

FOLIO

AssetFolio™

WINTER IN THE COSTA DEL SOL

MAKING THE MOST OF THE COSTA DEL SOL DURING THE COLDER MONTHS

RETIRING IN SPAIN

SPAIN RECENTLY RANKED AS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO RETIRE IN THE WORLD

FESTIVE TRADITIONS

SPAIN IS NO EXCEPTION WHEN IT COMES TO FESTIVE TRADITIONS

CHRISTMAS TREES

WHY DO WE ADORN OUR HOMES WITH EVERGREEN TREES AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?

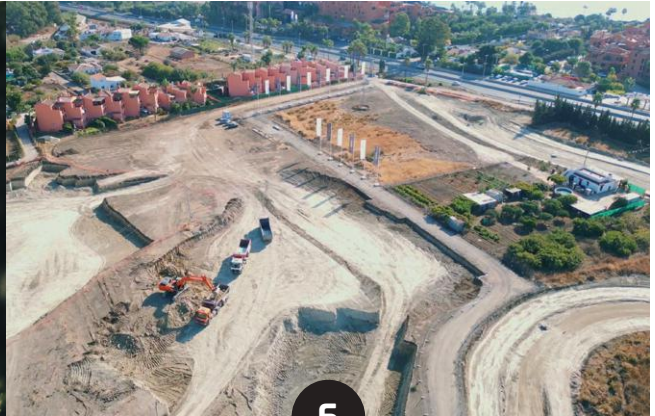
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Welcome to the December edition of Folio magazine, brought to you by Asset Folio, where we consolidate interesting articles, relevant news, and profile our exclusive properties and new developments.



Asset Folio is a full-service real estate specialist operating in the luxury property sector on Spain's Costa del Sol and is actively involved at all levels in the real estate ecosystem. We represent the key players in property – buyers, sellers, investors and developers – and our services stretch right across the real estate spectrum.

KEY PLAYER

Established in Marbella Spain in 2013, Asset Folio has rapidly made a name

for itself as a key player in providing full real estate services to international investors.

The Asset Folio group is made of two divisions, each a specialist in its niche segment of the real estate industry and providing comprehensive services to its clients:

ASSETFOLIO DIRECT

A dynamic investment company advising sellers and buyers of residential real estate. With a dedicated team drawn from a wide

range of backgrounds and nationalities, we have earned an enviable reputation for our professionalism, experience and expertise in the real estate market .

ASSETFOLIO EXCL.

Provides a full suite of advisory, marketing and sales services for new-build and off-plan real estate. With nearly two decades of experience in this sector, we are able to offer a complete turn-key solution for property developers, funds and investors.

FOLIO MAGAZINE EDITION 03

December 2022 **FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Michael Fenton

Designed by Pixelperfect SL



LIVING

HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



How did it become such a big part of the holiday season?



AssetFolio

PHOTOS
Ralph Ravi-Kayden / David J Boozer / Taisiia Shestopal

Long before Christmas trees were used to adorn our homes, they were simply fragrant evergreens that kept their beauty even during the long winter months.

So how did they become such a big part of the holiday season?

WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS TREE SYMBOLISE?

Ancient cultures celebrated the winter solstice to mark the beginning of brighter days ahead and to show that the sun god was regaining his strength.

Evergreen trees kept their color throughout the year and were therefore used as a reminder of warmer months ahead.

Similarly, in Egypt, the Sun God, Ra, was considered weaker as conditions became colder and darker. Again, the solstice was seen as a turning point, so Egyptians decorated their homes with palm leaves and branches. Ancient Rome, also celebrated a feast called Saturnalia during the solstice, which encouraged people to celebrate the springtime ahead with evergreen decorations.

WHEN DID CHRISTMAS TREES BEGIN?

The Christmas tree tradition, as we know it today, dates back to 16th-century Germany, where

Christians began to decorate trees inside their homes. Martin Luther, head of the Protestant Reformation movement during the 1500s added the tradition of placing candles on the tree branches. Rumour has it that one night he was awestruck by the stars twinkling amidst some evergreens and wanted to recreate the scene in his living room.

GROWING POPULARITY

The tradition was largely contained in Germany until the late 1700s and early 1800s as other nations saw it as a representation of pagan beliefs.

The custom was introduced into England in the early 19th century and more widely embraced in the mid-19th century by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who was of German descent).

