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Mediterranean Magic

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Mediterranean Magic

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BENALMADENA

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Mediterranean Magic



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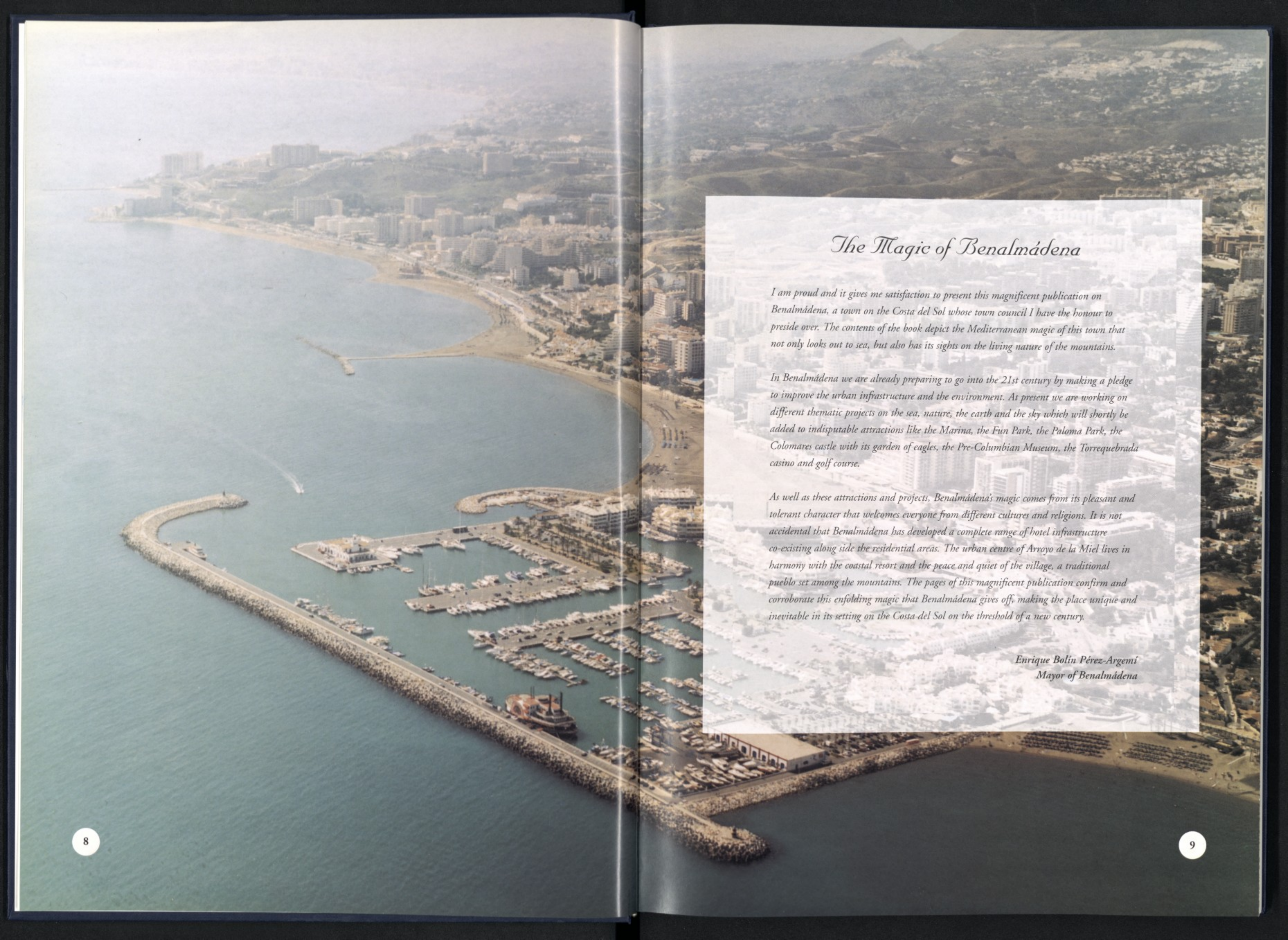


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An aerial photograph of Benalmádena, Spain, showing a large marina filled with boats, a long stone breakwater extending into the sea, and the town built into the hills in the background.

The Magic of Benalmádena

I am proud and it gives me satisfaction to present this magnificent publication on Benalmádena, a town on the Costa del Sol whose town council I have the honour to preside over. The contents of the book depict the Mediterranean magic of this town that not only looks out to sea, but also has its sights on the living nature of the mountains.

In Benalmádena we are already preparing to go into the 21st century by making a pledge to improve the urban infrastructure and the environment. At present we are working on different thematic projects on the sea, nature, the earth and the sky which will shortly be added to indisputable attractions like the Marina, the Fun Park, the Paloma Park, the Colomares castle with its garden of eagles, the Pre-Columbian Museum, the Torrequebrada casino and golf course.

As well as these attractions and projects, Benalmádena's magic comes from its pleasant and tolerant character that welcomes everyone from different cultures and religions. It is not accidental that Benalmádena has developed a complete range of hotel infrastructure co-existing along side the residential areas. The urban centre of Arroyo de la Miel lives in harmony with the coastal resort and the peace and quiet of the village, a traditional pueblo set among the mountains. The pages of this magnificent publication confirm and corroborate this enfolding magic that Benalmádena gives off, making the place unique and inevitable in its setting on the Costa del Sol on the threshold of a new century.

*Enrique Bolín Pérez-Artemí
Mayor of Benalmádena*



Benalmádena, Looking Towards the Future

Over five hundred years ago Benalmádena was the last town conquered by King Fernando, today this town is the first to have laid solid foundations to welcome the 21st century. This book aims to show the world that Benalmádena already has the necessary requirements to face the challenge of future tourism: quality in both the product and the services it provides. The proof is in these pages where the pictures speak of the magic that this town gives off 365 days a year. The Colomares castle, the Paloma Park, the Muro gardens, the Marina, the Archaeological Museum, the Torrequebrada casino and golf course, the port, the fun park..., these are all a prelude to the new Benalmádena that will come into being with the Olympic project.

While the green gardens and parks are mixed with the chameleonic blue of the sea, Benalmádena can boast three different towns in one: the peace and Andalusian physiognomy of the village; the warmth and colour of Arroyo de la Miel; and the amusement and modern character of the Costa. The following pages try to depict this triple image, but not as a tourist guide, but as a visual book which has captured the essence of the magic of this Mediterranean pueblo, the friendliness of the people and the cosmopolitan atmosphere that runs through the veins of a municipality that openly faces the challenge of the next century.

*José Nieto Sánchez
Councillor of Tourism*



The history of Benalmádena is the history of a fishing village. It dates back to before the Romans and Phoenicians according to the archaeological excavations in the Zomera, Botijos, Shara and Toro caves. It was a coveted prize for the adventurers of yesteryear who plied the seas for two reasons: it was on the coast and had mining resources. Proof of this is in the Iberian remains found in the Cerro Capellanías in Benalmádena. It was also an important Roman settlement judging by the archaeological remains that have been found: mosaics, pieces of amphorae, cut glass objects and fishing tackle that can be seen in the Municipal Museum and not forgetting the Roman Archway in Arroyo de la Miel.

However, it is the Moorish influence that has marked the history of Benalmádena: the streets, plazas, architecture and beaches conserve traces of this culture that gave the town its name of Benalmádena which means "sons of the mines" in Arabic.

After the Christian troops conquered the castle, the King and Queen established the military headquarters in Benalmádena to defend the whole coast, this distinction is reflected on the town's shield: "Watchtower of the Coast" and on the watchtowers that challenge the beautiful blue horizon. The Christian conquest brought about the destruction of the historic village and other urban centres developed in Torreblanca and Arroyo de la Miel around 1493.

A Town with History

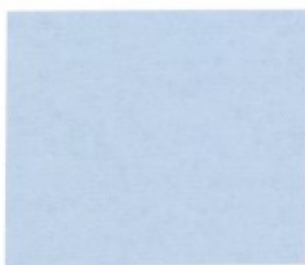


- *A magical symbol of the town, the statue of the "Girl of Benalmádena" offers water in a sea shell to all visitors. A picture of friendship and comradeship for a cosmopolitan town.*





● *Panoramic view of Benalmádena. A town with history that lives facing the sea.*





● *Benalmádena Pueblo is still a white village conserving its Andalusian architecture.*



● *The history of Benalmádena is sealed in the watchtower in the marina.*



● The "Girl of Benalmádena", the work of Jaime Pimentel, set in the Plaza de España in an attitude of friendly offering.





