. Most of the time food is organic and they have their own hens - yes, the eggs are served at breakfast - and vegetable garden. Breakfast is in a shaded courtyard at the back of the house, whilst snacks and lunch can be taken around the pool or at the pool bar. Sometimes in the evening there is a bar-b-q with succulent meats, vegetables and fish or a trip into the village to the Andalucia or Tejada bar and eating at a table on the street over looking the village square watching the locals going about their evening business. They take great pride in their food being organic and I remember a Sunday morning trip with them to a very large and busy farmer's market to buy the weekly produce. On another we went to some friends of theirs who have orange groves and for thirty minutes we scrambled around the heavily laden orange trees leaving with large crates of oranges to make marmalade, a jar of which I still have at home. Their fig and nectarine jams are another favourite.

Apart from spending naked, hot, lazy days around the lovely pool with its views across the valley and distant mountain ranges, there are plenty of nearby places to visit. Just down on the coast is the local naked beach playa Almanat and on the other side of Malaga is the lovely and friendly Benalnatura, by far my favourite nude beach, which I visit on a regular basis. It might be small but it makes up in character and friendliness. It is compulsory to be naked at this beach and you won't be served in the bar/outside restaurant if you have any clothes on. Near Marbella is Cabo Pino, probably an hour in the car, a very sandy gem with shallow azure waters, but there's no cafe or anywhere to buy refreshments. To avoid the tourists on the Costa del Sol you can head inland and visit some of the lovely typical white villages. There's the stunning Ronda or if adventurous then head to El Chorro, where you can find the Caminito del Rey, the walk of Kings. You'll need a head for heights though as this is a gorge by some lakes with sheer drop cliffs towering out of the lake and a walkway clinging to these cliffs. Caminito del Rey is so popular that you will need to book a slot in advance of your holiday. Also nearby is Granada, Cordoba (90 minutes by car) Malaga port which is great in the evening, and the Picasso museum in Malaga. There is so much to do and see.

So back to where we started, the easing of lockdown and hopefully foreign holidays and travel starting again soon. I'll be one of the first to book, hopefully see you there.



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