The Victorian tree was decorated with ribbons, paper chains, candles, toys, small gifts and decorative cakes. German settlers took the tradition to America in the 17th century and by the 19th century the Christmas tree had become the height of fashion.

The custom also became popular in Austria, Switzerland, Poland, and the Netherlands. Western missionaries introduced Christmas trees to China and Japan in the 19th and 20th centuries, which were adorned with intricate paper decorations.



DECORATIONS

Christmas decorations, other than the traditional candles, became popular in the late 1800s, including the addition of homemade garlands, cakes, berries and nuts.

Over time, these homemade decorations were replaced by tinsel, electric lights and the familiar shiny baubles that we know today.

Click Here to read our other blogs.



PROGRESS REPORT:

Work continues at Ayana to excavate the land on-site and you can view progress below.

The building phase of this exceptional development of contemporary residences and penthouses in Estepona is projected to last just over two years, with completion scheduled for early 2025.





RESIDENCES FROM
 €455,000
 PENTHOUSES FROM
 €1,085,000

AssetFolio

excl.



AYANA

E S T E P O N A

**REDEFINING
 CONTEMPORARY
 LIVING IN ESTEPONA.**

Ayana brings a unique concept in resort development to the Costa del Sol. Thoughtfully designed to seamlessly blend into the environment, Ayana is designed to accentuate the quintessential lifestyle and casual vibe of Estepona.

27,000m2 of tropical, landscaped gardens with three outdoor pools, one heated, a central Clubhouse complete with co-working lounge, café bar, spa, indoor pool and gymnasium - with 24-hr security.

**SOPHISTICATED
 ARCHITECTURE**

Ayana showcases an exceptional and truly effortless living experience. Featuring sophisticated architecture by Villarroel Torrico, inspiring interiors from Gunni & Trentino and showcasing Lutron's wireless smart-home automation system as standard, a first for apartment development on the Costa del Sol.

THE RESIDENCES

Thoughtfully designed, both the two and three bedroom residences blend with the breathtaking setting, allowing you to enjoy the best of both indoor and outdoor lifestyles.

THE PENTHOUSES

Traditional influences and contemporary living create living spaces that connect with their environment, allowing you to either entertain or re-energise, be social or seek solitude.

COMMUNITY

Ayana is built around

Click Here to find out more about Ayana Estepona.



The Costa del Sol is one of Europe's most popular locations for enjoying the winter sun. Winter in Andalusia feels like a million miles away from the dreary, cold weather associated with other parts of Europe during this time of year.