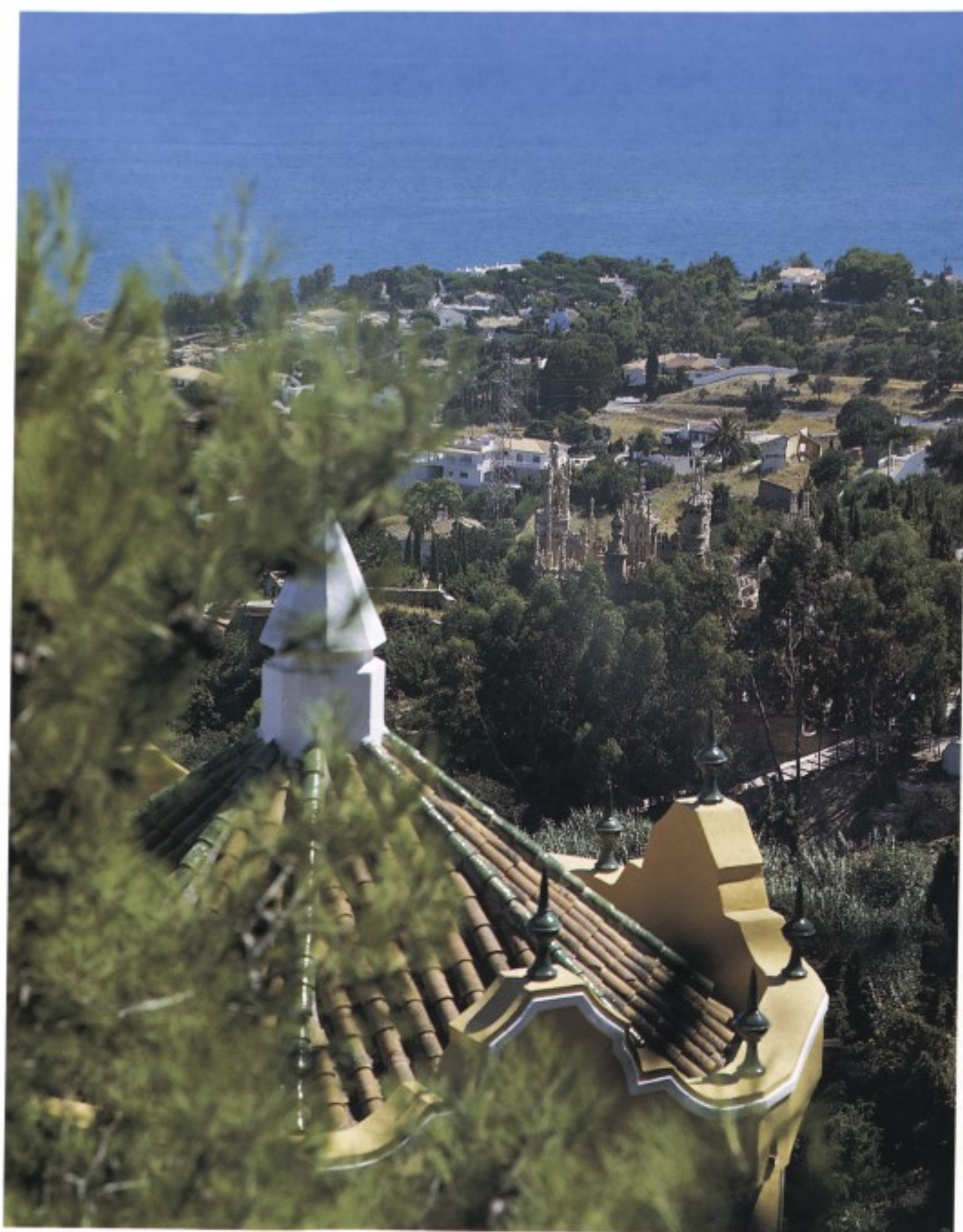
● *A Mediterranean garden, in the Plaza de Andalucía, where time stands still and life is quiet.*





● *Inner patio of the new Benalmádena town hall. Andalusian architecture enriched with light and plants.*





● *Green and blue. The impressive view from the Muro gardens with the Colomares castle as a prelude to the sea.*



● *A view with history: from the neo-arabic Bil-Bil castle to the modern Sunset Beach.*



● The white façades of the buildings illuminate every corner of the village. Inner patio of La Fonda the Benalmádena Hotel Management and Catering School.





● *The Plaza de la Mezquita, in Arroyo de la Miel, enhances the beauty and amplitude of a modern town with quality of life.*



From a seafaring past to a modernistic town with monuments that evoke its nautical spirit.



The sunset burnishes the silver sails of Benalmádena.



● *Looking back through time. The Torremuelle watchtower is at its most beautiful at sunset.*





A welcoming panoramic view from the Muro gardens in Benalmádena Pueblo.

The black clothes of the women contrast with the white village.



Benalmádena dates back to before the Phoenicians and Romans. Details of a Roman villa in Benalmádena Costa.

Bougainvillea adding warmth and colour to the Mediterranean architecture.



● In an immaculate state. The calle Real in Benalmádena Pueblo, a street with history.

● Peace and quiet in the Paloma Park. A place to stroll, relax and enjoy the surroundings.

● The end of the day in a square in Benalmádena Pueblo.

● Impressive façade of the Cultural Centre in Arroyo de la Miel.

● Water, ever present throughout the history of Benalmádena. The pond in the Paloma Park in Benalmádena Costa.



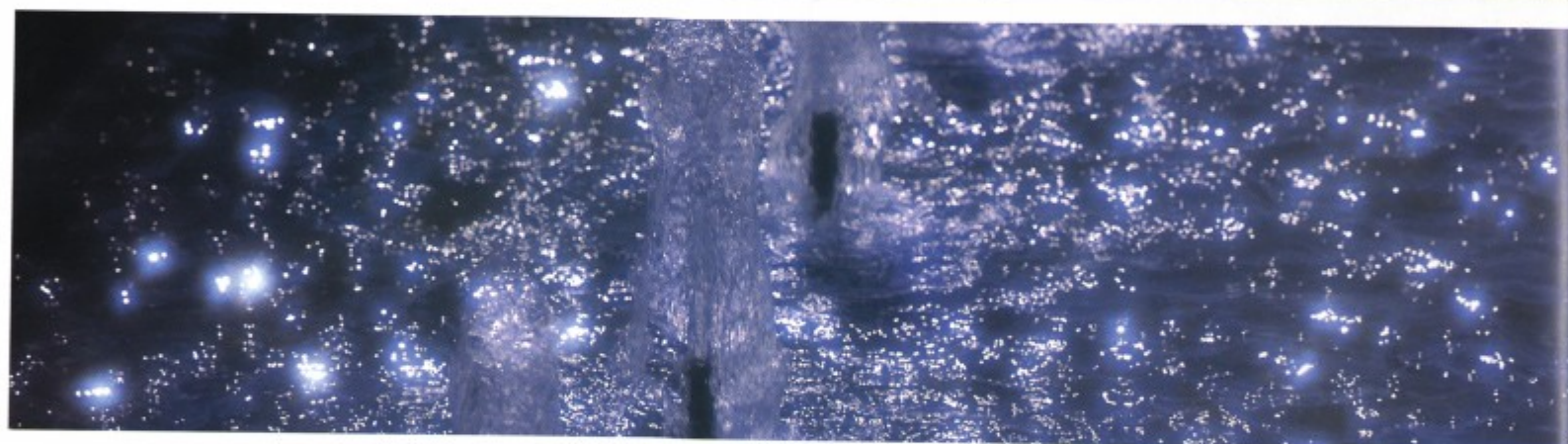


Benalmádena is the Andalucía of white villages: a street lamp, bougainvillea and geraniums in the sun.

A street, a world, a light and peace in Benalmádena Pueblo.

A street lamp defying the intense blue of the sky.

The views on the way down to the La Fonda the Benalmádena Hotel Management and catering School serve as an appetizer.



● The viewpoint in the Muro gardens at the top of Benalmádena Pueblo offers a wide panoramic vista of the hillside down to the coast, on clear days with good light you can see the African coast.



● Blue, intense like the sea, flows from the fountains in the Bil-Bil castle, evoking the past.



● *The village of Benalmádena, perched on the mountain top above the coast.*





● Open to the sea. The Mediterranean is a reference point for the whole of the municipality.

● The streets are adorned with geraniums like in times gone by.



● A geranium hanging on a white wall, a mark of identity for many Andalusian villages.

● Bars on the windows, inherited from the Moors.



● The main Nacional 340 road, backbone of the road communications, brings Benalmádena closer to Málaga and the Airport.



● The autovia of the Costa del Sol solved all the traffic problems.

● The Nacional 340 runs along more than 20 kilometers of coast.



BENALMÁDENA

*B*enalmádena is fiesta and tradition, celebration and pain, the idiosyncrasies of the Andalusian people. The fiestas and traditions respond to the geography of the municipality, divided between the magic of the sea and the force of the mountains. Benalmádena Pueblo is one of the few places where the villagers represent the Passion of Christ at Easter. "El Paso", as it is known here, is performed on a natural stage on a nearby mountain side.

If "El Paso" is beautiful, the Corpus Christi procession is more magnificent. The local people decorate the streets and the night before the procession they make a carpet of flowers and aromatic herbs for the Corpus Christi to pass over.

In the middle of August the village of Benalmádena celebrates another of its deeply rooted traditions with the festivities in honour of Our Lady of the Cross.

Down the mountain, Arroyo de la Miel inaugurates an intense summer programme of fairs and fiestas on 24th June with the feast day of Saint John, midsummer's night. For five days the celebrations go on. Clapping the beat and dancing go on round the clock with the participation of all visitors.

The maritime fervour of people devoted to the sea, the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Carmen, on 16th July, transforms Benalmádena into a single procession where the Virgin is gently rocked by the sea under the observant look of both local people and visitors.

A Town of Traditions



Local wines are sampled in the fiesta in honour of John the Baptist in Arroyo de la Miel.

With love, the kids are the first to have fun at the fair.

Horses give colour to the romería.

Cosmopolitan, at the fiestas in Benalmádena nobody feels out of place.





● *Andalusian charm in the floral offering to Our Lady of the Carmen in Benalmádena Costa.*





● The romeria in Arroyo de la Miel brings everyone together to celebrate.



● Typically Andalusian, a cart illustrating all the tradition of the romeria.

● The youngest members of the community also have a reference point during the celebrations.



● *The romeria is an excuse to have fun.*



● *Like the famous Rocio romeria, the carts provide a touch of colour.*

● *The devotion of the participants and an ox resting after the pilgrimage.*



● *Young riders accompany the procession.*

● *Age is not an impediment for dancing "sevillanas".*

● *All the fun of the fair.*

● *Andalusian horses dancing on their way through Arroyo de la Miel.*

● *Another way of having fun.*



● *Light and sound. Fire works in honour of Our Lady of the Carmen, with the lights of the strip of hotels.*





● The procession of Our Lady of the Carmen from the parish church through the streets of Benalmádena Costa.

● The statue of the Virgin being carried through the streets.



● Three long poles soaked in tradition carry the statue of the Virgin.



● The bearers rock the Virgin before she is taken out to sea.

● The statue of the Virgin is transferred to a boat to go out to sea and meet the procession from Torremolinos.

● The light enhances the beauty of Our Lady of the Carmen.



● Benalmádena conserves the marine fervour of the protector of seafarers.



● *The religious devotion of a people who conserve their traditions.*

● *"El Paso": the villagers represent the Passion of Christ on a hillside near Benalmádena Pueblo.*

● *The Passion of Christ depicted in the streets of Benalmádena Pueblo.*





● The guide announces the start of the procession.

● The traditional Corpus Christi procession with the participation of many local people on its way along calle Maestra Ayala.

● The people of Benalmádena make a carpet of petals and aromatic herbs the night before the Corpus Christi procession.



BENALMADENA

*T*he blue sea is a constant feature of life in Benalmádena. We have to say that water is an element of the urban landscape of Benalmádena, inherited from its Moorish past. Artificial lakes, ponds, fountains and other components washed by the water that flows through the municipality to delight locals and visitors alike.

But she, as Rafael Alberti likes to call the sea, is first. Her intensity, her range of colours, her salty perfume and the mystery hidden under this blue cloak make this pueblo eager to keep the five and a half miles of beach and sea in perfect conditions. The beaches of Benalmádena fly the blue flag, awarded by the European Union to top quality beaches.

There are beaches of all kinds. Open beaches, regenerated, cosmopolitan and well equipped with amenities like the Santa Ana beach that competes with the unspoilt coves to the west of the municipality. This part of the coast is a paradise for those who like to enjoy the sun and sea in a natural state on Las Yucas beach.

A blue town cannot exist without a Marina that unfolds sails to mark the horizon or offers a boat trip, the Benalmádena marina has been labelled one of the most beautiful and well cared for on the Mediterranean. This maritime symbiosis makes Benalmádena delight in facing the sea.

A Blue Town



● *Sun rise on the Santa Ana beach, essence
of the Benalmádena coast.*





● *A magical world to be discovered on the seabed of the many bays in Benalmádena.*





● The blue flag flies on the beaches of Benalmádena.

● Each year the beaches are regenerated and the coast is well cared for.



● The Santa Ana beach is one of the best on the Costa del Sol

● In Benalmádena it is still possible to enjoy the beach without being over-crowded.



Partial view of a restaurant terrace overlooking the sea.

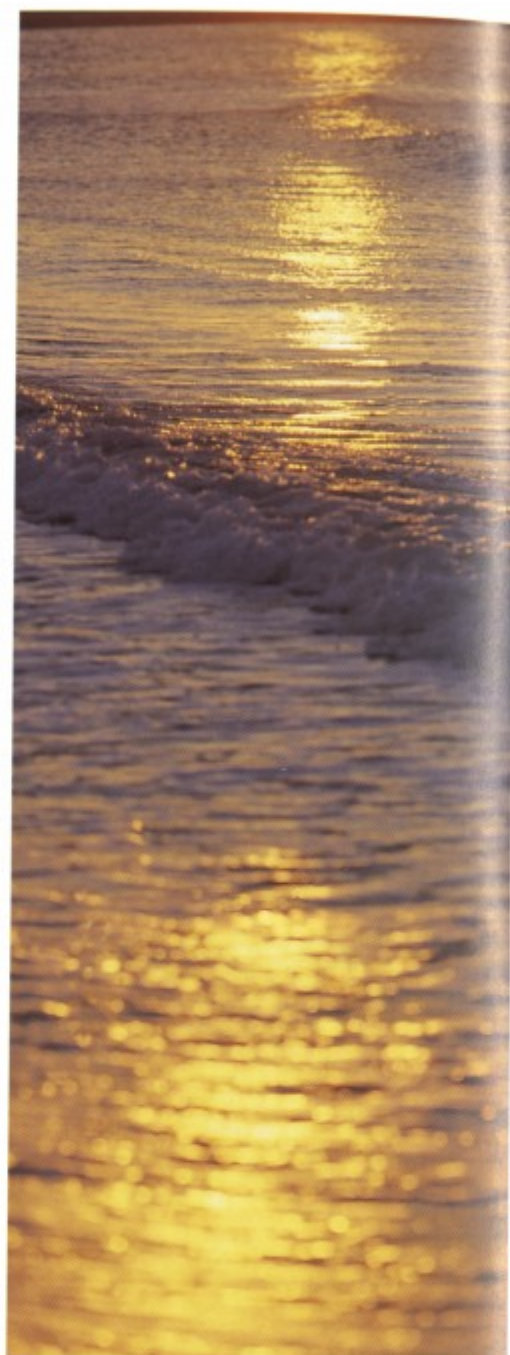
Partial view of the Viborilla cove.

A municipality with unspoiled coves.

Benalmádena has a consolidated offer of nudist beaches.

Las Yucas beach. Benalmádena conserves part of its coast in its natural state.

The beauty and peace and quiet of the Viborilla beach will pleasantly surprise you. Wide beaches to be enjoyed.



● *Timeless twilight on the beach by the Hotel Riviera.*



● *Chameleonic: the sea changes colour with the last of the sun's rays.*

● *Over a mile of the most beautiful promenade in Spain.*





● *The sea by night, the sea by day. The magic of the night from the pier of the Marina with the hotels in the background.*




● *The colour and daily life from the promenade.*





 The promenade invites you to stroll as far as the eye can see.


 Gardens and flowers, ever present on the urban stage of Benalmádena.

 Orderly beaches. Sunbeds from the new promenade.



 Clean and crystal clear water 365 days of the year.

 The new promenade runs along near the whole coast.

 The palm trees give an exotic touch to the beaches.



● A singular picture of the promenade.

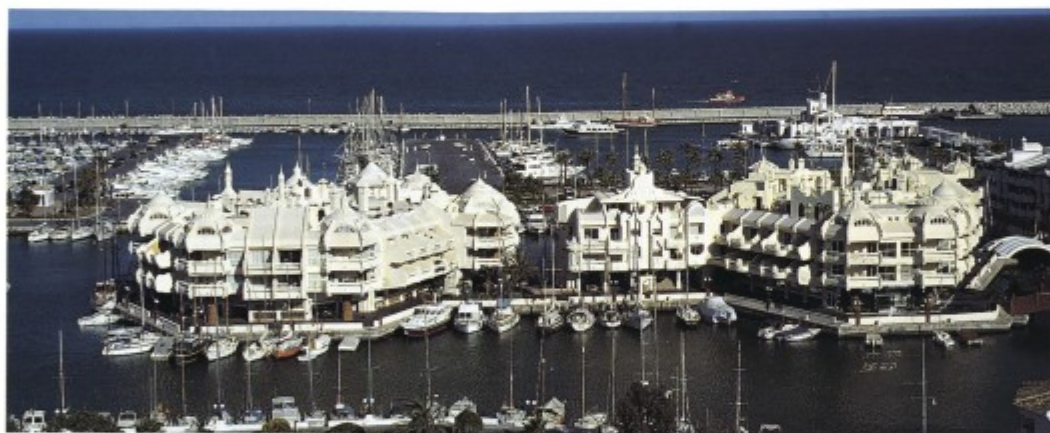
● There is a compulsory stop on the promenade: the beautiful tourist office.

● The sun marks the end of the day in a town washed by the Mediterranean.



● The neo-Arabic style of the tourist office is a replica of the upper part of the Bil-Bil castle.

● Looking out to sea. Benalmádena makes the sea a way of life.



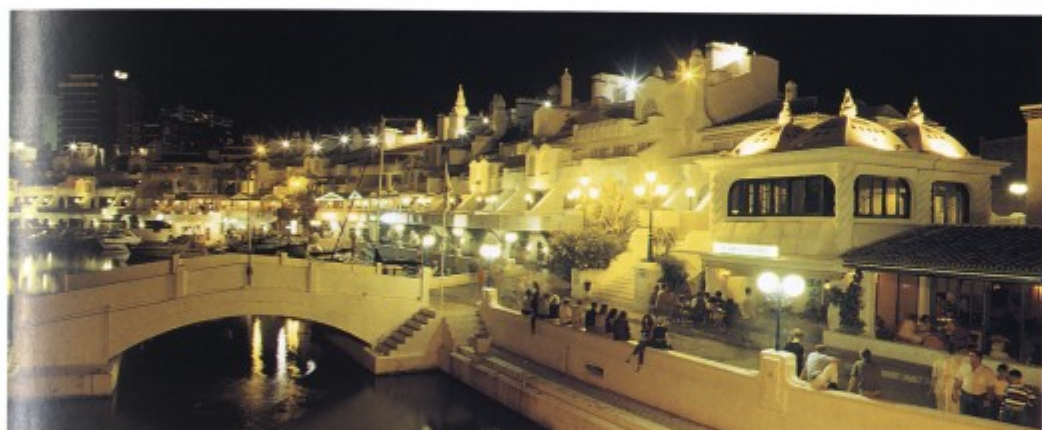
● *The artificial islands of Puerto Marina, a pledge for quality of life.*

● *The terraces of Puerto Marina are the heart and spirit of Benalmádena.*

● *In 1995 Puerto Marina, received an award for the best Marina in the World.*

● *Yachts craving for the sea anchored in the Marina.*





● Night time, in Puerto Marina, is a show of colour and light.

● The modern lighting on the islands of Puerto Marina transmits the force of the architectural design.

● A quality complex in the heart of the Costa del Sol

● Details of the Moorish influence on Puerto Marina, Benalmádena.





● *Fishing, an art that shows the roots of a place with history.*



● *The jetties in the port invite you to fish.*

● *In the Marina you can still see fishing boats*



● *Traditional fishing. The “Bolichero” fishing boats casting their nets into the silver sea at dusk.*





● *Body worship on the Benalmádena beaches.*

● *A beautiful blonde tanning her body.*



● *The beaches of Benalmádena, a good place to smile*

● *The clear sea water is a constant feature of Benalmádena.*



● The sun shines more than 300 days in Benalmádena.

● A sea view of one of the picturesque beaches of the town.



● The beach amenities are of excellent quality.

● Flirting with the sun, mocking destiny.



● *Luxury. Antonio Banderas and Melanie Griffith in the Marina where their yacht is moored all year round.*





● *The islands in Puerto Marina, a symbol of the new holiday architecture of the town.*





*T*his is Benalmádena. A blue town that makes sure that nature's green mantle asserts itself over the grey concrete so characteristic of other areas of the Mediterranean. The many garden areas and parks in the town speak of the quality of life and the priorities that Benalmádena has marked with a view to the new millennium.