WINTER IN THE COSTA DEL SOL

ENJOY THE COSTA DEL SOL DURING THE WINTER MONTHS



PHOTOS

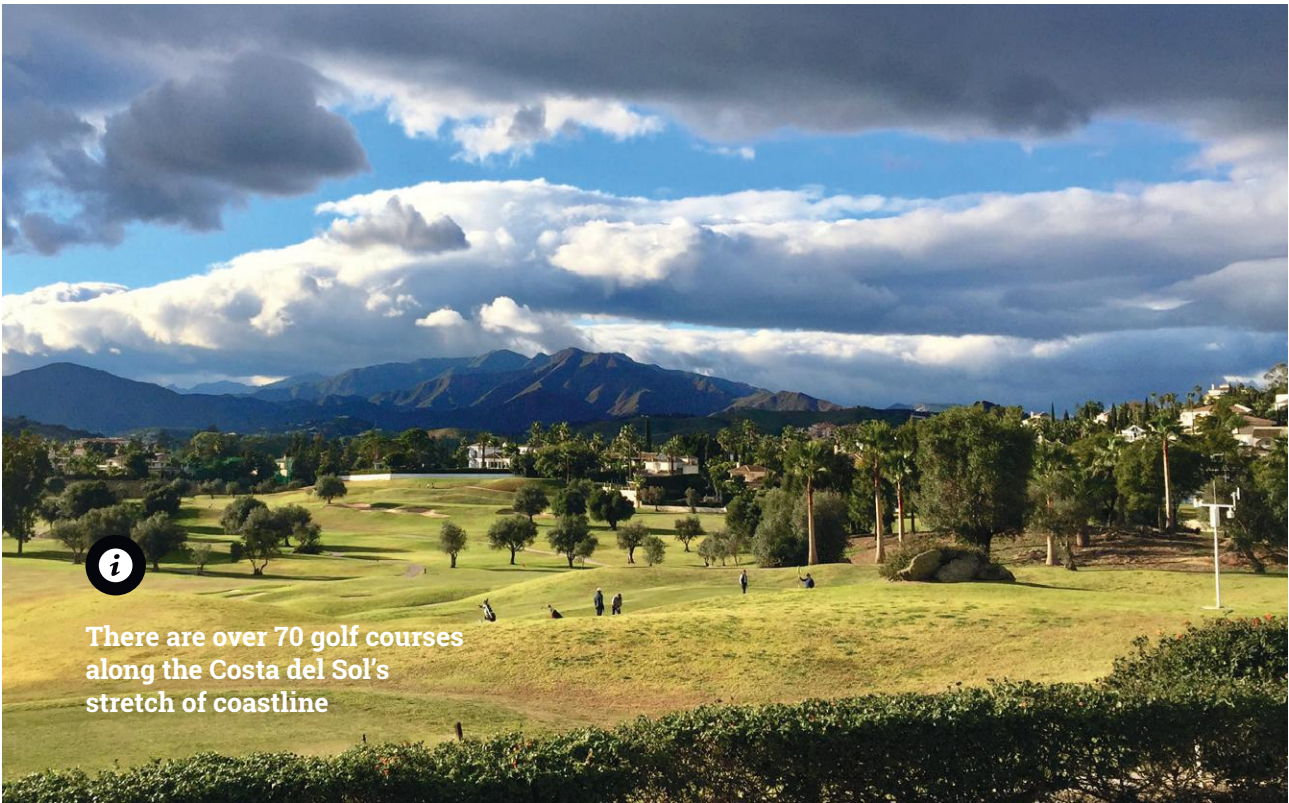
Jesper Brouwers / Adrianna Calvo / Kallerma
Valentina Sotnikova / Jorge Franganillo

The mild climate makes the Costa del Sol the perfect place to enjoy an array of cultural and historical attractions that the region is so popular for. There are less crowds and the pace of life is more relaxed.

So what are some of the things you can do on the Costa del Sol during the winter months? >

 It takes almost 2 million LED bulbs to light up Malaga at Christmas





There are over 70 golf courses along the Costa del Sol's stretch of coastline

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Costa del Sol has a lot to offer in terms of culture and has some must-see historical monuments, such as the Malaga Cathedral, Calle Larios in the heart of the city, the Alcazaba Fortress, and the Plaza de la Merced. Malaga is a beautiful city to walk around and offers picturesque views and great shopping.

During the christmas period you can also enjoy the lights that illuminate many of the streets, along with a variety Christmas markets. culprits of this is Italy.

FOOD AND DRINK

There is a vast variety of cuisine on offer along the Costa del Sol. Restaurants and bars are less crowded at this time of year and

you can still enjoy sitting outside at one of the many tapas bars, beach bars and restaurants.

WINTER GOLF

The all year round mild climate makes the Costa del Sol one of Europe's most popular golfing destinations.

There are over 70 golf courses along the Costa del Sol's stretch of coastline and there is something to suit all levels of skill.

Some of the most well known courses include Valderrama Golf Club in Sotogrande, the San Roque Club and La Reserva.



Other popular courses in the area include the Real Club de Golf Las Brisas in Marbella and La Quinta in Malaga.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

For the more adventurous, Costa del Sol offers an abundance of outdoor activities.

Why not try one of the many hiking routes or a spot of climbing. Whatever you enjoy, there are certainly plenty of ways to make the most out of the outstanding scenery.

Sierra de la Nieves Natural Park in Marbella and El Torcal Natural Reserve near Antequera are a must for caving enthusiasts, and the Sierra Nevada ski resort is just a short drive away in Granada where

you can enjoy some winter sports surrounded by thick snow.

Click Here to read our other blogs.



FACTS

MALAGA CATHEDRAL

To visit the rooftop you have to climb two hundred steps.

MUSEUMS

There are a total of 37 museums to visit in the city of Malaga.



Sierra Nevada is the most Southern ski resort in Europe and contains the highest point of continental Spain: Mulhacén at 3,479 m.

NEW EXCLUSIVE LISTING

**VILLA
CHOPO
266**

A spectacular villa in
the heart of Paraiso
Alto.