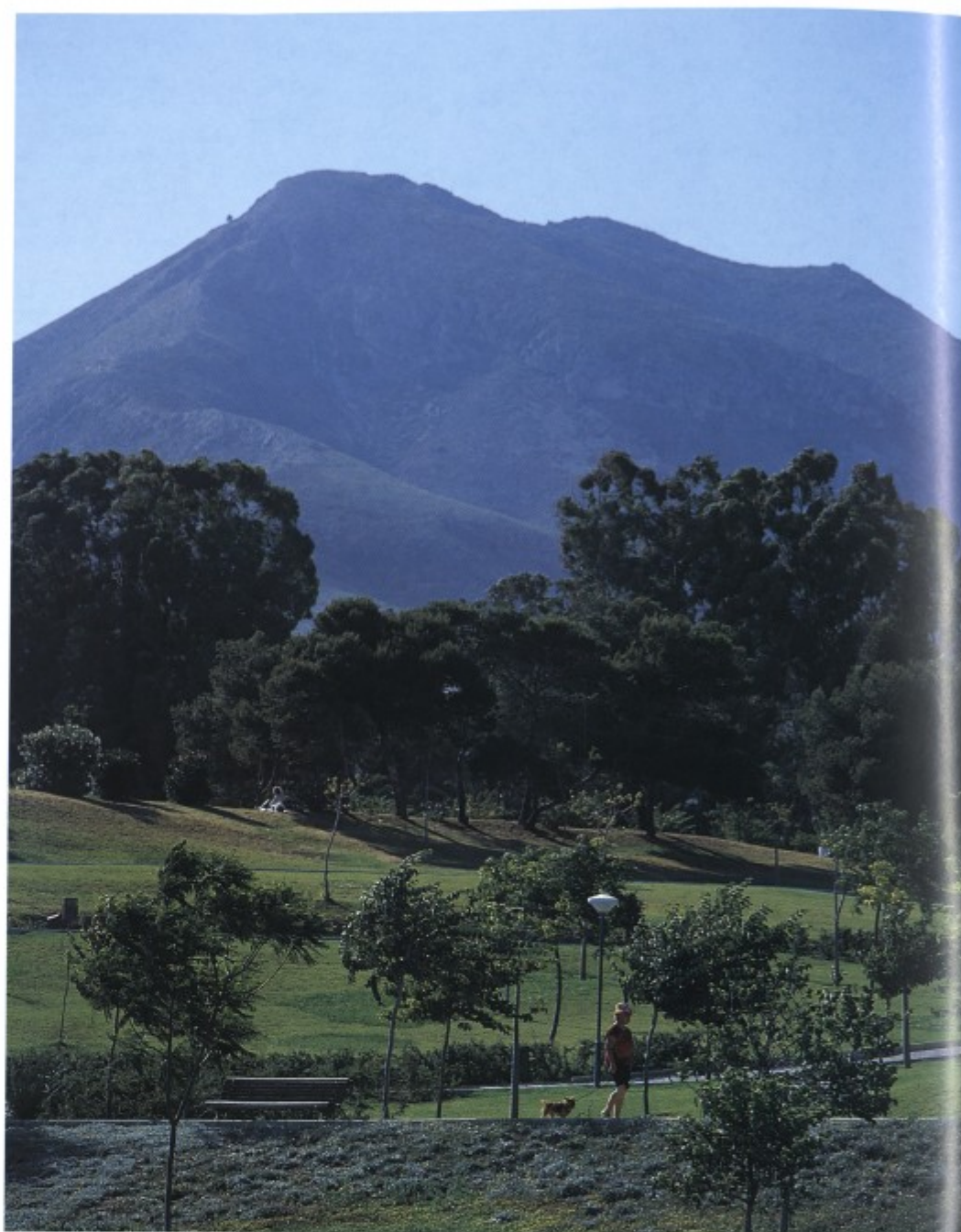
In Benalmádena Pueblo, in the Colomares Castle, you can enjoy a surprising place surrounded by exuberant flora. A bit further on in the Garden of Eagles nature arises in her maximum splendour accompanying falconry exhibitions of birds of prey in free flight. But the coast of this town is not only blue. A large green carpet of 220.000 yards forms part of the environmental assets of this town.

The Paloma Park with its ponds and artificial lakes that are the habitat of ducks and mallards, providing even more colour to this lovely garden that also looks out to sea. Further up in the village there are the hanging Muro gardens, designed by Cesar Manrique, with Baroque waterfalls and impressive panoramic views down to the sea.

Benalmádena is not only parks and gardens. The new town has decorated its streets and avenues, squares and roundabouts with flowers and palm trees to delight visitors.

It's green, it's blue, it's park, it's sea. A coastal town that respects the environment in its parks, gardens, urbanisations and hotels.

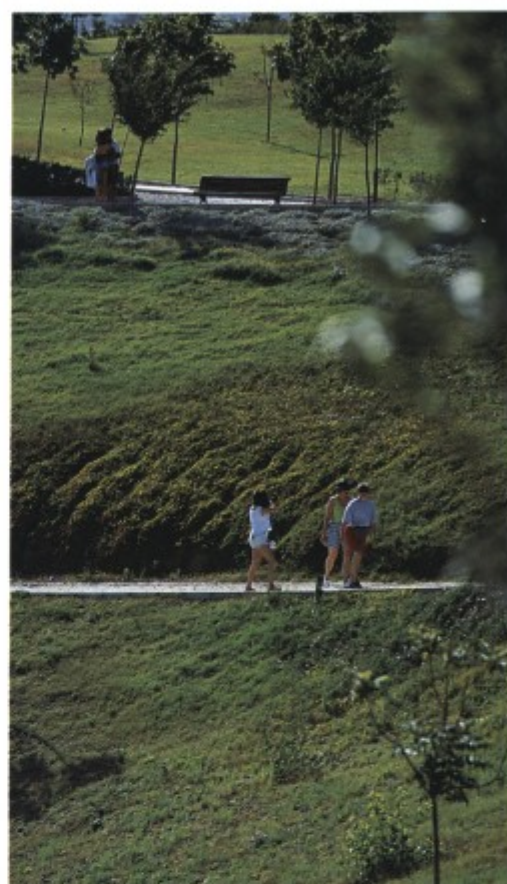
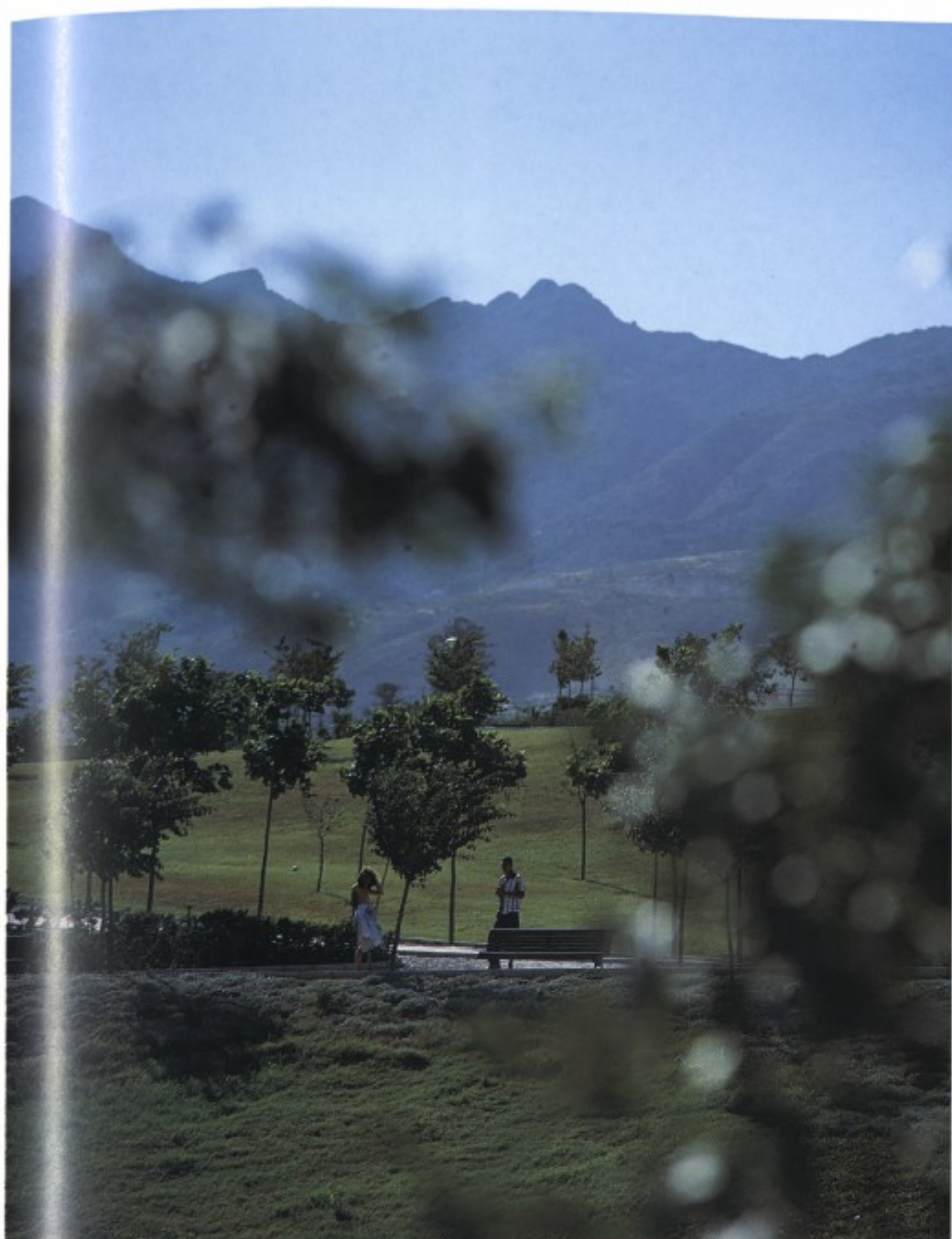
A Green Town



Leisure and relax in the Paloma park.



More than 220.000 yards of park with exuberant woodland.

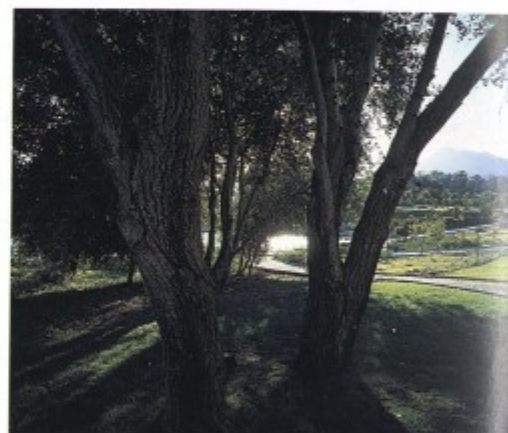
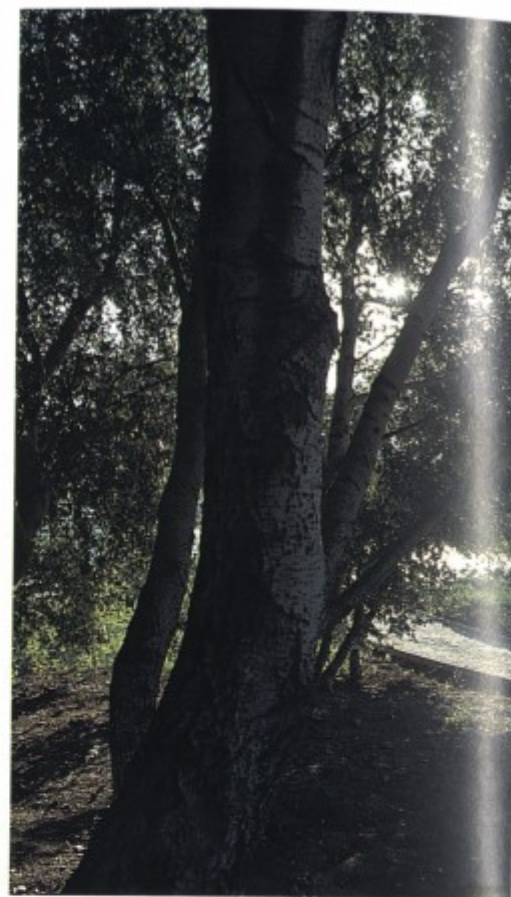
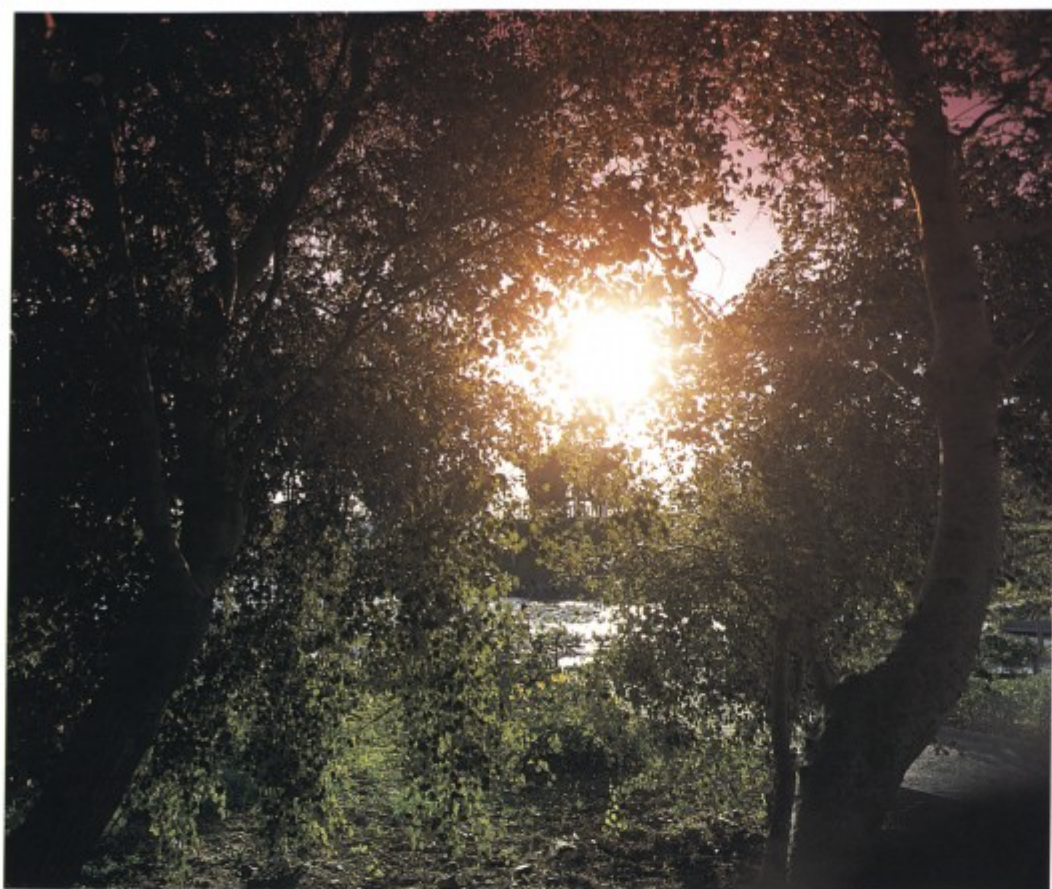


● *Benalmádena is not only blue. You can lose yourself in the rich vegetation.*



● *A quiet walk through the Municipal Park.*

● *The climate, excellent all year round, favours the gardens in the town.*



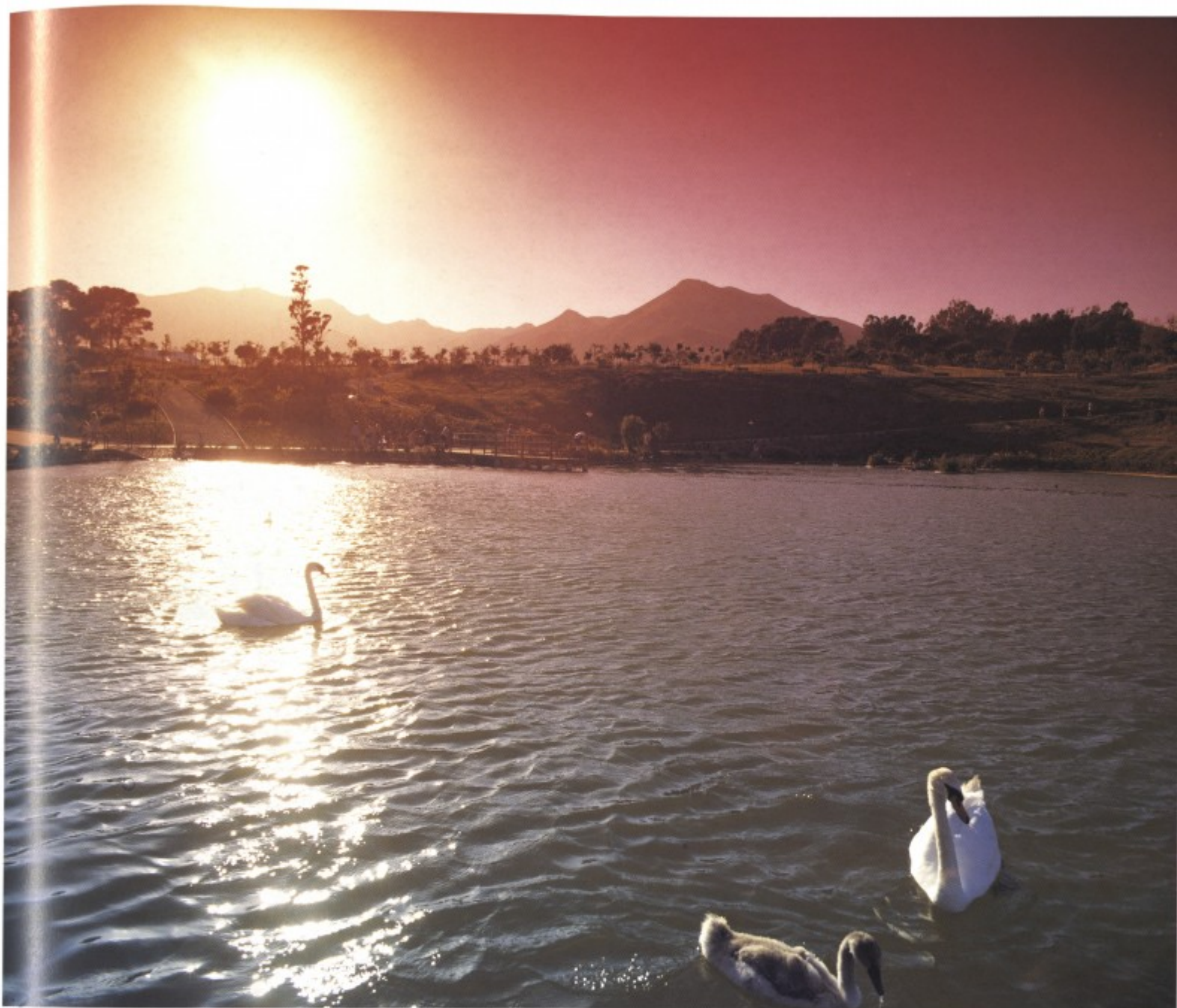
● *Mediterranean light filters through the leaves of a tree.*



● *Centennial trees, survivors of the pass of time.*

● *Ducks splashing in the pond in the Paloma Park.*

● *A motto: make a garden city.*



● One of the most attractive views of the Costa del Sol sunset in the Paloma Park accompanied by the swans.