€1,950,000

SPECIFICATIONS

4 Bed
4 Bath
524 m2 Built
100 m2 Terraces
1762 m2 Plot

Distributed over three levels, Villa Chopo 266 is a striking 4 bedroom home enjoying a large dining room and living room. The spacious kitchen features a large central island and breakfast area that benefits from the natural light of the bay windows and views of the banana trees.

THE LOCATION

Strategically located in one of the most sought-after areas on the New Golden Mile, Benahavis, close to golf courses, international schools, beaches and all amenities.

THE PROPERTY

The property is set on a large 1800m² plot allowing for ample garden space as well as the large pool and surrounding area.

Click Here to find out more about Villa Chopo



PHOTOS

Miguel Gonzalez Novo / Bernd Dittrich
Liliana Fuchs / Jose Javier Martin Esparto
Pepe Serrano

CHRISTMAS

FESTIVE TRADITIONS

IN SPAIN



The christmas period is full of tradition wherever you are from, and Spain is no exception.

In fact there are a vast number of traditions that are celebrated either locally, regionally or nationally throughout the country.



Here, we look at just some of the traditions that are still enjoyed in Spain throughout the festive season that lasts between the 24th December and the 6th January.

SPANISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS (VILLANCICOS)

Villancicos have existed for many centuries in Spain. In fact some date back to as early as the fifteenth century. It is thought that they originate from chants that used to be sung by farmers and rural workers in rural spanish villages. The custom of singing



The most popular Villancicos are: Los peces en el río, Mi burrito sabanero, and Campana sobre campana.



them at Christmas arose when they took on a religious context.

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN MALAGA

Málaga’s Christmas lights have become one of the most talked-about festive attractions.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

Almost 2 million LED bulbs light up Malaga



Every day there are illumination shows accompanied by popular Christmas songs. Almost 2 million LED bulbs light up Malaga at Christmas and the light and sound show attracts millions of visitors.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SCENES IN ANDALUSIA

One of the most endearing features of Christmas in Andalusia are the live nativity scenes (belénes viviente), where the locals dress up as characters, alongside four-legged actors including sheep and donkeys.

Cadiz province is especially renowned for these.





OTHER TRADITIONS

There are a wide range of other traditions at this time of the year including:

Christmas Eve Feast

Turrones and polverones

Christmas bonfires



3 KINGS PROCESSION

Everyone turns out to see the Reyes Magos and collect the sweets that are thrown to the crowds.



EL GORDO - TRADITIONAL SPANISH CHRISTMAS LOTTERY

If you think that the Spanish Christmas lottery seems a bigger deal than most other lotteries you're familiar with, you're not wrong.

The top prize now reaches €4 million and there are hundreds of smaller prizes up for grabs. Ticket sales start as early as July, and the excitement culminates at 9 a.m. on the 22nd December, when millions watch the winning numbers being drawn, hoping that they may strike it lucky.



DIA DE LOS SANTOS INOCENTES (ALL FOOLS DAY)

This is one of the most popular and fun traditions of Spanish Christmas. It is celebrated on the 28th December and is characterised by people playing pranks on each other.

The celebration is based on the bible, when Herod ordered all infant boys under the age of



The top prize in the Spanish Christmas Lottery reaches €4 million.

two in Bethlehem to be killed. Over the centuries it has evolved into a lively day with even the media reporting on crazy and false news stories.

One of the most notorious pranks on this day is to place a small white paper doll on someone's back (without them realising).

EATING 12 LUCKY GRAPES

The Spanish tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight on New Year's Eve is an attempt to ward off bad luck in the year ahead.

There are few Spaniards who will risk their fate for the coming year by not eating a grape for each stroke of midnight. It's not clear exactly when the tradition started but it is thought to be over a century old. One theory is that in 1909 a large crop of grapes in Alicante led growers to find a creative way to use their

surplus crop.

THREE KINGS DAY

Instead of Father Christmas, in Spain the Three Wise Men—or los reyes magos—take centre stage at this time of the year. They bring Spanish children their gifts the night before Three Kings Day on the 6th January.

While some Spanish families have also embraced the Santa tradition in recent years, los Reyes Magos are still more important in Spain and everyone turns out to see the procession when sweets are thrown to the children. The traditional food on this day is a crown-shaped dessert, also known as the roscón de reyes. It is a sweet bread-like cake often filled with cream and topped with dried fruits.