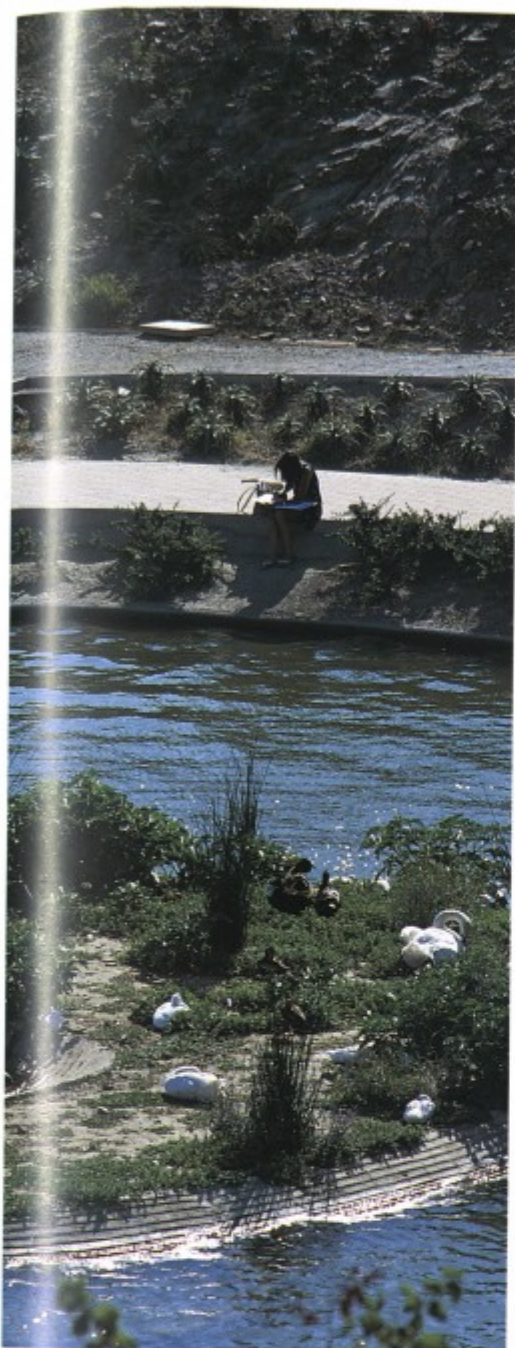




● *A classic with a sea air: the "chiringuito" beach restaurant that presides over La Viborilla cove.*



● *Impressive view of Arroyo de la Miel from the Paloma Park.*



● The Paloma Park is a meeting place of artists seeking the ideal setting.



● Puerta de Europa in Arroyo de la Miel, a place to rest and contemplate the elegance of the gardens with the sea as a backdrop.



● Splendour in this union of garden city and coastal resort.



● The new roundabout in Benalmádena Costa, with a sea air and also covered in flowers.

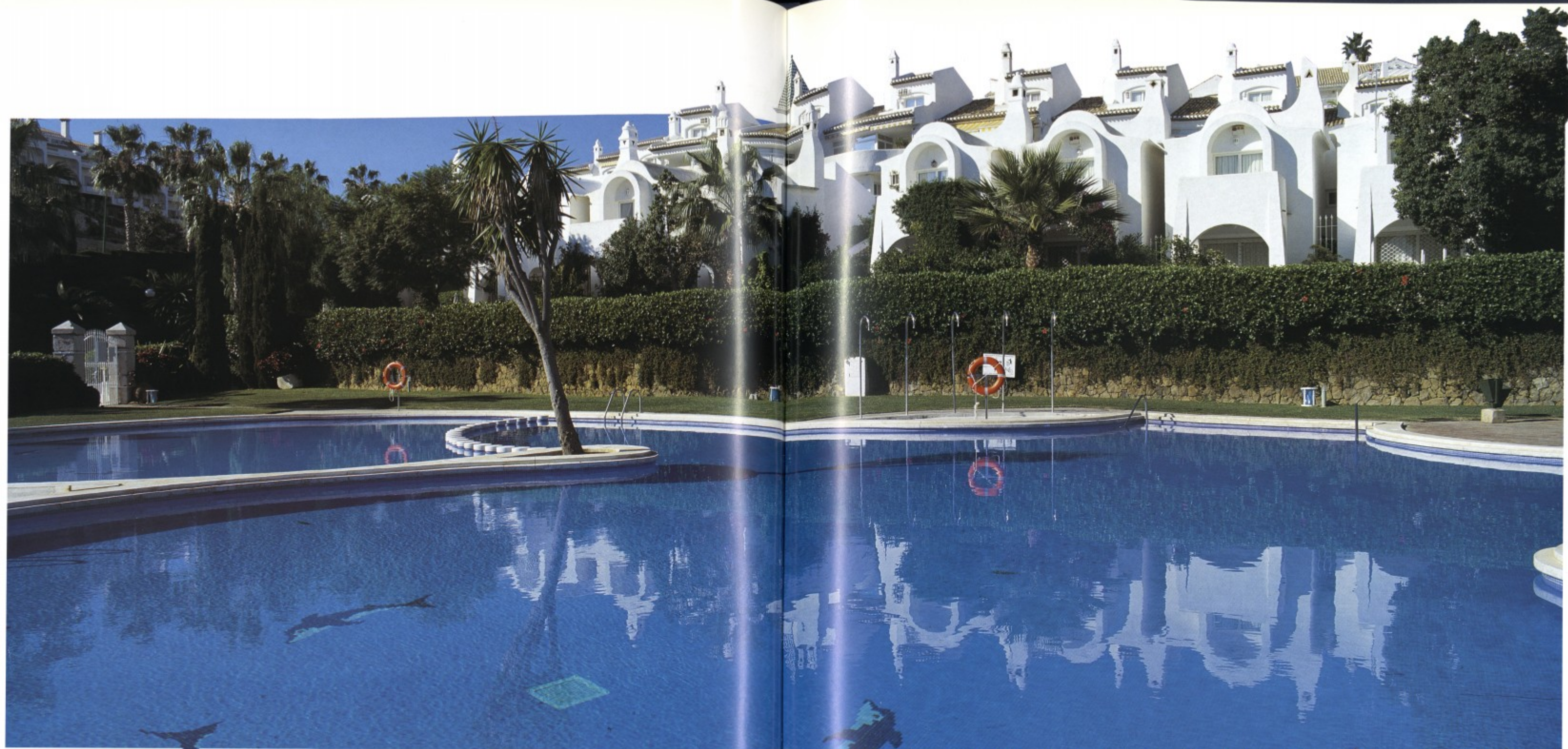
● Protection from the sun for hot Mediterranean days.

● Image, nature and cleanliness identify the modern Arroyo de la Miel.



● *Children also have a place in the heart of Benalmádena, like this playground in the Municipal Park.*





BENALMADENA

With their sights on the 21st century, the hotel offer in Benalmádena has taken on the standards of the current tourism: quality installations and services. With over 16.000 beds, in holiday apartments and Benalmádena's 19 hotels, the resort opens its doors to all who want to enjoy the more than 300 sunny days and the comprehensive and varied leisure, sports and cultural offer.

The hotels, most of which are on the coast in Benalmádena Costa, are balconies over the sea that offer all kinds of amenities and services for the visitors to enjoy their holiday without problems. Swimming pools, board rooms, sports installations, saunas, Jacuzzis, solariums, restaurants with first class chefs and night clubs that guarantee an unforgettable stay in this magical resort.

If the hotels in Benalmádena are top quality, nothing compares with the quality of the urbanisations. Residential

tourism has found its Eden in Benalmádena, especially as the many urbanisations respect the environment and accent the traditional Andalusian architecture.

A town that calls itself a holiday resort has to pass a gastronomic test, Benalmádena has been awarded the title of "Town of Tourist Interest". It is no problem at all because the Benalmádena Hotel Management and Catering School, housed in La Fonda Hotel, can boast of producing the best cooking on this part of the coast. A place for exquisite palates in a perfect setting. You will also find good cooking in the restaurants and chiringuito beach bars that prepare the traditional "pescaito" small fish from Málaga. For those who miss the gastronomic delicacies from their own countries, Benalmádena has a wide offer of restaurants that specialise in International cuisine.

A Holiday Resort



● The façade of the Hotel Alay from the Marina.

● The luxurious hall of the Torrequebrada Hotel.

● The swimming pool of the Hotel Tritón emerges out of the garden.

● The hotels provide the quality the guests demand. The hall of the Torrequebrada hotel.

● The hotel terraces are like a window on the sea.

● The hotels respect the domestic architecture in their installations, like the "Patio Andaluz" of the Hotel Tritón.



● *Sunset beach, a symbol of tourist development.*

● *The façade of the Riviera Hotel rises out of the palm trees.*

● *The Torrequebrada Hotel, one of the most luxurious hotels on the Spanish Mediterranean coast.*

● *Water in all shapes and forms is always present at Sunset Beach.*



● *The excellent catering is one of the keys to good hotels.*

● *The buffet in the Hotel Riviera.*



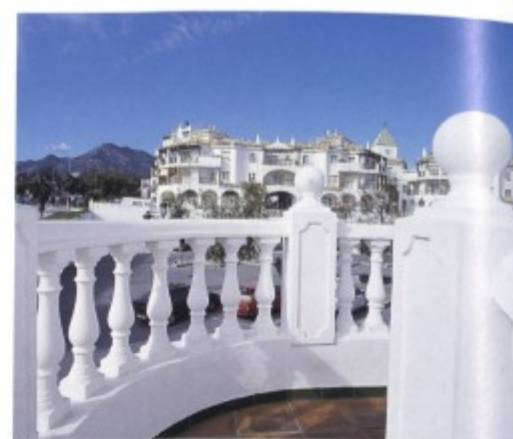
● The luxury urbanisations of Torrequebrada have given Benalmádena international fame.





● *The mixture of colours, the magnetism of the sun, dominates the sundown in a town that lives for and from the sea.*





● Residential tourism has discovered all it dreamed of in Benalmádena.



● The colour white, an excuse to recall the origins of the domestic architecture.

● The urbanisations on the coast have mixed the local architectural styles intelligently.



● *Detail of the Colomares castle, incredible construction with a medieval air.*



● *The day slips away with this beautiful sunset, rocked by a Mediterranean breeze that moves the palm trees.*



● Five star Andalusian gastronomy in the Benalmádena Hotel Management and Catering School, housed in the Hotel La Fonda in Benalmádena Pueblo.

● The gourmets' pleasure.



● The widest range of wines is present in the Andalusian gastronomy.



● The most innovating dishes, respecting the traditional Andalusian cuisine, come out of the kitchen of the Benalmádena Hotel Management and Catering School.

● La Fonda, a place of exquisite tastes.



● The waiter service at the School is second only to the dishes prepared there.

● Future chefs learn the art of good cooking in the Benalmádena Hotel Management and Catering School.



BENALMÁDENA

Nobody could visit this land of sun and joy and let a unique opportunity to have fun slip away. On every corner and in the local people, the joy for life in this land that is bathed in the sun, can be seen in all its splendour and all year round not only in the summer months.

For night owls and those who love the neon lights, the Plaza Solymar has a long list of discos, pubs, bars, terraces and nightclubs where the Caribbean sound mixes with new dance and flamenco blends with blues or melodies with a frenetic rhythm. It is the gateway to the Benalmádena night-life that moves its lunatic rhythm down to the Marina

to the pueblo marinero. Here, by the sea, the magic of the night takes on a cosmopolitan hue and the labyrinth of bars and discos hypnotises the visitors until sunrise.

Benalmádena has not forgotten the visitors who want live entertainment or want to try their luck: the Torrequebrada Casino offers an unforgettable night in the heart of the Costa del Sol. Roulette, black jack and fruit machines are an added attraction to the International shows of the Sala Fortuna.

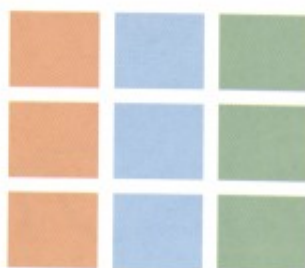
Children and adults will all enjoy Tivoli World, Mississippi Willow or Sea Life.

A Town for Having Fun





● The Costa del Sol is night and Benalmádena is the soul.



● The sun gives up its place to the neon lights when night falls.

● The discos in the town are an excuse for the night owls to stay out and have fun.



● The multinationals are also in Benalmádena.

● The terraces in Puerta Marina are the place to be at night in Benalmádena.

● An advertisement, a slogan, a sign..., an excuse to go inside and have fun.

● Dance, dance, dance..., so long as the body is willing.



● In Benalmádena there are places to dance but also to play.

● To the beat of the music, the young people give in to night fever.



● The Costa del Sol spends the night on the terraces of Puerto Marina in Benalmádena.

● Tivoli World is a fun park in Arroyo de la Miel.



● The Mississippi Willow, that plied the mythical American river, is a new attraction now anchored in the Benalmádena Marina.



● The pueblo marinero in Benalmádena is a maze of terraces that are given to recreation and restaurants.



● The streets are reminiscent of Moorish architecture.

● The terraces in the Pueblo Marinero are also an excellent meeting place.



● The Sala Fortuna in the Hotel Torrequebrada, a classic of International shows on the Costa del Sol.

● Flamenco bewitches the nights of the Sala Fortuna.

● The Hotel Torrequebrada houses one of the two casinos on the Costa del Sol. French and American roulette, black jack, punto y banca and slot machines.

● Show business stars at the Sala Fortuna.



● *The fun park at Arroyo de la Miel offers a wide range of attractions.*



● *Plaza central at Tivoli World.*

● *Fiesta in Benalmádena, any reason is a good excuse for having fun.*



- *A look of innocence and a mother relaxing on one of the many terraces in the municipality.*





● The terraces in Arroyo de la Miel attract the holiday-makers

● Any day of the year is a good time to enjoy a break on one of the terraces in Benalmádena.

● A lovely park increases the pleasure of a rest.

● Sun and a terrace go hand in hand all year round.



● *Cosmopolitan. Residents from all over the world live side by side in perfect harmony in Benalmádena.*





● One of the keepers feeding a sea ray in "Sea Life", a park that presents the Mediterranean marine flora and fauna.

● A moray eel stretches on the bed of the aquarium.



● The under water park is situated on the Levante quay of Puerto Marina.

● A shark swims round one of the shells in the aquarium.



BENALMÁDENA

Being a holiday resort does not stop Benalmádena from being praised by its visitors for its cultural offer. Its Archaeological Museum can be defined as unique in its kind in Spain. As soon as you walk in the marble floor takes you back to times gone by, the marble is from a 18th century ship that sank off the coast of the town. The Museum exhibits an important collection of pre-Columbian objects from the Mexican and Central American cultures, there are also Neolithic pieces from the excavations in Benalmádena pueblo and Torremuelle.

Another cultural reference in Benalmádena is the Colomares castle, a monument dedicated to Christopher Co-

lumbus and his journey to the new world, it is spectacular as well as beautiful.

The Bil-Bil castle is attractive and unique, in neo-Arabic style that reminds us all of the splendour of the Moorish culture during its rule in Benalmádena. The façade of the castle, painted red in traditional Moorish style, stands out on the town's paseo marítimo promenade. The interior is decorated with beautiful tiles and bas-relief that are characteristic of the exquisite Moorish tradition. In this setting, brimming with history, the Benalmádena Corporation organises concerts and exhibitions, which add to its innate cultural character.

A Cultural Town



● The Archaeological Museum, the only one of its kind in Spain.

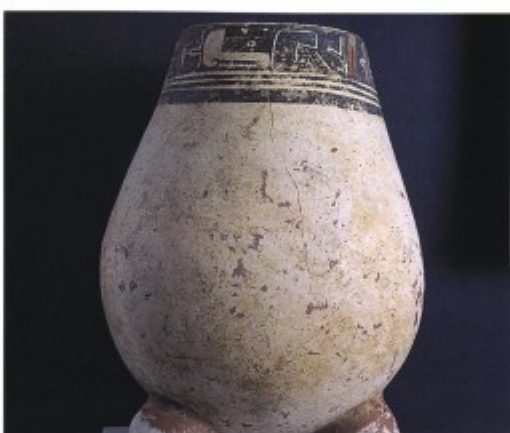
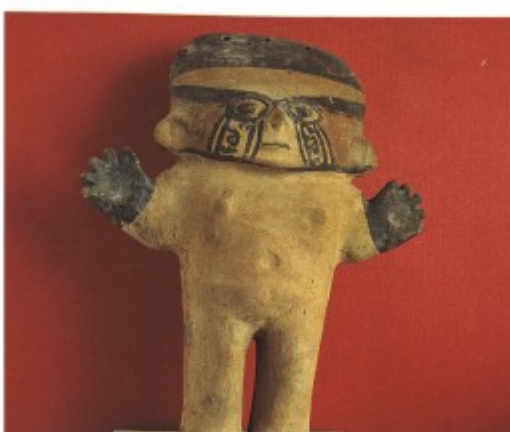
● The Museum holds an interesting collection of pre-Columbian and Neolithic exhibits.



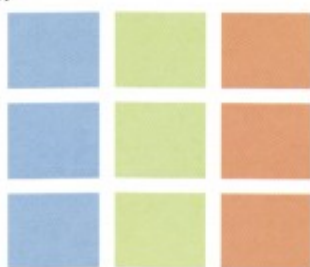
● The marble on the floor of the museum was recovered from an 18th century boat that sank off the coast of Benalmádena.

● The pre-Columbian figures form part of a representation of the Mexican and Central American cultures.

● The Neolithic exhibits are from excavations in Benalmádena.



● The collection of figures in the Archaeological Museum are some of the most important of their kind.



● In the Museum there are some vitreous exhibits from the Western Mexican culture.

● There are some figures that date from the year 300 B.C. on display in the museum.



Interior of the Bil-Bil castle, neo-Arabic style.

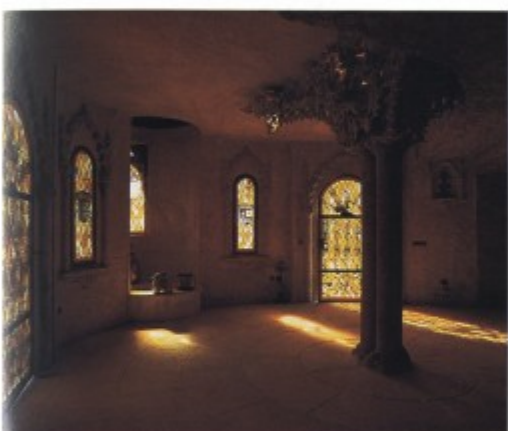
The façade of the castle, painted red in traditional Moorish style.



The Bil-Bil, watchword of the history of Benalmádena.

The tiles and bas-relief according to the exquisite Moorish tradition.

Fountains border the Bil-Bil castle, an inheritance from the Moorish culture.



The Colomares castle, a monument dedicated to Christopher Columbus and his voyage to the New World.

The construction is reminiscent of and represents the discovery of America in different architectural styles.

The stained glass windows have a great artistic wealth.

In the Colomares castle in Benalmádena Pueblo you can enjoy falconry exhibitions daily in the Garden of Eagles.



On land, sea and air there is no other town on the Costa del Sol that surpasses Benalmádena where sports are concerned. It sounds pretentious to allege that Benalmádena means sports, but the sports installations in this town are the centre of attention, both for quality and variety.

The design of the Torrequebrada 18 hole golf course, suits all types of competitions, attracting many golfers all year round and offering other amenities like tennis, paddle tennis, sauna, swimming pool and all services related to golf.

In Arroyo de la Miel there is a Sports Centre that is well known because some European teams train there during the winter months when it is too cold in their own countries. This sports centre has a grass sports field, an athletics' track, a covered pavilion, two courts for multi-sports and tennis courts, additionally there is a sports centre in Benalmádena Pueblo. The installations cover a wide selection of sports: a 82 x 39 foot swimming pool, grass sports field, tennis court, court for various games, gymnasium and

two saunas. Arroyo de la Miel also has a municipal swimming pool 108 x 52 foot, two tennis courts, a mini pelota court, 7 boules courts and a solarium.

And as Benalmádena is a blue town, in the Marina you can learn to sail, or dive in the specialised schools. For seafarers there are boat trips or you can go deep-sea fishing, there is a wide offer for you to enjoy the pleasures the sea offers.

And the cherry on the cake, Benalmádena has a new riding club that provides a world of possibilities for horse lovers. In this riding centre you can go trekking or if you prefer there are mountain bike routes.

All these sports, cultural and tourist offers are the ideal attraction for a town that makes congresses, conventions and work related meetings into a pleasurable short holiday. The modern hotel installations make it possible to hold work sessions and hold professional assemblies using the most up to date technology complimented by quality services.

BENALMADENA

*A Town
of Business and Sports*



● *The Torrequebrada golf course where you can play every day of the year.*





● One of the fairways of the golf course.