Click Here to read our other blogs.



ROSCÓN DE REYES
Crown-shaped desert
eaten on the
6th January

NEW UNITS AVAILABLE

New units are still available for immediate sale at Alya Mijas and they are selling fast.

CONSTRUCTION STARTING SOON

Alya Mijas

Alya Mijas is a brand new unique development of 3 & 4 bedroom semi-detached houses with private gardens and breathtaking views over the Mediterranean.



PRICES FROM JUST
€388,000

Alya Mijas offers the opportunity to 'live the 'mediterranean lifestyle' at an affordable price. This beautiful new development of contemporary semi-detached houses has been designed with quality and comfort in mind. Each home provides that all important private outdoor space for entertaining and enjoying the Costa del Sol's magnificent climate.

PERFECT LOCATION

Alya Mijas is superbly located on a hillside overlooking the mediterranean close to Mijas. All facilities are in close proximity, including good access to the

highway, beautiful beaches, international schools, fine dining, golf courses and the lively cosmopolitan towns of Mijas, La Cala de Mijas and Calahonda.

THE DEVELOPMENT

The 3 and 4 bedroom homes each have a built area of 120m²-145m², distributed over 2 floors, together with a garden and the option to add a private pool.

The communal areas include a saline chlorination pool, gymnasium, co-working area, and landscaped garden areas.

Click Here to find out more about Alya Mijas.





RETIRING IN SPAIN



Spain in Top 10 of the World's Best Places to Retire in 2022

International Living Magazine recently published their 2022 Annual Global Retirement Index to help North Americans choose the best place in the world for them to retire. The survey is based on hundreds of opinions and real-life experiences.

Unsurprisingly, Spain ranked within the top 10 retirement destinations, based on a wide variety of factors including its low cost of living, excellent healthcare and first-world infrastructure.

The mild climate, guaranteed sunshine and array of outdoor activities such as golf, beach and walking, were also highlighted as especially attractive to retirees.

Among some of the other factors considered was Spain's public transport which is thought to be one of the most efficient and least expensive in the world. The availability of fresh, healthy produce also attracts those looking to retire.

The publication also pointed out that according to the World Economic Forum's 2020 Global Competitiveness Report, Spain was ranked top in terms of healthcare which is a big plus for retirees, as is its low crime rate.

According to International Living Magazine, the best benefit of all is the friendliness of the Spanish people.

Click Here to read our other blogs.