● The attention given to the course makes it one of the best on the Costa del Sol

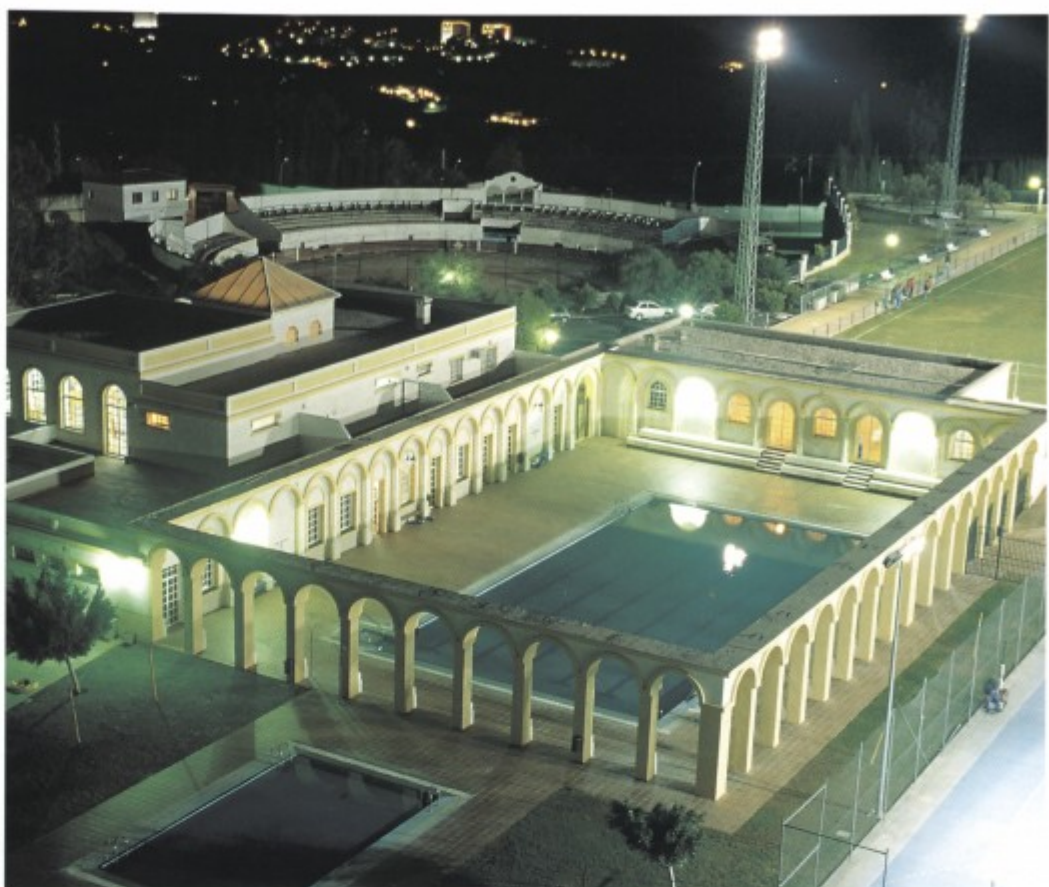
● Palm trees, a natural obstacle.

● The pleasure of playing golf with the sea as a backdrop.



● *A wild olive tree that provides shade for golfers on hot days.*





● *A green carpet stretches from the tee right down to the sea.*

● *The Costa del Sol is also known as the Costa del Golf.*

● *A flock of ducks engrossed in the golf.*

● *Panoramic view of the new sports centre in Benalmádena Pueblo.*

● *Any time of the year is a good time to practise this "green" sport.*





● Benalmádena has two football fields which European teams use to practise in winter.





● *A symbol, the municipal swimming pool emerges like Roman baths in a lovely rocky area.*



● *The Marina is the most extraordinary port and residential complex on the Costa del Sol.*





● *More than a thousand berths for crafts
up to 98 foot in length.*



● *More than 300 days for the
whole family to sail.*

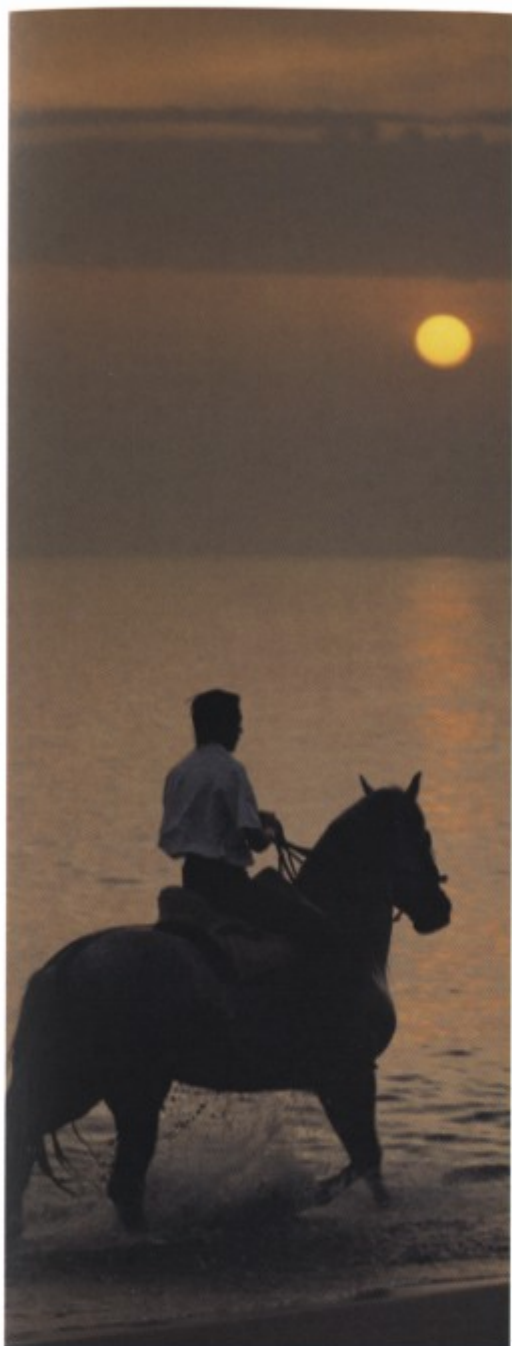
● *Command and surpass the wind,
a constant feature of sailing.*



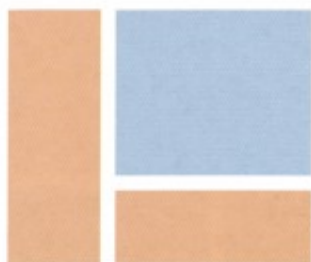
● When the westerly winds blows windsurfers glide along the beaches of Benalmádena.



● Quality tourism comes to the coast of the town.



● *The Benalmádena Riding Club.*



● *Sunset on horseback.*



● The services offered by the congress halls and the surrounding landscape attract all kinds of conventions.



● The hotels have modern installations for holding congresses.



● The hotels have made a pledge to encourage incentive and congress holidays.

● Benalmádena is also a place to work.



● Majestic hall of the Torrequebrada hotel.

● Benalmádena, a place for international encounters.



● The Málaga lounge in the Hotel Alay.

● Panoramic view of the Sala Fortuna.

Olympic Project

A Town of the Future

The beauty and splendour of Benalmádena that can be appreciated in this book will go even further towards the blue Mediterranean sky when the plans drawn up by Benalmádena Town Hall for the Olympic Project are put into effect. This group of projects and infrastructure are the base for making the tourist offer and the social welfare of the town even more suitable for the demands of a new century.

The plans include modernising and renovating the existing infrastructures from the point of view of a harmonious development of the town, respecting the environment, quality, creating jobs, innovations and applying new technologies...

The plans for leisure and recreation are covered in a collection of large projects for both public and private investments. They include extending the Marina by building an island, Isla Bermeja; four theme parks—dedicated to the sea, nature, earth and sky—; and two alternative means of transport: a mono-rail and a chair lift.

The Isla Bermeja island project is, in essence, an area recovered from the sea and involves extending the Marina. It will be situated 650 yards from the coast, west of the present harbour mouth. It is a holiday project that takes care of the needs of the growing offer that Benalmádena requires. An area for mooring will be built to take more than a thousand boats of up to 260 foot in length and will have all the amenities characteristic of a Marina. The leisure and recreation area will house the Sea Theme Park (more than 47.000 yards on three connecting islands that include different attractions related to the sea), a shopping area and a Yacht Club Resort, a luxury hotel with a sea air situated at the heart of the Isla Bermeja. Access to Isla Bermeja is ensured by means of a monorail train that will connect the island with the centre of Arroyo de la Miel.

The Nature Theme Park will be a continuation of the splendid Paloma Park in Arroyo de la Miel. The idea is to create an interactive exhibition that instructs and educates about nature in a pleasant and easy way, at the same time it is an area of leisure and entertainment. In a second block the park will have a botanical exhibition area,

another dedicated to zoology, a reptile house and a park of fossils, as well as a scientific area with an exhibition and conference hall. This ninth wonder of nature will give Benalmádena a prime position with regard to respecting and caring for the environment.

The Earth Theme Park will change the look of Tivoli World, that dates back to 1970, to make it suitable for modern times as well as modernising and increasing the existing installations.

The Sky Theme Park will be situated on the triple peak of the Calamorro mountain at over 2.296 feet above sea level. The idea is to adapt the construction to the natural setting and to provide an sector of paths, an area for parascending, create an astronomical observatory, a planetarium, a meteorological centre, a telecommunications post, a mountain refuge, a viewpoint and artificial lake. This leisure and study centre will be connected with Arroyo de la Miel by means of a chair lift.

When these ambitious leisure and recreation plans are put into effect they will make Benalmádena one of the most innovating and attractive towns in Europe, more so once the infrastructure project the municipality has prepared is carried out, answering the demand the development of the town produced.

One of the operations that will convert Benalmádena into a leading town with regards to quality and service within the European market will be to convert the nacional 340 main road into the Paseo del Sol. This space has to be adapted to deal with the dynamics of a holiday resort, the project plans to take the road underground so that the fast traffic flows below the surface. Above ground an impressive boulevard will be built with garden areas, leisure amenities, car parks and pedestrian areas.

The new infrastructure designed by the Town Corporation of Benalmádena also includes other plans, like the ones for reforestation, artificial lakes, and reuse of residual water, to create a new nature reserve and to regain the seabed.

Part of the singular plans foresees eliminating the architectural barriers, the construction of a hotel aimed at attracting athletes and people from the world of sport who can train in the excellent sports installations, the creation of a Chinese Museum, a Museum of the Sea and the construction of a Mosque.

This series of projects will add to the new look of the Benalmádena of the 21st century. A town where the Mediterranean magic captures all visitors who are so impressed by the colour that they make up excuses to return to a place that looks forward to the future without forgetting its past, a future full of quality.



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