A MODERN & IMPRESSIVE ESTATE BY THE RENOWNED ARCHITECT VILLARROEL





€6,350,000

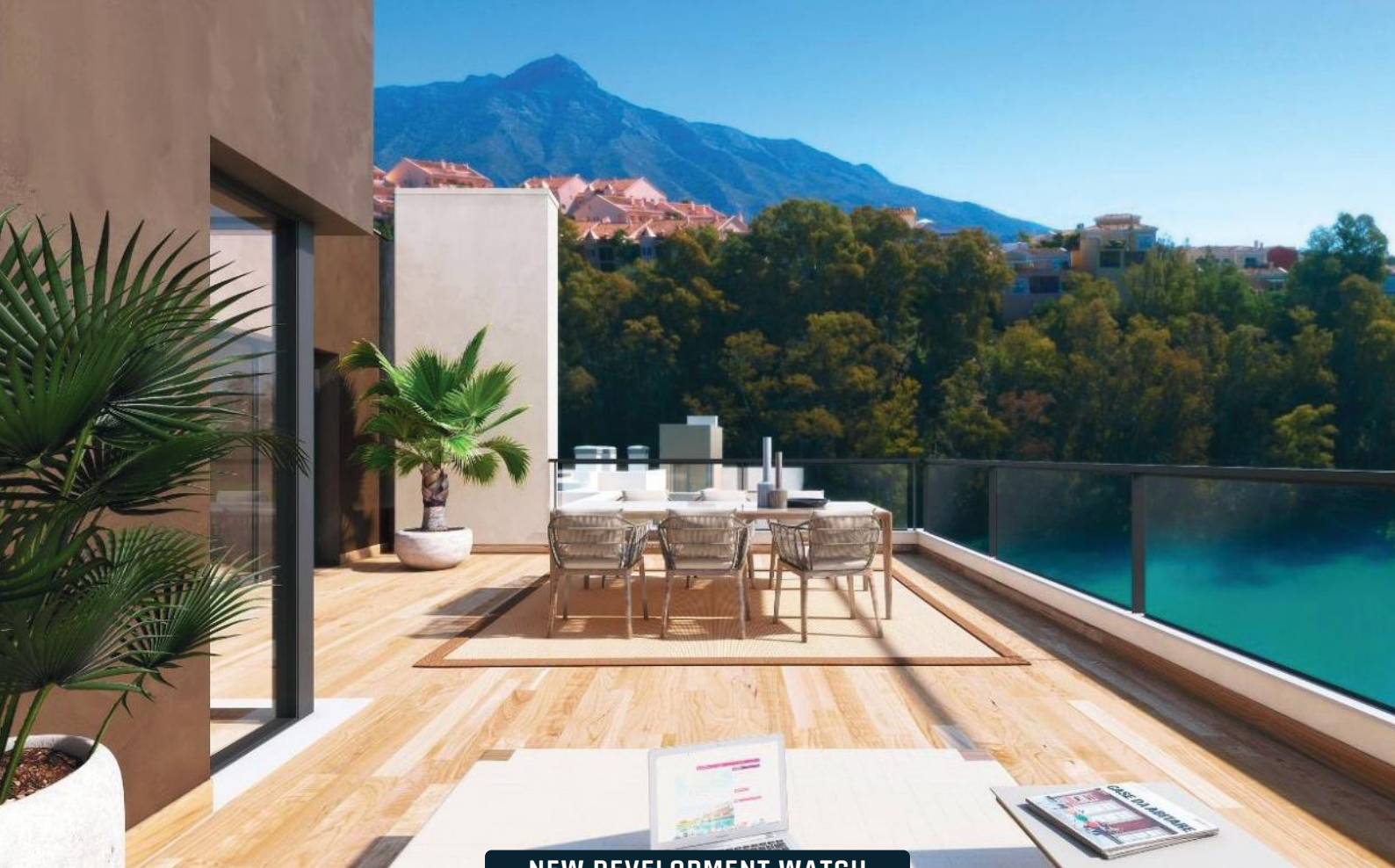
SPECIFICATIONS

5 Bed
6 Bath
805 m2 Built
2169 m2 Plot

A modern and impressive estate, drawn by the renowned architect Villaroel. Built to exceed all expectations you have from a modern, design villa. This property is the perfect fusion between timeless lines and modern elegance.



Click Here to find out more about this stunning property.



NEW DEVELOPMENT WATCH

LAS BRISAS

Modern brand new Penthouse in Las Brisas Ready in 12 months

€ 760,000

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom penthouse situated in the heart of the Golf Valley in Nueva Andalucia. The property is currently under construction and is due to be completed in June 2023.

THE LOCATION

Strategically located in the heart of the golf valley, just 10 minutes from Puerto Banús and close to international schools, beaches and all amenities.

THE PROPERTY

The property benefits from an open-plan living area, large rooftop solarium, two parking spaces and storage area. The home will be delivered fully equipped with top quality branded finishings.

The property is surrounded by carefully landscaped gardens and four communal pools.

THE VIEWS

This stunning penthouse enjoys impressive panoramic

views from the generously sized terrace and living room over the Mediterranean and the penthouse also overlooks a lake.

Click here for more details about this property.



Due for
completion in
June 2023



NEW DEVELOPMENT WATCH

Here we highlight just some of the newest developments being constructed along the Costa del Sol.

MARBELLA GOLDEN MILE MODERN-STYLE VILLAS

This residential complex is located within a gated community on Marbella's Golden Mile.

PRICES FROM €3.5M

[Click Here](#) for more info.



LA CALA GOLF BRAND NEW TOWNHOUSES

40 spacious townhouses in front line golf position.

PRICES FROM €563K

[Click Here](#) for more info.



SPECTACULAR OFF-PLAN PROJECT IN MARBELLA

A fabulous building with a spectacular design in the heart of the city of Marbella.

PRICES FROM €765K

[Click Here](#) for more info.



EXCLUSIVE BEACHFRONT APARTMENTS IN ESTEPONA

A completely exclusive residential complex with groundbreaking design.

PRICES FROM €1,746,500

[Click Here](#) for more info.

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